

The Brian Lacey '72 International Fellowship in Social Justice Fellowship Application Announcement

Mission

The Brian Lacey International Fellowship in Social Justice is designed to encourage and honor students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement as well as a dedication to a deeper understanding of issues of social justice. This merit- and need-based award is intended to recognize students who show initiative, imagination and motivation to apply their academic skills to the betterment of humanity. The fellowship will be offered twice annually (once each semester) to assist semester-long study abroad students (including domestic U.S. off-campus programs) whose program of study includes a significant component of scholarship on issues of economic, political, and social justice, and/or community service where appropriate.

The Fellowships are funded through gifts from Brian Lacey, an alumnus of the College and member of the Class of '72. Mr. Lacey is President of Lacey Entertainment, a New York-based worldwide television marketing, production and distribution company. He is also the founder and director of the Kilkea Foundation, a non-profit organization that encourages and honors excellence in the humanities, arts and sciences through a college scholarship program and other activities. Through the Kilkea Foundation, Mr. Lacey has generously established the Henry G. Fairbanks Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Saint Michael's College. Professor Fairbanks, an important mentor to generations of students, chaired the Humanities program in the '60's and '70's. He is remembered for gently instructing students that "the definition of self is shaped by the relationship and service to others."

Description

1. The \$2,500 Lacey Fellowship in Social Justice Award supports activities and equipment that will enhance the recipient's study abroad experience. The award is open to current sophomores and juniors of superior academic achievement. These students must show great promise and demonstrate a dedication to lifelong learning.
2. A student's financial need may be taken into account when making the selection for the award.
3. Awards need not be given every semester if there is no qualifying applicant.
4. Fellowships will normally be awarded to students studying outside the United States, but select domestic programs focusing on social justice may also qualify (e.g. research on inner-city issues in Washington, D.C.)
5. Activities or programs must be credit-bearing.

6. Students must present their experience to the wider community upon the successful completion of their study semester. Forms of presentation might include a written personal statement published in the college newspaper, alumni magazine, or similar publications designed to reach the entire college community, or a presentation of original work completed during the experience.
7. The College will invite Brian Lacey to attend the presentation, and will provide a copy of the student's personal statement or a final report regarding the student's experience.
8. Students forfeit their awards if they: a) fail to begin studies on a recommended or intended date; b) are expelled or leave the study abroad program before the expiration of the period for which the fellowship is awarded; or c) fail to make satisfactory progress in their study abroad program.

Criteria for Eligibility

Applicants

1. must be current sophomores or juniors
2. have a declared a major (in any field)
3. have a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or above
4. must participate in a SMC approved study abroad/away program with a social justice and/or community service focus

Application Process

1. Students must meet with the Director of Study Abroad to explore social justice/study abroad programs within their field of interest. Faculty advisors must approve a student's plan to study abroad.
2. Students submit to the Director of Study Abroad a two-page, double spaced essay that addresses the applicant's:
 - 1) Motivation to apply for the social justice fellowship and what the student hopes to gain from his/her study abroad program;
 - 2) Plan for using the \$2,500 award
 - 3) Plan for independent work that will be presented upon completion of the study abroad program

Award Process

The Lacey International Fellowship in Social Justice Selection Committee (chaired by the Dean of the College) will review all completed applications. Applicants will be invited to an in-person interview with the Selection Committee as part of the application review process.

Application Deadline Date

Monday, September 18, 2017 for SP18 study abroad