



**PHI KAPPA PHI  
FELLOWSHIPS**

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**APPLICANT  
101**

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## ABOUT THE AWARD

# FELLOWSHIPS

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### ANNUAL FUNDING FOR FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi currently awards \$649,000 each year.

2 \$35,000

6 \$20,000

54 \$8,500

Established in 1932, the Fellowship Program annually provides funding to first-year graduate students who are pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees across all academic disciplines.

Endorsed by their local chapter, Phi Kappa Phi Fellows go on to study at some of the nation's top graduate schools.



*Let the love of learning rule humanity.*

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## ABOUT THE PROCESS

# SELECTION CRITERIA

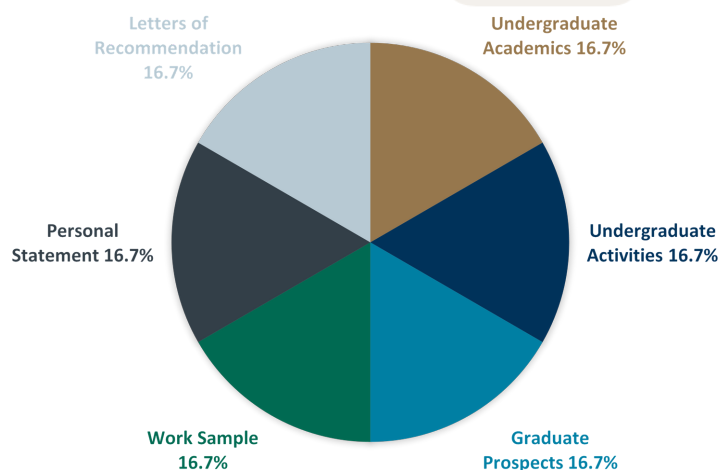
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The Fellowship Committee consists of five members. These representatives are tenured faculty members who represent a variety of academic disciplines. Every application is read by all five members of the committee.

## SCORING CATEGORIES

- 1 UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMICS**  
Performance, Participation in Honors, Undergraduate Research
- 2 UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITIES**  
Leadership and Service On and Off Campus; Awards and Recognition
- 3 GRADUATE PROSPECTS**  
Rationale for Selection; Preparation and Plans
- 4 WORK SAMPLE**  
Best Academic Writing or Creative Work
- 5 PERSONAL STATEMENT**  
Commitment to Graduate Education; Anticipated Contributions; Career Goals
- 6 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Scores are assigned to each section of the application. The committee has found that this system yields an integrated perspective of the nominee and recognizes students who not only have superior grades, but also excel in leadership and other qualities.



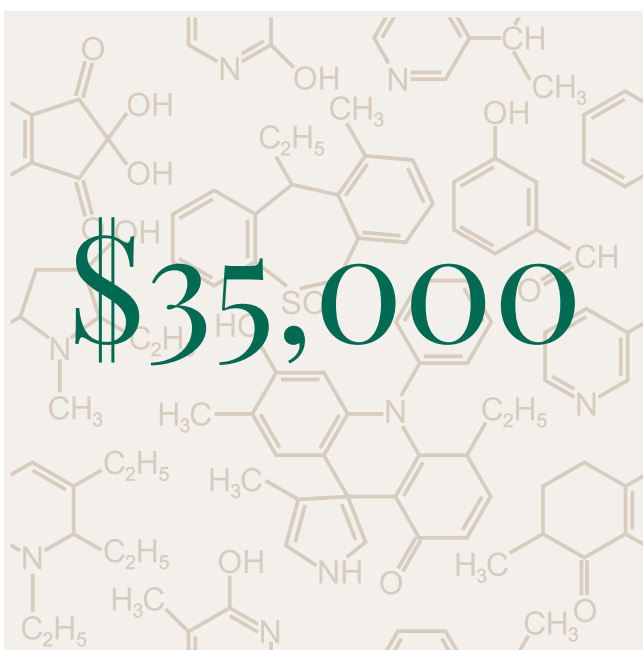
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## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT

# 1897 FELLOWSHIP

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The top-scoring applicant in a STEM discipline



**Erin Mihealsick**  
*Clemson University*  
Genetics and Biochemistry  
4.0 GPA

Erin Mihealsick is the recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi 1897 Fellowship awarded to the top scoring applicant in a STEM discipline. She plans to pursue a program in cancer immunology research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She is a 2020 graduate of Clemson University where she majored in genetics/biochemistry and minored in psychology and gender, sexuality and women's studies; she completed her undergraduate program with a 4.0 GPA. Mihealsick's academic and professional interest now is in research, an interest that started in her high school science experiences and which set a foundation on which to build other experiences that served to clarify her goals and interest. These experiences included extensive research opportunities at her undergraduate institution, then as an Amgen Scholar at Duke University which also focused around learning concepts to design and implement a hypothetical drug for cancer treatments. Mihealsick now aims to become an independent researcher with a focused interest in disease-based research application, specifically to using the immune system (rather than chemotherapy drugs) to treat cancer.

[CLICK FOR ERIN'S APPLICATION](#)

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## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT

# SHERRILL CARLSON FELLOWSHIP

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The top-scoring applicant in humanities and the arts



\$35,000



**Jonathan Puckett**  
*University of Southern Mississippi*  
English, History, Black Studies  
4.0 GPA

Jonathan Puckett earned Bachelor of Arts in history and English and a minor in Black studies from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is the recipient of the Sherrill Carlson Fellowship. Puckett's love for history and literature began when he was quite young, using his public library to explore the world. As an undergrad, Puckett's experiences in the honors college provided him many opportunities for research and study abroad. Most notable was his senior thesis about the archival rediscovery of the literature of Pauline E. Hopkins, an early twentieth-century African-American author, and Hopkins' literary contributions to conversations about citizenship in the Jim Crow era. Puckett's undergraduate studies in history, literature and archival work will prepare him for his pursuit of a Master of Library Science at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; they offer training in public humanities. Through his studies, he will be empowered to bring under-appreciated, undiscovered, and well-known resources in archives and libraries to the public's attention.

[CLICK FOR JONATHAN'S APPLICATION](#)

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## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT

# MARCUS L. URANN FELLOWSHIP

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The next six top-scoring applicants after the 1897 and Sherrill Carlson Fellows



\$20,000



**Daine Van de Wall**  
*United States Military Academy*  
System and Decision Sciences  
4.11 GPA

Daine Van de Wall graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science in systems and decision science. He achieved the rank of First Captain, the highest-ranking cadet, responsible for almost 4500 cadets in the Academy. He received numerous awards including the Rhodes Scholarship and Schwartzman Scholarship. During the fall of 2018 he also attended the Naval Academy in Annapolis, as part of a program designed for military leaders. At the Naval Academy he won the Naval Academy CrossFit Weightlifting Championship. He will pursue an MSc in global governance and diplomacy at University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

[CLICK FOR DAINE'S APPLICATION](#)

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## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT

# MARCUS L. URANN FELLOWSHIP

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The next six top-scoring applicants after the 1897 and Sherrill Carlson Fellows



**Brian-Tinh Vu**  
University of Houston  
Physics and Mathematics  
3.96 GPA

Brian-Tinh Vu graduated with a Bachelor of Science in physics and mathematics from the University of Houston. Among his many achievements, he is the first author on a paper published in the Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics. He is a recipient of the Goldwater Scholarship and of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Accepted at various Ph.D. programs in bioengineering, Vu will attend the University of Pennsylvania program as part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Interfaces' program, which supports students for two years to take medical school courses at the Perelman School of Medicine.

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[CLICK FOR BRIAN-TINH'S APPLICATION](#)

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## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT

# GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

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The next fifty top-scoring applicants after the 1897, Sherrill Carlson and Urann Fellows



**Hollyn Slykhuis**  
*Louisiana State University*  
Music Education  
4.0 GPA

Hollyn Slykhuis graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in music education. As part of her honors thesis, she commissioned works by female composers and premiered them in a recital at the university. Her work has also been chosen to be featured in an online music publication, "I Care if You Listen." As an undergraduate, Slykhuis graduated with College Honors – the highest honors recognition granted at LSU. She stayed connected and active in the community, both at home and abroad, by working with young music students in the LSU Prism Project, the LSU Teach in Chile Program, the Kid's Orchestra of Baton Rouge, and more. Slykhuis plans to attend graduate school at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While there, she also hopes to engage in the school's commitment to using music as a vehicle for social justice.

[CLICK FOR HOLLYN'S APPLICATION](#)

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