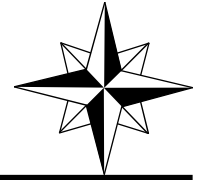


# Honors Program Newsletter

## Illinois State University



HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

### Achievements and Autotelic Actions

Doug Hesse, Director

Now there's a \$20 word: autotelic. An autotelic activity is one in which participation is its own reward. Think of childhood games, not those that adults organized for you but ones you and your friends started on your own. Or think of things you do not because you'll get something out of them but because of the experience's pure joy.

I conjure this fancy term as I browse this issue of the newsletter, which celebrates student and alumni achievements. Honors students accomplish so much, and we should indeed recognize some of those efforts. Earning a Fulbright Scholarship, for example, is a really big deal in a national competition!

No doubt many students pursue activities—whether course projects, internships, volunteer work, or independent research—because of the recognition and awards they'll earn. Nothing wrong with that. Getting into graduate school or securing that first full-time job requires that we demonstrate our accomplishments. I'm not so flakey as to imagine that doing the third or fourth draft of a research paper is so wondrously fun that students would choose that work over all else.

Still. I hope we all have some room in our academic lives that we inhabit just because we feel engaged and alive to be there. I fear that education can seem simply like obligatory hoop-jumping, like perpetually investing toward a future rather than enjoying a now, like only external recognition conveys importance. Save a corner of your academic life, however small, for autotelic learning, for actions that energize and enliven you.

\*

I'm bidding farewell to Illinois State University, after 20 tremendously rewarding years on the faculty. My new position will be at the University of Denver, but I'll never forget the wonderful ISU students I've had the pleasure of teaching—and from whom I've learned more than I taught. Godspeed to all!



### Senior Honors Student Awarded Fulbright Scholarship



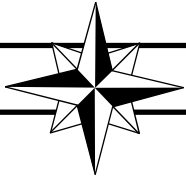
Lauren Fraser, senior honors student with a major in German Education and a Mass Communication minor, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Germany to participate in an English Teaching Assistantship for the 2006-2007 academic year. This prestigious fellowship is highly competitive and we congratulate Lauren on her achievement! Her aspirations to teach German in high school and to share her passion for the language and culture were quite evident in her application, and her ability to immerse herself in the culture will be an inspiration to her future students.

We had four applicants this year for the Fulbright Scholarship; two students provided excellent applications to study and do research in Japan and Hong Kong, but were not selected. In addition to Lauren, Rafiq Ahmed is currently awaiting word from South Korea to find out if he has been awarded an English teaching assistantship. He, too, made it past the first screening process, which is an achievement in itself. Rafiq hopes to have an opportunity to live with a host family, teach, and volunteer as a soccer coach. An ISU alum, Christie Gilson, who applied as a graduate student at the University of Illinois, was awarded a Fulbright to Hong Kong where she will further her study and research with special needs children. Congratulations to all these applicants!

For more information about the Fulbright Scholarship, contact Becky Mentzer.

### In This Issue

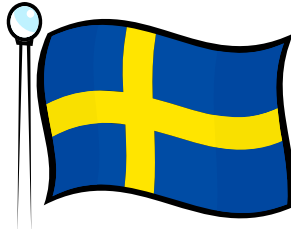
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## Student Spotlight: Julia Ferguson

by: Mikkie Small

When students decide to embark on a journey outside of the United States, to study abroad, there are many decisions that must be made. Some students want to go to a country where they will be able to speak the language and the logistics will be fairly easy. However, some students want to step outside of their comfort zone and travel to a place that is going to plunge them into a different world. The last scenario describes fifth year student, Julia Ferguson.



Julia is a double major in Theatre Design and Production and Geology. She received a Udall Scholarship and was also named a Bone Scholar. Before graduating from ISU in May, Julia decided to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in Sweden. She wanted to go to a place that would take her outside her comfort zone and really experience the world through the eyes of a different culture. Swedish is a language you don't find very often in Central Illinois and she wanted a chance to experience the language and culture. Also, Swedish students' education expenses are funded by the state, which left an open spot in her budget. Gotta love that!!!

Deciding on a destination can be a complex decision making process. Besides the initial characteristics you want as a student, there are other aspects to consider. Julia went through a long process in preparing for her time in Sweden. First, she had to decide if she wanted to study through an ISU affiliated program or an independent program. She attended informational meetings to hear from other students who had been to Sweden, and she did some personal research about the country.

All the work that goes into planning a study abroad trip definitely pays off when you get to the destination. Julia had a wonderful time in Sweden.

Her favorite experi-

ence was visiting Fulufjället National Park. She loved the beautiful scenery as well as the rivers, lakes, wet-

lands and falls. If she could go back, she would visit this extraordinary park one more time. Even though she had a wonderful time in Sweden, the darkness of the country was something she had to get acclimated to experiencing. The sun would normally rise around 9:00am and set around 2:00 pm in the afternoon. That didn't leave a lot of daylight time, which is completely different from Central Illinois. However, Julia said that the natives brightened the country by stringing Christmas lights and decorations around the streets.

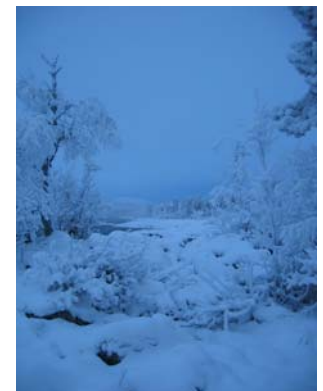


Julia's experience was great. She was able to go dog sledding north of the Arctic Circle and also traveled to other parts of Europe. She recommends this program

to anyone who wants a unique and fulfilling study abroad experience as well as anyone who loves to bike ride. Some days the number of bike riders outweighed the number of cars on the street! Traveling abroad is something you will never forget and for Julia, "traveling outside of the United States broadens your world. We all hear



about other countries all the time, but now I know what Sweden feels like, what Rome looks like at sunset, and how standing at the shore of the Baltic Sea feels in the morning."



Photos courtesy of Julia Ferguson.



## Book Bag to Brief Case: A Night with Honors Alumni

The Honors Program recently welcomed seven alumni back to campus. Current students learned from the experiences of these former students in the real world.

### Rebecca Anderson

ISU (2004) – B.S. in Biological Sciences, Spanish Minor

Bone Scholar, Presidential Scholar, Honors Research Mentorships, Rose Scholar

Graduate Student in the Department of Biological Sciences at ISU

Research the adaptations of wild plant populations for a plant evolutionary ecology lab. Graduate fellow for the PRISM program for which she teaches lessons in middle and high schools.

Most Significant Achievement – Spent senior year of college at Oxford University.

### Andrew Bender

ISU (1998) – B.S. in Political Science and Economics (summa cum laude)

Presidential Scholar, Bone Scholar, University Honors Scholar, Departmental Honors in Political Science, Hibbet R. Roberts Outstanding Senior Award (Political Science), Outstanding Student of the Year in the Economics Department

University of Illinois (2001) – J.D. in Law (magna cum laude)

Attorney, Illinois Agricultural Association, Bloomington, IL

Most Significant Achievement – Had a note published while an administrative editor as a 3L.

### Jaime Black

ISU (2002) – B.S. in Finance, Accounting, French minor

Departmental Honors/Finance, University Honors Scholar, Certificate in University Honors

University of Chicago (2005) – MBA/ Economics, Accounting, Finance

Equity Analyst, Morningstar Inc., Chicago, IL (current)

Most Significant Achievement - Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation

### Teresa D. Hill

ISU (1997, 2000) – BSEd in Elementary Education, MSEd in Educational Administration and Foundations



Elementary Principal, Bent Elementary School, Bloomington, IL

Most Significant Achievement – Teresa is the youngest administrator in the district.

### Tim Holbrook

ISU (2003) – B.S. in Business Administration

Bone Scholar, Presidential Scholar

New York University (2005) – M.A. in Performing Arts Administration

Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Accounting, managing artist contracts, and budgeting projects.

### Sara Lockenvitz (nee Wright)

ISU (2005) – B.S. in Communication (Training and Development), M.S. in Communication (Communication Studies)

Outstanding Senior in Communication

Human Resources Representative, State Farm Insurance, Winter Haven, FL

Most Significant Achievement – Assisted in the restructuring of the Florida zone as well as making a significant impact in the efficiency of their processes.

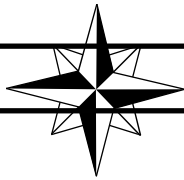
### Veronica Grace Lynn

ISU (2004) – B.A. in Acting and Theatre Education, English Education Minor and Speech/Communication Endorsement

Irene Ryan Acting Award Nominee, Theatre Education Award, 4.0 in her field of study

Improv Actress for Chicago Improv Festival's Storybox Troupe & Director of Cheetah Gym [children's gym]

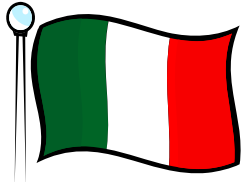
Most Significant Achievement – Irene Ryan nomination for her role in Fuddy Meers.



# Where in the world are Honors students?

## Florence, Italy

Elise Melrose, Political Science  
Lauren Pavilon, Special Education



## England

### Canterbury

Marrita Hilst, Elementary Education

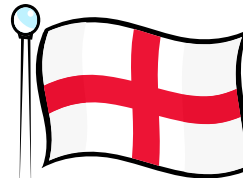
### Eastbourne

Sonia Wang, Elementary Education



### Leicester

Kathleen Buckley, English Education  
Timothy Farrell, Elementary Education  
Melissa Walter, Interior & Environmental Design



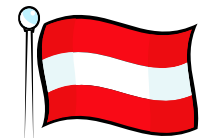
## Bonn, Germany

Nicole Short, German Education



## Salzburg, Austria

Jenelle Young, Public Relations



## Spain

### Madrid

Amy Baker, Elementary Education  
Karina Cunculs, Political Science  
Kristen Kessell, Business  
Alice Riddle, English  
Matt Schwab, Political Science  
Kristina Schwemin, Chemistry Education



### Pablo de Olavide University

Milana Shekhtman, International Business



## France

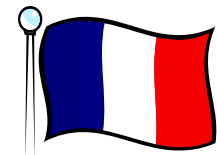
### Angers

Jonathan Cronin, Psychology  
Meaghan Gass, Political Science  
Emilie Gilde, French Education  
Diane Pueschel, Political Science



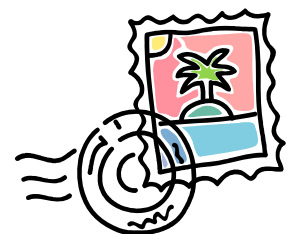
### Aix-en-Provence

Vicky Pike, French Education



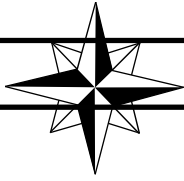
Going abroad? Send the Honors Office a postcard.  
We'd love to hear about your adventures.

Campus Box 6100  
Normal, IL 61790-6100



To learn about study abroad opportunities, visit the  
Office of International Studies and Programs, Fell 308.

<http://www.internationalstudies.ilstu.edu/>



# Honors Students in the News

Congratulations to the following students for their recent scholarships and awards.

**Jake Beier** Grabill-Homan Peace Prize

**Jeremy Harlow** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Sarah Howe** Redbird 4 Scholarship

**Megan Lamich** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Brittany Minkler** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**William Nussbaum** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Shawn O'Kelley** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**David Prevo** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Mary Risius** State Farm Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Actuarial Science

**Carol Sorenson** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Jehu Strange** Redbird 4 Scholarship

**Laura Sudholt** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**T.J. Turner** State Farm Scholar in Actuarial Science

**Kurt Weisenburger** Student Scholarship Essay Contest, sponsored by The Council for Teacher Education

**Rebecca Wenning** Laurine Reiske Scholarship

## Honors Program Student Travel Grants

Patricia Balogh  
Chad Evans  
Sarah Genta  
Janette Jesse  
Beth Marshall

Devon Minch  
Raleigh Parrott II  
Cary Ruklic  
Emerson Stone III  
Michelle Toelle

## Fall 2005 In-Course Project Competition Category 1: Papers, Essays, or other Writings

### Best Project

Kirsten Rasmussen

### Meritorious Projects

Amy Flowers  
Nora Hayes  
Tyson Mohr  
Amanda Novy  
Sarah VanProyen

### Honorable Mentions

James Barr  
Erin Caldwell  
Carli DiSylvestro  
Megan French  
Jamie Grites  
Joseph Klen

Caroline Oles  
Jaclyn Rappaport  
Shannon Redding  
Nicole Schmidt  
Robert Weber

## Category 2: Projects other than papers or essays

### Best Project

Ruxandra Radulescu

### Meritorious Projects

Jenna Carey  
Holly Pallay

### Honorable Mentions

Amy Brinkmeier  
Nicole Heckert  
Lauren Kendall

Lauren Park  
Jayme Rich

### Summer Essay Contest

Sheila Dills  
Rebekah Hertz

Jonathan Hostetler  
Jakob Sedig

## Congratulations!

Your name could be here next semester. Applications are currently available for summer and fall research mentorships as well as tuition scholarships for the summer and the 2006-07 academic year. Check out the Honors Program web site for deadlines and application forms.



Don't see your award listed? Let us know.  
honors@ilstu.edu



# Honors Odds and Ends

## Relay for Life

HSO and PS Club are sponsoring a team in ISU's Relay for Life:

### Honors Relay Hard

Relay for Life is April 21-22, from 6 pm to 6 am on the quad. Help support a great cause.

## Service Learning Fair

Thursday, April 6, 3-5 pm

Circus Room, Bone Student Center

Interested in taking the Honors Service Learning Colloquium? Stop by the fair to meet with community sites who are looking for volunteers. You can also talk to students who have already completed projects and learn about their experiences.

## Honors Staff

### Director

Dr. Doug Hesse

### Associate Director

Sara Schickel

### Assistant Director

Becky Mentzer

### Coordinator of Student Programs

Christie Proctor

### Public Service Coordinator

Anita Chiodo

### Graduate Assistant

Melissa Smith

### Honors Intern

Mikkie Small

### Secretaries

Julie Brooks     Diana Woodring

## Honors Spring Formal 2006



Thanks to all the student volunteers who made this night possible.

Contact us at Campus Box 6100, Normal, IL 61790-6100

Phone: (309) 438-2559 Fax: (309) 438-8196 [www.IllinoisState.edu/honors](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/honors)