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Hertz Foundation Announces 50th Cadre of Hertz Fellows

March 22, 2012

The Hertz Foundation Nears Half-Century Milestone;

Selects 50th Cadre of Hertz Fellows; Quarter Million Dollar Support for Gifted Young Leaders in Physical, Biological and Engineering Sciences

Livermore, CA – March 22, 2012—The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation today announced its 2012 cadre of Hertz Fellows. From over 600 applicants, 15 were selected to receive the Hertz Fellowship, considered to be the most generous support for graduate education in the applied physical, biological and engineering sciences. The Hertz Fellowship is valued at more than \$250,000 per student, with support lasting up to five years. Fellows are free to innovate in their doctoral studies without university or research restrictions.

“We are pleased to announce this year’s selection,” stated Dr. Jay Davis, Hertz Foundation President. “We made this announcement with equal amounts of excitement and resolve. We are committed to increasing the number of Hertz Fellows we can support each year. This, our 50th cadre of Fellows, was picked from such an outstanding group of applicants that we could easily have chosen thirty, had resources been available to us. We are proud to be philanthropists in education in a recapitalization initiative that will eventually allow us to support a country’s top one percent in these disciplines.”

For nearly a half century, the Hertz Foundation has fostered the scientific and engineering strength by finding the best and brightest from those disciplines. During the past decade, there has been a marked shift of candidates towards those who apply physical and computational tools to the problems of biomedical science. Significantly, another shift of the Hertz Foundation has been to support the Hertz Fellows to build a research community for all ages to gather together, inspire one another and collaborate for innovation that will make a powerful contribution they bring to society.

“We invest in young people who will solve our most daunting problems,” stated Dr. Davis. “These individuals have extraordinary promise. They join the community of leaders who produce advances in science, medicine, business, academia and government. Scientists and engineers are only 4% of the U.S. workforce but responsible for up to 85% of the GDP. The top 1% is responsible for 90% of important discoveries. We believe that the risk-taking brought forth innovation for the technical and economic security of our nation.”

Hertz Fellows pursue their own ideas with complete financial independence and under the guidance of the country’s finest professors and mentors. Fellows are chosen for their intellect, their ingenuity and their meaningful improvement to society. The highly competitive selection process includes a comprehensive application, four references, and two rounds of technical interviews by recognized leaders in applied science and engineering.

“The Hertz Foundation nurtures these remarkable scientists and engineers as they develop and expand their talents,” continued Dr. Davis. “We help genius find itself.”

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[2012-2013 Hertz Fellows PDF](#)

FELLOW	FIELD OF STUDY	UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION
Cheri Marie Ackerman	Chemistry	University of California
Nicholas Ranieri Boyd	Computer Science	University of California
Allen Yuyin Chen	Bioengineering	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Anjali Datta	Chemical Engineering	University of Texas
Arvind Kannan	Chemical Engineering	California Institute of Technology
Brian Lawrence	Mathematics	California Institute of Technology
Max Nathan Mankin	Chemistry	Harvard University

Kelly Dare Moynihan	Biomedical Engineering	University of Texas, Austin
Vyas Ramanan	Bioengineering	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Grant Newton Remmen	Physics/Astrophysics	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Jonathan Robert Russell	Biotechnology	Harvard University
Jacob Noah Steinhardt	Computer Science	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
James Ryan Valcourt	Quantitative Biology, Bio-Engineering	Princeton University
Christian T. Wentz	Bioengineering	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Yun William Yu	Applied Mathematics	Indiana University, Bloomington

Additional press on the new Fellows:

[Grant Remmen](#), University of Minnesota News Service
