

MICHAEL B. KEEGAN TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP



Station B Box 351508
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235

HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION

The idea of creating a fellowship based upon a self-designed program of travel and learning was conceived in 1960 by Amory Houghton, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Corning Glass Works. He worked in collaboration with J. Leslie Rollings, Dean of Admissions at the Harvard Business School, and John H. Finley, Eliot Professor of Greek Literature at Harvard College. They believed that most of the existing fellowships favored students interested primarily in post-graduate academic pursuits. No fellowship, in their view, fully challenged a candidate's ability to propose and undertake a post-graduate learning experience largely of the student's making. Such a learning experience would be a valuable complement to the relatively formalized character of the undergraduate program.

The Corning Fellowship program expanded in several stages to include students from Yale, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, and North Carolina, in addition to Harvard. Competition was keen among the applicants from all five of these universities. The Corning fellows spent a year traveling around the world. No two programs were alike. As a group, the fellows compiled a remarkable record of accomplishment in politics, law, business, and other fields.

Corning Glass saw its role as innovator and creator, yet not as the source of on-going support. Funding ceased in 1968. Nearly ten years later, the former fellows established the Corning Fellows Association, Inc. and Michael Ainslie, a Vanderbilt alumnus, was elected president of the group. The goal of the Association was to challenge the universities that had previously participated in the Corning program to establish programs of their own. They took this action because they felt that the traveling fellowship had been one of the most important experiences in their lives.

The World Trade Council of Middle Tennessee and alumni contributions have allowed the University to award this fellowship only on an intermittent basis from 1998 through 2004. In 2003, Michael B. Keegan, the 1980 Traveling Fellow offered to fund the 2004 award and to secure an endowment that would guarantee this program on an annual basis. In recognition of this commitment to the program and to Vanderbilt University, the program has been renamed in Michael Keegan's honor.

An award of \$15,000 will be made to the 2009 Traveling Fellow.

PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The Michael B. Keegan Fellowship enhances the development of future leaders through world travel and experiential learning. The program is designed to allow a graduating senior the opportunity to pursue an idea or an issue, about which the student is impassioned, and do so in the context of daily life in a global scenario. This program is not designed as either a graduate education or career preparation curriculum. The projects of past fellows have explored aspects of multinational business, maternal and child health care systems, worldwide HIV/AIDS treatment programs, international journalism, orchestral management, and indigenous art and craft production. The Selection Committee tries to identify the applicant who is most likely to succeed in his/her proposed project.

International travel and learning develops a global orientation in the recipient, which the designers of the original fellowship thought essential for active citizenship and leadership in this complicated age. The proposed project must be endorsed by a faculty member who is willing to serve as an advisor to the traveler.

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ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

(1) The one year program is open to any Vanderbilt University senior who will graduate by May 2010. December 2009 graduates are eligible to apply.

(2) Each applicant must submit a completed application (see below for Application Procedures). Completed applications must be received in the Office of the Dean of Students, 310 Sarratt Student Center, by 5:00 PM, Friday, January 15, 2010. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

(3) A Selection Committee will evaluate the applications and choose the finalists. Finalists will be interviewed in January and the winner will be notified by phone and/or letter by February 22, 2010.

(4) The recipient of the fellowship will receive a \$15,000 stipend. The stipend supports the fellow's travel and maintenance costs.

(5) The award winner will work with the Associate Dean of Students to plan the year of travel and learning.

(6) The fellow must communicate monthly with the project's faculty advisor and the Associate Dean of Students while abroad, and at the conclusion of the travel, submit a final report. The report should summarize in succinct fashion the fellow's observations for the year, the expenses incurred, and the recipient's assessment of the program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Each applicant must submit the following:

(1) A completed application form. Please use the attached form.

(2) A resume, which includes extra-curricular activities, honors, and work experience. You may include information on pertinent activities prior to your enrollment at Vanderbilt, but you should concentrate on the activities of your college years.

(3) A plan of study/travel/work including a title for your proposal. This statement should be approximately 1,000 words in length. You should indicate your proposed international project, with particular emphasis on how the year abroad will enhance your understanding of the chosen subject in a global context. Keep in mind that the fellowship seeks to promote reflection on community engagement, leadership development, and a global orientation, not pursuit of a graduate or professional degree or a specific career.

(4) Two letters of recommendation. One should be from a Vanderbilt professor who will serve as an advisor to the project and the other from someone (faculty or administration) who knows your contributions to an extra-curricular activity. The letters should be mailed directly to the Vanderbilt Traveling Fellowship Program, Office of the Dean of Students, Station B, Box 351508, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235-1508, or e-mailed to sandy.stahl@vanderbilt.edu

(5) An official Vanderbilt academic transcript, available through the Registrar's Office. Ask the Registrar to mail the transcript to the Vanderbilt Traveling Fellowship Program, Office of the Dean of Students, Station B, Box 351508, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235-1508.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS, 310 SARRATT STUDENT CENTER BY 5:00 PM Friday, JAN. 15, 2010.

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DEADLINE: Friday, January 15, 2010 at 5:00 PM

**APPLICATION FORM
(Please type or print)**

Name _____
Last First Middle

E-mail address: _____ Campus Address: _____
Box No. Station

Local Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Citizenship: _____

Academic Major(s): _____ Graduation Date: _____

Permanent Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Addresses of Parents/Guardians (if different): _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Telephone Number (s) of Parents: _____

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I understand that a program involving international travel and residence can be both mentally and physically challenging. I am prepared to undertake these challenges either with or without reasonable accommodations.

Signature and Date

I also affirm that if selected for this Traveling Fellowship, I will have a complete physical examination and secure the vaccinations required for the itinerary I propose.

Signature and Date