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.

- continued on page 3
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 Privato**  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

### 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

### Churchill Scholarship, Cambridge
- **Valerie Brandt**  Human Nutrition
- **Ben Kaduk**  Chemistry
- **Scott Kathrein**  Mathematics
- **Kara Lamb**  Mathematics
- **Kevin Vaishnav**  Chemical Engineering

### Marshall Scholarship
- **Valerie Brandt**  Human Nutrition, Cambridge
- **Jacob Hustedt**  Literature and Culture, Sussex
- **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
- **Brock Williams**  Public Financial Policy, London

### Mitchell Scholarship
- **Brock Williams**  Developmental Studies, University of Dublin

### 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.
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.

**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-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.

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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 multicultural retirement complex that serves the need of the Muslim American community.

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**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 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 Assoc. Prof. of Physics

2006 Priority Application Reviewers
Ruth Aguilera Assoc. Prof. of Business Administration
Werner Baer Prof. of Economics
Maimouna Barro Asst. Director Center for African Studies
Matt 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 Orleman 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

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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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321 International Studies Building
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Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 244-0254

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

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