



## International Fellowships Newsletter

**World Class Education. Worldwide.**

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Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell Edition

### Up Close and Personal with Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell

#### Inside this Issue

Up Close and Personal with Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell	1
Letters from Cambridge by Reed Doucette	2
Resources for the Rhodes Scholarship	2
Healthcare Across Borders by David Chacko	3
Resources for the Marshall Scholarship	3
Conversation with a Mitchell Scholar	4
Resources for the Mitchell Scholarship	4
Rhodes Marshall and Mitchell Tips	5

#### *Rhodes Scholarships*

Rhodes Scholarships are one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships that support one to three years of study at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Thirty-two Rhodes scholars are selected based on exceptionally high academic achievement, athletic involvement, and leadership abilities.

The scholarship covers all tuition and room expenses, including air travel, as well as a living stipend.

USC's first Rhodes Scholar was Frank Swain in 1913, with the most recent distinction in 2009 (Reed Doucette).

#### *Marshall Scholarship*

The Marshall Scholarship is awarded to 40 U.S. citizens for study in any university within the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales).

Marshall scholars hold a minimum GPA of 3.7. For 2010 awards (candidates must have graduated from their undergraduate institution after April 2007).

The scholarship promotes goodwill between the U.S. and UK, and offers study in a vast number of fields.

Seven USC students have been awarded Marshall Scholarships since 1969.

#### *Mitchell Scholarship*

The Mitchell Scholarship is awarded to twelve scholars from ages 18 to 30 for academic study in any university in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Mitchell scholars are selected on the basis of academic achievement, leadership involvement, and commitment to community service.

The fellowship covers tuition, housing, living expenses stipend and international travel.



## Letters from Cambridge

By Reed Doucette

*In 2008, Reed Doucette earned a Rhodes Scholarship for graduate study in Oxford University in Cambridge, England. The Viterbi and Marshall alum (B.S. '08), shared his experiences while in Oxford, and offered some tips for students who are thinking about applying for this scholarship:*

The first thing I thought when I landed in England in the fall was, "I should have brought a bigger jacket." I think England lulled me into a little bit of a false sense of security because I assumed that it would basically be exactly like America except with more rain and double decker buses. While it is like the U.S. in many ways, it is definitely very different as well. It took me a little while to adapt to the differences in the educational system here.

I think my experience so far has exceeded my expectations. I'm just excited for what lies ahead because I think the best is still yet to come. Oxford is known for being very hands-off at the graduate level. At times, this was a little disconcerting since I came from an environment with more supervision and collaboration. But I have found myself getting used to my new academic environment and to be honest I quite like the freedom that it allows.

It seems like there are endless opportunities here to meet new people, explore new places, and try new things. I'm playing on the Blues basketball team at Oxford which plays at the highest level the University has to offer (its sort of like the equivalent for playing for the varsity team at USC, but USC would destroy us). Our team, which also features another Rhodes Scholar and a Marshall Scholar, won our league and our first playoff game and we're now among the final eight teams in the national tournament. We also beat our rival, the University of Cambridge, three times this season. Playing on the basketball team has been a great way to meet people here from all over the globe. Its also been a cool way to see parts of England that I probably would have

otherwise never seen.

This term I also started co-hosting a comedy talk radio show called 'The Den and Dou Radio Hour' on the University of Oxford's student network. I'm hosting the show with another Rhodes Scholar from my year, and it is really going great. If anyone wants to tune in they can listen at [www.oxideradio.co.uk](http://www.oxideradio.co.uk) at 5pm GMT (that's 9am PST).

To prepare for this scholarship, I got started several months before the deadline with working on my personal statement and contacting people about writing letters of recommendation for me. I really recommend starting early on this because the personal statements for scholarships like these will undoubtedly go through a ton of rewrites, and you'll want to make sure that your recommenders have plenty of time to draft a solid letter for you. I also recommend really staying up to date on general current events and what's going on in your field. If you get an interview, it will be tough, and you'll have to be well-versed in what's going on in the world and your particular area of study. -R.D.




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"I think my experience so far has exceeded my expectations. I'm just excited for what lies ahead because I think the best is still yet to come."

Reed Doucette ('07)

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(Above) Reed enjoying winter in Cambridge

(Left) Reed with Oxford basketball team

## Resources for the Rhodes Scholarship

The USC Rhodes Scholarships deadline is **Friday, September 4, 2009**. You can contact former Rhodes scholar and advisor Bryce Nelson or Noosha Malek with questions about applying for this scholarship, or to understand what the application process consists of.

For more resources, please visit:

- Rhodes Scholarships website: [www.rhodesscholar.org](http://www.rhodesscholar.org)
- Association of American Rhodes Scholars: [www.americanrhodes.org](http://www.americanrhodes.org)
- Professor Bryce Nelson, Journalism [benelson@usc.edu](mailto:benelson@usc.edu)
- USC instruction sheet: [www.usc.edu/arp/fellowships](http://www.usc.edu/arp/fellowships)



(Above) David Chacko at USC

(Right) Jacob Chacko (left) David Chacko. David's brother, earned a Marshall Scholarship in 2000 as a USC student. David received the same scholarship to Oxford four years later.

## Healthcare Across Borders

By David Chacko

*In 2004, David Chacko graduated as a valedictorian from USC, and embarked on a trans-Atlantic journey to the United Kingdom as a Marshall Scholarship recipient. Five years later, the USC alum (who double-majored in Business Administration and Biological Sciences) is back in the U.S. Here is David's account of his experiences in England, and his current life back home:*

**W**hen I first arrived in England, I was excited about living in a new country, meeting new people, and trying new adventures. As part of the Marshall group, our first few days in England were planned for us, including trips to Parliament, the London Eye, and various other London sights. Fortunately, our challenges were minimal.

My time abroad in England exceeded my expectations. I learned a lot while completing my degree; I made great, lifelong friends from around the world; and I had a chance to travel through 25+ countries in Europe. All in all, it was a fantastic experience.

After returning from England, I started my MD/MBA program in Philadelphia at

the University of Pennsylvania. I am a third year student in a five-year MD/MBA program between the Penn School of Medicine and the Wharton Business School. This fall, I will be beginning my MBA curriculum.

I intend to

**"By studying at Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, I gained an international perspective on the implementation of healthcare in other developed countries.**

David Chacko ('04)



use my past, current, and future education to practice medicine and learn how the

American healthcare system operates so that I can improve the access to and delivery of healthcare. By studying at Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, I gained an international perspective on the implementation of healthcare in other developed countries. I hope to be able to apply this knowledge to the American healthcare system. - D.C.

## Resources for the Marshall Scholarship



If you are contemplating applying for a Marshall Scholarship, be mindful that the USC Marshall Scholarship deadline is **Friday, September 4, 2009**. By submitting it by the university deadline, your

application will be thoroughly reviewed by a committee composed of faculty and staff members for endorsement consideration. Set-up an appointment with our Marshall

Scholarship advisors, Noosha Malek or Martha Enciso (arpstaff@usc.edu).

Also visit:

- Marshall Scholarship: [www.marshallscholarship.org](http://www.marshallscholarship.org)
- British Consulate in Los Angeles: <http://ukinusa.fco.gov.uk/en/our-offices-in-the-us/other-locationsin-us/la>
- [facebook](#) : [Marshall Scholarships, Los Angeles Region](#)

## Conversation with a Mitchell Scholar

By Noosha Malek



USC Alumni Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald recently spent time talking with us about her experience as a Mitchell Scholar, sharing tips for applicants, and discussing how the Mitchell Scholarship has shaped her career.

Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald graduated from USC with bachelor of arts in art history and Spanish. During her senior year, she was selected as a state finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Although Dr. Mark-FitzGerald did not receive one of the national Rhodes Scholarship awards, she reflects on her experience positively recognizing that she later found a program which better suited her interests. Her message to current applicants is to not feel discouraged by the competition or the results.

As a graduate student of Indiana University, Dr. Mark-FitzGerald once again applied for a competitive international fellowship and received the Mitchell Scholarship to study at Trinity College Dublin.

During her time as a Mitchell Scholar, Dr. Mark-FitzGerald enrolled for a Master of Letters (MLitt) degree to do independent supervised research – independent research that would lead to her doctoral program studies at the University College Dublin. With a background in visual arts, she explored the visual aspects of migration through the commemoration and monuments of the Irish famine of the 1840s.

Dr. Mark-FitzGerald currently resides in Dublin, Ireland where she continues her work in the academic field as a lecturer in the School of Art History & Cultural Policy and College of Arts & Celtic Studies for the University College Dublin.

“Once a Mitchell Scholar, always a Mitchell Scholar.” Dr. Mark-FitzGerald remains in contact with Mitchell Scholars past and present. As one of the benefits of the program, alumni are flown into Washington D.C for an annual reunion and networking event.

The Mitchell Scholarship has been described as a well-funded program that provides international exposure in a smaller society, allowing scholars to become faster acquainted with one another and their environment.

When asked about advice she has for applicants, Dr. Mark-FitzGerald provided the following points:

- For your statement of purpose, provide a clear and defined idea of what you want to do in your graduate studies. Programs in Ireland and the United Kingdom are very directed and focused, not exploratory. Additionally, programs are smaller and a thesis is usually required.
- Address how your year abroad will relate to future post-graduate plans.
- Express a passion for your field of study.
- Contact the Mitchell Scholarship program. They might be able to put you in contact with Mitchell Scholars to receive insider information on the structure of programs in Ireland.

In addition to receiving the Mitchell Scholarship, Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald is the recipient of many major fellowships and continues to speak regularly on the subject of public art, memory, and commemoration.

Profile page for Dr. Emily Mark-FitzGerald  
University College Dublin

[http://www.ucd.ie/arhistory/staff/markfitzgerald\\_emily.html](http://www.ucd.ie/arhistory/staff/markfitzgerald_emily.html)

-N.M.

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## Resources for the Mitchell Scholarship

If you are contemplating applying for a Mitchell Scholarship, be mindful that the USC Mitchell Scholarship deadline is **Friday, September 4, 2009**.

By submitting it by the university deadline, your application will be thoroughly reviewed by a committee composed of faculty and staff members for endorsement consideration. Set-up an appointment with our Mitchell Scholarship advisors, Noosha Malek or Martha Enciso (arpstaff@usc.edu).

### Also visit:

- Mitchell Scholarship Program:  
[www.us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarships/](http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarships/)
- USC Mitchell Scholarship instruction sheet:  
[www.usc.edu/arp/fellowships](http://www.usc.edu/arp/fellowships)



## Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell Application Tips

### **Research Programs of Study**

- Speak with professors in your field. They might know suitable programs in your field and can even recommend contacts overseas
- Research UK institutions and find programs and scholars in particular fields to see what others have done  
*Resources: British Council in Los Angeles (<http://www.britishcouncil-usa.org>)  
Guide to UK Education: Postgraduate and MBA (Book is available in our office)*
- Communicate with faculty in your program of interest at the proposed institution

### **Writing a Proposal**

- Discuss in detail your topic of study or research
- Demonstrated knowledge of proposed university such as the curriculum, faculty, and reason for selecting program
- Show that your study is consistent with your qualifications such as academic preparation and career goals
- Indicate the feasibility of your proposed study. Does the program have what you need?

### **Asking for Recommendation Letters**

- Know your professors. Establish relationships with your professors as early as possible in your academic career
- Read through the application and understand the recommendation requirements
- Choose a recommender that knows you and your academic interest well
- Explain the scholarship/your plans/your goals: See yourself as a professional
- Provide the recommender with an updated resume of your activities
- Allow at least one month writing period, preferably longer

### **Writing a Personal Statement**

- Examine your intellectual and personal experiences that have motivated you to apply for these scholarships
- Discuss an issue or experience that has shaped your life
- Discuss contributions that you have made in your field of study

### **List your Activities and Honors**

- List activities and dates of involvement as you would on a resume
- List entries in chronological order or order of importance
- Use headings, such as Community Service and Academic Honors, to differentiate your activities
- List all significant activities and honors, especially activities relevant to the scholarships' missions and sustained commitment
- Be completely honest on what you list in your application

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*World Class Education. Worldwide.* is a publication of Academic Recognition Programs, Division of Student Affairs at the University of Southern California. The newsletter provides information on a number of international and national fellowships, furthering enhancing scholastic interest and promoting the university's mission on globalization.