MARYLAND SUMMER RESEARCHERS TALKS
WHAT ARE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS?

• Competitive, **merit-based** awards

• Open to students **nationwide**

• For students developing strong **interests**, **goals**, and **achievements**

• **Not** mainly about money…

• They offer a wide range of **enriching opportunities and experiences**

Jacqueline Foelster – 2009 Fulbright Award
WHAT KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES?

Science/Engineering Awards

Research Opportunities (US and Abroad)

Study Abroad and Language Learning

Teaching Opportunities (US and Abroad)

Public Policy and Public Service Awards

Graduate Study (US and Abroad)

Maseeh Roshan – 2011 Fulbright Award
SOME WELL-KNOWN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE:

- Rhodes
- Truman
- NSF
- Goldwater
- Hollings
- Fulbright
- Boren
- Churchill
- NDSEG
- Gilman
- DAAD
- Marshall

D. Brent Edwards – 2011 Fulbright Award
WHO CAN APPLY?

There are...

90 Different National Scholarships

Looking for...

90 Different Profiles

Jason Wong – 2011 NOAA Hollings Scholarship
National Scholarships seek students at **ALL** levels.

Earlier competitions can be **building-blocks** for later success.
WHAT KINDS OF STUDENTS DO NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS LOOK FOR?

- **Academic Strength**
  - GPA is only a start
  - Research, Internships, etc.
  - Major Honors, Theses, etc.
  - Presentations, Publications

- **Meaningful Engagement**
  - Extra-curriculars that matter
  - Quality *not* quantity

- **Clear Goals and Interests**
  - What do you care about?
  - Does it show?

Tuesday Barnes – 2010 Gilman Scholarship
“ENERGY TO USE
ONE’S TALENTS TO THE FULL”

-Cecil Rhodes,
Founder of the Rhodes Scholarship
Recognizes Excellence and Promise in the Sciences, Math and Engineering

2300 Applicants Annually

250-300 Awards Each Year

25 % National Selection Rate

75 % UMaryland Selection Rate

Over the Past 3 Years

Boren Scholarships for International Study

Supports Study Abroad and Language Learning in Critical Regions

900 Applicants Annually

150 Awards Each Year

15% National Selection Rate

50% UMaryland Selection Rate Over the Past 3 Years

16 UMaryland Boren Scholars in Past 3 Years

Emily Burke – 2011 Boren Scholarship
National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowships

3 Years of Support for Graduate Study

30,000  Annual Stipend (for you)
2,000  Awards Available Annually
10,000  Applicants in Recent Years
18 %  National Selection Rate
12 %  Awards Made in Social Sciences

Melanie Wong – 2011 NSF Graduate Fellowship
Fulbright U.S. Student Program

1500 Awards Available Annually

8000 Applicants Annually

140 Countries around the world

19 % National Selection Rate

48 % UMaryland Selection Rate 2011 (19 of 40)

Krista Heiner – 2011 Fulbright Awardee
FOCUS ON GRADUATE STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS

There are numerous different National Scholarships for Graduate Study:

- Sciences (Physical and Biological, Engineering)
- Social Sciences (Psychology, Government, Sociology, etc.)
- Humanities and Arts

**MOST** Graduate Study Awards Are for **RESEARCH-BASED** Degrees

**Very FEW** Graduate Study Awards Are for **PROFESSIONAL** Degrees
WHY SHOULD I APPLY FOR NATIONAL GRADUATE STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS?

• Most graduate students in Ph.D. program are funded by their schools
However… having a national scholarship is highly advantageous to you:

• National scholarships are portable
• Students with external support are very desirable
• National scholarships carry great prestige
WHEN CAN STUDENTS APPLY?

You can apply for many graduate study scholarships:

• At the same time as your grad school applications
• During your first year of grad school
• During your second year of grad school

Applying at EACH opportunity maximizes your chance of success.

Andrew Dupree – 2011 NSF Graduate Fellowship
WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS LIKE?

• Applying for graduate study scholarships is a lot like applying to grad schools:
  • Essays
  • Recommendations
  • Transcripts and scores
• Scholarship applications are usually due 1-3 months earlier
WHEN SHOULD I BEGIN LOOKING FOR GRADUATE STUDY AWARDS?

You should begin as soon as possible to:

• Identify awards that are a possible fit for you

• Examine eligibility requirements

• Note application requirements / deadlines

• Examine SELECTION CRITERIA

➢ Take steps to IMPROVE your strengths

Dylan Rebois – 2011 Marshall Scholar
WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO MAKE MYSELF MORE COMPETITIVE LATER?

1. Challenge yourself in the classroom and beyond
2. Deepen or diversify your research experiences
3. Present or publish your research
4. Get to know your Professors!!!
5. Get to know your Professors!!!

Iman Ng – 2011 Gilman / Boren Scholar
WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO MAKE MYSELF MORE COMPETITIVE LATER?

Learn about nationally competitive research and scholarships opportunities for younger students:

- **Study abroad awards**
  Gilman, Boren, Freeman, DAAD etc.

- **Science awards**
  Goldwater, Hollings, CDC, DAAD Rise

- **Awards for research experiences**
  NIST, NSF, NASA Summer Programs

Melanie Wong – 2011 NSF Graduate Fellowship
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS:

Cornell University Graduate School – Fellowship Database:  
http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/fellowships

University of California, Berkeley – Scholarship Connection  
http://scholarships.berkeley.edu/search.php?search=searchdeadline

University of California, Los Angeles  
Graduate & Postdoctoral Extramural Support (GRAPES) Database  
http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/grapes/search.asp
The National Scholarships Office aims to provide the best possible information, guidance, and support to students learning about and applying for national scholarships.
WHAT’S THE NEXT STEP?

• Visit our website at:
  www.scholarships.umd.edu

• Make an appointment to visit us at 2403 Marie Mount Hall

• Email us at scholarships@umd.edu

Elizabeth Hudson – 2011 Gilman Scholarship