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THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AWARDS FIVE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected five recipients to receive 2025 Graduate Fellowships for graduate-level tuition. The fellowships are awarded to full-time students in terminal master's degree programs who show promise of achieving distinction in careers that will serve the public good. Criteria for selection include quality of scholarship, leadership, community service, professional experience, and financial need.

The Graduate Fellowship Committee's co-chairs, Barbara Spoerl and Elise Barack, note: "The Alumnae is extremely proud to support these outstanding Northwestern graduates as they work to complete their master's degrees."

Anna Bock is pursuing a Physician Assistant degree from Feinberg School of Medicine. She graduated from Medill School of Journalism, Media, and Marketing Communications with a BS in Journalism while also following a pre-med track. She has worked as an EMT provider while writing the stories behind the work of her EMT colleagues. Additionally, Anna has completed a full-time journalism internship with *JAMA* and has contributed 24 articles to date. She has excelled in both journalism and pre-med, appearing on Dean's List in her last seven quarters.

One of her recommenders states, "Mixing writing labs, daytime reporting requirements and the intensity of the hands-on demand of journalism classes with the equally time-intensive demands of pre-med classes, labs, and sequences is a rare achievement. Anna is one of the few who succeeded in that effort."

Anna says that combining both as of study intersects with her interest in telling human stories as well as being a part of the stories through her medical training. Professor Patti Wolter of Medill wrote that Anna is "committed, incredibly intelligent" and "a student who excels in two very different, important fields."

Catherine Choi majored in Biological Sciences as an undergraduate and was selected for the highly competitive Accelerated Master's Program in Public Health in her senior year. She was on the Dean's List multiple quarters, as well as an Alumnae Undergraduate Research Scholar. Catherine is fluent in Korean and has intermediate proficiency in Latin. She received a summer internship three years in a row, a Weinberg College Summer Research Grant, a STEM Scholarship in 2023 from The Alumnae of Northwestern University and participated in volunteer and service projects.

After her mother's diagnosis of breast cancer, Catherine noted, "I spent a decade earning how to morph myself into the role that the times called for – a caregiver, a medical interpreter, a researcher, a patient advocate, as student – and had a sharper focus for my future studies." One recommender stated that Catherine has expressed interest in the possibility of an MD degree with a career in clinical medicine in the future. She stated that this "reflects her intellectual curiosity and openness to the range of future possibilities."

Rama Darayyad is a Communication Sciences and Disorders major with a minor in Global Health and was accepted into the very competitive Accelerated Public Health Program, which is a combined program open to Northwestern students during their junior year. Students take graduate public health courses as a senior and then formally begin their MPH in June. Rama also holds a credit in American Sign Language.

Her letters of recommendation gave her high praise, but Pete Locke's reflections were most powerful: "I was lucky to have Rama as an exceptional student in my advanced seminar, War and Public Health. It was during this time that American university campuses were experiencing controversy and upheaval as students organized to protest the staggering human toll of the war in Gaza that began in October 2023. Rama's family is originally from Palestine and has direct experience of multiple waves of violence and displacement in the region, leading ultimately to their emigration to the United States. In the same class I also had students descended from Holocaust survivors who identified strongly with Israel and felt uncomfortable with the student protests. What struck me most about the experience of teaching this class during such a difficult time was the maturity, thoughtfulness, and collegiality of all my students, and Rama in particular. She is a gifted intuitive leader and colleague."

In her personal statement, Rama writes that her "passion lies in working with refugee children and families, listening to their stories, and improving their access to care."

Gabriella Nyambura will enroll in the Master of Science degree program in Integrated Marketing Communications. Her intellectual journey has taken her far from her home in Kenya, where her mother stressed the importance of education. She has won internships, worked as an Education USA College Applications Consultant at the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, and was named Outstanding New Employee at the Norris University Center, May 2023. Gabriella secured first place in Arts and Humanities at the Undergraduate Expo in May 2024 and won other honors and awards.

As one of her recommenders commented about Gaby, “one of her strengths is her intellectual curiosity.” She has initiated a bench-marking survey of peer institutions comparing alumni benefit offerings, to determine how Northwestern ranks among peer institutions. Another recommender commented, “her ability to apply academic theory to practice is impressive.”

Kelly Vogt is a first-generation student who earned her undergraduate degree from the School of Education and Social Policy (SESP) with a focus on Human Development in Context and Latino and Latina Studies. All aspects of Kelly’s application indicate a young woman possessing a strident work ethic, dedication to her field of study and empathy for both her colleagues and her students. In her own words she feels we need educators “who lead with love and compassion above all else.”

Kelly’s recommendations highlight both her academic and professional skills and her positive attitude toward challenging tasks. They praise her as a leader committed to service. One of her recommenders states that “Kelly has a way of meeting people, seeing what’s important to them, and then remembering details about ones’ interests, stories and lives. She makes people feel seen.”

She will continue developing and growing these skills while pursuing a Masters of Secondary Education with the goal of becoming a middle school Spanish teacher at a Chicago Public School. After that, she would like to return to her education and research how learning environments can support culturally and linguistically diverse students.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University, while sharing the University’s academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education Program, now in its 55th year. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$10.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, endowed professorships, funding for special University projects, and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae’s website (nualumnae.org).

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