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University Of New Hampshire Students Win Fulbright Scholarships

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Andrew McKernan

DURHAM, N.H. - Two students at the University of New Hampshire have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships that will allow them to study abroad during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Senior Andrew McKernan will conduct research in Russia while Graduate student Michelle Walsh will study in Japan.

McKernan will spend the next academic year in Moscow doing library and archival work at the Russian State Library and Shchusev State Museum of Architectural History, attending lectures at the Moscow Architectural Institute, and studying the buildings constructed prior to Stalin's death. His topic is "Temples to the Soviet Regime: The Politics of Soviet

Construction."

"After Moscow became the capital of the Soviet Union, it also became the location for groundbreaking forays in the field of architecture," McKernan says. "This research seeks to examine the most quintessential of Soviet construction to understand how political and social processes shaped architectural history in the first half of the twentieth century."

A resident of Bow, McKernan will receive a bachelor's degree from UNH with a double major in Russian language and linguistics. He is a member of the UNH Honors Program, Student Senate, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society.

McKernan is also a four-year Presidential Scholar and Robert Byrd Scholar, and he received prizes for academic excellence in Russian language from UNH in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and from the Middlebury Summer Language School in 2006. In 2008 he won the Honor's Program writing contest for his essay on democracy, and received an International Research Opportunities Program grant to conduct research in Russia during the summer of 2008

In preparation for a career in college teaching, McKernan also has accepted an offer for admission into the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, deferred until September 2010 following the completion of his Fulbright year.



Walsh, a Lodi, New Jersey, native and UNH Ph.D. candidate in zoology education, will spend the coming year working with scientists at the Maizuru Fisheries Research Station at the invitation of Dr. Yoh Yamashita of Kyoto University. Her research concerns the challenges of flatfish stock enhancement. In her proposal, Walsh explains that flatfish -- which include flounder, halibut and sole-- are among the most desirable fish for human consumption. However, because they are especially vulnerable in their early life stages, a small percentage reach maturity and their populations have steadily declined in the past few decades.

Michelle Walsh

Concerning her specific interest in Japan, Walsh says, "Japan has the highest per capita consumption of fish in the world, so it is not surprising that Japanese scientists lead research in marine fish stock enhancement."

She will study the strategies that contribute to successful flatfish stock enhancement in Japan with the hope of transferring what she learns to the stock enhancement of related flatfish (winter and summer flounder) found on the U.S. East Coast.

Prior to coming to UNH to pursue her doctorate, Walsh earned a master's in education from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J., taught high school science for two years, and worked as a laboratory technician for the National Marine Fisheries Service. While in Australia for a brief time, she served as a field assistant and guest lecturer for a marine ecology field course at Deakin University.

At UNH, Walsh has worked extensively with Huntting Howell on research projects involving fish indigenous to the Gulf of Maine. Following her Fulbright year and the completion of her degree, Walsh would like to teach and conduct research at the university level.

A photo of McKernan can be downloaded at <http://unh.edu/news/img/mckernan.jpg>.

A photo of Walsh can be downloaded at <http://unh.edu/news/img/walsh.jpg>

Two UNH students have also been selected as alternates for Fulbright awards. They are Graham Loper, '09, an MFA/studio arts candidate from Portsmouth, and Sarah Stickney, '10, an MFA/poetry candidate from Santa Fe, NM.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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