

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

THE EUGENE MCDERMOTT SCHOLARS PROGRAM



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The Santa Fe Experience

Every academic year we begin in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a new class of Scholars. When we land at the Albuquerque Sunport, it is the first time the Scholars are together as a cohort. They meet and greet each other, trying to remember each others' names and faces from Finalists' Weekend. This is where the adventure and cohesion begin. The bus ride to Santa Fe is a buzz.

The Program calls St. John's College in Santa Fe home for ten days. Instantly, we find ourselves in awe of the weather and the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains. On campus, the Scholars stay in the dorms, and the Program has a dedicated classroom for lectures and discussions.

On the first morning, we wake up early to hit the Rio Grande River for an overnight camping trip. For the past five years we have worked with a terrific outfitter, Known World Guides, who are professionals and a safety-minded group. One of the highlights of the rafting trip is the Program's friend and geologist, retired UTD professor Dr. Kent Nielsen. Dr. Nielsen explains the rock formations, lava flows, and age of the terrain around us. We spend the first day on the river, set up camp in the afternoon, hike in the evening, and wake up the next morning for our second day of rafting. This is the first time some of the Scholars have ever camped in the great outdoors.

This trip is the foundation of the rest of the Santa Fe Experience; everyone is on the same level of comfort and they all have to learn to work together when maneuvering the rafts through the rapids. It truly is a bonding experience.

The drier part of the trip includes visits to the Santa Fe School of Cooking, Bandelier National Monument, the numerous museums and galleries in downtown Santa Fe, and the Santa Fe Opera.

Our visit to the Santa Fe School of Cooking offers the students a chance to discuss and taste real New Mexico cuisine. We learn about the different kinds of chilis and basic ingredients. Steve Cooper, our favorite chef, explains cooking in a nonconventional manner; he uses chemistry to explain the cooking process. Our Scholars nod their heads in agreement because they see how science can be applied not only in a laboratory, but in the kitchen, too.



'05 Scholars touring Bandelier Nat'l. Monument

Each year we try to visit both a living pueblo and anthropological sites, such as Taos Pueblo and Bandelier



The '05 McDermott Scholars and staff hit the Rio Grande

National Monument. As a group we take the self-guided tour of Bandelier. We learn about the lives of those who inhabited the region, how the geology influenced what could grow in the area, and how they built their homes in the cliffs.

The art of Santa Fe revolves around the landscape and the lifestyle. We see many examples at the New Mexico Museum of Fine Arts and the Georgia O'Keefe Museum. Our visits are led by gallery owners and museum curators. Dr. Jack Rushing, UTD professor and expert on 20th century Native American art, joins us during this part of the experience. He lectures to the Scholars about the art they will see and explains how Santa Fe became such an attraction.

Beyond the visual art, we taste a little of the high culture at the Santa Fe Opera. Dr. Victor Worsfold, retired UTD professor, spends the afternoon with the Scholars to explain the opera they will attend. They learn about the history of the composer and what was going on socially and politically at the time that opera was written. This year's performance was Britten's *Peter Grimes*.

It may sound like a carefree and fun trip, and it is – but the Scholars come with three or four selected books for discussion throughout our stay. The visiting professors choose a reading assignment and the Program ships the books to all incoming freshman Scholars during the spring. They are to come prepared to discuss the selected books and share their thoughts with their colleagues and the staff. This year's list included Jared Diamond's *Collapse* and William Faulkner's *A Light in August*.

Santa Fe is a unique experience. We hope the Scholars take away several things from the trip: class cohesion, understanding

different cultures, and appreciation of the arts – an ideal McDermott Scholar experience. The Scholars return to Dallas ready to start their new lives at UTD. They move in to their campus apartments and start classes with memories of their Santa Fe experiences and a whole new group of friends.

Jessica Cockrell, '02 Scholar **Irish Dreams Fulfilled**

Dia daoibh! (Hello!)

Considering I had been talking for nearly ten years about wanting to come to Ireland, I was concerned that the experience might not live up to my

highly built-up expectations, but by the grace of God and St. Patrick that has not been the case!

I spent part of July and August in An Cheathrú Rua (or Carraroe, by its English name). This little Irish-speaking village lies in the heart of the Connemara, about an hour-long bus ride outside of Galway City. The population is supposedly around one thousand, but the people are so widely dispersed that it seems even smaller. The town sits at the top of a tiny peninsula that extends into Galway Bay. On a clear day, I could see the Cliffs of Moher from the driveway of my hostess's house, but I didn't have to wait for a clear day to be amazed by the landscape. The Connemara is famous for its rockiness, and everywhere gray rocks jut out of the green hills and fields. The cold hardness of the rocks makes for an interesting contrast with the softness of the shrubs and wildflowers. I'm glad that An Cheathrú Rua was my first stop in Ireland, because the rugged beauty of the land there had the magical ability to put one in touch with the country's soul.

The landscape is only the beginning, though. Carraroe lies within a Gaeltacht, one of several small regions in Ireland in which Irish is still spoken as a community language and its native culture and traditions are still valued. Basically, this means that everyone here speaks Irish as a first language. Most parents raise their children with Irish only and let them pick up English from television and other outside sources. Walk into Spar (Europe's version of 7-11 and this town's biggest shop) and you will hear Irish, not English. Occasionally, clerks or townsfolk will switch to English when they recognize a tourist, but often they do not.

The use of Irish is more than encouraged; it's expected, which is why the National University of Ireland at Galway has set

up an Irish language center here. People come from the USA, Canada, England, Japan, Germany, Austria, and even other Irish towns to learn Irish here, both in and outside of the classroom. Even my host family (who, by the way, personify Irish hospitality) used only Irish with us unless we were totally confused. Actually, the first time I spoke English at length with my hostess was when she asked about the TV show *Dallas*. It was and is a huge hit in Ireland, so, of course, we needed to discuss it clearly!



Jessica is shown with the Poul nabrone Dolmen in County Clare, Ireland. This famous megalith dates back to 2500 BC and was used as an ancient burial site.

While in the West, we took several day trips to visit Kylemore Abbey, Clifden, the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and Inis Oirr, the smallest of the Aran Islands. We even climbed Croagh Patrick, along with thousands of other people. It is said that St. Patrick fasted on this mountain for 40 days and 40 nights praying for the people of Ireland. The last Sunday of every July people make a pilgrimage to the top.

When my time in Carraroe was, sadly, over, I set off on another adventure, traveling around the south of Ireland. I headed to Belfast in mid-September to start my course at Queen's University. Though I've already seen so much of Ireland and will no doubt see more, An Cheathrú Rua and the West will always be special to me. I know I will never be the same for having been there, right in the heart of the true Ireland.

Hannah Frank and Kerri West, '04 Scholars

A Santa Fe Internship Experience for Two McDermott Scholars

For most McDermott Scholars, the Santa Fe experience ends when the members of their class return to Dallas to begin their freshman year. For us, those eleven days were only a preview of the experiences we would have as interns when we returned to

Santa Fe a year later to work at the Museum of Fine Arts. Under the direction of Dr. Joe Traugott, Curator of Twentieth Century Art, we enjoyed a busy summer of researching artists, helping out in the collections vault, and, ultimately, curating our own exhibit at the museum.

Our initial task was to assist Dr. Traugott in editing his book about the museum's permanent collections and the history of New Mexico art. This project allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the art, artists, and history surrounding Santa Fe. As we helped edit the book, checking a large collection of names, dates, and facts, we gained firsthand experience in the many processes involved in readying a manuscript for publication. We continued this work throughout our time at the museum, but the main focus of our internships diverged into separate projects as the summer progressed. We were each able to get involved in the many different aspects that comprise the Museum of Fine Arts.

Hannah Frank

After Kerri and I split into different projects, I began to research the life of American artist Marsden Hartley. The museum will be playing host next summer to a traveling exhibition on Hartley's work. Dr. Traugott is planning an addendum to this exhibition entitled "Hartley's New Mexico" which will focus on the community of artists working in New Mexico during his brief stay in the state. In addition to reading a number of biographies on Marsden Hartley, I read through all the issues of the museum's magazine, *El Palacio*, from the time of his visit (1918-1919) to familiarize myself with the artist and the community in which he lived. Dr. Traugott then compiled a list of all the pieces in the collection dating approximately from the time of Hartley's stay,



Kerri West and Hannah Frank

and we proceeded to pull all the pieces from the collections vault and decide which to include in the show. This was my favorite part of the experience at the museum – it was fascinating to hunt through all the works of art, and use my knowledge of the Santa

Fe art community and Hartley's life to pick out pieces for his show. I finished up my work on Hartley by writing a press release and a detailed outline for the upcoming show.

In addition to working in the museum, Kerri and I also had the opportunity to explore all the different culinary options that downtown Santa Fe has to offer. I made it my mission for the summer to find the best green chile cheeseburger in the city, and the result of my research into this topic was a top-ten list of restaurants in Santa Fe and the surrounding area. I gave this list to the program, to assist future McDermott Scholars traveling in New Mexico.

Kerri West

One of my main projects this summer was to help Dr. Traugott plan the reinstallation of the permanent collections exhibit. One of the issues that I considered was how to incorporate knowledge of visitor perceptions into the planning of the exhibit to make it more interesting, accessible, and educational, in terms of both content and design. I devised a system of interviewing visitors about their museum experiences, and incorporated these findings into a comparative study that examined other similar projects within the field. I organized my findings into a paper that earned class credit for my internship.

Throughout the summer, Hannah and I were given opportunities to visit many of the other museums in the area. Thanks to Dr. Traugott, we were often treated to meetings with the staff and behind-the-scenes tours. This was especially helpful in my work, because I was able to gauge the effectiveness of the permanent exhibits at other museums and relate these to potential changes at the Museum of Fine Arts. During the latter part of my internship, I continued to work on Dr. Traugott's book, writing summaries of the material that can later be used in press releases. This summer was filled with a multitude of learning opportunities, and I look forward to

visiting the museum and reading Dr. Traugott's book when it is published.

We concluded our time at the museum by working together once again to curate a memorial exhibit devoted to local artist Earl Stroh, who passed away in early July. This final project allowed us to incorporate many of the skills we had acquired over the summer as we created an actual exhibit on display in the museum's permanent collections gallery. Few interns get such a unique opportunity to put learning into practice.

This summer, we had the chance to enjoy the rich culture of Santa Fe, exploring the city's many festivals, galleries, and restaurants, and we gained personal experience in various aspects of museum work. Before we returned to Dallas, we were able to take part in the McDermott Freshman Experience once again, only this time we were leading the '05 Scholars on the very same tour of the museum that had inspired our internships the previous summer. We return from our work at The Museum of Fine Arts with invaluable hands-on experience and a greater appreciation for the art, culture, and people of New Mexico.

Rodolfo Hernandez, McDermott Faculty **McDermott Program in Mexico**



Dr. Hernandez and Sherry Slovak in Mexico

One of the most significant components of the agenda of the Center for

U.S. -- Mexico Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas has been The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program. Since the inception of this leadership program, the Center and the McDermott Program have jointly organized lectures at UTD and facilitated face-to-face interaction between the UTD community and experts and leaders on U.S. -- Mexico affairs. For example, lectures by Peter Ward, director of the UT Austin Center for Mexican Studies, and Gabriela Gudino, expert on Mexican indigenous values, were cosponsored by the McDermott Program and the Center for U.S. -- Mexico Studies.

The creativity of this collaboration has been expanded to Mexico, where new McDermott Scholars have had the opportunity to visit and meet executives from the Mexican federal, state, and municipal governments. The annual Mexican experience is scheduled every winter break and includes the visit to the Mexican Presidential Residency, Los Pinos; the U.S. Embassy; the National Museum of Anthropology; and sites of historical importance such as the National Palace, Xochimilco, San Miguel de Allende, Teotihuacan, and Guanajuato, among others.

The Mexico trip has been always complemented with an academic experience in which our scholars interact with Mexican university students, faculty, and staff. Previous experiences have included the Monterrey Institute of Technology (ITESM), State of Mexico and Mexico City campuses; the Mexican Research Center for Mathematics (CIMAT); and the University of Guanajuato. Through these institutions, McDermott Scholars have the opportunity to learn about Mexican higher education and consider the prospects of pursuing a linguistic and cultural experience, and perhaps graduate education, in Mexico in the near future.

The hospitality of Hon. Juan Carlos Romero Hicks, Governor of the State of Guanajuato, and his wife, First Lady Faffie Sickman de Romero, has been a

great motivation for the Scholars, enhancing their sensitivity to leadership and community service. Through the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Romero Hicks, McDermott scholars have donated school supplies to children from Sarteneja, a communal “ejido” (territory) with high rates of poverty in the State of Guanajuato. I am very pleased to mention that this community service has been expanded beyond its original scope. McDermott Scholars have organized fundraisers to contribute to the construction of two houses for the most needy Mexican individuals.

This is a clear illustration of what the partnership between the McDermott Program and the Center for U.S. – Mexico Studies has achieved in just a few years. Our collaboration has not only a significant impact in our immediate community, but also in communities like Sarteneja, Mexico. This is an example of UTD diplomacy.

Lelia Gowland, '04 Scholar

A Trip to Mexico Prompts Soul-Searching Within One Scholar

During my freshman year as a McDermott Scholar, I went on several trips with our class of Scholars. Our August experience in Santa Fe oriented us to the McDermott Program and exposed us to the amazing culture and heritage of New Mexico. At the end of freshman year, our trip to Washington, DC, brought us



Lelia Gowland and fellow '04 Scholars Zac Cox and Kerri West organize school supplies for the children of Sarteneja, Guanajuato

into contact with many elected officials and diplomats and introduced us to the dynamic atmosphere of the city. In between, over winter break, our class spent just over a week in Mexico City and Guanajuato, Mexico. This trip prompted a great deal of soul-searching within me.

Having heard about the '03 Scholars' experience, my classmates and I anticipated a fulfilling and unique experience. Personally, the first things I was struck with in visiting Mexico City were the poverty and the environmental degradation. Numbers and statistics couldn't possibly have prepared me for the sheer quantity of people living in those conditions. I now realize that over 40% of the population works in the informal sector, which is actually a relatively low figure compared to the rest of Latin America.

My experience in Guanajuato gave me a new perspective. We had the opportunity to meet with the Governor and First Lady of Guanajuato: Juan Carlos Romero Hicks and Faffie Siekman de Romero. Juan Carlos struck me as well grounded and truly dedicated to serving the people he represents. Faffie, originally from Wisconsin, has not only overcome her initial “outsider” status, but she has implemented programs that have significantly improved standard of living for thousands of *Guanajuatenses*. Her poise and passion for changing people's lives is truly inspirational. Faffie's dedication to these causes brought me great hope and reminded me of the power of one person to do so much good.

Through DIF Estatal (National System for the Integral Development the Family), Faffie pioneered the program “mi casa



Lelia with Faffie Siekman de Romero, First Lady of the State of Guanajuato



Above, photographs from the new McDermott web site

DIFerente” which teaches impoverished families to make adobe bricks and provides them the supplies to rebuild their own homes.

Her stories are incredibly empowering. People go from living in houses made of metal gates wrapped in plastic wrap with cardboard boxes for a roof to a two-room adobe house with an elevated stove and a chimney. This may not sound like much to us, but it gets the women up off of their knees and reduces the indoor air pollution of smoke. More than 1,000 houses were built in 2004, and the program will continue to expand.

Faffie’s successes and infectious good nature inspired me to begin raising money to fund houses for the Casa DIFerente program. Using only donations from McDermott Scholars and McDermott faculty, we raised enough money for more than two houses.

More recently, I am all the more able to understand the importance of work like the Casa DIFerente program. As a victim of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, my house was flooded with more than 10 feet of water. Most of my mother’s and my possessions were destroyed. Realizing that a large number of people in Mexico live in miserable conditions on a daily basis puts things in perspective. In this time that is so personally challenging, it is all the more important for me to stay socially active and work to help others.

The kindness of my friends and the McDermott Program have made all the difference for me, and I want to have that kind of effect on others. As part of the McDermott Scholars Program, I can.

Karolina King, Web Specialist

Moving Up -- in the Physical and Virtual Worlds

As the McDermott Program staff has grown from two to six people, and as the demands on our web site as a promotional and logistical tool outstripped our first web site’s usefulness, we were long overdue for expansions and improvements, both in our spaces in the physical and virtual worlds.

Symmetry in names

We like the idea of The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program having space in the McDermott Library. That is, in fact, what happened in the summer of 2005 as we vacated our cramped and scattered spaces in the Multipurpose Building and entered a clean, cozy, and consolidated space on the third floor of McDermott Library, Suite 3.202.

The new space features a large reception area, individual offices for all staff members, and a working office for McDermott Scholars who need quiet, focused access to phones, faxes, and professional workspace for study-abroad preparations, internship placements, graduate school applications, etc. Scholars quickly began taking advantage of their new office space as the fall semester began.

All office phone numbers have remained the same, but our mailing station has changed to MC 17 as noted in the contact information on page 11 in this edition of the newsletter.

Our corner of cyberspace

The redesign of the McDermott Scholars web site is complete and was launched on September 6th. McDermott Program Web Specialist Karolina King worked closely with Cassini Nazir of Cary Delmark’s UTD Web Development Team to create a new, clean, functional design for the McDermott site. The new look features lots of pictures of McDermott Scholars studying abroad, engaging in service activities, and on freshman-year group trips.

Our hopes are that the new web site not only looks sophisticated, but communicates more clearly and functions more intuitively. We hope you find some time to take a look and let us know what you think. As always, the URL of the McDermott Scholars web site remains:

www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott

Don’t forget to also take a peek at what our Scholars have been up to away from home at the study abroad weblog:

mcdermottsabroad.blogspot.com/

Ben Weittenhiller, '02 Scholar

Taking Care of Business

During my three years as a Eugene McDermott Scholar at The University of Texas at Dallas I have learned that there are three types of people in this world: engineering majors, business majors, and liberal arts majors. Consequently, upon leaving academia and entering the working world each is trained to ask one probing question:

Engineering majors: How can I make that better?

Business majors: How can I make that more profitable?

Liberal arts majors: Would you like fries with that?

Given my aversion to both pocket protectors and fast food, I invariably find myself as the humble business major. Now with a year left before I complete my MBA, I look back on how The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program and UTD have shaped both my academic and professional paths into a uniquely profitable experience.



Ben, '04 Scholar George Graham, and '03 Scholar Caitlin Dooley are shown below receiving an award for service at the American Heart Association's "Fall Fest 2005"

As the new state-of-the-art School of Management building indicates, UTD is committed to providing its students with the business skills and training necessary to succeed in the ever-changing marketplace. Thus as the demand for higher education increases, UTD has provided a unique program which maximizes efficiency in both knowledge learned and degrees earned. As the name indicates, the "Fast Track" MBA Program offers an accelerated and challenging educational opportunity, allowing undergraduate business students to complete graduate coursework for dual credit. Thus, after three short years at UTD I received my B.S. in business administration, earning both *summa cum laude* and Collegium V honors as well as 14 graduate credit hours. Of course, my rush through the undergraduate curriculum was not

made possible by rigorous semester schedules and late-night Starbucks runs alone, but also by the encouragement of UTD's helpful faculty and staff—and especially the support system found in The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program.

Along with these academic pursuits, the McDermott Program also afforded me opportunities for leadership growth through two summer internships. In summer 2004 I traveled to rural Dodgeville, Wisconsin, to serve as an inventory management intern for Lands' End, Inc. While managing more than \$2.5 million in inventory, I also led my group in creating a strategic plan for further multi-channel expansion into the Canadian market. We then presented our business plan to Lands' End executives, who have since implemented our recommendations.

Seeking to build on my inventory and marketing experience, in summer 2005 the McDermott Program secured for me a dual internship with the American Heart Association National Center in both the finance and integrated marketing departments. Along with my account reconciliation and comparative marketing analysis responsibilities, my internship highlights included visiting AHA's national board meetings as well as personal mentoring from CEO Cass Wheeler.

Now with one year remaining in my McDermott Program experience, I am finishing my graduate coursework through UTD's Honors Cohort MBA Program. Then, with my B.S., MBA, and professional experiences in hand I will be skillfully equipped for the challenges awaiting me in the working world. And so I look forward to a profitable career—yet not for myself, but so that I might better show my gratitude to my program, university, community, and God through whom I have received more than I could repay.

Laura Anderson, '04 Scholar

Interning with a Legend

During the summer before my junior year of high school, I embarked on a whirlwind college tour of the northeast led by my college counselor. The University of Pennsylvania was but a monomer in the long chain of colleges that I visited. By the end of the trip, most of the red bricks and green lawns of each distinct and prestigious university had blurred into one. But the saltiness and urbanity of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania intimidated and impressed me.

My attraction to the "City of Brotherly Love" remained dormant until last spring, when I began considering summer internship possibilities. After an opportunity arose to work in the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, I knew that I would be eating cheese steaks and pronouncing coffee "cawfee" pretty soon. I flew up to Pennsylvania with a vague idea of where I was going to stay and what exactly I was going to be doing daily at work. Both situations turned out to perfectly complement my idea of a fun and fulfilling summer in Philly.

I worked under the legendary 92-year-old Britton Chance (M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D.), who contributed significantly to the invention of radar and, therefore, was partially responsible for the Allies' victory in World War II. He and Shoko Nioka (M.D., Ph.D.) have most recently been designing and perfecting an optical imaging technique called Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy.



Laura is shown above with Dr. Britton Chance

This new, noninvasive method of detecting oxygenated and deoxygenated hemoglobin can help define the role of the pre-frontal cortex, detect breast tumors, and contribute to the understanding of deep-vein thrombosis in diabetes patients. These are just a few of the possible applications of this inexpensive and simple technique. Specifically, I examined the performance of the pre-frontal cortex as subjects (including myself) solved anagrams, recognized faces, and struggled through math problems. I met with Dr. Chance (who quickly encouraged me to call him B.C.) daily for about an hour and presented my findings. It was stimulating and encouraging to be surrounded by amazing minds and extremely progressive research.

B.C. and Shoko were wonderful at work, but soon began inviting me over for dinner and, somehow, became even more wonderful. Shoko would feed me her Japanese vegetarian food and aloe vera dessert. She and B.C. had an ancient four-level home that was filled with international graduate students and countless visitors from everywhere who were doing everything. One Sunday, Shoko and I rode our bikes 70 miles from Philadelphia to Waretown, New Jersey, where B.C. was waiting to take us sailing. Believe it or not, he won two gold medals in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics for yachting and still spends every weekend sailing. I was so lucky to meet these people and even more fortunate to get to know and befriend them.

The previous spring, I looked online for a summer residence and discovered a woman who rented out rooms in her home. I booked one and hoped for the best. Barbara, a graduate of Bryn

Mawr College with a pre-med major, was a very intelligent woman and a loving landlord. Barbara fed me, brought me to see the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, drove me to art openings, and constantly kept me informed about what was going on in our wild little West Philly neighborhood. When I went to New York for the weekend, she would give me information about what I needed to see and where I needed to go while in the city. I still get emails and recipes from her every other day.

So my second experience at the University of Pennsylvania was certainly more in-depth. I met so many intelligent people and lived in such an eclectic neighborhood. B.C., Shoko, and Barbara were just three of the many smart and creative people that helped me love my time in Philly. My wonderful summer has made many things clear about the McDermott Scholars Program.

Most importantly, I realize the meaning behind the financial, intellectual, and moral support given by the Program for travel, study, and exploration. Also, I appreciate the requirement to intern or take classes over the summers. At first a bit wary of the obligation, I realize now that not only have I remained intellectually and culturally active over the summer, but also I've had one of the funniest and most enjoyable experiences of my life.

Reena Schellenberg, Manager, Events & Communications **McDermott Scholars Lengthen Educational Ties to UTD**

Since graduating in May the members of the inaugural class of McDermott Scholars have gone on to interesting and valuable new pursuits. It is noteworthy that many of those who opted to undertake graduate study decided to do so at their alma mater. Five members of the Class of '01 are currently enrolled in graduate programs at UTD. Justin Appleby is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science; Emily Hinz is working toward a master's degree in geosciences; Laura Rashedi is seeking an MBA; Aidan Skoyles is pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering; and Walter Voit is earning a master's degree in computer science.



'01 Scholars Aidan Skoyles, Emily Hinz and Walter Voit are among the McDermott Alumni who have stayed around to pursue graduate studies.



The McDermott Scholars with Margaret McDermott at her ranch in September 2005

Of the McDermott Scholars who have not yet completed four years in the Program, four have already completed their undergraduate degrees and are working toward master's degrees at UTD. Jessica Cockrell, Caleb Nelson, and Ben Weittenhiller, all of the Class of '02, and '03 scholar Derrick Chen are all in graduate programs in various UTD schools.

These "graduate" scholars all found that their high quality undergraduate experiences at UTD inclined them to stay at this institution for the next part of their academic careers. Another deciding factor was the novel approach to graduate education offered by UTD: outstanding students can complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree in just five years -- and in some cases four years -- of intensive study. Students can accelerate their education through either the "Fast Track" or "Get Doc" programs; in most cases, the cost of the fourth and fifth years at UTD are covered by the McDermott Scholars Program and UTD-funded fellowships, respectively.

In their fourth year, fast-tracking scholars remain full members of the Program and retain the accompanying responsibilities and privileges. In their fifth year, despite having graduated, the five alumni McDermott Scholars remain involved in the life of UTD and the larger community. Fast-tracking at UTD is clearly a win-win situation for all parties.

Study Abroad 2005

In calendar year 2005, McDermott Scholars scattered around the globe for internships and study-abroad experiences. A brief summary:

Spring 2005

France: Orleans, Polytech Institute, plasma application lab, University of Orleans; Orleans, Centre de Langues, FAC de Lettres, University of Orleans; Paris, Photography, University of Sorbonne

Scotland: Glasgow, Archaeology Department, University of Glasgow

Spain: Salamanca, Cursos Internacionales, University of Salamanca

Summer 2005

China: Beijing and Waiguoyu Daxue, with IES Abroad; Shanghai, through Lehigh University Study Abroad

England: London, UTD independent study; American

Intercontinental University's Tales of Two Cities (London and Paris)

Greece: UTD faculty-led Aegean Cruise

Ireland: Galway, National University of Ireland

Italy: Florence, with Academic Programs International (API); Florence, Venice, Milan, Rome, with American International University, Richmond UK; Sicily and Rome, UTD Independent Study

Mexico

Guadalajara, University of Guadalajara Medical Spanish and Clinical Experience; Guanajuato, University of Guanajuato Summer Language Program

Zambia: Lusaka, Internship/volunteering with PACT

Fall 2005

Argentina: Cordoba, CELEC Spanish Immersion Program

Ireland: Galway, Irish Language International Summer School, University of Ireland

Northern Ireland: Belfast, University of Belfast

Scotland: University of St. Andrews



FROM THE BLOG:

TRAVELS IN CHINA

“After one year of studying Mandarin at UTD, I took the plunge so to speak and came to China for the summer. I spent the first month traveling all over the Eastern part of China, all the way from Guangzhou in the south, up the Yangtze River and past the Three Gorges Dam, through Shanghai and Xi'an (home of the Terracotta Warriors, the so-called Eighth Wonder of the World) and then to Beijing.”

Richard Voit, '02 Scholar
mcdermottsabroad.blogspot.com/

McDermott Program Institutes New Nomination Process and Calendar

High school counselors and AP teachers in top schools in Texas, the Southwest, and around the country will be doing a little less scrambling in late October than they were last year. Nominations for The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program are to be postmarked December 1 this year, rather than due in the Program office on November 1 as they have been in the past. *(See timetable in shaded box.)*

UTD administrators hope the change will produce better results for the McDermott Program in several areas. First, it should give nominees and faculty more time to produce better essays and recommendation letters. Second, the extra month gives McDermott staff more time to contact faculty, students, and staff at the best schools in the region, to spread the word about the relatively new pro-

gram. Third, the longer deadline should encourage nominees to enter the process who might otherwise have been deterred by the tighter deadline.

“Six short years ago when Margaret McDermott endowed the McDermott Scholars Program, we wouldn't have dared to hope—at least out loud—that we'd be able to recruit such outstanding talent into a brand-new program at a young university,” said McDermott Program Director Dr. Charlie Leonard. “Our mandate, though, is to get even better. Later deadlines and longer lead times should, we hope, bring in an even larger pool of talent from which to choose the next class of McDermott Scholars.”

Leonard acknowledged, however, that the new timetable will have challenges, among them, increased pressure on McDermott Finalists who are on the early-decision track at other prestigious universities. “We've been competing with the best universities for the best students for six years now,” Leonard said, “and handling more early-decision issues is just

part of the deal. We've learned to enjoy the challenge.”

Date	Event
Dec. 1	Postmark deadline for school and self-nominations
Dec - Jan	Read and review nominations
Feb. 1	Review general applicant pool and invite qualifying applicants to submit supplemental materials
February	Invite school and self nominees to Finalists' Weekend
Feb. 21	Supplemental materials due and successful application pool nominees invited to Finalists' Weekend
March 17-19	Finalists' Weekend
April 1	Director begins making offers to join the Program
May 1	2006 Scholars Announced



Charlie Leonard, Program Director

Director's Message

At the beginning of every academic year since our first Scholars arrived in 2001, we have gathered at the McDermott Ranch north of Dallas to introduce the freshmen to Mrs. McDermott. It's always a fun Sunday afternoon, with swimming and hamburgers and soda pops and catching up with Scholars who've been out of town and out of the country.

At this year's gathering -- as with everything in the McDermott Program -- the continual fun was mixed with the pervasive seriousness of our task: At Mrs. McDermott's insistence, and therefore our own, we are about the business of making our Program better, our university better, our community better, and our



world better, even if just a little bit at a time.

I wish you could have been there as the new Scholars bravely introduced themselves to their benefactor and talked about their plans. Next, representatives of

the second- through fourth-year classes reminded Mrs. McDermott of their plans and their progress. As a group, they are intent upon feeding the hungry, curing diseases, steering public policy, advancing the frontiers of science, teaching our children, representing the downtrodden, molding the next generation of information technology, and just plain making money. Their reports are a rare and exciting peek into our country's bright future.

Ours is a new program, housed at a young university, situated in a town with a can-do spirit and an eye toward the future. Our job is to recruit and support tomorrow's dreamers and doers, its teachers and trainers, its physicians and philosophers. Though Eugene McDermott is long gone from us, his namesake program remains to keep his optimism alive. We close each of our fall meetings with some words from Mr. McDermott's nephew, Dr. Kevin McBride.

Dr. McBride reminds us that Eugene McDermott worked hard for the betterment of his fellow human beings. He gave generously and worked tirelessly for medical, scientific, educational, and artistic institutions, all of whose purposes were to raise the status of humankind. Yet he also was focused on the solutions to problems that will appear centuries into the future: pollution, overpopulation, energy crises, food production. It can be sobering to our little band of a few dozen young people that this is their inheritance.

McDermott Scholars believe that society's challenges are not too big to take on. Walls are built, levees are repaired, one block at a time.

If you know a young future leader who believes this, too, I hope you will send him or her to our web site to explore the possibility of joining us.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Prospective students, faculty and school administrators desiring further information about the McDermott Scholars Program should contact:

MCDERMOTT STAFF Program Director

Dr. Charlie Leonard

Program Coordinator

Sherry Slovak

Assistant Director

Pernilla Johannsson

Manager, Events & Communications

Reena Schellenberg

Web Specialist

Karolina King

Secretary

Ginny Witt

Address

McDermott Scholars Program
The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830688 MC17
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

Phone

(972) 883-4610

E-mail

mcdermott@utdallas.edu

Web

www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott



IN THIS ISSUE:

"Now with one year remaining in my McDermott Program experience, I am finishing my graduate coursework through UTD's Honors Cohort MBA Program. Then, with my B.S., MBA, and professional experiences in hand I will be skillfully equipped for the challenges awaiting me in the working world."

Ben Weittenhiller, '02 Scholar
read more on page 7

Established by Mrs. Eugene McDermott in support of her husband's dream, the McDermott Scholars Program provides select UTD students with a rigorous and personalized education as well as intensive extracurricular activities.

McDermott Scholars will be afforded an excellent university and cultural education at virtually no cost to the Scholar or the Scholar's family.

The McDermott Scholars Award provides extensive financial support for each Scholar's education. The Award covers year-round for four years, all of each Scholar's

- ♦ university tuition & fees
- ♦ assigned books
- ♦ travel home and back twice per year for Scholars whose parents live outside the D/FW metroplex but within the United States, and travel home and

back once per year for Scholars whose parents live outside the U.S.

In addition, each McDermott Scholar receives a monthly stipend of \$1100 to cover on-campus apartment housing, utilities, other living expenses, and spending money.

The McDermott Scholars Program also will bear the expense of

- ♦ state-wide and national travel associated with curricular activities
- ♦ study abroad

For more information and application materials, visit our web site:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott>

The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program
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