

# Honors program encourages undergraduate research

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**Tulane University rising junior Hannah Kent is investigating the links between ancient Greek tragedy and modern combat veterans.**

**“The question is whether human experience is universal,” she said. “We live in a very different society from ancient Greece ... But I think the classics do have a role in our lives. We can use these ancient texts to address stigmatized topics.”**

**Kent, majoring in classical studies in the School of Liberal Arts, is collaborating on a project conceived by Michael Brumbaugh, assistant professor of classical studies, to evaluate the pre-existing scholarship about [modern and ancient war veterans](#) in the context of Tulane and in New Orleans.**

**Kent is one of 21 undergraduates awarded summer research grants through the [Newcomb-Tulane Honors Program](#) to conduct studies alongside faculty members.**

**These opportunities were made possible by philanthropic support from generous Tulane donors, including Grace and F. Chapman Taylor, a 1982 Tulane graduate; Harold E. Glass, parent of Jesse Glass, a 2008 Tulane graduate; and Chris Austin, a 1980 graduate.**

**Undergraduates in a variety of majors and fields conducted research.**

**Rising senior Izzat Shbeeb studied the synthesis of novel polymers for use in cell transfection in the lab of chemistry professor Scott Grayson.**

**Shbeeb, majoring in cell and molecular biology in the School of Science and Engineering, plans to attend medical school.**

**This summer, he mastered the skills of laboratory research, spending hours working with delicate scientific equipment. This level of laser focus would have been difficult during the hectic school year.**

**“I have full confidence in my abilities to carry out procedures on a day-to-day basis,” said Shbeeb. “It’s an empowering feeling.”**

**Other students awarded grants include:**

**Olivia Barnard**

**Emma Bortz**

**Claire Davis**

**Charles Ellsworth**

**Alejandra Gonzalez Vargas**

**Shahmeer Hashmat**

**Jiayu Huang**

**Rachel Israilivich**

**Jamin Kidd**

**Dylan Koester**

**Cameron Leahy**

**Amanda Lee**

**Rebecca Levy**

**Riley Loria**

**Andrew Markel**

**Nathan Nguyen**

**Taylor Selembo**

**Claire Sentilles**

**Weiyao Wang**

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