

# Bone Scholarship Awards 2009-2010

Being designated a Bone Scholar is the highest honor an Illinois State undergraduate student can receive, and this honor contributes markedly to student success. Bone Scholars receive commemorative medallions and substantial cash prizes and have their names engraved on a metal plaque displayed permanently in the Bone Student Center. They are also formally recognized at a luncheon in May, at the University Scholarship Awards Ceremony in fall, and at their commencement exercises.

## Eligibility and Criteria

Any nominee for a Bone Scholarship must have attended Illinois State University for at least four semesters (excluding summer) by June of 2009, must have a current grade point average of 3.7 or higher, and must anticipate graduating no earlier than December 2009, and no later than August 2010. (Students who already have a bachelor's degree are not eligible.) Bone Scholarship winners will be announced as soon as they are selected, usually in early April.

Bone Scholars are students who combine broad and excellent academic achievement with campus and community engagement. They are expected to have shown outstanding qualities of character and leadership. A twelve-member Bone Selection Committee carefully reviews the submitted applications and makes awards based on the following considerations:

- The breadth, diversity, and quality of candidates' academic work
- The type and extent of activities in which candidates have been involved, both in the university and the community
- Candidates' personal qualities of dependability, cooperation, and initiative as well as other criteria which may be determined by the committee

## Selection Process

1. The Director of Honors coordinates the Bone Scholar selection process. Each department is entitled to nominate at least one candidate, but only one candidate, for each 200 majors within that department. No department, however large, may nominate more than four.

Nominations are due no later than February 2, 2009 and should be accompanied by two and only two letters of recommendation. These letters will be considered by the Committee in the selection process, and will be distinct from letters of reference submitted by candidates themselves, as part of the portfolios they assemble to complete their candidacy.

2. Following the nominations deadline, the Director of Honors invites all nominees to apply for the award and provides them instructions on how to do so.

Completed application portfolios are due from students on March 2, 2009. These electronic portfolios consist of:

- 5 LETTERS OF NOMINATION AND RECOMMENDATION (2 from department nomination process plus three additional letters)
- A list of 4 SIGNIFICANT COURSES, accompanied by discussion of why these courses have had a significant impact on your personal and/or professional life.
- Listing and description of ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS at Illinois State and/or in the community
- PROJECT that represents your best work. (Papers, literary works, portfolios, and art projects are just some of the projects applicants might submit)
- PROJECT CRITIQUE Students' critique of their own project that discusses its significance and how the project could have been improved.
- ESSAY of no more than 500 words that addresses the following questions: What are the major challenges in your field of study now and in the immediate future? In what new directions will the field have to go in order to respond to those challenges? How will these changes in the field affect you personally? Has your curriculum prepared you to deal with these changes?

*NOTE: Student nominees will receive detailed explanations of the elements required for the application portfolio. All materials should be in Word format on a labeled CD. Recommendation letters may still be submitted in paper form. Art projects may be submitted as images and music examples in the most convenient format (we may come back to you for alterations, if needed). If there are any problems about electronic submissions or if special arrangements need to be made, please contact Julie Brooks at 438-2550 or jlbroom@ilstu.edu.*

3. The Committee will choose up to 14 Bone Scholars from applicants. In 2008, there were 44 applicants.