HONOR • OPPORTUNITY • EXPERIENCE
COLLABORATION • EXCELLENCE

THE JOHN MONTGOMERY BELK SCHOLARSHIP

DAVIDSON
BELK SCHOLARS ARE students of deep intellect, extraordinary character, and demonstrated passion to be change makers in the world. They are high achievers in the classroom, ever pushing the envelope to question and learn. They are recognized as leaders by their peers and in their schools and communities. In short, they make a difference every day.

WHAT IS A BELK SCHOLAR?

THE JOHN MONTGOMERY BELK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM provides academically powerful and dynamic student leaders an active framework in which to develop as scholars, leaders, and individuals. One of the nation’s most prestigious and generous undergraduate scholarships, the program is built around Davidson’s belief that each Belk Scholar possesses unique talents that should be recognized and nurtured. Belk Scholars benefit from all the opportunities Davidson College offers: a rigorous and rewarding curriculum; challenging and engaging faculty; world-class facilities for science, the arts, humanities, and athletics; and broad experiences in leadership, service, and international travel.

Up to eight Belk Scholars are selected in every entering class. For each scholar, the Belk Scholarship provides comprehensive funding (tuition, fees, room and board—$54,683 in 2013–14) plus two special study stipends of $3,000 each.

Belk Scholar Jessie Li
Major: English
Activities: Co-President of Changing Minds, runner, writer for Davidsonian and Libertas, Editor of Hobart Park, Wikipedia Psychology Ambassador, tutor at Community School of Davidson, The Adroit Journal fiction reviewer, travel to China, Hong Kong, India, England, Taiwan
THE DAVIDSON OPPORTUNITY
COLLABORATION, HONOR AND EXCELLENCE

Davidson is a highly respected liberal arts college recognized for its intellectual rigor, distinguished and accessible faculty, engaged students, rich campus life, and accomplished alumni.

Davidson’s location—in a classic college town just 20 minutes north of Charlotte, one of the nation’s most vibrant and rapidly growing urban areas—offers Davidson students an abundance of internship and employment opportunities and a thriving arts, entertainment, and professional sports scene.

At the heart of the Davidson College experience rests a commitment to leadership and service both locally and globally. Students, faculty, and staff cherish the historic Honor Code, a reflection of the mutual respect that enriches campus life. The freedom and trust fostered by the Honor Code allow for take-home and unproctored exams, self-scheduled final exams, and a profound sense of community that students carry into their lives beyond Davidson.

Davidson has long been recognized as a leader in undergraduate research. It is nothing new for students here to collaborate with their professors on original projects supported by the college. Davidson students regularly engage in the kind of work typically reserved for graduate students at larger schools and universities. Working and learning alongside a leading teacher-scholar is a privilege, and at Davidson, it is a reality.

The college’s international emphasis is demonstrated most clearly in the Dean Rusk International Studies Program, which serves as the cornerstone of Davidson’s efforts to encourage students to become active world citizens. In addition to coordinating the student study abroad experience, the Dean Rusk Program sponsors a wide variety of activities on campus to promote informed global awareness at Davidson and in the community.

Belk Scholar Aric Reviere
Major: Art History
Minor: Arabic Literature and Language
Activities: Van Every/Smith Galleries, Emerging Issues Academy, Youth Davidson founder/director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation curatorial intern, Abu Dhabi Project, Beirut and France 2013–14 study abroad

The Belk Scholarship put me in the company of the most thrillingly intelligent, curious, thoughtful, and delightfully colorful people that I have ever met. I will be grateful for the rest of my days that I was lucky enough to spend perhaps the most formative four years of my life in their company.

– BELK SCHOLAR NICK CARNEY ’11
Kennedy School, Harvard; Englewood, Colo.
Nomination and Selection Process

Davidson College invites high schools from across the country and abroad to nominate outstanding students with extraordinary potential to compete for the John Montgomery Belk Scholarship. A candidate’s record and recommendations must demonstrate academic excellence and purposeful engagement in the classroom, with student and civic organizations, on the athletic field, or in the arts. While academic achievement is paramount, Belk Scholars also exhibit intellectual curiosity and a commitment to both their local and global communities.

- Guidance counselors, heads of school, or principals may nominate one candidate from each school.
- The Davidson Admission and Financial Aid staff may also nominate candidates based on the strength of the students’ applications for admission.
- November 8: Nominations must be made by this date by completing the nomination form (www.davidson.edu/belkscholars) and submitting the required documentation (recommendation letter and transcript) to the Office of Admission and Financial Aid.
- December 2: Application completion deadline for nominees. Davidson’s application or the Common Application and Supplement are available online at: www.davidson.edu/apply. Application by this deadline does not indicate a commitment to Early Decision.
- Mid-February: Phone interviews will be conducted with semifinalists selected from the nominee pool.
- March 20–22, 2014: Finalists will visit Davidson for Belk Scholars Weekend to participate in interviews conducted by selection committees composed of members of the Belk family, Davidson faculty and administrators, and current and past Belk Scholars.
- April 1: Up to 8 John Montgomery Belk Scholars will be selected.

For additional information, please contact:
Ms. Gardner Roller Ligo
Director of Merit Programs
Davidson College
galigo@davidson.edu • 704-894-2970

Belk Scholar Rachel Borchers
Major: Political Science
Concentration: International Studies
Activities: College Democrats co-president, OFA (Obama for America, now Organizing for Action) volunteer, Ending Poverty in Charlotte co-president, Timmy Global Health medical brigade Spanish translator in Ecuador, study abroad in Chile

The Belk community is warm and welcoming. Each scholar has different interests and talents, but what unites us is our desire to use these gifts to make a difference in the local and the global community. Through the generosity of the Belk Family, I have been able to have the Davidson experience—engaging professors, insightful conversations, and like-minded friends I will treasure for a lifetime. With my stipends, I will be able to pursue my love of science and research in ways I would never have dreamed possible.

— Belk Scholar Kaki Bennett ’15
THE EXPERIENCE

From the Davidson campus to cities around the world, the John Montgomery Belk Scholarship Program provides scholars with access to a rich diversity of experience during their undergraduate years. The Belk Scholarship allows scholars great flexibility in the on- and off-campus opportunities they choose to explore. Those experiences, paired with Davidson’s academic programs, deepen the scholars’ intelligence, maturity, and understanding of global issues.

The Belk Scholarship provides each scholar with two $3,000 special study stipends to support intellectual, personal, and leadership development over the course of their college years. In recent years, Belk Scholars have used their stipends to explore their passions in this country and abroad. For instance, they have:

- interned in New York City with the Guggenheim Foundation to work on a project with the curatorial staff of the Abu Dhabi Project—researching contemporary Arab artists, purchasing works of art for the new museum, and helping to plan the museum’s opening exhibitions;
- spent the summer in Jordan to study Arabic language and culture;
- participated in a Summerbridge Program in Hong Kong, teaching writing and poetry analysis to disadvantaged Chinese students;
- conducted ethnographic field work at North Korean migrants’ educational, employment, and residential sites to trace the process and progress of their cultural adaptation throughout their journey and resettlement;
- took a backpacking and sea kayaking course with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) based out of Narvik, Norway, in training to lead trips in more extreme environments;
- interned with the Global Strategy Institute (GSI) of the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, D.C., to enhance communication, research, and teamwork skills; mentored high school students in a research project about policies and programs their schools could offer to support the academic and emotional well-being of GLBT students;
- interned with the Global Rights India, an organization that works to expand women’s access to justice; and
- volunteered with Help Argentina, a non-profit organization that assists low-income populations in the country’s northern Salta region.

BELK ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

After graduation, Belk Scholars continue to participate in the life of the program that enriched their undergraduate years. Every scholar benefits from Davidson’s far-reaching alumni network through the Belk Alumni Society’s outreach program. Current scholars benefit from both the campus and real-world experiences of alumni and forge connections that enrich their lives for years to come.

In the years since the first scholars were selected, Belk alumni have pursued life experiences in ways as creative and places as varied and dynamic as the qualities that marked them as scholars from the beginning.

CURRENT BELK SCHOLARS

Mustafa Abid ’15, Harrisonburg, Va.
Joseph Allaire ’15, Silver Spring, Md.
Sana Alimohamed ’17, Spartanburg, S.C.
Kai Bennett ’15, Atlanta, Ga.
Rahael Borchers ’15, Pleasanton, Calif.
Alyssa Bryan ’17, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Darden Callaway ’14, Raleigh, N.C.
Yeeva Cheng ’15, Cherryville, N.C.
Ariel Coley ’14, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Margaret Cookson ’14, Coral Gables, Fla.
Kate Donahoo ’17, The Woodlands, Texas
Madi Driscoll ’17, St. Paul, Minn.
Molly Farrugia ’17, Baltimore, Md.
Hannah Fuller ’17, Seattle, Wash.
Dylan Goodman ’16, Raleigh, N.C.
Matt Gore ’16, Austin, Texas
Sarah Gustafson ’14, Wilton, Conn.
Nate Harding ’17, San Marino, Calif.
Arielle Korman ’17, New York, N.Y.
Jessie Li ’15, State College, Pa.
Brian Parker ’15, Silver Spring, Md.
Cam Parker ’15, Wellesley, Mass.
Emily Rapport ’16, Besley, Ohio
Aric Reviere ’15, Spartanburg, S.C.
Matthew Schlerf ’16, Baltimore, Md.
Bolton Smith ’16, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Kyle Taylor ’16, Carmel, In.
Elizabeth Welliver ’16, Westminster, Md.
Catherine Wu ’16, Portland, Ore.

Belk Scholar Mustafa Abid
Major: Political Science, pursuing pre-med Activities: Youth Davidson High School Board co-director, Davidson Club Soccer, Muslim Student Association, study abroad in India, Sri Lanka, Oman, and the UAE

Belk Scholar Cam Parker
Major: History Concentration: Environmental Studies Activities: SAE Standards Board member, Patterson Court Council membership chair (in charge of recruitment for fraternities, sororities and eating houses), Union Board communications director, Chidsey Leadership Fellow, study abroad in Denmark
When John Montgomery Belk enrolled at Davidson College in 1939, he continued a family tradition that began with the earliest Belk family graduates in 1847. John Belk amassed a record of leadership and accomplishment at Davidson that foreshadowed his extraordinary career and commitment to service. An economics major, Belk was captain of the varsity basketball team and a leader in student government and campus organizations.

Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Infantry, serving for three years in World War II as a lieutenant and resuming active duty in the Korean War. Under his guidance as Chairman of the Board of Belk, Inc., the business expanded into one of the nation’s largest and most profitable retail organizations. John Belk dedicated himself to his community, most notably as mayor of Charlotte for four terms, from 1969 to 1977. Belk helped forge the beneficial collaboration between business and government that continues today, positioning Charlotte for its role as the nation’s second largest banking center and one of the country’s fastest growing cities.

In the early 1990s, he established the John Montgomery Belk Scholarship at Davidson, and in 2000 made an historic gift to endow this flagship scholarship program. John Belk was deeply touched by the opportunity to help deserving young people attend his alma mater, and kept in contact with many of the Belk Scholars. He remained engaged with Davidson throughout his life.

John Belk died in 2007. His family, including his wife, The Honorable Claudia Watkins Belk, his daughter, Mary Claudia Belk Pilon, and his niece, Katie Belk Morris, continue to be involved with the Belk Scholarship Program.

The nurturing environment at Davidson fosters organic, gentle, and evolved personal growth in each of its students, but I believe this growth is especially pronounced in Belk Scholars. This subset of the Davidson community I consider among the most fascinating, diverse people on campus, in no small part because the Belk turns financial freedom into the pursuit of dreams. Two years ago, I would not have imagined that I could travel the world, spend a summer at the Tuck School of Business, intern at a think tank, publish essays, or work closely with a college President... And I would never have thought that I could do them all! But Davidson and the Belk let us take the risks that create opportunities. In Davidson, I have found a community that challenges me to become the best version of myself.

— Belk Scholar Sarah Gustafson ’15
Wilton, Conn.

My goal is to join potential together with challenge by bringing this nation’s best students to learn and lead at Davidson College. We have young people with exceptional minds and leadership ability; we have a college with a proven record of educating leaders; a college that strengthens and deepens the character of its students, sharpening their minds without ignoring their hearts. It simply makes sense to bring these elements together.

— The Honorable John Montgomery Belk ’43