

ANNUAL REPORT – DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

1. Official Charge

The Distinguished Scholarships & Fellowships Program at Stetson University promotes awareness of nationally distinguished scholarship and fellowship opportunities and liaises with faculty/staff advisors to identify, support and advance student engagement at all stages of scholarship preparation and submission. The Research & External Scholarships Advisor works closely with the Office of Faculty Engagement to enhance Stetson’s advising capacity to elevate student research opportunities and promote competitiveness for elite national/international scholarships and awards.

2. Faculty/Staff Advisors

The following faculty and staff advisors have been identified as having responsibility for specific scholarship or fellowship programs.

Name of Scholarship/Fellowship Program	Advisor Name(s)	Faculty or Staff
Barry S. Goldwater Scholarship	Mike King	Faculty
Harry S. Truman Scholarship	Gene Huskey	Faculty
Morris K. Udall Foundation	Wendy Anderson	Faculty
Fulbright U.S. Student Program	Bill Nylan	Faculty
James C. Gaither Junior Fellows	Tim Stiles	Staff
Rhodes Scholarship	Melinda Hall	Faculty

3. Initiatives during the Academic Year: This section describes initiatives implemented or enhanced during the reporting year.

a. New initiatives

- Enacted strategic communications in the following ways:
 - Along with the Office of Faculty Engagement, met with Marketing in December 2018 to learn about their operations and how to put together a marketing plan.
 - Promoted student referral form to faculty and staff via Stetson Today announcement.
 - Promoted scholarships and fellowships with an international component by tabling at the Global Citizenship Fair in January 2019.
 - Worked with marketing to publish the following article:
<https://www.stetson.edu/today/2019/05/seeking-the-best-and-brightest/>
 - Promoted Distinguished Scholarship and Fellowship Info Sessions via:
 - Stetson Today
 - Digital Signs across campus
 - Email to faculty-discuss

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- Personalized emails to students with a 3.7 or higher GPA and students who participated in 2019 Showcase
- Created and distributed flyers at Showcase
- Promoted inside the duPont-Ball library on tables and in the duPont-Stall newsletter
- Posted on Distinguished Scholarships & Fellowships Facebook page (@StetsonUScholarships), shared on Facebook by @StetsonWORLD, @StetsonCareer, and @StetsonLibrary and on Twitter by @StetsonLibrary, @StetsonCareer, and @StetsonU and on Instagram by @stetson.library.
- Partnered with faculty and staff through collaborations, including:
 - Partnered with Marketing for help promoting my work and the info sessions.
 - Met with Cory Lancaster to discuss the best ways to create buzz around this area across campus.
 - Worked with Mike Candelaria on article, “Seeking the Best and Brightest.” Mike also worked with me to promote the info sessions through Stetson Today, digital signs, and email announcements.
 - Partnered with WORLD to table at the spring 2019 Global Citizenship Fair and for help promoting the Info Sessions.
 - Partnered with Library for help promoting the Info Sessions on social media and inside the library building. The library also provided software used to create website (LibGuides) and support from student assistants throughout the year.
 - Partnered with faculty scholarship advisors to learn about the scholarships they represent and their experiences advising student applicants.
 - Partnered with Institutional Research to identify students who would most likely be eligible for a distinguished scholarship or fellowship.
- Developed the following materials and resources:
 - Website with information about distinguished scholarship and fellowship opportunities, resources for faculty and staff, and tips and advice for students:
<https://guides.stetson.edu/externalscholarships>. This site received 646 views as of 6/3/2019.
 - Facebook page, @StetsonUScholarships. This page has 98 likes as of 6/4/2019.
 - International Scholarships and Fellowships brochure
 - Distinguished Scholarships & Fellowships Info Sessions, which took place on April 22 and 23, 2019. I created an activity booklet for the session that included relevant information and personal statement activities. 98 students attended these sessions.

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- Online referral form for faculty and staff to refer students for scholarship advising. 1 student was referred to me through this form.
- Spreadsheet for tracking students that have met with me to discuss their suitability for various scholarships or who I have referred to a scholarship advisor. As of 6/6/2019, there are 7 students I am aware of who are seriously considering applying.
- Online survey to gather feedback from students who attended an info session
- Worked with Trophy Factory to order tablecloth and pens with logo for use at future tabling and events

b. Future initiatives

- Attend NAFA biennial conference in July 2019
- Develop action plan for FY 20
- Increase faculty engagement in this area through communication with assistant/associate deans and department chairs, possibly in consultation with a working group of faculty/staff
- Focus on the appointment and recognition of faculty scholarship advisors
- Continue to encourage student engagement by tabling at events such as FOCUS, Global Citizenship Fair, etc. and by planning more info sessions and workshops tailored to students with different interests and in different stages of their degree
- Seek ways to deepen and expand collaborations with other units on campus

4. **Activities:** The following monthly timeline identifies and describes activities generated by this area and/or important to advancement of this work.

Month/Date*/Year	Activity	Brief Description	Outcome
September 2018	Learning about external scholarships work	Met with key stakeholders, researched individual scholarships and ideas for handling this work.	
October 2018	Learning about external scholarships work, setting goals for FY 19, creating website.	Met with key stakeholders, researched individual scholarships and ideas for handling this work. Began work on FY 19 action plan and website.	
November 2018	Learning about external scholarships work, setting goals for FY 19, creating website.	Met with key stakeholders, researched individual scholarships and ideas for handling this work. Continued work on FY 19 action plan and website.	Action plan was completed.

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December 2018	Published website, planning for spring activities.	Met with key stakeholders. Finished and published website, guides.stetson.edu/external-scholarships .	Website was published and has received over 640 views as of 6/4/2019.
January 2019	Outreach	Created brochure on international scholarships and tabled at the spring Global Citizenship Fair. Began sharing link to website.	Passed out approximately 50 brochures at the Global Citizenship Fair.
February 2019	Outreach, tracking student applicants	Met with key stakeholders. Planned for future marketing. Created spreadsheet for tracking student applicants.	Spreadsheet was created and marketing strategies were identified.
March 2019	Outreach	Created faculty/staff referral form and distributed via email. Began planning info sessions. Created Facebook page.	One student met with me after being referred through the form. The Facebook page has 98 likes as of 6/4/19.
April 2019	Planned and led info sessions, met with potential scholarship applicants	Hosted a series of distinguished scholarship and fellowship info sessions, April 22-23. This involved marketing the event, handling logistics, planning content, and leading the session. After the session, several students emailed or met with me to learn more. Attended April 3 Fulbright representative session on campus.	98 students attended an info session. I also had meetings and email correspondence with interested students who were unable to attend a session.
May 2019	Gathered feedback on info sessions. Met with potential scholarship applicants. Began planning for FY 20.	Met with key stakeholders. Distributed a feedback survey to info session attendees.	I met and/or emailed with several interested students. 7 students provided feedback on the info sessions.
June 2019	Wrapping up	Created annual report, planning for FY 20.	

5. **Student Impact:** The table below identifies and describes students who are located in the pipeline for competitive awards and for distinguished scholarships. Description is not limited to the external research & scholarships advisor.

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Scholarship/Fellowship/Award (include awards/other distinctions that enhance competitive advantage)	Student Name	Academic Rank (as of Fall 2020)	Location in Pipeline (e.g. introduced, mentored, statements completed, application submitted, awarded)
Rhodes	Salvina Ancheva	Senior	Introduced, connected with Rhodes advisor
Fulbright	Jason Schmidt	Junior	Introduced, connected with Fulbright Advisor
Undecided- considering Rhodes, Marshall, or Gates Cambridge	Chelsea Seaver	Senior	Introduced
Undecided- considering Truman, Fulbright, Gaither, or Pickering	Ryan Clifton	Sophomore	Introduced
Goldwater	Anna Baj	Junior	Introduced, connected with Goldwater advisor
Rhodes	Bailey Busscher	Senior	Introduced, connected with Rhodes Advisor
Undecided- considering Truman, Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, or Gates Cambridge	Peter Greubel	Junior	Introduced

- 6. Meetings:** This section describes meetings/meeting outcomes with academic leadership, faculty/staff, and with students during the reporting year.

This year I had a total of 28 in-person or phone meetings with academic leadership, faculty, staff, and students. The highlights of each meeting are described in the table below.

Date	Met with	Highlights
9/19	Kimberly Reiter	We discussed a student applying for Rhodes, and recruitment ideas.
9/26	Rosalie Richards	We talked about ways to get started, including talking with knowledgeable faculty and staff, creating a website, and finding out how other universities handle this work.
10/1	Gene Huskey	We discussed the history of scholarship advising at Stetson, the Truman Scholarship, and suggestions for recruiting students and helping applicants be successful.

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10/10	Rosalie Richards	We talked about defining my role, the need to identify a standard operating procedure for each award, and determining how faculty are assigned to facilitate scholarships.
11/26	Stacy Collins	We discussed the history of scholarship advising at Stetson and the academic success website on Fellowships, Grants, and Scholarships. I asked Stacy to leave the website up for now.
11/30	Bill Nysten	We discussed the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, how the application process is handled, and how I can provide support.
12/5	Paula Hentz	We brainstormed possible collaborations between WORLD and external scholarships, and made plans for me to table at the spring Global Citizenship Fair.
12/7	Janie Graziani, Cory Lancaster, Office of Faculty Engagement	In this strategic marketing meeting, we learned about marketing strategies and how to create a marketing plan.
12/12	Rosalie Richards	We worked on a FY 19 action plan.
12/14	Noel Painter & Rosalie Richards	We discussed progress, the external scholarships website, spring plans and resources.
1/17	Melinda Hall	We discussed the Rhodes Scholarship, how the application process is handled, and how I can provide support.
1/28	Faculty/staff involved in SURE grant	We discussed SURE grant logistics.
2/13	Rosalie Richards	We talked about the Global Citizenship Fair and how to improve the tabling experience in the future.
2/14	Mike King	We discussed the Goldwater Scholarship, how the application process is handled, and how I can provide support.
2/20	Cory Lancaster	Cory provided an overview of marketing options and we discussed ideas for creating buzz on external scholarships.
3/13	Rosalie Richards	We discussed marketing strategies and collaboration ideas.
3/28	Chelsea Seaver	Chelsea is interested in pursuing an MPH in the UK and we discussed the possibility of applying for a Rhodes, Marshall, or Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

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4/8	Mike Candelaria and Rosalie Richards	Mike interviewed us for an article that was published on May 11.
4/9	Rosalie Richards	We worked on planning the April 22-23 info sessions.
4/24	Lauren Ludlam	Lauren was looking for funding that did not quite apply to external scholarships. We talked about some of the opportunities I can help with and encouraged her to reach out again if she becomes interested.
4/26	Rosalie Richards	We rehashed the April 22-23 info sessions, discussing what did and didn't work and how to get student feedback. I created an online survey and distributed this via email to session attendees. We also discussed pre-final report.
4/29	Destin Beaumont	Destin was looking for funding that did not quite apply to external scholarships. We talked about some of the opportunities I can help with and encouraged him to reach out again if he becomes interested.
5/1	Ryan Clifton	Ryan is interested in a career in foreign affairs and we talked about the many scholarships that could help facilitate that. He reached out to me after attending an info session and talking with Dr. Huskey and Dr. Nysten. He is a first-year student but very motivated to apply and aware of the need to prepare early for post-graduate fellowships.
5/1	Anna Baj	Anna wants to pursue a research career in biology and is interested in applying for the Goldwater scholarship. I put her in touch with Dr. King.
5/6	Noel Painter and Rosalie Richards	We discussed this year's progress made in building student awareness, opportunities for working on faculty engagement, ways to increase awareness among first-year students and parents. We also talked about FY 2020 budget and annual report.
5/14	Kara Cummings	We discussed opportunities for outreach to faculty in the School of Business. I wrote up an email introducing myself to share with department chairs.
5/15	Peter Greubel	Peter is interested in a number of distinguished scholarship opportunities, including Truman, Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, and Gates Cambridge. He is considering pursuing an MPH or medical school. I encouraged Peter to spend time learning more about each scholarship to think more about which one is the right fit for him. I will follow up with him in August.
5/22	Rosalie Richards	We talked about handling a student opportunity proposed by an alumni that may be a good stepping stone to distinguished scholarships. We also discussed outreach to assistant and associate deans.

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7. Distinguished Scholarships & Fellowships Advisor Role: This section focuses on the role of the advisor.

- a. Describe key accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations for improvement opportunities.

One of my key accomplishments this year was my success in increasing student awareness of and engagement with external scholarships. The strongest indicators of my impact in this area are the information sessions offered in April 2019 that were attended by 98 students, and the 7 students who have expressed a serious interest in applying for a scholarship. Another key accomplishment was gathering relevant information about scholarships and tips/advice for students and their faculty/staff mentors, and making that information readily available to the campus community through my website and Facebook page.

Since this position was a new one for Stetson, it also came with a unique set of challenges. Across campus, many faculty and staff were already doing important work related to scholarship advising, albeit often in siloes. Finding these pockets of activity, figuring out how to define my role in relation to them, and then attempting to insert new structures has been one of the biggest challenges I faced this year. I found another challenge in figuring out how to build faculty awareness and engagement in this area. Faculty play a crucial role in building student awareness, identifying potential applicants, and advising students through the application process, so their participation is key.

My recommendations for improvement are as follows:

- Allocate a small budget (see attached) to fund supplies for future workshops/presentations, outreach, and professional development
 - Form a working group charged with building faculty engagement in the area of scholarship advising
 - Acquire additional support by expanding use of library student assistants or possibly hiring a dedicated student assistant
 - Formally recognize faculty and staff who take on scholarship advising responsibilities
- b. Summarize professional development activity during the reporting year, including activities with the Office of Faculty Engagement and the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs.

This year I participated in several professional development opportunities that helped me deepen my understanding of external scholarships work, including:

- Joined the National Association of Fellowship Advisors, which came with access to their listserv and online resources
- Attended phone conference hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the James C. Gaither Fellows program, 11/6/18
- Attended Strategic Marketing meeting with the Office of Faculty Engagement, 12/7/19

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- Attended Fulbright representative session on campus, 4/3/19
- Attended Rhodes Trust Facebook Live event, “Why apply to the Rhodes Scholarship?,” 5/7/19
- Attended the Office of Faculty Engagement Retreat, 5/9/19
- Spoke with Jayashree Shivamoggi, Director of the Office of External & Competitive Scholarship at Rollins College, 5/20/19
- Attended Academic Leaders Retreat, 6/3/19

c. Describe any plans for staff structuring, restructuring (including student support, etc.).

This year I received significant support from student assistants employed by the duPont-Ball Library. In the future, I hope to acquire additional support by expanding use of library student assistants or possibly hiring a dedicated student assistant who can have a stronger focus on helping me handle the logistics of this work.

I also plan to deepen and expand collaborations with other units on campus. The connections made this year between External Scholarships and Marketing, WORLD, advisors, and many other faculty and staff were invaluable. I will continue to seek out opportunities to enrich this work through similar partnerships.

8. Additional improvement opportunities: Describe any additional improvement opportunities including approaches that could be supported by the Office of Faculty Engagement.

The Office of Faculty Engagement has been a valuable resource for me this year. One approach that might provide additional support in the future is creating more opportunities to identify potential collaborations, such as networking with faculty and staff across campus.