



# External Scholarships 2016-2017 Report



# From Laure:

The external scholarship world is about relationships. Applicants need compelling visions, impressive academics, morally focused and active engagement, and strong writing and interviewing abilities. There is no B League in the scholarship world; the competition is studying at Yale or Berkeley, so coaching is essential. They need strong letters and support from faculty members and others on campus and in the community. Applicants also need a special combination of confidence and humility that is developed and revealed in relationships.

The scholarships office is featured on the cover because the place itself has played a large role in developing those relationships with self, others, and the world and providing the various supports that lead to excellent applications. The comfortable green chair is conducive to in-depth conversations. Becca Boslough (see facing page) says the chair is going to be willed to her because of her many years of dedication to advising from that spot. The pins on the map that track students' many amazing adventures suggest the relevant example of fulfilling adventure and service for the next potential applicant. From the shelves, Virginia Woolf, Laozi, and Ernest Hemingway offer ready models of style to stretch and refine students' thinking and writing. The books inspire and guide the conversations and often the student's next courses: which student needs to meet Dostoevsky, and who would benefit from an encounter with Pablo Neruda or Simone Weil?

Thanks to Kelly Webster, Director of the Writing Center, for securing this highly conducive office space to support the students and the challenging conversations and hard work that lead to external scholarship applications.

*Laure Pengelly Drake  
Coordinator for Writing Center Programs,  
External Scholarships and Advising*



## "OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED"

This photograph illustrates the range of external scholarship relationship work and reminds us that life intervenes despite our well-laid plans. In the "practicing medicine without a license" role, Laure escorts Rachel Dickson to the Curry Health Center to force a concussion check after a bicycle accident and get an expert to convince her to rest even though her unfinished Udall Scholarship application was due soon thereafter. UM alumnus and Udall Honorable Mention David Schaad, who helped with the expedition, took the photo.

# Marshall Scholarship UM's Third Win!

The Marshall Scholarship, founded to commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan and express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts, offers graduate study opportunities in British universities for 30 to 40 young Americans each year who will serve as cultural ambassadors and as academic leaders in the field of study of their choice.

For more information on the Marshall Scholarship: <http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>



## REBECCA BOSLOUGH

Rebecca Boslough won a Marshall Scholarship. Currently, Boslough is serving with the US Forest Service in DC as a Truman Albright Fellow. Her internship includes research on climate and wilderness, national forest planning, coordinating a national education program, and working with the national Partnerships Office.

Boslough intends to pursue an MSc in Climate Change and Environmental Policy at the University of Leeds followed by an MSc in Environmental and Forest Management at the University of Aberdeen. She will have the opportunity at Leeds to engage with an international network of researchers at the Priestley International Climate Centre on the importance of forest management to climate adaptation and mitigation.

At UM, Boslough majored in Resource Conservation, with minors in Wilderness and Civilization and Climate Change Studies. During her junior year, she won the Truman Scholarship for leadership in public service. Following her graduation from UM, she spent a year in Germany as a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholar, studying German and serving as a research assistant at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research and a writing intern at the Coastal Union Germany.



## SELECTION CRITERIA

### ACADEMIC MERIT

Quality of programme of study, knowledge of proposed courses and supervisors, evidence of academic background that is strong and relevant, quality and breadth of recommendations

### LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Ability to deliver results, strength of purpose, creativity, self-awareness

### AMBASSADORIAL POTENTIAL

Knowledge of US/UK relations, evidence of transferable extra-curricular activities, interpersonal skills and ability to engage with others, self-confidence and ability to seize opportunities

# Some of our Outstanding Scholarship Students 2016/2017

## Julie

*Critical Language Scholarship, Fulbright ETA, Grand Prize State Department Study Abroad Essay*

Julie Ammons won a grand prize in the "Share Your Story Challenge" sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She also won a Fulbright ETA to Vladimir, Russia, for 2017-2018.



Ammons graduated in December 2016 with a BA in Russian and a minor in History. She also received a BA in Biology from UM in 2010. In Vladimir, Russia, she studied Russian language and culture with the Critical Language Scholarship Program June-August 2016 and with a Title VIII Language Fellowship from the Department of State January-May 2017. The Fulbright ETA award for Ivanovo State University in Ivanovo offers an opportunity to explore language learning and intercultural communication from the perspective of an instructor living in a foreign country. After Fulbright, Ammons plans to pursue a graduate degree in Russian literature and a teaching career. Ammons's story, which relates encounters with her Russian host-grandmother, is available at <http://bit.ly/2kRXStu>.

“THIS IS THE CREATIVE TENSION THAT DWELLS AT THE HEART OF VOCATION. ONE IS URGED AND COAXED BEYOND THE PALE REGIONS INTO RICH TERRITORIES OF RISK AND PROMISE.”

JOHN O'DONOHUE

## Rachel

*Udall*

Rachel Dickson, a junior, is majoring in Biology (concentration in Ecology and Organismal Biology) and Environmental Studies. She researched the novel impacts of an invasive bumblebee on a historic pollination mutualism in Puerto Blest, Argentina. After a summer NSF REU in Colorado, more international research, and a final semester at UM, she plans to earn a PhD and teach and research in ecology.



## Jed

*Goldwater*

Jed Syrenne won a Goldwater Scholarship, the top national award for undergraduate research in science, math and engineering. Syrenne, a junior, is earning a major in Neuroscience (Cellular and Molecular option) and a minor in Mathematics. He plans a career at the intersection of mathematics and biomedical research. Syrenne will complete a PhD in Neuroscience and then teach and research bioinformatics, focusing on signal transduction in neuronal cell lineages.



## Cassidy

*Udall Honorable Mention*

Cassidy White is a junior with majors in Environmental Studies and Biology (concentration in Ecology and Organismal Biology) and minors in Climate Change Studies and Ecological Restoration. White's plans include "attaining a master's in limnology, studying how climate change affects the stability and the movement of molecules through aquatic systems, [which] will prepare me for a career informing environmental policy as a research scientist with the EPA."



## Soren

*Goldwater Honorable Mention*

Soren Ormseth won an honorable mention in the Goldwater competition. He is a junior with majors in Physics and Pure Mathematics and a minor in Philosophy. Ormseth plans to earn a PhD in Theoretical Physics, then teach and conduct research in quantum field theory.



# Scholarship Partnerships

External scholarship advising happens in various quarters at the University of Montana, primarily in the Office of External Scholarships and Fellowships. Thanks to Fulbright coordinator Liz Ametsbichler Chair of MCLL; Boren, Gilman, and Freeman-Asia coordinator Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, Director of Education Abroad; and Rhodes coordinator Ashby Kinch; fall 2017 on, Kimber McKay, for collegial support.

## Talia

*Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX)*

Talia Zook will graduate with majors in Marketing and International Business.

The CBYX program begins with an 8-week intensive language immersion course, followed by a semester of study, and ends with a 5-month internship in a German-speaking work environment. Zook hopes to intern as a marketer at a German firm and use her international experiences to manage the effects of globalization in the modern business world.



## Conor

*Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)*

Conor Hogan graduated in 2016 with majors in English and Spanish and minors in Latin American Studies and International Development. He played rugby for the Jesters and studied at the Honors College. He studied literature in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for nine months in 2015, then backpacked through Patagonia. He currently works as a firefighter for the US Forest Service. This upcoming school year, he will be an English Teaching Assistant in Mexico and work with a rugby team.



## Eric

*Fulbright (ETA)*

Eric Bush double majored in German and Political Science and graduated with high honors. In the 2015/16 school year he studied abroad at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, and this year he served as the Vice President of UM's German Club and as a Conversation Partner with the English Language Institute on campus. He will be an English Teaching Assistant in Laa an der Thaya in Lower Austria.



## Kitiri

*Critical Language Scholarship*

Kitiri McDunn, a sophomore Russian major and Linguistics minor, will study Russian on a U.S. Department of State all-expenses-paid Critical Language Scholarship during summer 2017. The intensive language program at the KORA Russian Language Center in Vladimir, Russia, includes living with a host family for eight weeks.



## Kaitlyn

*Boren Scholarship*

Sophomore Kaitlyn Anderson, a Resource Conservation major with a minor in Wildlife Biology, will spend a year in Kyrgyzstan.

Anderson will study Russian language and learn more about the culture and history of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. She will intern with an organization working to end illegal wildlife trade in Kyrgyzstan. Anderson plans to work for the International Affairs Department of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for her year of post-scholarship service.



## Ian

*Fulbright ETA*

Ian Strahn graduated with majors in Political Science and German and a minor in International Development Studies. He looks forward to an English Teaching Fulbright in the state of Hesse, Germany, in fall 2017.



## Sarah

*Freeman-Asia*

Sarah Bortis, a junior in East Asian Studies will be studying Chinese in Taipei, Taiwan, for eight weeks. She hopes to combine her years of professional experience in community agriculture with her passion for Chinese language and food to build a career exploring, researching and documenting Chinese food and farm culture.



# Alumni Update

## Scholarship Process Opens a World of Opportunity

### Andrew Dusek



Andrew Dusek currently serves as the communications officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Yangon, Myanmar. In this role, he is in charge of designing and implementing the UN Refugee Agency’s communication and public information strategies regarding internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to the UNHCR in Myanmar.

A 2010 graduate of UM with majors in International Relations and Journalism and minors in History and International Development Studies, Dusek has worked in the fields of human rights, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. He previously worked as a media consultant for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as a peacebuilding consultant at Search for Common Ground (as a Harvard Program on Negotiation Fellow), and as a senior fellow at The Nexus Fund, an organization dedicated to growing and building the movement to prevent mass atrocities. He has also served on human rights and post-conflict reconciliation delegations in Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Cambodia. In 2016, he graduated with an MA from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

In 2012, Dusek was awarded a competitive fellowship from Humanity in Action to study minority rights protection in Warsaw, Poland. Applying for the highly selective program, which is open to university students and recent graduates interested in social justice and human rights activism, was an “incredibly rewarding experience. It helps applicants identify their skills, craft compelling personal narratives, and hone their interviewing technique. These are important elements of any successful application process.”

“The intensive process helped me understand my intellectual and professional motivations to support the struggle for human rights at home and abroad while gaining first-hand experience and growing my professional network. The time and effort required to apply for highly competitive international scholarship and fellowship programs is an important investment in a future career.” -AD

### Ashleen Williams

Ashleen Williams is currently a Barksdale Fellow at the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi. As a 2013 Mitchell Scholar, Williams attended the University of Ulster to earn her MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies. Her dissertation focused on political space in Bahrain, an idea inspired by her time as an Fulbright English Teaching Assistant.

As an undergraduate at UM, Williams was President of the Associated Students. She earned a BA in Political Science, and she studied Arabic as a Georgetown-Qatar Fellow at Qatar University and at the Yemen College for Middle East studies in Sana’a.



“As a student, I often found myself bogged down by academic writing and keeping up with assignments and extracurricular activities. The scholarship process forced me to consider important questions about my own motivations and values and understand my choices and their place in the bigger picture. Rather than focus on awards and titles, it was my chance to really consider what I put into activities and what I actually learned from those experiences.” -AW

### Julie DeSoto



Julie DeSoto completed a BA and an MA in Public Administration from UM in 2012 and 2013 respectively and won a Fulbright ETA to Jordan in 2013. She now works in Washington, DC, as a Program Management Officer for World Vision, an international humanitarian non-governmental organization where she specializes in youth empowerment and global health. “The education and scholarship opportunities I gained through UM have made me stand out during my career in international development.”

Before earning her current position, DeSoto worked for three years in project development and implementation in Jordan and Egypt, collaborating with researchers and practitioners contributing to positive outcomes in emergency refugee services, economic development, education, youth unemployment, gender-based violence, and human rights in developing and post-conflict regions. Through these and other experiences, she learned how programs can work to empower marginalized groups. She continues to dedicate her energy and resources to the trajectory she forged at UM.

# Scholarship Advising

It's about more than winning

2016-2017

208

Recorded Student Sessions

Plus telephone and e-mail meetings

SERVING THE WHOLE CAMPUS

Students from

48

disciplines used scholarship services

In the process of applying for scholarships, students:

- Improve writing
- Develop self-awareness
- Hone interview skills
- Practice networking
- Improve independent thinking
- Find a path to use full potential
- Find their voice
- Formulate values
- Learn to cope with disappointment
- Exceed expectations
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Learn to make use of critical feedback
- Start thinking about graduate school
- Discover what makes them tick
- Build lifelong relationships
- Develop a sense of purpose
- Figure out how to make a difference

-NAFA Conference, Chicago 2011

“Fellowship advisors provide important opportunities for student development and reflection, something from which University of Montana students have truly benefited. Applying for fellowships helps students to clarify their intellectual and professional ambitions, to integrate learning inside and outside the classroom, and to reflect on the impact of the past experiences.”

-NAFA

“One of the greatest benefits of preparing an award application is that it encourages early-career researchers to engage in personal and professional self-assessment.”  
-Sharon Maguire in *Science*  
“The Benefits of Awards-Even if You Don’t Win,”  
Sharon Ann Holgate  
May 31, 2017.  
sciencemag.org

“The students need to be reminded that it is okay to be audacious and idealistic. I believe that a fellowships advisor is best positioned to do just that.”

-NAFA

Abroad Grant, PRIDE Foundation Political Learning Scholarship and SALAM Scholarship

FROM COLLEAGUES:

2 BOREN  
10 FREEMAN-ASIA  
10 GILMAN  
60 FULBRIGHT

## UM Scholarships, A Partial History 2005-2017

1	JACK KENT COOKE AWARD Highest dollar amount in the fellowship world
2	MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIPS See story page 3
1	MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP Ireland, only 12 US students chosen each year
1	GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP (DECLINED) 95 worldwide, no age limit
4	TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIPS Leadership in public service
18	UDALL SCHOLARSHIPS & 7 HONORABLE MENTIONS Environmental, Native American policy commitments
5	GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS & 5 HONORABLE MENTIONS Science and math research careers
2	UK SUMMER FULBRIGHTS Freshman and sophomores
3	CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE AWARDS One-year study in Germany
2	HUMANITY IN ACTION FELLOWSHIPS Global human rights training abroad
21	CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS Fully funded summer study abroad
+	Alpha Lambda Delta JoAnne Trow Award, Angen, DAAD, <i>Glamour's</i> Top 10 College Women, James Madison Graduate Fellowship, Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship, Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar, Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Grant, Phi Kappa Phi Study

What students say about scholarship advising:

“This has been a genuinely transformational process. I consider the understanding, insight, and self-reflection that I gained from the process to be extremely valuable. . . .”

-Chase Greenfield

“Thank you for helping me dig deeper and pushing me toward a higher standard.”

-Kelsi Steele

“Without [the] coaching, prodding, cajoling, and guidance, I know I would not have received [the Critical Language Scholarship].”

-Eamon Ormseth

“It was such a great process for me. I now have so much more clarity on the things I want to accomplish and how to do that.”

-Haley McMullan

*“It is our awareness of being unfinished that makes us educable.”* Paulo Freire

External scholarship advising helps students learn “how to approach one’s work with full hearts and deep, abiding conviction.”

-Erin Saldin  
University of Montana  
Lecturer at Davidson Honors College

External scholarship advising “with our students has been instrumental in the Environmental Studies undergraduate program developing a national reputation of academic excellence that mirrors our longstanding graduate program.”

-Dan Spencer  
University of Montana  
Professor in Environmental Studies

## Thanks to:

-- National Association of Fellowship Advisors (NAFA). I could not do my job without the resources, kindness, and wisdom of my fellowship colleagues in NAFA, which has insisted since its founding conference in 2001 that all students matter and that the process itself matters regardless of outcome (see list of benefits page 10). One of our regional universities invited me to help develop their scholarship program. The member who focuses only on graduate student opportunities offered his helpful fellowship database to everyone in the network. We share our game plans—our databases, recruiting, and coaching techniques—to the benefit of all—even as we devote ourselves to our own students’ success.

--Campus colleagues in student engagement work and the fellowship world.

--Faculty members, deans, and others who refer students, serve on committees, write powerful letters, and give me an opportunity to spread the word.

--Generous alumni such as those featured in this report who share their experiences and insight to encourage and guide our current students.

--All our beloved students, and especially Sarah Bortis (see page 7), who designed this report—among many other invaluable contributions to the scholarship program and its director.

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