University of Iowa students named 2014 Goldwater Scholar, Honorable Mention

Liam Hovey, a student in the University of Iowa Honors Program and the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), has been awarded a 2014 Goldwater Scholarship. The Goldwater Scholarship was established by Congress in 1986 in honor of Senator Barry M. Goldwater, to challenge and support outstanding young scholar researchers who are pursuing careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Goldwater is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.

Hovey, of Stillwater, Minnesota, is a junior majoring in Chemistry and Physics with a minor in Mathematics. Hovey is currently conducting research on calcium signaling and ion channel regulation in the Shea laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry at the Carver College of Medicine.

Dr. Madeline Shea, Hovey’s research mentor, was “thrilled to hear news of Liam’s award,” but wasn’t surprised. “Liam has the ability to make significant contributions to original and independent research in the United States. The Goldwater Foundation is making a wise investment in a young scientist who possesses the passion and skill required to work at the edge of innovative and cross-disciplinary fields.”

Hovey, who will receive up to $7500 in funding for tuition, fees, books, room and board, plans to pursue a doctoral degree and perform research in structural biology and electrophysiology with an emphasis in pharmacological applications.

The Goldwater Foundation also recognized UI sophomore Alexandra Bartlett, with an honorable mention. Bartlett of Clive, Iowa, is pursuing degrees in Chemical Engineering and Finance. She is conducting research with Dr. Allan Guymon that utilizes polymers to create biocompatible scaffolds that allow the differentiation of stem cells to aid in the treatment of age related macular degeneration. She plans to continue exploring nanotechnology throughout her undergraduate career and beyond with the intention of promoting cross-disciplinary solutions to address genetic diseases.

Hovey and Bartlett worked with UI Honors Program fellowships director, Kelly Thornburg, the University of Iowa’s Undergraduate Fellowships Committee and a supportive community of faculty and research mentors during the development of their application materials.

Selected on the basis of academic merit, this year’s Goldwater Scholars were chosen from a field of 1,166 mathematics, science, and engineering students nominated by colleges and universities nationwide. One hundred seventy-two of the Scholars are men, 111 are women, and virtually all intend to obtain a Ph.D. as their degree objective. Twenty-two Scholars are mathematics majors, 191 are science and related majors, 63 are majoring in engineering, and 7 are computer science majors. Many of the Scholars have dual majors in a variety of mathematics, science, engineering, and computer disciplines.

To view a full list of the 2014 Goldwater Scholars, visit: https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/sch-2014.php
For more information on applying for nomination, visit: http://honors.uiowa.edu/goldwater
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