Distinguished Scholarships Program
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Students and Alumni
Who have broadened their educations with nationally competitive, prestigious awards

DistinguishedScholarships.wsu.edu

2015-16
Director’s Message

As the Director of the WSU Distinguished Scholarships Program, I have the unique pleasure of talking to, and working with, hundreds of high-achieving and ambitious students who are destined to make a difference. I meet them at new student orientations, workshops, and various events. Some are referred to me by faculty mentors and academic advisors. Still others visit the program’s website and come by my office full of questions about prestigious, nationally competitive awards—one of which we call “distinguished scholarships.” The important thing is that we connect.

I learn about their qualifications, hopes, and dreams. They learn from me that applying for a distinguished scholarship is not for the faint-at-heart. “It’s a marathon, not a sprint,” I tell them. “I’m by your side and many more people will help us along the way.” Then we roll up our sleeves and I help students begin their applications. They write and rewrite essays, weather editors’ critiques by advisory board and committee members, request recommendation letters from faculty mentors, and develop poise at practice interviews.

“...every applicant benefits from the process...”

I believe deeply that every applicant benefits from the process. They clarify personal and professional goals, recognize their vast accomplishments within and beyond classrooms, and become succinct writers. The rewards from those efforts are immeasurable and may have lifelong implications. As the prominent sign on my wall promises, “the best is yet to come.”

—April Seehafer

Gilman Scholar’s Perspective

Araceli Baeza wanted to study in Rome to experience the culture that produced some of the world’s greatest philosophers, ones who impacted her WSU majors in political science/pre-law and philosophy. Looking back following her summer 2016 study-abroad month, she said that thanks in great part to Gilman support, she got even more than she hoped for from the WSU First-Generation Abroad experience.

“I took courses on history, art, and critical perspectives while I was studying abroad, and I learned so much about philosophies of aesthetics, religion, societies, and social structures,” said Baeza. “I also gained the confidence to believe in myself, and be more open-minded and patient with people from other societies. I learned to work and live well with others who do things differently. I will carry all of these skills I gained into my future career and implement them into my everyday life.”

According to the Numbers

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<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Generation</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underrepresented</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
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51.1% Applicants with double majors

3.66 Average GPA of winners

86.7% Applicants from the State of Washington

Gilman had the highest percentage of first-generation (68.4%) applicants

Award Name        | Submitted and/or Endorsed by WSU
Boren              | 2
Fulbright          | 11
Gates Cambridge    | 1
Gilman             | 19
Goldwater          | 3
Marshall           | 2
Rhodes             | 1
Truman             | 1
Udall              | 5

45 Applications led to 12 Award winners in 2015-16

Cover photo: Fulbright recipient Travis King travels through a Central American jungle en route to “big cat” research.
Distinguished Scholarships Program Accomplishments

NEW DIRECTOR

In January 2016, WSU alumna April Seehafer succeeded retired Founding Director Sarah Ann Hones.

NOTEWORTHY AWARDS

WSU’s first Udall Scholar (2015) successfully applied for her second Udall (2016); hers was one of just five awards nationwide in the Native American health-care category.

Two new Udall Scholars were announced: WSU’s first in the Native American tribal policy category, and WSU’s first in the environment category.

A 2015 Goldwater Scholar received his second distinguished award: a 2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Fellowship.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Provost and Executive Vice President Daniel J. Bernardo was guest speaker at the third annual Celebration in fall 2016; unique “WSU Distinguished Scholar” pins were given to awardees, and faculty were recognized for their mentorship.

HIGHLIGHTING WSU SCHOLARS

The WSU Distinguished Scholars Gallery became a designated stop on orientation and VIP campus tours; this Compton Union Building wall features the names of 145 recipients of 7 unique distinguished scholarships awarded to WSU students and alumni since 1907.

FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT

New Advisory Board and committee members were appointed and joined existing volunteers; 35 faculty and staff members from several colleges and campuses now serve in one or more appointments.

A new Udall Undergraduate Scholarship Selection committee was created; it is the fifth board or committee associated with the program.

RECRUITING THE FUTURE

A “Recommend a Student” mini-campaign asks faculty and staff to recommend students who might be good candidates for distinguished scholarships; an online form and a printed postcard make the process easy.

A total of 144 students who had earned a 3.9 or better GPA in their first WSU semester (fall 2015) were invited to the Freshman Scholars Progression in January 2016; 25 faculty and staff members hosted information tables and discussed types of activities and accomplishments that boost resumes of students seeking distinguished scholarships.

Hundreds of student touchpoints included one-to-one meetings, summer orientation presentations, the Freshman Scholars Progression, interactive workshops, website visits, informational handouts, and Gallery and other events.

SUPPORTING STUDENT APPLICANTS

Distinguished Scholarships, in partnership with the nationally ranked Writing Program, developed a new, for-credit course to help students understand what reviewers expect in personal statements. UNIV 303 (Strategies for Writing Professional Documents) meets weekly in fall and spring semesters to help applicants write interest-generating essays on what they’ve accomplished, and aspire yet to do, with support from an award.

AWARDS BY THE NUMBERS

- 2 Fulbright
- 3 Udall
- 3 Goldwater
- 4 Gilman
Distinguished Scholars Across the Globe

WSU Distinguished Scholars’ prestigious awards have enhanced their studies at WSU and around the world since the Distinguished Scholarships program began in 2011.

Celebrating Our Fifth Year

The WSU Distinguished Scholarships Program celebrates its fifth year of enabling transformative educational experiences for students. The program assists undergraduate and graduate students along the arduous, but rewarding, path to prestigious awards that fund recipients’ academic pursuits at WSU and around the world. Awards make them into ambassadors of our university and nation. In its support of student success, the thriving program depends on the volunteer efforts of tireless advisory board and committee members as well as faculty mentors.

DistinguishedScholarships.wsu.edu
WSU Distinguished Scholars Program Board and Committee Members

The WSU Distinguished Scholarships Program and WSU Undergraduate Education are honored to acknowledge those who have worked to bring success to the program and to each student pursuing a prestigious, nationally competitive award. These faculty and staff members make all the difference for WSU Distinguished Scholars of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Thank you!

M. Grant Norton 1, 2, 3
Dean, WSU Honors College
Chris Oakley 1, 3
Director of Global Learning, International Programs
Gilman Scholarship faculty representative
Julie Padowski 5
Clinical Assistant Professor, Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach
Esther Pratt 2
Assistant Director, Foundation Relations
Paula Groves Price 5
Associate Dean, Diversity and International Programs, College of Education
Tahira M. Probst 2
Professor, Psychology (WSU Vancouver)
Ana María Rodriguez-Vivaldi 3
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor, Spanish/Foreign Languages and Cultures
Mary Sánchez Lanier 1, 3, 4, 5
Assistant Vice Provost
Clinical Associate Professor, School of Molecular Biosciences
Goldwater and Udall Scholarships faculty representative
John Schneider 4
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture
Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Victor Villanueva Jr. 1
Regents Professor, Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of English
Director, The WSU Writing Program
Mary F. Wack
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Richard S. Zack Jr. 1, 3
Interim Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
Professor, Entomology

J. Manuel Acevedo 5
Director, Multicultural Student Services
Erica W. Austin 1
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Professor and Director, Center for Media & Health Promotion
Robin Bond 2
Assistant Dean, WSU Honors College
Kay Brothers 5
Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine
Coordinator, Integrated Program in Medical Sciences
Peter Chilson 3
Professor, Department of English
Cornell W. Clayton 1, 3
Director, Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service
Truman Scholarship faculty representative
William B. Davis 3
Associate Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Daryl B. DeWald 1
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Rita Fuchs-Lokengard 4
Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Program
Associate Professor, Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience
Lydia Gerber 2
Director, WSU Asia Program
Clinical Assistant Professor, History
Lisa M. Gloss 4
Associate Dean, IIDP Program, Graduate School
Associate Professor, Molecular Biosciences
Stephanie Hampton 5
Director, Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach
Larry W. “Chip” Hunter 1
Dean, Carson College of Business
William P. Kabasench 2
Clinical Associate Professor, Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs
Kathleen “Kate” McAteer 4
Assistant Vice Chancellor (WSU Tri-Cities)
Clinical Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Emma Noyes 3
Outreach Coordinator, Native American Health Sciences Professor, Mechanical and Materials Engineering

1 WSU Distinguished Scholarships Advisory Board Member
2 WSU Distinguished Scholarships Selection Committee
3 WSU Distinguished Scholarships Selection Committee
4 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Selection Committee
5 Udall Undergraduate Scholarship Selection Committee