

THE FUTURE, S

Claudia Winkler '08 and John Wood '08 — Fulbright Teaching Assistants in Germany

Claudia Winkler and John Wood have spent much of their student careers at Wofford together. They entered the college together in 2004. They shared every German class together. They traveled through Europe together. They even studied abroad in Germany together. As their senior year began they decided to labor together through the intensive application process for a chance at a prestigious Fulbright Program grant.

Now Wood and Winkler are preparing to travel back to Germany together, this time as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants.

Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, associate professor of foreign languages, serves as the Wofford Fulbright advisor and helped Winkler and Wood with the application process. "Claudia and John are both incredible individuals, from both an academic and from a personal standpoint," she says. "I am honored to be their professor and have been re-energized by their enthusiasm for German-speaking culture and the world around us."

The Fulbright application process is long and laborious. Students write two polished essays, gather several letters of recommendation, fill out numerous forms, and must have a stellar GPA.

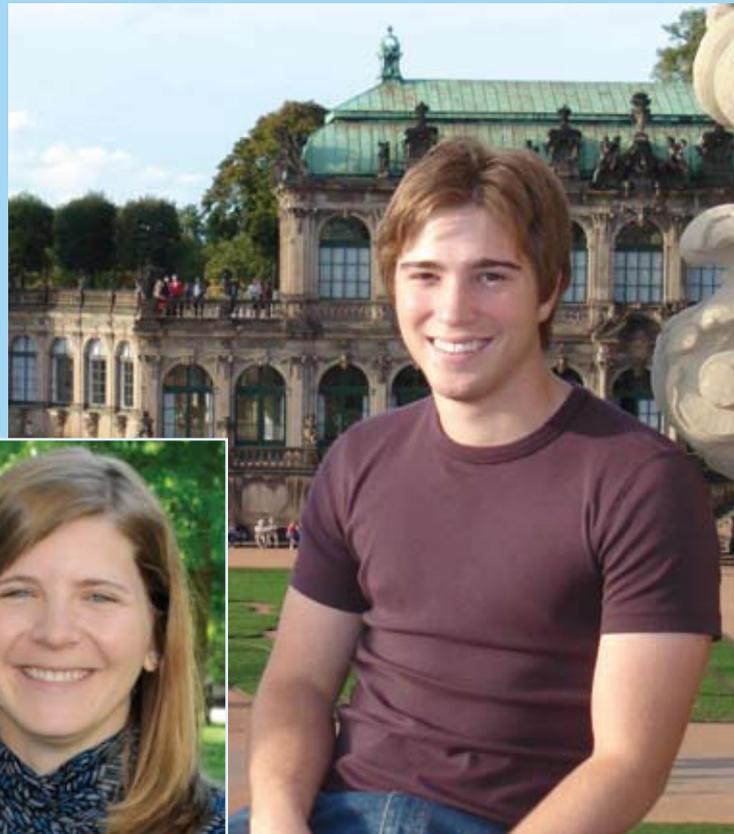
"It is amazing that two students from a college would win an award in the same year, not to mention the fact that they both applied for the Germany program."

As recipients of teaching assistantships, both Winkler and Wood will be placed in an English classroom in a German secondary school. They will be able to enhance their German-speaking skills, observe their host teachers, and even have the opportunity to do some teaching themselves.

"I would like to be a foreign language professor, and this is the best opportunity to observe how one best teaches a second language," says Wood.

Winkler, who recently also was selected as a first runner-up for the Delta Delta Delta's 2008 national Sarah Ida Shaw award, is excited about spending more time in Germany. While unsure of her plans after the Fulbright assistantship, Winkler sees lots of travel and adventure in her future.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and awards approximately 1,500 grants to U.S. students to study, do research or assistant-teach overseas for one academic year. It is the largest U.S. international exchange program.



Claudia Winkler and John Wood

Drew Timmons '08 — English teacher, Chapman High School

"I don't think I ever woke up one day and said, 'Hey, I think I'll be a teacher.' I think I just knew that it's what I wanted to do," says Drew Timmons (left, doing his student teaching). "I tried other things, and nothing made me as happy. It's not the least difficult job I could have chosen, but nothing's really that bad if you really love it. And honestly, if I can be selfish, I'll say that while it'd be nice to make a difference in lives and change someone's world, I also love that teaching English allows me the opportunity to deal with my interests — literature, writing, film — and get paid for it."

In the fall, Timmons will teach English 12, English 10, and broadcast journalism. He chose Chapman because "it just felt right."

"I liked the idea of a small, community-driven school. It was somewhere I wanted to work before I even knew they had openings," says Timmons who won both the English Departmental Award and the W. Norman Cochran Award for excellence in journalism at Wofford.

According to Dr. Deno Trakas, chairman of the Department of English and chairman of the college's Publications Board, "Drew has been the talented and enthusiastic editor-in-chief of the Old Gold & Black for three years. He's been a risk taker, willing to investigate and print stories that have fueled controversy but have also increased discussion on campus."



Mary-Catherine McClain '08 — graduate student in psychology

After graduating from Wofford, McClain (above with Dr. John Lefebvre after she won the Psychology Departmental Award at the college's Honors Convocation) will be attending Florida State University to pursue a Ph.D. in counseling/school psychology.

"I decided to choose the Ph.D. route because of the opportunity to conduct research on my way to my ultimate goal, which is to pursue a career as a professor or counselor in academia," says McClain.

As a student McClain conducted NSF-sponsored research, participated in the Community of Scholars and completed an Honor's Thesis.

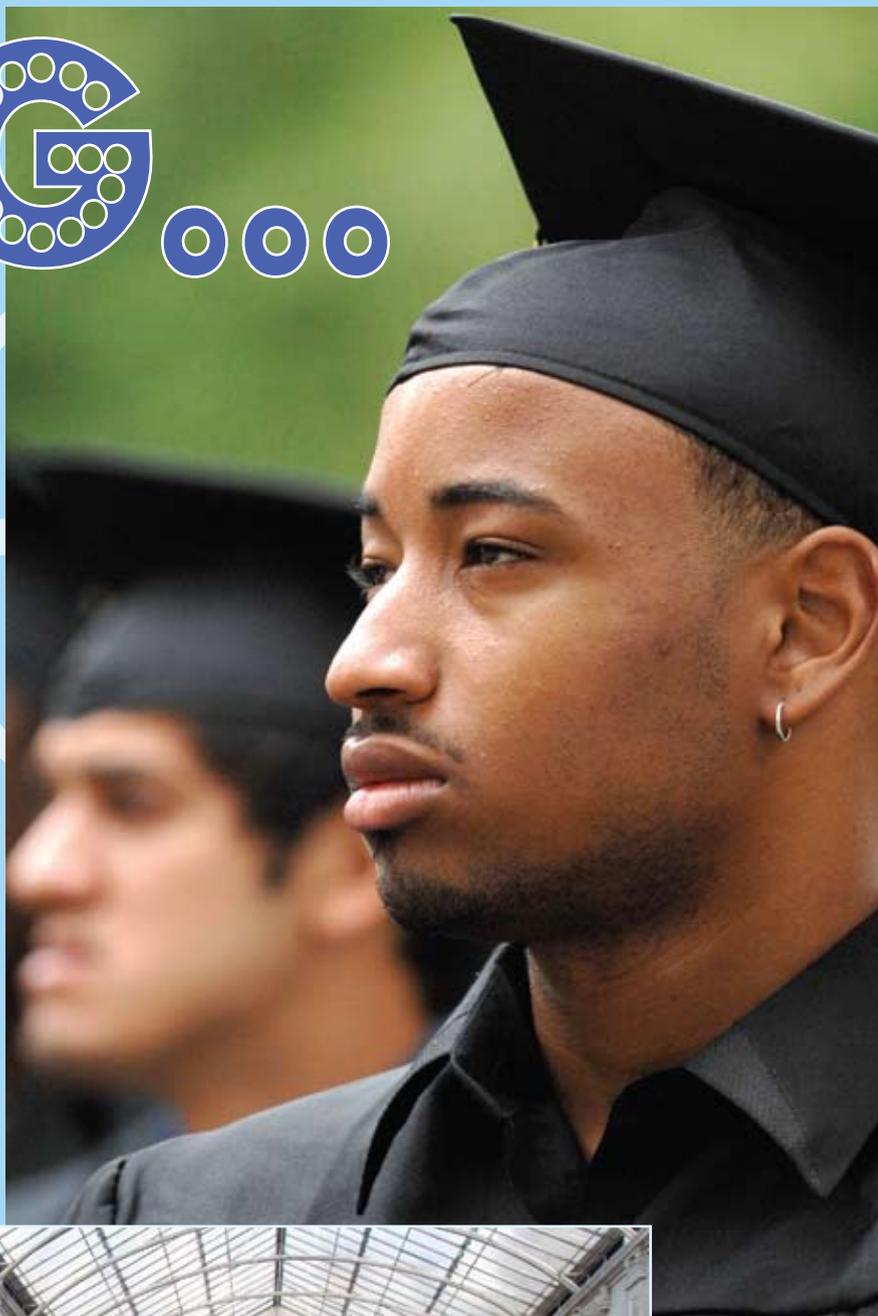


STARRING...

André Small '08 — law school

“I didn’t always want to be a lawyer,” says André Small (right). “In fact, in high school, I had an aptitude for biology, but I also had a knack for debate, and I loved to write! One day, my grandfather, Tyron S. McFarlan Sr. asked me what my future plans were. (I was in the 10th grade in high school at this point). I told him how I wanted to become a pediatrician. He stared at me for about two minutes without blinking — it was the most awkward thing — and he said in response, ‘Nope.... no, no! You’re not going to be a doctor. You are not meant to be a doctor; you are going to be a lawyer!’ I was so offended at first! I loved biology, and I just knew that I was going to become a pediatrician. Little did I know that that seed of wisdom far beyond my understanding would blossom as well as it has.... Next thing you know, it’s my second year at Wofford, and I’m studying for the LSAT! I am so excited about becoming a lawyer. I hope to finish law school in order to give back to my community and help those less fortunate than I by using my power as an attorney — I believe that it is so important to give back!”

Small begins law school at the University of South Carolina in the fall. As a Wofford student, he volunteered at the Cleveland Elementary School Math Academy, was a Success Initiative student and participated in Gospel Choir, Wofford Singers and the Association of Multicultural Students.



Zach Chillag '08 — future veterinarian

Two days after graduation, Zach Chillag (above with whale vertebrae) travelled to Vietnam with Lindsey Lane '08 and Dr. C.L. Abercrombie to perform a herpetological survey of Phu Qhoc Island. In July, he travels to Grand Cayman to perform blue iguana conservation work. In August, Chillag is off to Ecuador to perform medical work, learning the language and aiding a physician in a rural amazonian village. In the fall, Chillag will work at a veterinary surgery clinic in Columbia, S.C., while applying to veterinary school.

“I came into college thinking I wanted to be a psychologist,” says Chillag. “I soon realized that would be a terrible career path for me, so it changed to being a doctor, like my dad, and his dad, and his dad.... I chose to take a year off to perform some valuable service work and travel some before the retirement age jumps to 80, but I also wanted to gain some insight and experience before making a binding decision on my career path. I think being patient is key. As R.W. Emerson advises, ‘Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.’”



Bevin Herrmann-Bell '08 — writer, painter, actor, scholar...

Bevin Herrmann-Bell (above in the Passage Pommeraye in Nantes while she was studying aboard) was urged by her French professor, Dr. Catherine Schmitz, to enter a writing contest sponsored by the French Consulate of the Southeast in Atlanta. She did so, never thinking she might actually win. Think again. After tying for first-place in the contest, Herrmann-Bell is busy planning for an all-expense paid two-week trip to Roussillon in southern France this summer.

The competition asked participants to incorporate 10 French words chosen by a committee into a writing piece between 10 and 25 lines on a given theme. The pieces, all of which were written in French, then were evaluated and winners were selected. Before her trip, Herrmann-Bell traveled to Atlanta with Schmitz to accept the award at a reception.

Herrmann-Bell’s long-term plans include finding a career where she can use her intercultural studies and French skills.