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Record Number of Lehman College Students Awarded Fulbright Fellowships

Bronx, NY – For the first time in the school’s 50-year history, Lehman College is home to four Fulbright recipients, a record for the school and the highest number awarded so far this year in the CUNY system.

Amna Azeem, Edith Carrasco, Stefanie Nolli Gaspar, and Konrad Wysocki have been awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Program fellowships from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for the 2019-2020 academic year.

They join more than 2,100 U.S. students who will study, conduct research, and teach abroad during the upcoming school year. The four Lehman students, all graduating this year, were selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

“On behalf of the entire Lehman College community, I offer our congratulations and best wishes for the year ahead to Amna, Edith, Stefanie, and Konrad,” said President José Luis Cruz. “The Fulbright program offers students and scholars incredible opportunities to engage in intellectual growth and community engagement on a global stage. For our students to be part of this select and diverse group brings quite a measure of honor to our school, especially with this record number of students, and serves as an inspiration to us all.”

Carrasco, a Bronx resident, will begin teaching English in Mexico this September for her Fulbright fellowship. A Latin American and Caribbean Studies major, she focused on issues of migration and health, spurred by her parents’ experience as immigrants to the U.S. from Mexico.

The first in her family to graduate from college, Carrasco was also the recipient of both the Gilman Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Global Scholarship. Currently, she is a full-time consultant in the Office of Teaching Recruitment and Quality at the New York City Department of Education and hopes to someday to work in the U.S diplomatic corps.

“The Fulbright means so much more to me than just academic achievement,” said Carrasco. “It also represents my community, and the opportunity to give back to them. It is the ability to break down existing barriers to achieve greater opportunities and a share of a better future. It means ‘si podemos’—yes, we can.”

Nolli Gaspar, a White Plains, New York, resident, will also teach English in Mexico, in addition to starting a community-based after school program. The daughter of Peruvian immigrants who instilled in her the importance of education, she participated in the CREAR (College Readiness, Achievement and Retention) Futuros Program at Lehman.

Nolli Gaspar completed a double major in Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies, and plans to continue master's degree studies in sociology.

Azeem, a Queens resident, will be teaching English in Bulgaria for her fellowship. Born and raised in Pakistan, she moved to the U.S. in 2010 and is interested in the issues that affect equality in education. Azeem enrolled at Lehman through CUNY's Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies, and designed her own individualized degree focused on philosophy, politics, and economics.

During her time at college, Azeem was president of the Leadership Initiative and Advocacy Club and vice president of the Intersectional Feminist Club. After her Fulbright fellowship, Azeem will begin a doctorate program in political science at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Wysocki, a resident of West Hempstead, New York, expects to receive a Master of Science in Biology later this year. He grew up in a family of Polish immigrants; his Fulbright year will be spent in Poland researching wild hops and their potential resistance to drought, pests, and disease.

Currently, Wysocki is an adjunct lecturer in Lehman's Department of Biology and a researcher in a biology lab on campus. On weekends, he works as an EMT on Long Island. After returning from Poland, Wysocki plans to continue studies toward a doctorate.

The Fulbright Program, which operates in over 160 countries worldwide, is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, designed to build lasting connections between the United States and other countries. Since its establishment in 1946, the Fulbright Program has given more than 390,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, and exchange ideas.

Only three other Lehman students have been awarded a Fulbright in the college's history.

For more information about Lehman College, visit:

<http://www.lehman.edu>

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