



May 17, 2023

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2022-2023

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Tariq Jaffer (religion); Edward Melillo (history and environmental studies), chair; Jacob Olshansky (chemistry); Kerry Ratigan (political science); Matteo Riondato (computer science); and Amelia Worsley (English) for the fall semester. In the spring, Kerry Ratigan (political science) was replaced by Russell Lohse (Black Studies).

Committee responsibilities: In the fall (primarily), the committee members review applications from Amherst College students and alums for nationally and internationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (typically including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright research/study, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Saint Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships), then interview the candidates and decide whether to endorse them as nominees to the foundations. In the spring, we provide an academic review of first-time applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and independent training in the performing arts. We also approve award allocations and choose the recipient of the Rufus B. Kellogg University Fellowship.

National and International Fellowships

- The Office of Fellowships supported **119** applications for **15** nationally competitive fellowships (including some that did not require committee endorsement).
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read **49 of these applications**, conducting 20-minute interviews with each candidate over Zoom. Committee members devoted 10-12 hours each to participating in interviews or endorsement meetings, plus approximately 23 hours more to orientation meetings, reading applications and preparing interview questions.
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for **12** Goldwater Scholarship candidates, nominating four. They reviewed **three** Churchill Scholarship applications, nominating **two**.
- Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the director and associate director of fellowships reviewed applications and interviewed the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (19 applications) joined by Robert Siudzinski (program director, Careers in Education Professions), Kristen Luschen (Visiting Professor of Education Studies), and Kristina Reardon (Director of the Intensive Writing Program and Lecturer in English).

National and International Fellowship Winners

- 2 Critical Language Scholars
- 4 Fulbright Research/Study Grantees
- 6 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants
- 2 Goldwater Scholars
- 1 Udall Scholar



National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates (apart from the winners)

- 2 Fulbright research alternates; 3 Fulbright ETA alternates
- 1 Marshall Scholarship finalist
- 2 Truman Scholarship finalists
- 1 Samvid Scholar finalist (awaiting selection notification)

Notes on applicant success:

- Amherst was once again recognized as a **Fulbright Top Producer** for *last year* with 9 wins, coming in 12th among all bachelor's institutions with 10 winners.
- This year's **Udall Scholar** is Amherst's first! The Udall is a nationally-competitive scholarship for college sophomores and juniors that recognizes leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or to the environment. It formerly required institutional endorsement. Although it no longer does, it remains highly competitive and is similar in many ways to the Truman Scholarship in its emphasis on public service.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty and staff letters of recommendation. As committee members, we see first-hand how critical these letters are to the candidates' chances for success. We want to thank our colleagues for writing with such insight about these applicants, and for taking the time and care required to persuade the foundations to invest in our students and alums.

Students are most apt to apply for competitive awards when a faculty member encourages them. We are grateful that our colleagues include fellowships in advising, and for providing essay and research advice as well as interview support. Without broad faculty support, our students could not succeed in these competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

The Office of Fellowships received **179** applications for the Amherst College Fellowships (ACF). Of these **82** represented new applicants. Each application was rated for academic merit by two committee members (roughly **26** applications being read by each reviewer) using a rubric provided by the director of fellowships. The remaining applications were requests for renewal (applicants are eligible for up to three years of funding). The office of fellowships staff reviewed the renewal applications, consulting the chair as needed on any that were not a straightforward matter. This division of labor, which was piloted last year, has proven to be effective and will continue as it substantially reduces the faculty committee members' workload. Applications were also rated for financial need by Gail Holt, dean of financial aid, using a rubric she and the director of fellowships devised in consultation with the committee. This year, for the first time, all candidates received some financial support based on the understanding that even those applicants who were considered "no need" as undergraduates are not usually supported by parents (which is also the basis on which FAFSA estimated family contributions are calculated for graduate study).

The committee awarded approximately **1.5 million dollars** for graduate study or independent training in the performing arts to all 179 candidates. Of these, 27 were seniors and 152, alums. Most awards were for \$7,700 - an increase of about \$3,000 over last year. Several others received much larger amounts due to funds earmarked for certain fields of study. Committee members each devoted approximately **20 hours** to this work in the spring.



Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year and felt the time commitment was manageable. While conducting interviews and committee meetings via Zoom was efficient and productive, the committee may elect to interview in person next year when all the foundations will be doing the same. Some committee members attended the end-of-year fellowships luncheon at the house of President Elliott, which nicely capped off a year spent with congenial colleagues and inspiring students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.D. Melillo".

Professor Edward Melillo,

William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of History and Environmental Studies

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2021-2022

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Rick Griffiths, chair (classics, European studies), Brian Baisa (economics); Amy Demorest (psychology), Hannah Holleman (anthropology and sociology, environmental studies), Ethan Temeles (biology, environmental studies); and Amelia Worsley (English) for the fall semester. In the spring, Hannah Holleman became chair, and Amy Demorest, Rick Griffiths and Ethan Temeles were replaced by Kerry Ratigan (political science), Ted Melillo (history, environmental studies) and Jacob Olshansky (chemistry).

Committee responsibilities: In the fall (primarily), the committee members review applications from Amherst College students and alums for nationally and internationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (typically including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright research/study, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Saint Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships), interview the candidates, and decide whether to endorse them as nominees to the foundations. In the past, the committee also wrote endorsement letters for the nominees. In 2020-21, the director of fellowships wrote the letters as a pilot practice and this year, we decided to continue that practice. In the spring, we review applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and training in the arts. The latter are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit. Among these, the committee also chooses recipient(s) of the Kellogg Fellowship which is based solely on academic merit.

National Fellowships

- The Office of Fellowships supported **96** applications for **17** nationally competitive fellowships (including some that did not require committee endorsement). While the overall number of applicants was fewer this year (a phenomenon reported by many other SLACs and attributed to pandemic factors), the number of wins was robust.
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read **38 of these applications**, conducting 20-minute interviews with each candidate over Zoom. Committee members devoted about 12 hours each to participating in interviews, plus approximately 20 hours more to orientation meetings, reading applications and preparing interview questions.
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for **11** Goldwater Scholarship candidates, nominating four. There were no Churchill Scholarship applicants this year.
- Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the director of fellowships reviewed applications and interviewed the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (19 applications) joined by Robert Siudzinski (program director, Careers in Education Professions) and assisted by Suzanne Spencer (fellowships assistant, casual) in writing Fulbright evaluations.

National Fellowship Winners

- 1 Beinecke Scholar
- 2 Critical Language Scholars
- 2 Fulbright Research/Study Grantees
- 7 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Scholar
- 3 Goldwater Scholars
- 1 Marshall Scholar
- 1 Schwarzman Scholar
- 1 Truman Scholar
- 2 Watson Fellows

National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates (apart from the winners)

- 2 Fulbright research alternates; 2 Fulbright ETA alternates
- 3 Critical Language Scholarship alternates

Notes on applicant success:

- Amherst was once again recognized as a **Fulbright Top Producer** for *last year*, coming in 3rd among all bachelor's institutions with 10 winners.
- This year's Amherst **Knight-Hennessy Scholar** is the third AC winner since the award began in 2016. This year's class comprised 70 scholars. Typically, approximately 4,000 people apply annually.
- Amherst's three **Goldwater Scholarship** winners is something to celebrate! AC has not had three winners in one year in over two decades.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty letters of recommendation. As committee members, we could readily see how critical these letters are to the candidates' chances for success. We want to thank our colleagues for writing in such detail about these applicants, and for taking care to point out to the foundations why they should invest in our students and alums.

Students are most apt to apply for competitive awards when a faculty member encourages them. We are grateful that our colleagues include fellowships in advising, and for providing essay and research advice as well as interview support. Without broad faculty support, our students could not succeed in these competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

The Office of Fellowships received **189** applications for the Amherst College Fellowships (ACF). Of these **110** were requests for renewal. (ACF applicants may receive up to three years of funding.) This year, in order to reduce the amount of work for the committee, the office of fellowships staff reviewed all of the renewal applications, consulting the chair as needed on any that were not a straightforward matter. The new applications, of which there were **79**, were reviewed by the faculty committee. Each application was rated for academic merit by two committee members (roughly **26** applications being read by each reviewer). This new process substantially reduced the amount of time faculty members had to devote to committee work in the spring.

Applications were also rated for financial need by Gail Holt, dean of financial aid.) The committee awarded approximately 1.25 million dollars for graduate study to a total of **184** candidates. Of these, 24 were seniors and 160 alums. (In addition, 4 seniors received honorary merit awards with no monetary value.) Most awardees received \$4600; several others received much larger amounts due to funds earmarked for certain fields of study. Committee members each devoted approximately **20 hours** to this work in the spring.

Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year and appreciated the reduced time commitment. Conducting interviews and committee meetings via Zoom was efficient and productive. In the future, we plan to meet in person at the beginning and end of the semester, but conduct all the other meetings virtually.

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2020-2021

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Rick Griffiths, chair (classics, European studies), Brian Baisa (economics); Sony Coráñez Bolton (Latinx and Latin American Studies, Spanish), Amy Demorest (psychology), Hannah Holleman (anthropology and sociology, environmental studies), Ethan Temeles (biology, environmental studies);

Committee responsibilities: In the fall (primarily), the committee members review applications from Amherst College students and alums for nationally and internationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (typically including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright research/study, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Saint Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships), interview the candidates, and decide whether to endorse them as nominees to the foundations. In the past, the committee also wrote endorsement letters for the nominees, but this year they were written by the director of fellowships. In the spring, we review applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and training in the arts. The latter are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit. Among these, the committee also chooses recipient(s) of the Kellogg Fellowship which is based solely on academic merit.

National Fellowships

- The Office of Fellowships supported **168** applications for **17** nationally competitive fellowships (including some that did not require committee endorsement).
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read **50 of these applications**, conducting 20-minute interviews with each candidate over Zoom. In the past, the committee wrote letters of institutional endorsement or evaluations for nominees. This year, the director of fellowships wrote these letters, which the chair approved. Committee members devoted about 35-40 hours each to fellowships work in the fall, including application reading, interviews, and meetings.
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for **17** Goldwater Scholarship candidates and **four** Churchill Scholarship candidates, nominating four and two, respectively.
- Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the director of fellowships reviewed applications and interviewed the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (28 applications) and the first-round Watson applications (15). She was joined by Robert Siudzinski (program director, Careers in Education Professions) for the Fulbright ETAs and assisted by Suzanne Spencer (fellowships assistant, casual) in writing Fulbright evaluations. Zoe Jacobs (associate director, Center for Community Engagement) and Jasmine Hardy '13 (assistant dean of admission) joined the director in a preliminary round of Watson selection in order to minimize the number of applicants the committee would interview.

National Fellowship Winners

- 1 Marshall Scholar (declined to accept Rhodes)
- 1 US Rhodes Scholar
- 1 Schwarzman Scholar
- 1 P.D. Soros Scholar
- 2 Fulbright Research/Study Grantees
- 10 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants
- 2 Goldwater Scholars
- 2 Watson Fellows
- 1 Critical Language Scholar, Russian

National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates (apart from the winners)

- 1 Rhodes Global Semi-Finalist

- 1 Gaither Jr Fellows Finalist
- 1 Truman Finalist
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Finalist
- 2 Luce Finalists
- 1 St Andrews First Alternate
- 12 Fulbright Semi-finalists; 4 ETA Alternates
- 1 Critical Language Scholarship Finalist

Notes on applicant success:

- Amherst was once again recognized as a **Fulbright Top Producer** for last year, coming in 5th among bachelor's institutions. In the 2020-21 academic year, delays and deferrals prompted by the pandemic resulted in fewer available spots for current applicants. Further, this year, 11,728 applicants were submitted – a record high for the U.S. Student Program and an 11.9% increase over the previous cycle. While the tallies are not all in, advisors across the country are reporting lower yields than usual for the 2020-2021 application year. Amherst's yield of 10 grant offers and four alternates is something to truly celebrate in such a year.
- This year's Amherst **US Rhodes Scholar** was the first since 2006.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty letters of recommendation. As committee members, we could readily see how critical these letters are to the candidates' chances for success. We want to thank our colleagues for writing in such detail about these applicants, and for taking care to point out to the foundations why they should invest in our students and alums.

Students are most apt to apply for competitive awards when a faculty member encourages them. We are grateful that our colleagues include fellowships in advising, and for providing essay and research advice as well as interview support. Without broad faculty support, our students could not succeed in these competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

The Office of Fellowships received **198** applications for the Amherst College Fellowships (ACF). Each application was rated for academic merit by two committee members (roughly 66 applications being read by each reviewer). (Applications were also rated for financial need by Kate Gentile, senior associate dean of financial aid.) The committee awarded approximately 1.15 million dollars for graduate study to a total of **181** candidates. Of these, 30 were seniors and 151 alums. (In addition, 6 seniors received honorary merit awards with no monetary value.) Most awardees received \$4,300; several others received much larger amounts due to funds earmarked for certain fields of study. Committee members each devoted approximately **25-30 hours** to this work in the spring.

Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year and, despite the time commitment, find the work extremely rewarding. At the end of the year, we concluded that conducting interviews and committee meetings via Zoom was efficient and productive. In the future, we plan to meet in person at the beginning and end of the semester, but conduct all the other meetings virtually. The switch to having the director of fellowships write endorsement letters, approved by the chair, made committee work far more manageable and made fuller use of the director's experience with the various foundations. This year's level of success would seem to support the wisdom of the change, which we hope to see continue. Under consideration, too, are changes to the renewal process for ACF awards, which would further reduce the faculty time commitment. We want to pay special thanks to Christine Overstreet, who orchestrated the complex shift to virtual functioning with magisterial organization and unflinching good humor.

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2019-2020

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Eric Sawyer, Chair (music), Vanessa Fong (anthropology; fall); Helen Leung (chemistry), Alexander George (philosophy); Raphael Sigal (French), Boris Wolfson (Russian), Tariq Jaffer (religion, Asian Languages & Civilization; spring)

In the fall (primarily), the committee members review applications from Amherst College students and alumni for nationally and internationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (typically including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Saint Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships), interview the candidates, and decide whether to endorse them as nominees to the foundations. In the spring, we review applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and training in the arts. The latter are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit. Among these, the committee also chooses recipient(s) of the Kellogg Fellowship which is based solely on academic merit.

National Fellowships

- **The Office of Fellowships** supported **146** applications for **19** nationally competitive fellowships (including some that did not require committee endorsement).
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read **55 of these applications**, interviewing each applicant for 15-20 minutes. They wrote letters of institutional endorsement or evaluations for endorsed candidates. Committee members devoted about 40-45 hours each to fellowships work in the fall.
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for the **12** Goldwater Scholarship candidates. There were no applications this year for the Churchill Scholarship.
- Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the Office of Fellowships staff read applications for and interviewed the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (22 applications) and the first-round Watson applications (12). They were assisted by Robert Siudzinski (Program Director, Careers in Education Professions) for the Fulbrights, and by Denise Gagnon (Fellowships Advisor, retired) for the Watsons.

National Fellowship Winners

- 1 Beinecke Scholar
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Scholar
- 1 Schwarzman Scholar
- 1 P.D. Soros Scholar
- 2 Fulbright Research/Study Grantees
- 9 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants
- 1 Goldwater Scholar
- 1 Critical Language Scholar

National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates (apart from the winners)

- 1 Rhodes Finalist (Pakistan)
- 1 Marshall Finalist

- 2 Truman Finalists
- 1 Schwarzman Finalist
- 1 Gates Cambridge Scholarship Finalist
- 17 Fulbright Semi-finalists; 4 Alternates (2 research/study; 2 ETAs)
- 2 Critical Language Scholarship Alternates

Notes:

- Amherst was once again recognized as a **Fulbright Top Producer**.
- **Ryan McMillan '20**, winner of a Fulbright research grant to Germany also won a National Science Foundation grant to pursue a PhD at Harvard in biophysics. Harvard has permitted him to defer for a year so that he can do his research in Germany before matriculating.
- **Effects of COVID-19:** The Fulbright U.S. Student Program has delayed the start of all new grants until January 2021. The end time for each grant will remain the same. Current Fulbrighters have all returned home due to COVID-19 but will receive the grant stipend through the end of their terms. Our Watson grantee from last year has also returned home with his stipend.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty letters of recommendation. As committee members, we could readily see how critical these letters are to the candidates' chances for success. Thank you for writing in such detail about these applicants, and for taking care to point out to the foundations why they should invest in **our** students and alums.

Students are most apt to apply for competitive awards when a faculty member encourages them. Thank you for making the effort to include fellowships in your advising, and for providing essay advice and interview support. Without you, our students could not succeed in national competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

The Office of Fellowships received **178** applications for the Amherst College Fellowships. Each application was rated for academic merit by two committee members or a committee member and a staff member in the Office of Fellowships (roughly 55 applications being read by each reviewer). (Applications were rated for financial need by Kate Gentile, Senior Associate Dean of Financial Aid.) The committee awarded approximately 1.2 million dollars for graduate study or training in the performing arts to a total of **173** candidates. Of these, 16 were seniors and 157 alums. Most awardees received \$4,700; several others received much larger amounts due to funds earmarked for certain fields of study. Committee members each devoted approximately **15-20 hours** to this work in the spring.

Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year and, despite the time commitment, find the work extremely rewarding.

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2018-2019

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Trent Maxey, Chair (History and Asian Languages & Civilizations); Vanessa Fong (Anthropology); and Eric Sawyer (Music), Sara Brenneis (Spanish), Helen Leung (Chemistry), and Christopher van den Berg (Classics).

Primarily in the fall, the Committee reviews applications from Amherst College students and alumni for nationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Saint Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships). In the spring, they review applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and training in the arts. These are determined on the basis of financial need and academic merit. The Committee also chooses recipients of the Kellogg Fellowship, which is based solely on academic merit.

National Fellowships

- **The Office of Fellowships** received 116 applications from 103 applicants for 18 nationally competitive fellowships (including some that did not require Committee endorsement).
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read 52 of these applications, interviewing each applicant for 15-20 minutes. They wrote letters of institutional endorsement or evaluations for endorsed candidates. **Committee members devoted about 40-50 hours each to fellowships work in the fall.**
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for the Goldwater and Churchill Scholarships, of which there was a combined total of 5.
- Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the **Office of Fellowships staff** read applications and interviewed 18 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant applications and all of the Watson applications, of which the Committee read and interviewed a subset.

National Fellowship Winners

- 1 Rhodes Scholar (Zimbabwe)
- 1 Churchill Scholar
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Scholar
- 1 Schwarzman Scholar
- 1 Fulbright Research/Study Grant
- 5 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships
- 1 Watson Fellow
- 1 Goldwater Scholar

National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates

- 6 Fulbright alternates (4 research; 2 English Teaching Assistantships)
- 21 Fulbright (semi)finalists (2 of whom withdrew applications)
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Finalist
- 2 Luce Scholar Finalists
- 1 Saint Andrew's second alternate
- 1 Critical Language Scholarship alternate

Highlights and Additional Notes:

- Amherst was once again recognized as a **Fulbright Top Producer** (for the 13th year).
- This year's **Churchill Scholarship winner** was the only winner (among 16 nationwide) from a small liberal arts college. The Churchill recognizes outstanding work and potential in STEM.
- Amherst had its first **Knight-Hennessy Scholarship** winner this year. The K-H, which funds up to three years of study at Stanford University, is in its second year and selected 69 scholars from among 4,424 applications.
- **Amherst's Rhodes Scholar** had been a finalist last year for Zimbabwe, tried again, and won this year. He was our second international Rhodes Scholar in the past ten years.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty letters of recommendation. As Committee members, we could readily see how these letters are absolutely critical to the candidates' chances at success. Thank you for writing in such detail about these applicants, and for taking care to point out to the foundations why they should invest in **our** students and alums.

When you encourage students to apply for fellowships, they are much more likely to do so than at the invitation of a staff member. This semester you all received a letter from the Director of Fellowships with accompanying handouts on fellowships available to our students, how they can become strong candidates, and on writing letters of recommendation. Thank you for taking the time to read these materials, for suggesting that students apply, and for providing essay advice and interview support. Without you, our students could not achieve such success in national competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

In addition to the national competitions, the Office of Fellowships received 200 applications for the Amherst College Fellowships. Each application was reviewed by two Committee members and Office of Fellowships staff (roughly 50 applications being read by each reviewer). The Committee awarded approximately 1.2 million dollars for graduate study to a total of 190 candidates. Of these, 36 were seniors and 154 alums, with most awards between \$3,500 and \$4,900 and some, such as the Kellogg, for much larger amounts. **Committee members each devoted approximately 15-20 hours** to this work in the spring.

Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year and despite the time commitment find the work extremely rewarding.

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2017-2018

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Ute Brandes, Chair (German); Michael Ching (Mathematics); Vanessa Fong (Anthropology); David Hanneke (Physics); Amelie Hastie, fall (English and Film & Media Studies); Trent Maxey (History and Asian Languages & Civilizations); Jessica Reyes (Economics); and Eric Sawyer, spring (Music).

Primarily in the fall, the Committee reviews applications from Amherst College students and alumni for nationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Fulbright, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Schwarzman, St. Andrew's, Truman, and Watson fellowships). In the spring, we review applications for the Amherst College Fellowships – internal awards for graduate study and training in the arts, based on financial need and academic merit. The Committee also chooses at this time recipients of the Kellogg Fellowship, which is based solely on academic merit.

National Fellowships

- **The Office of Fellowships** received 112 applications from 91 applicants for 14 nationally competitive fellowships
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read 74 of these applications, interviewing applicants for 10-20 minutes each. We wrote letters of institutional endorsement or evaluations for selected candidates. Committee members report devoting an average of 40-50 hours (each) to this work during the fall semester.
- The **Health Professions Committee** reviewed applications for the Goldwater and Churchill Scholarships, of which there was a combined total of 9. Apart from the Committee on Student Fellowships, the Office of Fellowships staff read applications and interviewed 29 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Applicants. They also read the entire group of Watson applications, of which the Committee read and interviewed a subset.

National Fellowship Winners

- 1 Marshall Scholar
- 1 Schwarzman Scholar (declined to accept the Marshall)
- 7 Fulbright Research/Study Grants
- 7 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships
- 1 Watson Fellow
- 1 Critical Language Scholarship

National Fellowships Finalists/Honorable Mentions/Alternates

- 1 Marshall Scholarship finalist
- 1 US Rhodes Finalist
- 1 International Rhodes Finalist (Zimbabwe)
- 2 Fulbright alternates (1 research; 1 English Teaching Assistantship)
- 21 Fulbright (semi)finalists
- 1 Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention
- 1 Knight-Hennessy Finalist
- 1 Watson alternate

Highlights and Additional Notes:

- Amherst was once again recognized for being a **Fulbright Top Producer** (for the 12th consecutive year). Two of the seven Fulbright research grant awards available to New Zealand were won by Amherst seniors.
- This year's **Marshall winner** was the first for Amherst in 10 years.
- The **Watson Foundation** commented that all of Amherst's nominees were in the top tier of candidates, which affirms the Committee's judgement in selecting nominees.

The Role of Faculty in Applicant Success

Reviewing applications includes reading all of the faculty letters of recommendation. As Committee members, it was easy to see how these letters are absolutely critical to the candidates' chances at success. This semester you all received a letter from the Director of Fellowships with accompanying handouts on the fellowships available to our students, how they can become strong candidates, and on writing letters of recommendation. We hope you have had a chance to read these materials, and that you continue to support the candidates with your strong letters, encouragement to apply, and advising and interview support. Without you, our students could not achieve such success in national competitions.

Amherst College Fellowships

In addition to the national competitions, the Office of Fellowships received 190 applications for the Amherst College Fellowships. Each application was reviewed by two Committee members and Fellowships staff (roughly 50 applications being read by each reviewer). The Committee awarded approximately one million dollars for graduate study to a total of 168 candidates. Of these, 27 were seniors and 141 alums, with most awards between \$3,500 and \$4,900. Two Kellogg Fellowships were awarded – one for Germany and one Open Award. Next year, the Committee will again choose one Open Kellogg Awardee. The **Committee members each devoted approximately 15-20 hours** to this work in the spring.

Members of the Committee on Student Fellowships have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year, and despite the time commitment, find this work extremely rewarding.

Faculty Committee on Student Fellowships Report 2016-2017

The Committee on Student Fellowships this year included Ute Brandes, Chair (German), Thomas Dumm (Political Science), Vanessa Fong (Anthropology), David Hanneke (Physics), Amelie Hastie (English and Film & Media Studies), Jessica Reyes (Economics). The Committee reviews applications from Amherst College students and alumni for both nationally competitive, merit-based fellowships (including the Beinecke, Carnegie, Churchill, Fulbright, Goldwater, Keasbey, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Schwarzman, St. Andrew's Society, Truman, and Watson fellowships) and internal awards based on financial need and academic merit.

National Fellowships

- The Office of Fellowships received 119 applications from 100 applicants for 14 national fellowships.
- The **Committee on Student Fellowships** read **61** of these applications, interviewing applicants for 10-15 minutes each. They wrote letters of institutional endorsement or evaluations for selected candidates. **Committee members report devoting an average of 40-50 hours** (each) to this work during the fall semester.
- Of the remaining applications, The Health Professions Committee reviewed 12; the Amherst-Doshisha Committee 2, and the Office of Fellowships Staff 44, and wrote endorsement letters/evaluations as needed.

Winners included

- 1 Goldwater Scholar
- 8 Fulbright Research/Study Grants
- 8 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships
- 3 Watson Fellows
- 1 St. Andrew's Society Scholarship

Finalists/Alternates included

- 1 Marshall Scholarship finalist
- 1 Keasbey Scholarship alternate
- 1 Luce Scholarship finalist
- 4 Fulbright alternates
- 7 Fulbright (semi)finalists
- 1 Schwarzman alternate

Amherst was again recognized as being a **Fulbright Top Producer** (for the 11th year running). The **Watson Fellowship** noted that Amherst was the only institution with three Watson winners, and said that the fourth nominee was also in the top level of candidates – never before achieved by any school.

Faculty **letters of recommendation** are absolutely critical to the candidate's chance of success. The most convincing letters are those that demonstrate how the candidate's outstanding qualities match the values of the foundation, and offer specific examples based on the writer's experience with the student. The Director of Fellowships provides information about fellowship requirements to faculty and assist in any way with producing and submitting a strong letter. Many faculty also provide **mock interview support**, which also contributes importantly to our students' success.

Amherst College Fellowships

The Office of Fellowships received 197 applications. Each was reviewed by two Committee members/Fellowships staff (roughly 50 applications read by each reviewer). The Committee awarded approximately 1 million dollars toward graduate study to a total of 193 candidates, 27 seniors and 165 alums, with most awards between \$4,000 and \$6,000. The **Committee reported devoting 12-18 hours** to this work in the spring.

The Committee on Fellowships members have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such accomplished and interesting students this year, and find this committee work very rewarding.