DACOR Bacon House Foundation Announces 2022 Graduate, Undergraduate Scholarship Awards

January 24, 2023

WASHINGTON – DACOR President James Dandridge II announced today the awarding of $240,000 in fellowships and scholarships to 13 graduate and 16 undergraduate students by the DACOR Bacon House Foundation. The awards will benefit students currently enrolled in graduate and undergraduate degree programs at 27 American universities. The academic year 2022-23 marks the 47th year the Foundation has awarded grants to students pursuing studies in the field of international affairs and the Foreign Service.

The 10 DACOR graduate fellowships for the study of foreign affairs cover tuition costs of up to $10,000. Recipients are nominated by their respective universities and are selected by the DACOR Bacon House Foundation Education Committee.

The six recipients of the Metro undergraduate scholarships, $6,000 to cover tuition, are selected by their universities. Three Dreyfus Awards for $10,000 each were given to children/grandchildren of Foreign Service officers. In addition, the American Foreign Service Association awarded $40,000 in DACOR scholarships funded by bequests from Heyward Gibbs Hill and Virginia Thurgood Bingham to eight children of Foreign Service members. The awards ranged from $4,000 to $6,000. The inaugural Sherry Barndollar Rock Scholarship awarded $4,000.

“Our committee was greatly impressed with the academic achievements of these students and their desire to pursue careers involving foreign policy and the practice of international affairs,” said Stephen Thompson who chairs the Foundation’s Education Committee.
Graduate Fellowship Awards

All 10 recipients of the $10,000 DBHF Graduate Fellowships for the Study of International Affairs are currently enrolled in master’s degree programs at their respective universities.

The recipients of the Dr. Ben H & Clare Roy Thibodeaux Memorial Fellowship are Christopher Thomas at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Diplomacy; Maggie High at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies; Martin Pimentel at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service; Léa Glaenzer at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs; and Megan McWilliams at American University’s School of International Service.

The Foundation also awarded Katherine and S. Pinkney Tuck Graduate Fellowships to Jonathan Stipple at the University of Denver’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies; Carita Reid at Pennsylvania State University’s School of International Affairs; Vanessa Huerta at Florida International University’s Green School; and Chris Destiche at the University of Arizona. The recipient of the Vadim W. Sounitza Fellowship is Sydney Park at the University of Southern California. In addition, a third year of the Gantenbein Medical Fund Fellowship was awarded to Mark O’Brien at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

Undergraduate Scholarship Awards

Each year the Foundation awards Metro tuition scholarships of up to $6,000 to students pursuing degrees in foreign affairs. They are selected by six universities: George Mason University, Howard University, Trinity Washington University, the University of Maryland, the University of District of Columbia (first year of participation), and to one of the universities participating in the North Carolina Consortium for International and Intercultural Education. The six Metro Scholarship recipients for academic year 2022-2023 are Sophia Elhadidi of George Mason University; Leilani Flint of Howard University; Roshell Andrade Kauna of Trinity Washington University; Aimee Dastin-van Rijn of the University of Maryland; Torrey Thomas of the University of the District of Columbia, and Wendy Melvin of Fayetteville State University.

In addition, the Foundation awards scholarships to children or grandchildren of Foreign Service officers, active or retired, through the bequest of the late Ambassador Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr. This year’s Dreyfus scholarships total $30,000. Students attending Yale University, or The Hotchkiss School are eligible. The 2022-2023 academic year recipients are Sophie Aissa Kane and Adrian Hall, both undergraduate students at Yale University, and Natalie Hernandez, a graduate student at Yale University.

New Award

For the first time, the Foundation awarded a scholarship to the spouses and partners of Foreign Service employees assigned abroad to pursue educational goals which may have been disrupted by the spouse’s Foreign Service career. This scholarship, established in the
memory of Sherry Barndollar Rock, grants up to $4,000 annually. The 2022-2023 academic year recipient of the Sherry Barndollar Rock Scholarship is Sara Guthrie, a graduate student at Oklahoma State University.

DACOR, an organization of foreign affairs professionals based in Washington, D.C., and its sister organization, the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, have sponsored scholarship programs since the mid-1970s. DACOR and the Foundation are dedicated to advancing public understanding of and support for diplomacy through scholarships, lectures, education workshops, mentoring and conferences. The two non-profit organizations also work to preserve the historic DACOR Bacon House at 18th and F Streets in Washington, D.C., as a testament to America's diplomatic heritage.