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The Honors College
Eastern Illinois
University

VISIONS

The Honors College Fellowship and Scholarship Programming

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The Honors College Introduces 1st E-Newsletter

Welcome to the first Honors College electronic newsletter devoted to information about major national scholarships, fellowships, and special opportunities. You are receiving this copy because you have indicated an interest in providing unique opportunities to students or you are a student who could be a candidate for such an award. Hopefully, this newsletter will act as a resource for you. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me, Judy Sunderman, at the Honors College Office or by email at jasunderman@eiu.edu

There are approximately 16 major national scholarships and fellowships that are considered the most prestigious. In addition, numerous other grants, fellowships, and scholarships offer unique opportunities and experiences to undergraduate and graduate students. Currently, there is a new and intense interest in these programs among colleges and universities. Interest is also strong within the State of Illinois. At the National Association of Fellowship Advisors meeting in July 2001, 220 Scholarship Directors and Representatives from a diverse array of

institutions attended. Illinois was represented at this NAFA Conference by an individual from North Central College, the University of Illinois - Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University, and Eastern Illinois University.

This spring, EIU nominated Michael Cuddy, a Junior Chemistry major from Charleston, for the highly competitive Goldwater Scholarship. In this issue of Visions you will be hearing more about Michael, the faculty who mentored him and the opportunities that making the application have afforded him. See page 4.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it enlightening.

Judy Sunderman
Academic Advisor
The Honors College



A Note from the Dean

By providing opportunities for Eastern students to achieve their fullest potential, The Honors College serves as a laboratory for innovation and creates an environment of academic excellence. Our National Scholarship Program plays an integral role in furthering this mission by challenging and encouraging academically

talented students and earning them the recognition and support they so richly deserve.

As we look toward the future of honors education at Eastern, students having meaningful scholarly experiences outside the classroom will be a key component of our success. The National

Scholarship Program complements our superior curricular programs and thriving undergraduate research program to ensure that each eligible student has a rewarding educational experience.

Dr. Bonnie Irwin is the Dean of the Honors College and a Professor in the English Department.

Fellowships and Scholarships

Eastern Illinois University offers students the opportunity to compete for major national scholarships and fellowships. Students who are interested in these different programs need to begin planning very early in their academic careers.

Some of the prestigious national scholarships are represented by faculty members on the EIU campus. The **James Madison Fellowship** is a highly competitive national scholarship that provides up to \$24,000 for graduate study leading to a master's degree (MA, MAT, Med) in politics or government specifically with a concentration in the US Constitution. Candidates must be planning to teach. Dr. Lynne Curry, an associate professor in the history department is the representative for this fellowship.

The **Truman Scholarship** is a \$30,000 competitive grant that pays for the senior year of undergraduate study as well as grad school in preparation for a career in public service. The Truman Foundation gives priority to candidates seeking degrees in MPA/MPP, JD, Med, MIA, and MPH. The faculty representative for this scholarship is Dr. Melinda Mueller in the political science department.

The **Udall Scholarship** is a prestigious program providing up to \$5000 to juniors and seniors studying the environment and related areas. Qualifying majors include but are not limited to: biology, environmental biology, political science, sociology, history, pre-law. Judy Sunderman at the Honors College is the representative for this scholarship.

Sponsored by the State Department, the **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study and research abroad. This program is also represented by Judy Sunderman. For more information on the Fulbright Program, please see page two.

The **Barry M. Goldwater Foundation** awards up to \$7500 in scholarships to outstanding juniors and seniors in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences, or engineering. Qualifying majors include: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics. Sophomores and juniors should apply. Again, the representative for this scholarship is Judy Sunderman at the Honors College.

The **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship Program** is a highly sought after scholarship that pays up to \$300,000 toward educational expenses, including tuition, living expenses, required fees, and books for graduate school. Students interested in this scholarship must be nominated by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Faculty Representative Dr. Cheryl Noll in the School of Business.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program

During the months of January and February, the Marvin Foyer of the Booth Library North Entrance is home to a display of Fulbright information and other materials. The display is across from the help desk on the left as you enter the foyer. The primary goal of the display is to help undergraduates realize the variety of research possible through Fulbright Fellowships.

Sponsored by the State Department, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study and research abroad. The Fulbright Scholar Program offers U.S. college and university faculty, administrators and professionals the opportunity to lecture and conduct research in countries around the world.

The Honors College will be referring students who wish to develop a research proposal to interested faculty in academic departments. Students, faculty and staff who wish to know more may also subscribe to the National Scholarship listserve by calling or emailing Judy Sunderman (jasunderman@eiu.edu) at the Honors College.

Judith Sunderman,
Fulbright Advisor, The Honors College



Robert Elston, Honors College Fulbright Candidate, presents a copy of his CD "Contemporary Works for Solo Percussion" to Dr. Blair Lord, (left) Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards."

Anatole France

The Lessons that my Student Fulbright Taught Me

When people heard that I received a Fulbright which would allow me to travel to Romania and specifically to Transylvania, their first thoughts were of Dracula and vampires. I was always asked whether I was scarred of being bitten and whether I packed sufficient garlic for the trip. Although joking (I hope), for many people this was the extent of their knowledge of the country. The Fulbright that I received in 1993 as a doctoral student not only provided me the ability to conduct my dissertation research, the Fulbright allowed me to serve as a bridge between two cultures and sometimes seemingly two worlds.

I had been fortunate to spend the two previous summers in Romania getting to know the country and the people. While I never saw a vampire (although I did visit the ancestral home of Vlad Tepes—the historical figure that Bram Stoker loosely based the Dracula character on), I was fortunate enough to see the beauty of the Transylvania countryside, enjoy countless meals with new found friends and enjoy life in a way far different than in the States. A Fulbright teaches you about the big and sometimes small differences between cultures. In Romania, it is common for men to greet each other with a kiss on the cheek while it is considered polite to greet a woman with the phrase “I kiss your hand.” Over the course of the year, I became friends with several people, and eventually you discover that the dreams and hopes that you have are shared by many, even in a distant land. This is what the Fulbright taught me—no matter the cultural, political and economic differences, people are the same no matter where you travel.

Dr. Steven Roper is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the International Studies Coordinator for the Political Science Department. His research focuses on European and Post-Communist Politics and International Law and Human Rights.

<http://ux1.eiu.edu/~cfsdr/>



Written by: Dr. Steven Roper

“Remember that our nation's first great leaders were also our first great scholars.”

John F. Kennedy

Rising Stars: Top 100 Sophomores Recognized

The Honors College recognized 100 sophomore scholars at a November reception. These “Rising Stars,” who represented the top 5% of sophomores, had an opportunity to meet and talk to faculty, administrators, and staff during a reception that acknowledged the importance of excellence on the EIU campus.

Among those attending the event was Dr. Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Lord noted the importance of providing extraordinary opportunities for exceptional students. “Eastern Illinois University strives to create an atmosphere supportive of sustained achievement. These students have demonstrated academic talents and abilities at the beginning of their university career. The role of the institution is to help them discover all that is possible.”

Honored guests at the reception included Ryan Berger, Student Body President, Ryan Ervin, James Madison Fellow and faculty who have supported and mentored students on the way to remarkable achievements.

Sophomore Presidential Scholar Laura Leinhop and sophomore Amber Schmidt talk to Dr. Steve Mullin of the Biological Sciences Department.



Ryan Ervin, 2004 James Madison Fellow meets Dr. Blair Lord, Provost and vice President of Academic Affairs (right) at the Rising Stars Reception.

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Eastern Nominates Student for Goldwater Scholarship

Michael Cuddy, junior Chemistry major from Charleston, has been nominated by EIU as the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship candidate for 2006-2007. As a freshman, Michael began working with Dr. Barbara Lawrence on the relative strengths of spider silks. The last two summers, he has spent in California at a research facility that would allow him to continue that collaborative research. Michael has pursued independent research for a senior thesis at the same time collaborating on a second professional research project with Dr. Ellen Keiter on the dynamic behavior of metal. For his efforts, he has received recognition both in the EIU chemistry department and from the State of Illinois. Michael intends to receive a PhD in Chemistry and pursue a career in research.

2004 James Madison Fellow: EIU Undergraduate Earns Prestigious Award

By Angela Pham

National scholarships are competitive awards and applying for them may seem intimidating and complicated, but the rewards of the process make it worth while.

Ryan Ervin, a history major with teacher certification, applied for the highly competitive James Madison Fellowship scholarship and was able to realize the benefits of hard work when he was chosen to be the recipient of this award. The James Madison, typically rewarded to one student from each state, offers up to \$24,000 towards any accredited U.S. graduate school for ambitious students seeking careers as U.S. history teachers in grades 7-12. Additionally, recipients attend four weeks at the James Madison Memorial Foundation's Summer Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Ervin was supported by faculty who mentored him through the process. Dr. Debra Reid, Associate Professor in the Department of History, advised him during the application process and wrote a letter of recommendation on Ervin's behalf. "I didn't edit, I just responded as he refined his application," Dr. Reid said. "To get prepared, he started working on it early and worked diligently and I think that showed."

Ervin received support from other faculty members as well. Drs. Michelle LeMaster and Michael Shirley wrote letters of recommendation and served as mentors.

Additionally, Dr. Lynne Curry, Associate Professor History, is the faculty advisor for the James Madison and serves as the main contact for students interested in pursuing the award.

"Ryan definitely had a very strong interest and passion for early American history," she said. "He was and is a stellar and outstanding student with brainpower and a real driving interest."

Dr. Curry stressed the unique opportunities that national scholarships have to offer.

"[They] really provide you with the opportunity to join a community of scholars," she said. "Ryan spent a summer at Georgetown University, met Sandra Day O'Connor ... it opens up a whole new world you might otherwise not have access to, a world of opportunity."

Dr. Reid also encouraged students to follow in Ervin's footsteps saying, "I believe you have to aim high." "Personal challenges really make a person, and doing these kinds of in-depth applications help you know yourself better."

Angela Pham is a freshman Presidential Scholar with an interest in journalism and public relations.



Dr. Lynne Curry of the History Department poses with Ryan Ervin, 2004 James Madison Fellow.