

Scholarships for International Study Newsletter

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Office of Scholarships for International Study

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First Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Office of Scholarships for International Study. The publication is meant to serve potential international scholarship recipients, alum awardees, prestigious international scholarship committee members, recent letter of recommendation writers, and other interested faculty and staff at Illinois. We plan to make this a semi-annual newsletter to help maintain your connection to the international scholarships process at Illinois. So, you may already start looking forward to a July issue profiling some of our (hopefully) new awardees, discussing letters of recommendation, providing

some application advice, and reviewing the scholarships year. In the meantime, we hope you each find some information of

interest in the coming pages. Enjoy our fledgling issue!



International Studies Building

Scholarships Alum Begins Cambridge Tenure

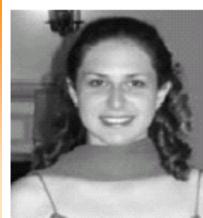


Photo
Courtesy
of Gates
Cambridge
Trust

Joannah Metz (BS, 2004) is thus far enjoying her first few months at the University of Cambridge's Churchill College pursuing an MPhil in polar studies under a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Joannah reports that in the first month she attended about 10

formal dinners, "There was a matriculation dinner, Advanced Students Dinner, a dinner with my college fellows, and 'superhall' in my College. My supervisor is a fellow of Jesus College so he took his research group there for a formal dinner. I've got a Christmas formal hall in Jesus College with my research group, and another Christmas hall in Churchill. I had a nice Thanksgiving. Lord Boyd, the master of Churchill College, put on a Thanksgiving dinner for all the Americans in Churchill." She also has taken up a few Cambridge traditions,

joining the Churchill women's rowing team on the River Cam and giving punting a try. Of course Joannah continues to impress academically. She has handed in her dissertation proposal on 'Marine Geophysical Investigations of the Glacier Influenced Margins off the Polar North Atlantic.' Moreover, Joannah already is excited about potentially conducting fieldwork in the Arctic this summer, assisting her supervisor on an ice-breaking vessel around Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard.

Notes From a Current NSEP Recipient

This semester has been interesting to say the least. When I planned on coming to a developing country Ecuador, where over 70% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, I did not expect to live more luxuriously than I do in the U.S.

I live in a five story house with one woman and a live in employee who cooks, cleans, washes and irons my clothes down to my underwear, makes my bed etc. I go to the most expensive school in Ecuador where there is practically no diversity (the only Blacks are three African Americans) and a big focus on appearance. The Ecuadorian friends that I have made live a completely different lifestyle than me (and not in the direction of living on \$1 a day). For example, none of them have worked in their lives, they live with their parents and probably will until they marry, they have

a live in maid, some have a chauffeur, etc. It has been interesting to see how the elite in this country live.

Luckily, I have also been able to see a different, more realistic view of Ecuador. I decided to come to Ecuador two months early to volunteer. I lived in a rural community of about four hundred people. My host family had a cow, a pig, thirty guinea pigs, chickens, evil geese who tried to kill me on a daily basis, and fields of onions. The house did not have running water and none of the rooms were connected. At first I was in a state of culture shock but I quickly adjusted with help of the fiestas, the fresh food right of the field, and the incredible people that I met. By teaching English in rural Ecuador, I learned how people can live with a lot less but with a lot of joy: close family and friends, lots of extravagant festivals and

parties, fresh food, beautiful scenery etc. The cheap prices here shocked me: 25 cents to ride a bus, three course meal for 3 dollars, 4 dollars to stay in a nice hostel. However, some items are not so cheap, \$9 for a roll of film, \$7 for a notebook, 50 cents for a pen etc. Luckily, my scholarship is a great help.

My volunteering experiences both here and in the states have definitely enriched my life. I would strongly recommend finding opportunities to volunteer to learn different sides of the culture that you might not otherwise see. If I did not volunteer while I was here, I might be under the impression that all Ecuadorians have their underwear ironed, dishes washed, bed made, and hand held.

- Rene Bangert, anticipated BA International Studies May 2006

Where Are They Now?

Sabina Alkire (awarded Rhodes Scholar 1990) is an economist working with the Global Equity Initiative at Harvard University. GEI seeks to advance the understanding and address the challenges of equitable global development. Much of Sabina's work is focused on South Asia.

Doug Spaniol (awarded Marshall 1991) is an Associate Professor of Music at Butler University. He is the principal bassoon of Sinfonia de Camera and has been featured in concertos with numerous orchestras, including the St. Petersburg Classical Symphony Orchestra. Doug lives in

Indianapolis with his wife Anne and children Emma and Evan.

Todd Duncan (awarded Churchill 1992) runs a non-profit organization called the Science Integration Institute, which looks "for meaning in the modern universe." His research and educational programs focus on developing ways for people to see themselves as part of the broad context of the universe. Todd also teaches astronomy and physics at Portland State University.

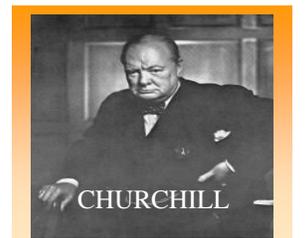
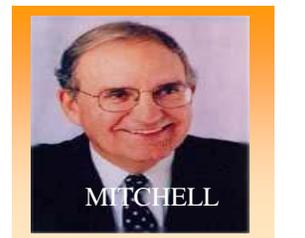
Eboo Patel (awarded Rhodes 1997) is currently the Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core, a mid-size nonprofit that

he founded during graduate school at Oxford. He is happily married and living in Chicago.

Brad Friedman (awarded Churchill 2000) is in his fourth year of a PhD math program at MIT, where he works in the field of computational evolutionary biology. He married on October 10th, and they are expecting a son.

Mike Geline (awarded Gates 2001) is in the middle of his third year of graduate school in mathematics at the University of Chicago working in group theory and representation theory. Reports Mike, "Having - *continued on page 3*

Scholarships Administered



RHODES

For more information see Page 5

Where Are They Now? - *continued*

grown up in Chicago's suburbs, moving to the city for the first time after a year of telling Europeans I was "from there" felt odd."

Joel Willis (awarded Gates 2001) served as Regional Director for a U.S. Senate candidate until March 2004. Since then, he has kept busy volunteering at a women's center, nursing home, and grade school special needs class. Joel recently applied for a Fulbright to pursue Middle Eastern Studies at Ben-Gurion University in Israel.

Jenny Ifft (awarded Gates 2002) is in the last year of a 'Junior Professional Associate' position at the World Bank where she is working mainly on agricultural and livestock projects, including a survey of the East Asia livestock sector. Jenny plans to work in East Asia for a couple years after her time at the World Bank.

Chris Michael (awarded Gates 2003) is currently pursuing his first year in a PhD program at Cal Tech. He is adjusting to returning to classes and exams after a solid year of research in

England and enjoying making wedding plans for next August.

David Smyth (awarded Churchill 2003) is currently pursuing his first year in a Ph.D. Math program at Berkeley. "Every morning when I get up, I say a little prayer of thanks for Berkeley's sunshine."

“Writing the essays was a soul-searching process and I think I gained some confidence and direction.”

Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarships Alum

“...the international scholarship process provides the unique opportunity of self-study, not often part of your general college curriculum.”

We asked various Illinois alum who were awarded prestigious international scholarships to muse a bit on their experiences. Here are some illustrative quotes:

What is your memory or a couple salient memories of the campus scholarship process?

It was a lot of work! Writing the essays was a soul-searching process and I think I gained some confidence and direction. Practicing for interviews was tough but important. I think I said some silly things in my practice interviews!

Mostly I remember feeling swamped and overwhelmed - finishing my undergraduate career, applying for grad schools and awards/fellowships. I recall it was difficult to feel motivated to add an application for an international scholarship to that chaos. (I'm glad I did).

I remember spending many,

many hours working on the application and having many meetings with [former director] Penelope Soskin. Perhaps the most memorable was our first meeting after I gave her the initial draft of my essay. Penelope said something like, "You'll alienate half the committee with your first sentence, the other half with your second." Needless to say, it was back to the drawing board! It's also clear that I wouldn't have had the success I did without her help.

Looking back, what tips do you have for future applicants?

*The real question might be to clarify what *you* really really really want to do. A nun neighbor used to give out post cards saying, 'find something to live for, something worth dying for'. That's a bit melodramatic, but the idea is right - the goals you put down on application forms need to come from within.*

It's easier to write an essay if

you have a good idea of what you want to do both academically and in terms of career. Develop your "vision" first. Tie together all of your experiences & ideas with why you want the scholarship plus what you plan to do afterwards.

I have applied for lots and lots of scholarships during my lifetime, and I have come to a sobering conclusion. I am going to lose much more often than I am going to win. The trick is to remind myself that success is a process and not an end goal. Furthermore, the international scholarship process provides the unique opportunity of self-study, not often part of your general college curriculum. This exercise allows you to examine your past discovering (often for the first time) patterns that link you to your future goals. As arduous and frustrating as the task may prove to be, such a process brings us face to face with important questions...

-Continued on Page 4

Reflections and Advice - *continued*

—Am I satisfied with what I have accomplished in my life thus far? Does it coincide with where I would like to be? The mere fact that you are applying for such scholarships, likely means you have a history of maturity, academic prowess, and positive social engagement. This framework affords you the opportunity to take steps forward projecting yourself not only into the space and time you would like, but more importantly the person you are and ways you can continue to be.

Well, I guess there's the standard advice: participate in activities for which you feel a natural enthusiasm, drop in on your professors' office hours (and don't feel that you have to restrict your conversation to the material covered in class!), every now and then sit down in front of a keyboard and try to articulate to yourself what it is about the world, about other people, or about your subject that really motivates you to do what you do. Unfortunately, this is all somewhat irrelevant by the time senior year rolls around. At that point, you have

a certain record of activities in front of you, and you are faced with the unenviable task of preparing the same raw ingredients in half a dozen variations of flavor and color. It's not fun. Just grit your teeth and bear it; it's all over in one semester, and you'll kick yourself later if you wimp out and don't give it a shot. After applying for these scholarships, applications to graduate school seem easy!

Relax! Enjoy the process of exploring different options for your future studies.

**“Relax!
Enjoy the
process of
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different
options...”**

Fall 2004 University of Illinois Applicants

We congratulate the following applicants who took the time to reflect, write, ponder, write, dream, write, research, write, soul search, write, and submit an application for a prestigious international scholarship in the fall of 2004. We wish each candidate success in their future endeavors and hope to count some among our scholarships alum!

U.K. Fulbright Grant

Jonathan Hollander	Physics at Cambridge
Steve Maas	Anthropology in Wales
Tessa Oberg	English Literature at Sussex
Kristen Scoville	European Studies at Bath
Frank Stec	Communications at Loughborough
Rasheed Tazudeen	Postcolonial Literature at University of London
Nicole Wheatcroft	Postcolonial Literature at Oxford

Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Jonathan Hollander	Physics at Cambridge
Ben Luncell	Part III of the Mathematics Tripos at Cambridge
Lianhan Zhao	Technology Policy at Cambridge

Marshall Scholarship

Kristen Scoville	European Studies at Bath, LSE, Birmingham, or Cambridge
Liz Smith	Creative Writing at Edinburgh or Manchester
Rasheed Tazudeen	Literature at University of London or Kings College

Mitchell Scholarship

Liz Smith	Creative Writing at Trinity or Queens University
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Rhodes Scholarship

Nathan VanHoudnos	PPE at Oxford
Nicole Wheatcroft	English Literature at Oxford

Churchill Scholarship

Jonathan Hollander	Physics at Cambridge
Ben Lundell	Part III of the Mathematics Tripos at Cambridge

Luce Scholars Program

Brian Bruce	UI-Springfield Alum, Business
Andrea Clinard	Senior, Journalism
Amy Fry	Alum, Librarian
Seema Kini	Senior, Public Health
Wayne Ma	Senior, Journalism
Tracy Miller	Alum, Business
Greg Schlenz	Alum, Law
Alina Schreiber	Alum, Human Development
Annica Schroeder	Senior, Advertising
Mark Wehling	Senior, International Studies
Tina Yuting Wu	Alum, Law

Committee Members Make it Happen

Students at the University of Illinois are fortunate to have a number of exceptional faculty devoted to the scholarships process. The faculty who serve on our committees spend countless hours reviewing applications, engaging with candidates in selection and mock interviews, and providing insightful feedback to assist applicants in their revision processes. The Committee members also must make difficult decisions of endorsement on behalf of the university. We greatly appreciate the work of those who served on prestigious international scholarship committees in the last six months.

2004 International Scholarships Campus Selection Committee (Gates, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes)

Caroline Hibbard	Associate Professor of History
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Marilyn Booth	Associate Professor of Comparative and World Literature

2004 Luce Scholars Campus Review Committee

Nancy Abelmann	Associate Professor of Anthropology
Clark Cunningham	Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
Rania Huntington	Assistant Professor of Chinese Literature

2004 Churchill Scholarship Campus Selection Committee

Heini Halberstam	Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Derek Robinson	Professor of Mathematics

2004 Priority Application Reviewers

Caroline Hibbard	Associate Professor of History
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering

2004 Priority Application Reviewers - *continued*

Carol Leff	Associate Professor of Political Science
Werner Baer	Professor of Economics
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Marilyn Booth	Associate Professor of Comparative and World Literature
Heini Halberstam	Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
Bruce Michelson	Professor of English

2004 University U.K. Fulbright Interview Committees

Bob Pahre	Associate Professor of Political Science
Bill Kelleher	Associate Professor of Anthropology
Angharad Valdivia	Research Professor of Communications
Harriet Murav	Professor of Comparative and World Literature
Lori Newcomb	Associate Professor of English
Zohreh Sullivan	Professor of English
Geir Dullerud	Associate Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
John Weaver	Professor of Materials Sciences and Engineering
Ian Robertson	Professor of Materials Sciences and Engineering

Scholarships Administered

U.K. Fulbright

One year of study or research in the United Kingdom. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. Must be a U.S. citizen.

Gates Cambridge

One to four years of study leading to a degree at Cambridge University, England. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are eligible.

George J. Mitchell

One year of postgraduate study in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Must be under the age of 30 and a U.S. citizen.

Marshall

Two to three years of study leading to a degree at any British university. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. Must be a U.S. citizen.

Rhodes

One to three years of study leading to a degree at Oxford University, England. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of 24 and a

U.S. citizen. Some non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply from their home country on the basis of degrees from U.S. universities.

Churchill

One year of post graduate study leading to a degree in engineering, mathematics, and/or the sciences at Cambridge University, England. Seniors and graduate students are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of 26 and a U.S. citizen.

Luce

One year internship in East or Southeast Asia. Asia studies majors/minors or those who have been to Asia for more than 4 weeks are not eligible. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and young professionals are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of 30 and a U.S. citizen.

NSEP Undergraduate

Open to freshmen through seniors for summer, semester, or year long study in a non-western country. U.S. citizens only.

NSEP Graduate

U.S. citizens enrolled in or applying to a graduate degree program. May include domestic language and cultural study with overseas study or all overseas study in a non-western country. Funding for 1 to 6 academic semesters.

About Our Office

We assist you through the prestigious international fellowship application process in your quest for greater knowledge, personal growth, and professional development.

*As an additional benefit, you just might win a scholarship.

Although many nationally or internationally competitive scholarships and fellowships are available for graduate and undergraduate study and/or research around the world, competition is steep. The Office of Scholarships for International Study administers several prestigious international scholarships and offers counseling on many others for University of Illinois students and alumni, including the Churchill, Gates Cambridge,

George Mitchell, Luce, Marshall, National Security Education Program, Rhodes, and U.K. Fulbright. Throughout the application process, we provide advice and feedback for applicants.

Despite the highly competitive nature of these programs, University of Illinois applicants have competed successfully over the years.

We can help you unlock your potential, learn about yourself, and become more competitive for international scholarships. Interested persons -- from freshmen, to Ph.D. candidates, to recent alum -- are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss these opportunities.

For more information about scholarships for study outside the U.S. contact: David Schug

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship

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