Finding Potential Scholarship Recipients at Illinois

How do we find the most stellar students on a campus of 40,000? Our office is constantly seeking new ways to recruit high ability students and alumni. Indeed, over the past year, we have welcomed responsibility for additional scholarships. How do we get the word out?

Undergraduate advisors are great resources to communicate with students. This year our office visited the ILLiAAC academic advisor professional organization and the Committee on Departmental Advisors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. We correspond about workshops and deadlines through the ADVISE-L list serve. Advisors can help us best identify students who may benefit from the scholarship application process. Keep encouraging students to make an appointment with us!

We have excellent relationships with college and campus honors programs. Those students enrolled as Chancellor’s Scholars hear from us repeatedly through newsletters and at an annual spring gathering.

We also have enjoyed success with the James Scholar programs on campus. For example, we addressed students at the annual retreat in February for the Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences James Scholars, and in December we held a meeting for James Scholar students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Delta Sigma Pi Honors Society in the College of Business hosted us at a very nice occasion in November. And we were invited to present scholarships information to all first year James Scholars in their Applied Health Sciences class. The deans and directors of these programs do a wonderful job advertising our office and these awards.

-continued on page 3

The University of Illinois made the Chronicle of Higher Education's 2008 list of “Top Producers of Fulbright Awards.” Both the number of students offered awards last year (12) and the number of applicants (43) represented the best showing ever for the University of Illinois in this competition. Further, our “success rate” was slightly ahead of other top Fulbright producing institutions such as the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan. Congratulations again to our Illinois recipients and their many mentors. Read below how some of these Fulbrighters have been spending their year!

Reports from Scholars Abroad

Laurie Lacko, Fulbright, Australia:
Many of the things that I am doing have recently been discovered. I can already notice myself feeling more comfortable in this sort of atmosphere and my way of thinking becoming more like a researcher. This experience could not have come at a better time! I am excited to continue with my project here and to start my PhD upon my return to the States. I've come a long way from when I went in to most of your offices asking for advice on what I should do with my life…

-continued on page 4
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 scholarship in the fall of 2008. Their proposed areas of study are included. We wish these candidates success in their future endeavors and hope to count some among our scholarships alumni!

**Fulbright Grant**
- Cheri Baker: International Relations, Ethiopia
- Kathleen Becker: Teaching English, South Korea
- Lillian Bertram: Language and Literature, Argentina
- Betsy Beymer: Geography, Tanzania
- Allen Chen: Trumpet, Germany
- Ben Cober: Teaching English, Hong Kong
- Jessica Dickson: Anthropology, South Africa
- Robin Estabrook: Sociology, Ireland
- Margaret Ewing: Art History, Germany
- Paul Hartley: Musicology, Turkey
- Jacqueline Juliano: Teaching English, Spain
- Travis Jürgens: Conducting, Switzerland
- John Kim: Political Science, South Korea
- Frasier Kinnear: Business/Management, Turkey
- Timothy Landry: Anthropology, Benin
- Charles Lane: Ethnomusicology, Bolivia
- Lance Larkin: Anthropology, South Africa
- Sarah Maas Rowe: Archaeology, Ecuador
- Mark Mallon: Teaching English, Germany
- Sonia Mariscal: History, Mexico
- Merry Marwig: International Relations, European Union

**Churchill Scholarship**
- Stacey Umans: Teaching English, Portugal
- Claire Walter: Teaching English, Italy
- Jill Ward: Linguistics, India
- Alexa Wirth: Teaching English, Malaysia
- Nick Wolny: French Horn, Norway
- Constantine Yannelis: Economic Development, Egypt
- James Zahniser: Environmental Studies, Australia

**Fulbright Grant**
- Frunder Peric: Business/Management, Turkey
- Rebecca Miilsk: Chemistry, Japan
- Michael Mrozinski: Philosophy, Ireland
- Christopher Petersen: Business/Management, Mexico
- Philip Pierick: Saxophone, France
- Ewan Robinson: Geography, Senegal
- Ana Serafin-Gil: Business/Management, Spain
- Coryn Shiflet: Teaching English, Brazil
- Terrell Starr: Journalism, Ukraine
- Brandy Trygstad: Linguistics, UK

**Churchill Scholarship**
- Nick Wolny: Teaching English, Portugal
- Claire Walter: Teaching English, Italy
- Jill Ward: Linguistics, India
- Alexa Wirth: Teaching English, Malaysia
- Nick Wolny: French Horn, Norway
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- Sarah Maas Rowe: Archaeology, Ecuador
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- Sonia Mariscal: History, Mexico
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**Goldwater Scholarship**
- Ryoji Amamoto: Neurobiology
- Anthony Mazzotti: Chemistry
- Kimberly Parker: Environmental Engineering
- Adrienne Perkins: Biology
- James Polans: Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Kaleigh Roberts: Bioengineering
- Yost Smith: Materials Science
- Derek Vardon: Civil Engineering

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- Ryoji Amamoto: Neurobiology
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- Kaleigh Roberts: Bioengineering
- Yost Smith: Materials Science
- Derek Vardon: Civil Engineering

**Marshall Scholarship**
- Kaitlyn Dalton: Linguistics
- Luke Edelman: Bioengineering
- Brandy Trygstad: Linguistics
- Robin Estabrook: Sociology

**Luce Scholars Program**
- Amy Cade: Industrial Design
- Mark Wehling: International Studies

**Truman Scholarships**
- Stephanie Baliga: Public Administration
- Cindy De Ruiter: Social Services Administration
- Johnathan Wilson: Juris Doctorate
Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarship Alumni

What are your memories of the campus scholarship process?

Looking back at the scholarship application process, I cannot help but believe that it strengthened my drive and motivation. During the screening period, I was able to find my career niche, enhance writing skills, sharpen interviewing techniques, and build lasting faculty relationships. The committees are composed of some of the most renowned professors and helpful staff that work hard to see you succeed.

Walking home from my first mock interview with the University Scholarship Committee, nonplussed at how I felt trying to handle the difficult questions and positive I was not to move past that stage...Leaving my interview with the Gates Scholarship Committee confident in my performance and thankful that the University of Illinois Scholarship Committee had achieved its intended goal of rigorous preparation.

“Looking back at the scholarship application process, I cannot help but believe that it strengthened my drive and motivation.”

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

My bit of advice for applicants is to avoid self-screening and start early! I almost made the first error and I am certainly guilty of the latter. Believe in yourself and find mentors on campus. Most importantly, strive for change! If there are any projects you have in mind regardless of how inchoate they may be, find the resources needed on campus (they are there!) and start working.

From a logistical point of view, it is of course imperative to keep track of deadlines, but also don’t forget to stay in frequent contact with your future host institution abroad, and any professors you have made contact with. Lastly, keep an open mind, because most people you will come into contact with will be both supportive and helpful, so if you can dream it up and justify it, chances are that you can make it happen. Good luck!

Read samples of successful proposals and, if possible, consult a "how to" guide on writing a successful grant. There are a number of strategies for framing proposals in order to highlight your specific contribution. Also, apply to as many relevant programs as you can identify.

Now that the applications have been turned in, the waiting begins. The wise thing to do while you wait is to read the newspaper daily and pay special attention to anything that relates to the area of your proposed study. That way, if you get called for an interview you'll have a jump start on the preparation. You could also answer practice interview questions (which can be found online).

Once you get an interview, here are the two big questions you have to answer: 1) Are you worldly enough to contribute something interesting and meaningful in a range of conversations (hint - read the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Atlantic Monthly, the Economist, the New York Review of Books and other well respected journals of thought and opinion); 2) Are you going to make a significant impact in your field of choice.

Where Are They Now?

Nicole Pivato (awarded a Fulbright to Teach English in Spain in 2007-08) is currently involved as an educator with Teach For America in the Bay Area in California. She is teaching high school Spanish and finding it to be challenging, but worthwhile.

Elise Ahn (awarded a Fulbright to the European Union in 2005-06) is a

Ph.D. candidate in Educational Policy Studies at Illinois. She is currently writing her dissertation on the ways that processes of regionalization are impacting Turkey’s social policies, in particular those relating to human and minority rights. She spent her Fulbright conducting research at the University of Tilburg in The Netherlands.

Finding Recipients - continued

Our language faculty are an excellent conduit for many of our scholarships that have foreign language proficiency components. We are thankful for their help in announcing upcoming information sessions to students and in providing student language assessments for various awards.

Of course, university faculty as a group are our best resource. In the classroom, during office hours and through other programs and venues, faculty recommendations about scholarship opportunities keep students knocking on our doors!

This recruitment effort involves a wide array of people and programs on campus. We are grateful for all assistance in encouraging some of our best and brightest students to consider various scholarship opportunities.
Lacko, continued:

I have seen the capital, Canberra, where I got to meet the Prime Minister and the US Ambassador as part of the Fulbright program. The Prime Minister introduced himself as Kevin and shook all of our hands. The US Ambassador told jokes and had afternoon tea with us. The people and the culture are just incredible. They have been very welcoming and accepting, especially when I have to ask them to translate what their slang means!

Nicholas Heller, Boren, Egypt:

My experiences thus far in Egypt have been everything I have expected. The crime rate is incredibly low given the wide-scale poverty and high population density. I have yet to feel insecure, despite having visited some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city of Cairo.

Elizabeth Buhe, Fulbright, France:

Receiving the Fulbright has been everything I thought it would be, and more. Everyone expects life in a foreign country to be different, but the most unexpected change for me has been the process of a total lifestyle change – my schedule and working patterns from UIUC do not work here, because the libraries close at 6pm, and there’s certainly no mega grocery store at which to shop at 2am. I also didn’t anticipate the number of social engagements I’d have abroad, both inside and outside the Fulbright network. That said, it has been important for me to consciously manage my time by balancing these research and social aspects. For example, a few days ago I was registering at an art history library in Paris and I told the librarian that my birthday was in 1885 instead of 1985—I guess I’ve been talking and thinking about my project (about a nineteenth-century museum) too much!

Allyson Troutman, Boren, Egypt:

Cairo is essentially ridiculous. Life is such a contradiction here, seeing as how it is a conservative Muslim country with a government structure that most of its people have no say in, and historically the cradle of civilization. Classes are good and Arabic is coming along, but the university prematurely moved this semester to an unfinished new campus in the middle of the desert. Whenever I get frustrated by the university/this country, I just remember that I’m essentially getting paid to be here :)

Ian Clausen, Marshall, University of Edinburgh:

The curious admixture that is (for me) Edinburgh, Scotland, is perhaps best exemplified by its infamous weather. Within a fifty-minute run, the atmosphere manages to condense the four distinct seasons of America’s Midwest into one. Brilliant how that works!

The Master’s program in Theological Ethics has been an extended experience with breakthroughs met with standstills met with more breakthroughs, ad infinitum. It is just the nature of postgraduate education to end up with more questions than you originally set out to answer. Especially, I imagine, with a discipline such as ethics; its universal relevance makes it particularly elusive, positively exciting yet perpetually perplexing. The School of Divinity nurtures this paradox with great ardent and sophistication, and for this I am thankful.

I find myself ranging across a variety of academic disciplines, reading the NY Times or listening to university-sponsored lectures that cut deeply into the heart of ethical inquiry. Beneath these pressing social circumstances that we face there lays some continuity left waiting for us to recover.

I plan to apply next year for my PhD at Edinburgh. It is greatly exciting to think about possessing a PhD at age 27 – who knows where that will send me!

“Everyone expects life in a foreign country to be different, but the most unexpected change for me has been the process of a total lifestyle change”

Charity Flener, Fulbright, Germany:

My time in Germany is progressing much faster than I thought it would. The first two months were filled with the language course and travels to a conference in Austria but things have become much less crazy in the last few months as I settled into my town. The separation between my life in the US and my life in Germany is almost nonexistent at times. Since I am extremely close to finishing my degree, I have to remain in close contact with my thesis committee in the states. Thanks to Skype, I have been surprised how easy it is to maintain ties with my research group at Illinois while furthering my contacts with other researchers in Europe. In addition, due to the international nature of science and this research group in general, I can often obtain advice from scientists all over the world. Last week I received advice from scientists from Brazil, India, Texas, Illinois, and Germany. It is like I have roots in both the US and Germany.

Jenette Sturges, Fulbright, TA, Vietnam:

This is the first year of the English Teaching Assistant program here, which adds a degree of difficulty to any of the participants. Right now, I’m doing a lot of independent one-on-one tutoring with students and organizing fun activities outside of class to encourage university students to use English outside of the classroom. It’s interesting and rewarding work, but also very challenging.
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 last six months.

### 2008 Priority Application Reviewers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Andrejasich</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Arnstein</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maimouna Barro</td>
<td>Associate Director, Center for African Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Clausen</td>
<td>2007 Marshall Scholarship Recipient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angelina Cotler</td>
<td>Associate Director, Center for Latin American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Delcomyn</td>
<td>Professor, Physiology and Entomology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Douglas</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Art and Design</td>
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<td>Monica Fountain</td>
<td>Assistant Director, iWriteADream Journalism Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie Hoffman</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Leff</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Political Science</td>
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<td>Anthony Leggett</td>
<td>Professor, Physics</td>
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<td>Karla Moller</td>
<td>Visiting Clinical Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction</td>
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<td>Cele Otnes</td>
<td>Professor, Business Administration</td>
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<td>Miranda Remnek</td>
<td>Professor, Library Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Ross</td>
<td>Professor, Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Schlör</td>
<td>Associate Director, International Programs &amp; Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Toby</td>
<td>Professor, History &amp; Anthropology</td>
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<td>Ronald Webbink</td>
<td>Professor, Astronomy</td>
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### 2008 Churchill Scholarship Campus Selection Committee

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Higdon</td>
<td>Professor, Chemical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Orlean</td>
<td>Professor, Microbiology</td>
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<td>Derek Robinson</td>
<td>Professor, Mathematics</td>
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### 2008 Luce Campus Selection Committee

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Burkus-Chasson</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Chinese Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark Cunningham</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus, Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Hoetker</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Business</td>
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### 2008 Goldwater Campus Selection Committee

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<tr>
<td>Carol Augspurger</td>
<td>Professor, Plant Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linn Belford</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus, Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Tucker III</td>
<td>Professor, Mechanical Science &amp; Engineering, Associate Dean, College of Engineering</td>
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### 2008 Truman Campus Selection Committee

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<tr>
<td>Stacy Bennett</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Admissions, College of Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Michalove</td>
<td>Retired Faculty, Medieval Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Rich</td>
<td>Professor, Political Science</td>
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<td>Director, Institute of Government and Public Affairs</td>
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### 2008 Gates, Marshall, and Mitchell Scholarships Campus Selection Committee

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### 2008 University Fulbright Interview Committees

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Rashad Abdel-Khalik</td>
<td>Professor, Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Alexandre</td>
<td>Lecturer, Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavia Andrade</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Kinesiology &amp; Community Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Arends-Kuenning</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Agricultural &amp; Consumer Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ercan Balci</td>
<td>Lecturer, Linguistics</td>
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Committee Members - continued

Ericka Beckman  Assistant Professor, Spanish & Comparative Literature
Philipp Blume  Visiting Assistant Professor, Composition Theory
Eyamba G. Bokamba  Professor, Linguistics
Munia Cabal Jimenez  Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
Paolo Campolonghi  Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
Jorge Chapa  Professor, Sociology
Maggie Courtright  Lecturer, Intensive English Institute
Fred Delcomyn  Professor, Entomology
Norman Denzin  Professor, Advertising, Sociology & Cinema Studies
Peter Fritzsche  Professor, History
Patricia Gill  Associate Professor, Communication
Christina Halperin  Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology
Alan Hansen  Associate Professor, Agricultural & Bio Engineering
Geoffrey Hewings  Professor, Economics, Urban & Regional Planning
Ezekiel Kalipeni  Associate Professor, Geography
Karla Moller  Visiting Clinical Associate Professor, Curriculum & Instruction
Yuichi Nakagawa  Postdoctoral Associate, Biomolecular Engineering
Bruno Nettl  Professor Emeritus, Music
Andrew Orta  Associate Professor, Anthropology
Margery Osborne  Professor, Curriculum & Instruction
Sebnem Ozkan  Outreach Coordinator, European Union Center
Rajeshwari Pandiharipande  Professor, Religious Studies & Linguistics
Edward Rath  Assistant Professor, Music
Bruce Rosenstock  Associate Professor, Religious Studies
Mahir Saul  Associate Professor, Anthropology
Wolfgang Schlör  Associate Director, International Programs and Studies
Chilin Shih  Assistant Professor, Linguistics, East Asian Languages & Cultures
Carla da Silva  Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese
Valeria Sobol  Assistant Professor, Slavic Language & Literature
Noreen Sugrue  Research Associate, International Programs & Studies
Christos Tsitsaros  Associate Professor, Music
Joseph Valente  Professor, English
Timothy Wedig  Visiting Lecturer, International Studies
Ronald Yates  Professor, Journalism,
Dean, College of Media

Reports - continued

Julie Chami, Cooke, Cambridge:
The University of Cambridge and graduate school in general are both very challenging. Instead of having to balance work and school, I am able to devote all of my energy towards producing substantial research. I was fortunate to have several mentors at the University of Illinois who warned me of the long nights ahead, therefore; I had an idea of what to expect.

What I did not know at the time was how much I would appreciate those long nights. I have learned an incredible amount of information and I feel confident that I can make an impact in my field of economics for development.

Mike Birkholz, Fulbright, TA, Andorra:
My time here in Andorra has been great. I teach 12 hours of class per week, with students aged 13 to 16. I prepare my own lessons, which are generally based on conversational and oral activities. Andorra Television came by the school a month or two ago and interviewed me and filmed me in class for "In Situ," a television program which features a different Andorran resident each week and presents them to the rest of the country.

I finally got a chance this weekend to go snowboarding with some teachers from school. We all have a season ticket, which we were able to get at a discounted rate because we will accompany the students during the "Setmana blanca (white week)," when the students go skiing, Andorra's national sport, instead of going to class.
Scholarships Administered

**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.

**Boren (NSEP) Grad** *(deadline: January 29, 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.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Goldwater** 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Truman** 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

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