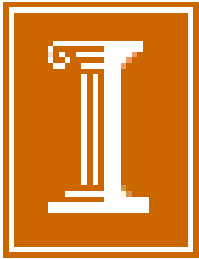


# Scholarships for International Study Newsletter

December 2006

Office of Scholarships for International Study

Volume 3, Issue 1



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## Do Many Illinois Students Actually Win?

Students often ask the office, “when was the last time someone from Illinois was named a \_\_\_\_ scholar?” The answer can range from “1998, but we’ve had national finalists within the past two years” to, “every year multiple University of Illinois students win this award.” The 1998 answer applies to Rhodes, Marshall, and Luce Scholars. We are working on finding more quality applicants and were happy to have had eight seniors and recent alumni apply for the Marshall this year and to have received six applicants for the Rhodes scholarship. Every year multiple University of Illinois students win Fulbright grants, but this is another area where we look for higher numbers of competitive applicants. Thankfully, 37 candidates applied for the Fulbright this fall, up from 26 last year.

In other competitions, Illinois is already a leader. In the six years since the Gates

Cambridge Scholarship’s inception, seven of our students have received this award. And since 1998, Illinois students earned five Churchill scholarships, tied for the second most in the country, ahead of such institutions as Harvard, MIT, and Yale. The National Security Education Program undergraduate scholarship is another award where Illinois is a model—only one other university had more recipients last year than our institution. The University of Illinois produces stellar students who are nurtured by exceptionally keen mentors; the biggest challenge remains informing our top students of these opportunities, and that Illinois students have a viable chance of winning these awards.

David Schug, Program Director

## Reports From Abroad

Tessa Oberg, Fulbright, Sussex, U.K.

*I was introduced to a Virginia Woolf scholar with whom one of the Fulbright commission members had gone to University; to my instructors at Sussex, some of whom I’d been emailing excitedly for months; to other Sussex students, most of them British and happy to tell me all about the part of the country they call their own. ... And finally, I cannot exclude my seemingly random connections – though not random: Only **here** could they happen – with the people of the city of Brighton itself.*

Eliza Johannes, NSEP, Turkana District, Kenya

*I have spent fall semester getting acquainted to the local people, language studies, and understanding Kenya’s educational policies towards the Turkana... So far, the challenges have been language barriers as the majority of Turkana pastoralists have little understanding*

*of Kiswahili, a language I have been studying before my arrival. Furthermore, accessing populations in the interior has also proved to be a challenge as public transportation lacks in the areas where the majority of Turkana pastoralists live as they are on the constant move with their livestock.*

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## Fall 2006 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 2006. We wish these candidates success in their future endeavors and hope to count some among our scholarships alumni!

### Fulbright Grant

Jeffrey Ahlman	History, Ghana
Abram Bicksler	Biology, Kenya
Valerie Brandt	Biology, United Kingdom
Kimberly Davis	Music (Piano), Mexico
Andrew Demshuk	History, Germany
Erin Evans	Religion, United Kingdom
Elizabeth Gansen	Communications, Chile
Danielle Garrison	Teaching English, France
Victoria Ger	Environmental Studies, Peru
Megan Gilmore	Teaching English, Brazil
Angela Glaros	Anthropology, Greece
Cory Hahn	Teaching English, Brazil
Jennifer Halvorson	Design, Denmark
Lori Haymon	Philosophy, New Zealand
Rachel Hillmer	Physics, Australia
Jacob Hustedt	English, United Kingdom
Elana Jakel	History, Ukraine
Jessica Kamm	History, Germany
Scott Kathrein	Mathematics, United Kingdom
David Kikuchi	Ecology, Peru
Richard Komaiko	Economics, Hong Kong
Natalie Laczek	Environmental Studies, Poland
Grace Lee	International Relations, China
Amber Lindholm	Communications, Germany
Danielle Macomber	Teaching English, Argentina
Harmony Neal	Creative Writing, Trinidad & Tobago
Rebecca Nickerson	History, Japan
Sarah Park	Library Science, South Korea
Nicole Pivato	Teaching English, Spain
Neil Reimer	Teaching English, Malaysia
Jason Ritchie	Anthropology, Israel
Rashelle Roos	Sculpture, Turkey
Daniel Rudin	Teaching English, South Korea
Miloney Thakrar	Women's Studies, United Kingdom
Mark Wehling	Teaching English, Germany
Alexis Whittington	Teaching English, Germany
Brian Yates	History, Ethiopia

### Churchill Scholarship, Cambridge

Valerie Brandt	Human Nutrition
Ben Kaduk	Chemistry
Scott Kathrein	Mathematics
Kara Lamb	Mathematics
Kevin Vaishnav	Chemical Engineering

### Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Cambridge

Jimmy Antia	International Relations
Valerie Brandt	Human Nutrition
Rachel Hillmer	Mathematics
Ben Kaduk	Chemistry
Scott Kathrein	Mathematics
Kara Lamb	Mathematics
Evan Rosenfeld	Bio Science Enterprise
Kevin Vaishnav	Chemical Engineering
Brock Williams	Economics

### Marshall Scholarship

Valerie Brandt	Human Nutrition, Cambridge
Jacob Hustedt	Literature and Culture, Sussex
Richard Komaiko	Global Market Economics, London School of Economics
Evan Rosenfeld	Computational Biology, Cambridge
Daniel Rudin	Fine Arts, Chelsea College
Karin Suni	Text and Performance, King's College
Miloney Thakrar	Gender and Social Policy, London School of Economics
Brock Williams	Public Financial Policy, London School of Economics

### Mitchell Scholarship

Brock Williams	Developmental Studies, University of Dublin
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### Rhodes Scholarship, Oxford

Alan Fleming	Fine Arts
Jacob Hustedt	English
Richard Komaiko	Economics
Anne McClure	Educational Studies
Evan Rosenfeld	Biomedical Engineering
Brock Williams	Economics

### Luce Scholars Program

Jimmy Antia	Alum, International Conflict
Ryan Dick	M of Arch, Architecture
Ami Novoryta	Alum, Educational Policy
Miriam Young	B.A., International Development

Applications for the National Security Education Program are due on January 18, 2007.

## Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarship Alumni

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

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

*I figured that writing only two pages for the proposal would be easy after two years of law school. How wrong I was. Seventeen drafts later, my application was ready. The Office of Scholarships for International Study at Illinois ... was an incredible help throughout the entire process.*

*This is the one opportunity you'll have to do what you always wanted to do – so just go for it. Also the people who apply for Fulbright are just like you.*

*I applied for the Marshall my senior year here on campus and didn't make the cut and then tried again after I was a working professional. Having gone through the process the first time prepared me for the second time.*

*The most salient memory for me is by far the relief of submitting the application, knowing that it's submitted on time and going to be given full consideration. The awards ceremony was also nice, and of course getting the first check!*

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

*Beyond the obvious need to be very careful about keeping track of deadlines, I would echo past scholars' tips on the personal statement. It is important to highlight your academic strengths, but it is even more critical to talk about how you are a well-*

***“Applicants need a sense of passion to make it through the lengthy application process”***

*rounded person. I would advise future applicants to draw from recent and less recent life experiences to demonstrate how you and your proposal can contribute to change in the world.*

*Find someone on the faculty who had the scholarship you're applying for and talk to him or her about the experience. Also, study up on the institution and program you're planning to join.*

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## Where Are They Now?

**Donald W. Garner** (awarded Fulbright to European Union in 2000) obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M.) at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium, after graduating cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he served as Chief Justice of the Moot Court. Currently, Don runs an immigration law firm in Chicago, where he assists companies and individuals with U.S. immigration issues. He is President of the Rotary Club of Chicago, and served the last two years as President of the Chicago Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

**James Yesinowski** (awarded Churchill 1971) is at the Naval Research Laboratory in the Chemistry Division doing basic research in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, currently of the important “new” semiconductor Gallium nitride, and has been involved with carrying out

the first deep-sea NMR experiments, of methane gas hydrates that are found beneath the ocean floor. James has maintained contact with Harold Epstein of the Churchill Foundation, and participated in the selection process twice.

**Khizer Husain** Since receiving the NSEP for Cairo in Arabic studies and Fulbright to the U.K. in health policy (1997/98), he has been involved in a few healthcare consulting agencies. Most recently, he works for a 750-employee group called The Advisory Board Company based in Washington D.C. helping hospitals in strategic planning. As a side interest, he has been researching the feasibility of a multi-cultural retirement complex that serves the need of the Muslim American community.

## Reports - continued

Alyssa Walsh, NSEP, Cairo, Egypt:

*The culture of Egypt will undoubtedly present any Study Abroad student with some difficulties, as it differs vastly from life in Western societies. However, each cultural difference can be seen as a learning opportunity and a chance to challenge your worldview and adapt to something new. One thing I have learned here is that you do not have to agree with all the new customs and ways of life that you are exposed to in a foreign country – you should simply try to understand them. An example is the hijab (veil) in Egypt. While I do not necessarily agree with the reasons for which it is worn by women, I accept these reasons as valid. I can now look at this issue from an Egyptian point of view, and that is good enough.*

## Committee Members Make It Happen

Students at Illinois are fortunate to have numerous exceptional faculty and staff devoted to the scholarships process. Committee members spend hours reviewing applications, engaging with candidates in interviews, and providing insightful feedback to assist in the revision process. We greatly appreciate those who served on prestigious international scholarship committees in the last six months.



### 2006 Priority Application Reviewers

Ruth Aguilera	Assoc. Prof. of Business Administration
Werner Baer	Prof. of Economics
Maimouna Barro	Asst. Director Center for African Studies
Matti Bunzl	Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology
Robin Douglas	Asst. Prof. of Art & Design
Monica Fountain	Asst. Director of Development, University High School
David Goodman	Prof. of East Asian Languages and Cultures
Caroline Hibbard	Assoc. Prof. of History
Jonathan Higdon	Prof. of Chemical Engineering
Nils Jacobsen	Assoc. Prof. of History
Anthony Leggett	Prof. of Physics
Ty Newell	Asst. Dean Engineering Administration
Deborah Richie	Asst. Dean Graduate College
Penny Soskin	Asst. Dean Liberal Arts & Sciences
Mark Steinberg	Prof. of History
Charles Zukoski	Vice Chancellor for Research

### 2006 Churchill Scholarship Campus Selection Committee

Heini Halberstam	Prof. Emeritus of Mathematics
Jonathan Higdon	Prof. of Chemical Engineering
Peter Orlean	Prof. of Microbiology
Derek Robinson	Prof. of Mathematics

### 2006 Luce Campus Selection Committee

Clark Cunningham	Prof. Emeritus of Anthropology
Gale Summerfield	Director of Women and Gender in Global Perspectives
Paul Vaaler	Assoc. Prof. of International Business

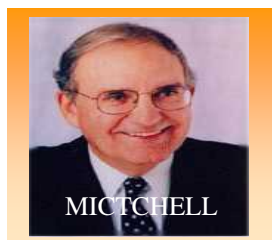
### 2006 International Scholarships Campus Selection Committee (Gates, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes)

Marilyn Booth	Assoc Prof. of Comparative and World Literature
Monica Fountain	Asst. Director of Development, University High School
Caroline Hibbard	Prof. of History
Jonathan Higdon	Prof. of Chemical Engineering
Anthony Leggett	Prof. of Physics

### 2006 University Fulbright Interview Committees

Elizabeth Ainsworth	Asst. Prof. of Biology
Jonathan Allen	Asst. Prof. of Political Science
Eugene Avrutin	Asst. Prof. of History
Ercan Balci	Lecturer, Linguistics
Thomas Bassett	Prof. of Geography
Elabbas Benmamoun	Prof. of Linguistics
Eyamba Bokamba	Prof. of Linguistics
Chip Bruce	Prof. of Library Science
Damarys Canache	Assoc. Prof. of Political Science
Stephanie Ceman	Asst. Prof. of Biology
Marguerite Courtright	Lecturer, Intensive English
Kate Curry	Lecturer, Intensive English
Norman Denzin	Prof. of Communications Research
Heather Downs	Instructor, Sociology
Mark Dressman	Assoc. Prof. of Education
Zachary Elkins	Asst. Prof. of Political Science
Anna Maria Escobar	Assoc. Prof. of Spanish
Alexander Fekete	Asst. Prof. of Art & Design
Georgia Garcia	Prof. of Education
Robert Gennis	Prof. of Biochemistry
Rebecca Ginsburg	Asst. Prof. of Landscape Architecture
Matthias Grosse Perdekamp	Asst. Prof. of Physics
Steven Hill	Assoc. Prof. of Russian
Gary Kling	Assoc. Prof. of Natural Resources & Environmental Science
Ronald Kovatch	Prof. of Art & Design
Richard Laugesen	Assoc. Prof. of Mathematics
Carol Leff	Assoc. Prof. of Political Science
Robert Markley	Prof. of English
Ralph Mathisen	Prof. of History
Maurice Meilleur	Adj. Asst. Prof. of Political Science
Ellen Moodie	Asst. Prof. of Anthropology
Gary Porton	Prof. of Religious Studies
Zhongjun Qu	Asst. Prof. of Economics
Edward Rath	Asst. Prof. of Music
Rolando Romero	Assoc. Prof. of Latina/o Studies
Misumi Sadler	Prof. of E. Asian Languages and Cultures
Randall Sadler	Asst. Prof. of English as an International Language
Mahir Saul	Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology
Amy Swanson	Acad. Adv. Spanish, Italian, Portuguese
Ana Thomé-Williams	Lecturer, Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese
Helga Varden	Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
Sharra Vostral	Asst. Prof. of Gender & Women's Studies
Martin Williams	Adj. Asst. Prof. of Crop Sciences
David Wright	Prof. of English
Ann Yeung	Assoc. Prof. of Music
Xudong Zhang	Assoc. Prof. of Bioengineering





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## Reflections and Advice - *continued*

*The obvious ones hold true; start early, work hard, prepare well. Keep in mind what the selection committee wants in an applicant, and try to be that type of person. This of course means someone who is an outstanding student and has great potential in their field. But it also means someone who has interests in other areas, who has good communication and personal skills, and who has knowledge of other countries and cultures and a good international perspective on issues.*

*My tip to any applicant would be to stay true to who you are and what you believe, tell them the truth and nothing but the truth. I also would suggest that they be very clear about what they hope to accomplish through their studies, how it fits into an overall plan.*

*Start the process early as well as your involvement with campus organizations, extra-curricular activities, etc.*

***“Apply for lots and lots of scholarships.”***

## Scholarships Administered

**Fulbright** One year of study or research in any country where there is a Fulbright Commission. Some English teaching programs available. U.S. citizen seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply.

**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. For U.S. and non-U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

**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. For U.S. citizens.

**George Mitchell** One year of postgraduate study in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

**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. For U.S. and some non-U.S. citizens under the age of 24.

**Churchill** One year of postgraduate study leading to a degree in engineering, mathematics, or the sciences at Cambridge University, England. Seniors and graduate students are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 26.

**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 ineligible. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and young professionals are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

**NSEP Undergrad** (*deadline: January 18, 2007*) Open to freshmen through seniors for summer, semester, or yearlong study in a non-western country. For U.S. citizens.

**NSEP Grad** (*deadline: January 30, 2007*) 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, Fulbright, Gates Cambridge,

George Mitchell, Luce, Marshall, National Security Education Program, and Rhodes. 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 information about scholarships for study outside the U.S., contact David Schug, Program Director

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**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship](http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship)

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