

FELDMAN-VORWERK INTERNSHIP AWARD

RECIPIENT REPORT 2021



UMassAmherst

College of
Natural Sciences



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

I am pleased to share information on the first recipients of the Feldman-Vorwerk Internship Award. Your generosity helps our engaged, curious, and creative students thrive as they pursue their degrees and prepare to lead in academia, government, healthcare, and industry.

In a time of societal transformation brought on by a global pandemic, advances in technology, and other challenges, support from the Feldman-Vorwerk Internship Award helps to ensure the next generation of scientists and leaders will be well-prepared to make contributions to their professions and communities.

The hard work of our students, faculty, and staff, along with the extraordinary generosity of donors like you has kept scientific discovery moving forward during a disruptive and uncertain time. Please know how much we appreciate your unique role in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tricia Serio".

TRICIA SERIO, PHD

Dean, College of Natural Sciences



Patricia Cole

Fall 2021
Psychology (BA)
Sociology
Plymouth, MA

Student Profile

I am a rising senior studying both psychology and sociology. I have completed internships in a number of mental health and social work organizations that have prepared me to go deeper in my academic and professional exploration. I am a lab assistant in the Visual Cognitive Attention Lab led by Prof. Cave in the Dept. of Psychological and Brain Sciences. This summer I am an intern with an organization called Unmute, working hard to help those who do not have access to mental health services and educating those who can help. In my free time, I am the captain of the UMass Women's Ultimate Frisbee team and enjoy leading my team to success. I plan on using my internship and leadership experiences to pursue a masters degree and a career in mental health counseling.

With Gratitude

Thank you for establishing the Feldman-Vorwerk Internship Award. I am currently in the final semester of my undergraduate career at UMass Amherst. This past fall, I had the opportunity to intern as a social worker for those in need in the local Amherst community through Amherst Community Connections. Opportunities such these have only reinforced my decision to dedicate my life to the growth and well-being of others, and your generosity will make this possible.

During my time on campus I have developed a wide range of interests including writing poetry. After I receive my masters degree, I hope to become a licensed mental health counselor and work with adolescents in search of mental health care. It concerns me that it is difficult for young people to access to mental health resources and I hope to devote my life to changing this. Part of this is a personal mission: In 2011 I lost my father, and in 2014 I found myself facing the death of my mother as well.

My family has helped me with college, but the financial burden is difficult on all of us. Your scholarship means I will be able to provide for myself and focus on my academics without fear this summer. Your generosity has truly made a difference in my life, and I hope to one day give back as you have. I wish you both the best.



Shelby Casimir

Spring 2022
Psychology (BA)
Sociology
Beverly, MA

Student Profile

I am a rising senior who is double majoring in psychology and sociology. Hailing from the North Shore of Massachusetts, I developed a passion for activism, children, and helping others. On campus I serve as the Event Coordinator for the Insanely Prestigious Step Team (IPST), and serve on the S.B.S. Dean's Council as the sociology representative. Recently I was awarded the W.E.B Du Bois Outstanding Sociological Achievement Award for my involvement in the department. This summer I am excited to work as a research intern for the Eos Foundation's Women's Power Gap Initiative, a project dedicated to improving gender and racial parity in Massachusetts' education and corporate sectors.

With Gratitude

I am beyond honored to be selected for your award. This scholarship will ease the anxiety around finances in my household. Since the middle of the pandemic, there have been serious financial hardships in my household, as my parents work hours were cut. To add to the stress, my mother will be having surgery soon and will not be able to work during her recovery.

Social psychology has been a passion of mine for years, and this award will help me nourish my dreams and goals as I work to use my education to help those who struggle. I want to carry the tools of social psychology to bring forth meaningful change, because in my view, the field of social psychology is where research, action, and social change meet. I am excited to engage with these concepts in my internship this summer.

As a woman of color who came of age in a mostly white town, studying social psychology helped me to better understand my experiences, find a community that understands my struggles, and find my voice. Thank you providing me with this incredible support.