JOHN M. BELK, an outstanding Davidson alumnus, led with a strong moral compass, vision, and humor. In addition to demonstrating these character traits, Belk Scholars are:

**CHALLENGE SEEKERS:** Embrace a multi-dimensional lifestyle, giving rich evidence of intellectual depth and academic achievement, as well as accomplishment in other meaningful activities. Demonstrate tireless ability to overcome obstacles and apply lessons learned.

**INTELLECTUAL EXPLORERS:** Exude an eagerness to learn within every facet of life. Generate and engage with original ideas seriously and articulately, striving to enrich their own understanding, as well as that of others.

**SERVANT LEADERS:** Maintain an extraordinary strength of character, including confidence and humility, and a tremendous regard for collaboration. Vigorous and strong in mind and spirit.

**CHANGE AGENTS:** Act as catalysts for community improvement, making unique connections in order to bring about positive change.

---

**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 M. 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 make nominations.
- The Davidson Admission and Financial Aid staff may also nominate candidates based on the strength of the students’ applications for admission.
- November 9: Nominations must be made by this date by completing the nomination form (www.davidson.edu/belk) and submitting the required documentation (recommendation letter and transcript) to the Office of Admission and Financial Aid.
- December 3: Application completion deadline for nominees.
- Mid-February: Telephone interviews will be conducted with semifinalists selected from the nominee pool.
- March 21-23, 2019: 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.
- By April 1: Up to eight John M. Belk Scholars will be selected.

For additional information, please contact:
Ms. Gardner Roller Ligo, Director of Merit Programs
Davidson College
galigo@davidson.edu • 800-768-0380

---

**THE JOHN M. BELK SCHOLARSHIP**

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), plus two special study stipends of $3,000 each.

davidson.edu/belk
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 miles 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 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 and integrity that students carry into their lives beyond Davidson.

Davidson has long been recognized as a leader in undergraduate research. Collaborating 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.

**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 miles 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 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 and integrity that students carry into their lives beyond Davidson.

Davidson has long been recognized as a leader in undergraduate research. Collaborating 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 SCHOLARS HAVE TRAVELED TO:**

- Argentina
- Austria
- Australia
- Australia
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- England
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Mwandi
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Panama
- Peru
- Portugal
- Russia
- Scotland
- SEA-Tahiti to Hawaii
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
BELK ALUMNI HAVE ATTENDED:

American University of Beirut  
Boston University  
Cal Tech  
Columbia Theological Seminary  
Columbia University  
Duke University  
Ecole des Hautes en Sante Publique  
Florida International University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Tech  
Harvard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
London School of Economics  
Northwestern University  
NYU  
Princeton University  
Queen’s University (Belfast, Northern Ireland)  
Rose Bruford College (London, England)  
St. John’s University  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University  
University of Alabama  
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)  
University of London School of OAS (England)  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)  
University of Ottawa (Ontario, Canada)  
University of Oxford (England)  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas  
University of Washington  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Wake Forest University  
Washington University  
Wharton School of Business

BELK SCHOLAR ALUMNI

BELK SCHOLAR CAREERS:

Attorneys
Consultants: Bain, Deloitte; McKinsey
Analyst for the Office of Policy and Research—National Commission on the BP Oil Spill
Organic Farmer
Clergy Persons
Community Engagement Associate at Communities in Schools
Creator of the online magazine MISADVENTURES
State Department Intern
Director of the only refugee homeless shelter in NYC
Global Policy at Facebook
Entrepreneurs and Start-Up Team Members
Musicians/Actors/Producers/Authors/Theatre Company Initiators in New York and LA
Financiers, Financial Analysts, Accountants

BELK ALUMNI

Professors of:
Chemistry—Emory and Henry; Carlton
Creative Writing—Boston University
Psychology and Neuroscience—Queens University
Political Science—Queens University
Theatre and Speech—Fordham;
Brooklyn College
Math—Cal Poly
Teachers
Emory University Track and Field Coach
Special Assistant of Strategy, Office of the State Superintendent for Education in Washington, DC
Imagineer at Migo
Instagram Business Lead
Pew Research Center Research Assistant
Physicians
Education Assistant at Walter Art Museum
Software Engineer at Checkr.com
Department of Defense Subject Matter Expert
National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program Officer
Pulitzer Center Fellow on Crisis Reporting
Federal Reserve Research Assistant
Google Product Marketing Manager
THE BELK EXPERIENCE

The John M. Belk Scholarship provides scholars with access to a rich diversity of experience during their undergraduate years. Scholars have great flexibility in the on- and off-campus opportunities they choose to explore. Those experiences, paired with Davidson’s academic programs, deepen the scholars’ insight, 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:

- enrolled in a Training the Street Fundamentals of Financial Accounting and Analysis self-study program in New York;
- pursued public health research in Amman, Jordan;
- conducted ethnographic field work at North Korean migrants’ educational, employment, and residential sites;
- interned with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network in Washington, D.C.;
- interned as assistant to the project manager with Tashkeel, an experimental, art-based not-for-profit in Dubai;
- attended the International Symposium for Directors at La Mama Umbria in Spoleto, Italy;
- analyzed the socioeconomic determinants and motivations of Chinese women’s utilization of infertility treatment;
- directed a health wellness program for the students of Kepler Rwanda;
- participated in a summer innovation lab centered on issues of shelter in Cape Town, South Africa;
- interned at Berkeley’s Early Learning Lab (BELL);
- served as a Democracy Program Intern at the Carter Center in Atlanta;
- served as a Teaching Fellow with the Breakthrough Collaborative;
- worked with Sea of Solidarity, a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization in support of refugee services on the Island of Lesvos;
- explored locations of impact of Islamic and Jewish history in Spain;
- participated in vaccine-use research in Kwale County, Kenya;
- mapped the tribal territory of the Tobelo Dalam in the Central Halmahera region of Indonesia to protect them from industrial encroachment;
- interned at the Brookings Institution’s Brown Center for Educational Policy in Washington, D.C.;
- presented research at the International Conference on Disability Studies, Arts, and Education at Aalto University in Finland and at the “Disability Issues: Varieties of Disability Activism and Disability Studies” conference in Malta;
- conducted travel-writing and photography project about ancient and contemporary pilgrimage practices in the Himalayas;
- studied European transportation and environmental policy in Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland;
- worked on youth development and curbing neighborhood violence in Indianapolis; compiled election data from the last seven years to identify neighborhood voting trends and to propose strategies for the Mayoral and City Council races;
- interned at the Indonesian Ministry of Trade, Office of Gita Wirjawan, in Jakarta;
- worked with Global Rights India, a non-profit specializing in women’s legal rights issues, in Bangalore;
- worked as a Curatorial Intern for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi;
- completed the National Outdoor Leadership School sea kayaking and backpacking course;
- pursued language study in Arabic, Chinese, French and Latin;
- participated in Davidson in Kenya, Davidson in Ghana, Davidson in Washington, Davidson in Cambridge. Davidson in Mwandi, Davidson in Cadiz;
- hiked the Camino de Santiago; and
- worked on organic WWOOF farms in Italy and New Zealand.

To learn more about the unique nature of the Belk Experience, visit www.davidson.edu/belk.
JOHN MONTGOMERY BELK ’43
LEADERSHIP AND VISION

When John M. 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. After serving as an officer of the United Nations Civil Assistance Commission, Belk returned home to his family business in 1952. 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 third 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.


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