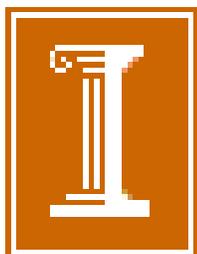


TOPS Newsletter

August 2008

The Office of Prestigious Scholarships

Volume 4, Issue 2



INSIDE:

Jack Kent Cooke
Scholar J. Chami-2

Alumni Reflections
& Advice ----- 3

Committee
Members ----- 3

Record Year for
Fulbrights ----- 4

Scholarship
Opportunities -- 5

About Our
Office -----6



The Office of Prestigious
Scholarships
Illini Union Bookstore,
Fifth Floor
807 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Scholarship Results!

We congratulate the following University of Illinois applicants who advanced in last year's competitions for prestigious scholarships.

Marshall Scholarship

Ian Clausen: *Edinburgh (Theological Ethics/Heresiology and Ethics)*

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

Golette (Julie) Chami: *Cambridge (Development Studies)*

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

Golette (Julie) Chami

Whitaker Scholarship

Ashley Wessendorf: *Cambridge (Bioscience Enterprise)*

Gates Cambridge Scholarship Finalists

Golette (Julie) Chami

Jeff Love

Ashley Wessendorf

Goldwater Scholarship

Trent Graham: *(Physics)*

Tim O'Connor: *(Ecology, Evolution and Behavioral Biology)*

NSEP Graduate Award

Cathy Bechtoldt: *Brazil (Ecology)*

Amy Firestone: *(Alternate) Peru (Spanish Linguistics)*

Fulbright Grant

Mike Birkholz: *Andorra (Teaching English)*

Elizabeth Buhe: *France (Museum Studies)*

Martha Erhard: *Germany (Teaching English)*

Charity Flener: *Germany (Chemistry)*

John Kolinski: *(Declined) Netherlands (Physical Sciences)*

Hela Kotob: *Syria (Philosophy)*

Laurie Lacko: *Australia (Biology)*

Gordon Nangmenyi: *South Africa (Engineering)*

Tim Peters: *Argentina (Teaching English)*

Rich Potter: *(Alternate) Venezuela (Communications)*

Ewan Robinson: *(Alternate) Senegal (Environmental Studies)*

Sam Schmetterer: *(Declined) Indonesia (Teaching English)*

Jung (Josie) Sohn: *South Korea (Film Studies)*

Jenette Sturges: *Vietnam (Teaching English)*

NSEP Undergraduate Award

Johann Bayer: *Egypt (History)*

Nick Heller: *Egypt (Political Science)*

Allyson Troutman: *Egypt (Political Science)*

Jonas Vaicikonis: *Russia (International Studies)*

Chelsea Wallace: *(Alternate) Russia (Political Science)*

Katie Wilkinson: *(Alternate) Egypt (Anthropology)*

Office Moves

You may have observed a new title for this newsletter, reflecting the broader mission of our redesigned scholarships office. We hope you also will note our new address, a new email account, and a host of other changes!

Last year, the Office of Scholarships for International Study took over the administration, on an interim basis, of several undergraduate awards, including the Jack Kent Cooke, Harry S. Truman and Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships.

-Continued on page 2

Office Moves - continued

Simultaneously, the Office of the Provost convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Honors Programs, of which one mission was to provide advice on where and how the campus should position supervision of the prestigious scholarships portfolio for the long term.

Laura Hastings and David Schug will continue to lead the scholarships office and support students in their pursuit of various nationally competitive scholarship opportunities, albeit from new territory. The Office of Prestigious Scholarships (TOPS), our updated name, has been moved from International Programs and Studies to the Campus Center for Advising and Academic Services, under Assistant Provost Julian Parrott. We have greatly appreciated the past support of International Programs and

Studies and anticipate developing keen relationships with our new colleagues at the Campus Center for Advising and Academic Services.

So, give us a call (217-333-4710), drop us an email (topsolars@illinois.edu), or better yet, stop by our new offices on the fifth floor of the Illini Union Bookstore building (807 South Wright Street, Floor 5, MC-317).

While some things are different, unchanged is our desire to recruit a larger number of qualified applicants for prestigious scholarships and contribute to their academic, personal, and professional growth. We enjoy working with all of our talented movers and shakers who strive to apply for these awards. In fact, we think they are TOPS!

Julie Chami Named Jack Kent Cook Scholar

Goylette (Julie) Chami had quite a senior year at Illinois. In between the nearly fulltime job of applying for various prestigious scholarships, Julie devised and led a group of Illinois students to Croatia to study entrepreneurship, brought Croatian students to our campus to complete the exchange, interned at a law firm in Syria, and wrote honors theses in both of her majors, economics and political science.

During the year, she had interviewed and was named a national finalist for both the Rhodes and Gates Cambridge scholarships. While these were certainly accomplishments themselves, the experiences did not provide financial support for Julie's further education. Then, about a month after graduating with a B.A. as a James Scholar and University Bronze Tablet recipient, Julie Chami was named one of 35 students nationally to receive a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship to fund her graduate studies.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation selected Julie from among nearly 1,000 nominations submitted by colleges and universities across the country. Her selection of the graduate

student scholarship was based on her academic ability, financial need, will to succeed, leadership, public service, critical thinking ability, and appreciation of art and the humanities. The award covers tuition, room, board, fees, and books – up to \$50,000 annually – for a maximum of six years. Julie will use the scholarship first towards an MPhil in Development at the University of Cambridge, England and then for a PhD in Economics.

While the Illinois campus will miss Julie's inventiveness, we are sending forth an alumnus with great potential. Further, her legacy at Illinois is set to continue. This past winter break, Julie lined up faculty to participate and led competitively selected undergraduates to Croatia to study micro-financing initiatives in rural areas. Her venture partnered Illinois students, philanthropic associations, and Croatian students and organizations. Her initiative has led to the development of a new student organization on campus, Entrepreneurs Without Borders, which plans to continue similar exchanges in the future.

Before heading to Cambridge this fall, Julie is continuing a project with various Illinois faculty members on well establishment and water borne pathogens in Central-East Africa. Her career plans include working as a policy consultant for a leading development agency and later as an academic to improve human capital in developing areas. We congratulate Julie on her success thus far!

QuickTime™ and a
PDF (Acrobat) document
viewer are needed to see this picture.

Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarship Alumni

We asked various Illinois prestigious scholarship alumni to muse a bit on their experiences. Here are some illustrative quotes:

What tips do you have for those awarded a scholarship?

My one very important advice is to integrate with the people of your country as much as possible. It seems hard at first but when the natives see that you are trying to make an effort they will open up more to you and also be interested in getting to know you. Also if this is your first time learning a new language try different approaches to learning (i.e. reading the newspaper aloud to your host-parents or teachers so you can get accustomed to pronunciation, etc). Even though I have studied French I was never in the habit of speaking

French everyday and for everything. I had not yet developed a skill to help reinforce and understand a language that I would use on a daily basis.

How was the experience of being a scholarship winner different than you thought it might be?

I am continually surprised by how much time it takes to perform everyday tasks here. Buying groceries, paying bills, setting up meetings, receiving access to research materials—all of these routine activities can easily become time-consuming and even difficult abroad. I am also finding the research a bit daunting as I try to find more effective ways to locate relevant materials, reevaluate my definition of relevant materials, and anticipate what I will want to have notes on when I return from the field and begin writing my dissertation.

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 scholarship committees in the spring semester.

2008 National Security Education Program Campus Review Committee

Veronica Kann	Assistant Director of La Casa Cultural Latina
Lucy Rich	Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Elizabeth Rockman	Associate Director of the Campus Honors Program
Matt Rosenstein	Associate Director of Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security

2008 Gates Mock Interview Committee

Caroline Hibbard	Associate Professor of History
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Wolfgang Schlör	Associate Director of International Programs and Studies
Tom Ulen	Professor of Economics
Ron Webbink	Professor of Astronomy

2008 Jack Kent Cooke Campus Review Committee

Chris Catanzarite	Director of Program for Research in the Humanities
John Hedeman	Assistant Dean of the College of Business
Kristi Kuntz	Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education
Umberto Ravaioli	Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering

2008 Beinecke Brothers Memorial Campus Review Committee

Marian Stone	Assistant to the Associate Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts
Joseph Hinchliffe	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science

A Record Year for Student Fulbrights at Illinois

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program has offered Fulbright scholarships to a University of Illinois record 12 Illini for the 2008-09 academic year. Two other candidates have been named alternates in the competition. This year's crop of Illinois Fulbright awardees really speaks to the overall strength and diversity of our student body. Our Fulbright awardees and alternates came from the colleges of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Engineering; Fine and Applied Arts; Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Media. Next year will find Illinois recipients carrying out their projects on five continents. Further information on each of these recipients may be found on our website at: www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship/winners.shtml

Mike Birkholz earned an English Teaching Assistantship in Andorra. He graduated in December 2007 with a BS in Computer Engineering. Mike will teach English in a high school. At Illinois, he worked on a project regarding computer identification of North American English accents and is eager to incorporate language software into teaching in Andorra.

Elizabeth Buhe will travel to Paris, France to take Master's courses and carry out archival research on the Musée Charles X of the Louvre. She graduated in May 2008 with a BA in Art History and French Studies. Elizabeth's project seeks to understand how Egyptologist Jean-François Champollion made ancient Egypt intelligible to the 19th century French public. She will study his curation by examining newspapers, artifacts, and unpublished documents.

Martha Erhard was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship in Germany. Martha, a May 2008 BA recipient in both German and history, will assist in teaching English to students at a high school in Darmstadt. She also plans to conduct archival research on the local history of the Hessen region of Germany. In Germany, she looks forward to familiarizing students with American history and culture as a means of improving their English language skills.

Charity Flener will be conducting research at Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany. She is a PhD candidate in Chemistry. Charity's project involves using quantum mechanical models to study the breaking of carbon-hydrogen bonds, a key step in certain catalytic reactions. In Marburg, Charity will use advanced modeling techniques to study how transition metal complexes can break (and form) carbon-hydrogen bonds in hydrocarbons such as methane.

John Kolinski was offered a Fulbright grant to join the Physics of Fluids research group at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. This group utilizes theoretical and experimental research to focus on turbulence in fluid mechanics. John received a dual BS/BA degree in mechanics and mathematics in May 2008.

Hela Kotob, a May 2008 BA recipient in history (pre-medicine), will research medical ethics, and in particular end of life decision-making in Syria. She plans to research how Syrian history has shaped end of life decisions, investigate how medical students are taught ethics, and observe how doctors practice them. She will be auditing bioethics courses at the University of Damascus and shadowing doctors at two Damascus hospitals.

Lauretta Lacko will travel to the Westmead Institute for Cancer Research at the University of Sydney, Australia, to study the role that progesterone plays in breast cancer and continue her work in comparative health care issues. The Westmead Institute has developed a three-dimensional model of the normal breast that retains progesterone responsiveness. This spring, Lauretta received her BS degree in Animal Sciences with a minor in Chemistry.

Gordon Nangmenyi will work at Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering. Gordon has helped to discover a new class of highly effective antibacterial materials for water purification. During the tenure of his Fulbright, he will design and develop alternative water disinfection systems, which will be used in the rural areas of South Africa.

Tim Peters was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship in Argentina. He will be placed at an English Teacher Training College. Tim looks forward to engaging with these future English teachers by using English as a tool to express political criticism and interpretation. When not teaching, Tim plans to continue his budding journalism aspirations. Tim graduated in May 2008 with a Philosophy major.

Sam Schmetterer was offered an English Teaching Assistantship to Indonesia. Sam received his B.M. in Music Performance in May 2007 and his B.M.E in Instrumental Music Education in December 2007. Interest in the Indonesian gamelan instruments led him to apply for the teaching assistantship position in Indonesia.

Jung (Josie) Sohn will return to South Korea on a Fulbright award to study the country's film culture. Josie is presently a third year doctoral student in East Asian Languages & Cultures and Cinema Studies. She seeks to explore the contradictions in Korean film between its focus on nationalism and its movement towards greater transnationalism. Her Fulbright studies will encompass both the Korean media industry and film consumption.

Jenette Sturges has been awarded an English Teaching Assistantship to Vietnam for the 2008-09 academic year. This is the inaugural year of the Fulbright teaching assistant award in Vietnam, where Jenette will teach English at the university level. She is a December 2007 BA recipient in Religious Studies.

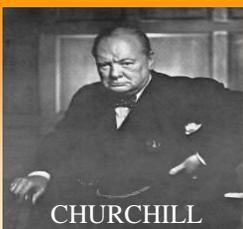
Prestigious Scholarship Opportunities



BEINECKE



JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION



RHODES

Beinecke (*deadline: February 3, 2009*)
For juniors committed to gaining a graduate degree in the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences. For U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals based on merit and need.

Churchill (*deadline: October 15, 2008*)
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.

Fulbright (*deadline: September 3, 2008*)
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 (*deadline: August 26, 2008*)
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.

George Mitchell (*deadline: August 26, 2008*)
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.

Goldwater (*deadline: December 2, 2008*)
One year of study for current sophomores or juniors who are committed to achieving a Ph.D. in the research fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. For U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents.

Jack Kent Cooke (*deadline: February 10, 2009*)
One to six years of study leading to a graduate or professional degree at any domestic or international university. Seniors or recent graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, based on merit and need.

Luce (*deadline: October 28, 2008*)
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.

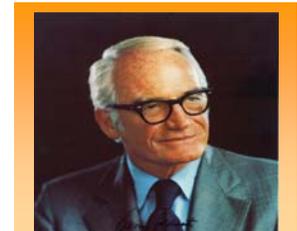
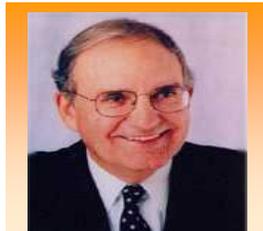
Marshall (*deadline: August 26, 2008, Noon*)
Two to three years of study leading to a degree at any British university. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens.

NSEP Grad (*deadline: January 30, 2009*)
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.

NSEP Undergrad (*deadline: January 21, 2009*)
Open to freshmen through seniors for summer, semester, or yearlong study in a non-western country. For U.S. citizens.

Rhodes (*deadline: August 26, 2008*)
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.

Truman (*deadline: November 18, 2008*)
One year of funding for students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in public service fields. For U.S. citizen juniors.



About Our Office

We assist you through the prestigious 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 and internationally competitive scholarships and fellowships are available for graduate and undergraduate study and/or research around the world, competition is steep. The Office of Prestigious Scholarships administers several awards and offers counseling on many others for top University of Illinois students and alumni. 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 prestigious scholarships. Interested persons -- from first year undergraduates, to Ph.D. candidates, to recent alum -- are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss these opportunities.

For information about prestigious national and international scholarships, contact David Schug or Laura Hastings, Directors

The Office of Prestigious Scholarships

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(217) 333-4710

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship

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