

Tulane economics graduates receive prestigious NSF fellowships

Two recent graduates from Tulane University's Department of Economics have been awarded highly selective and prestigious fellowships from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for graduate study in economics. Jessica Hayes (class of '11) and Rachel Ryley (class of '14) are among the recipients to be awarded NSF fellowships for graduate study in economics. Overall, the NSF received over 16,000 applications for its 2015 competition, and it made 2000 fellowship award offers, of which only 30 were in the field of economics.

Each recipient will be given three years of support, an annual stipend of \$34,000, and the cost of tuition and fees.

Jessica Hayes was a 2011 graduate from Tulane, graduating with a double major in Economics and French. Jessica graduated from Tulane in only three years, and earned an outstanding GPA of 3.8. She was a previous participant in Tulane's program, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), an NSF-funded project administered by Tulane Professors Keith Finlay and Jonathan Pritchett. For this project, she completed a research paper with Professor Pritchett on the economics of advertising using data from the antebellum slave market in New Orleans, and their joint paper is currently under review at *Cliometrica*, a journal dedicated to research in historical economics. Since graduation, Jessica has been working at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. During this time, she has worked on a variety of projects, including research on intra-household credit utilization. Jessica considered a range of schools, including Arizona, Boston University, Minnesota, UCLA, UC-Santa Barbara, North Carolina, USC, and Washington University, before deciding to attend UCLA.

Rachel Ryley was a 2014 graduate from Tulane, graduating with a double major in Economics and Mathematics. While at Tulane, she received many academic honors, including *Summa Cum Laude* recognition, Department of Economics Honors recognition, the Kappa Kappa Gamma Award for Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics, the Mathematical Economics Award from the Department of Economics, the Newcomb College Award in Economics from the Department of Economics, Phi Beta Kappa recognition, a Dean's Honor Scholarship, the David R. Filo Memorial Scholarship, and Dean's List recognition every semester here at Tulane. She also participated in Tulane's REU program, working most closely with Professor Finlay. She wrote an original and creative senior honors thesis on the impact of legalization of same-sex marriage on the long run fiscal position of the social security system. Since graduation in May 2014, Rachel has been working for Americorps as a member of the City Year Corps in Philadelphia, in which she has been helping high school students with their mathematics literacy and their general "life skills". Rachel has decided to attend Pennsylvania, after considering graduate programs at Boston University, Columbia, Harvard, Maryland, MIT, NYU, Princeton, Stanford, Texas, UC-Berkeley, and UC-San Diego.

For a list of all NSF award winners, see:

<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/AwardeeList.do?method=loadAwardeeList>