Scholars gain from Rhodes,

By Patricia Mroczek

Mike Lanese knows it takes good coaching to become a star.

It earned him athletic honors on the football field. A different style of coaching helped him receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship announced in December.

For his academic accomplishment, Lanese was "coached" by Ohio State's 20-member Rhodes/Marshall Committee. The group of faculty and staff has assisted students through the Rhodes and Marshall interviewing process since the late 1970s.

Lanese says the committee and several others "guided me in the correct path" toward the Rhodes Scholarship. "Sometimes the questions they asked were harder than the ones the (state and regional) Rhodes Committee asked," Lanese recently told the Board of Trustees.

Ohio State had one Rhodes Scholar in each of the years 1907, 1913, 1931 and 1986, and one Marshall Scholar in 1982 and 1985.

When students get into the interviewing stage, they are assisted by faculty like Charles Babcock, chairperson of the Department of Classics and chairperson of the University's Rhodes/Marshall Committee.

"One nice thing about Mike's success," Babcock says, "is it's called a lot of attention to the potential. We have a structure that allows us to assist those students in the competition, not only in a technical way but a personal way."

Babcock says students interested in pursuing post-graduate opportunities need to "seek out advice and information at the very beginning of their undergraduate careers. The choice of courses is always vital."

Ohio State also has a responsibility, he says.

"A large university has to go the extra mile because the numbers are bigger here. A Mike Lanese isn't guided into successful candidacy, he chooses to go in. The best we can do is assist in that process."

Jan Adams, acting vice provost for international affairs and former director of the Center for International Studies, served as the chairperson of the Rhodes/Marshall Committee for many years.

Dean Alleman, a 1982 Ohio State graduate, was assisted by the committee in earning a Marshall Scholarship. Alleman spent 1982-84 at Cambridge University in England as a Marshall Scholar, earning a master's degree in mathematics. He now is a Ph.D. candidate at Ohio State in artificial intelligence.

Alleman says many others could receive the benefits he received. "There are a lot of gifted people at Ohio State who could get scholarships like this if only they'd believe they could."

Both the Rhodes and Marshall scholarships pay fees, travel and a stipend for two to three years study in England. Rhodes Scholars study at Oxford University. Marshall Scholars can study at any one of 44 British universities.

The Rhodes Scholarship was founded in 1902 by Cecil J. Rhodes, a British politician and diamond baron in South Africa.

The Marshall Scholarship was established in 1953 by the United Kingdom in gratitude to U.S. General George Marshall for his economic recovery plan for Europe following World War II. Ohio State graduate Gerry Willis is currently studying astronomy at Cambridge University as a Marshall Scholar.
Marshall ‘coaching’

Scholar.

John Mount, vice president and dean emeritus of University College, says there is a two-part key to landing prestigious scholarships. Identifying talented students at an early age is the first step. But just as important, he explains, is informing them of the resources of the University, especially the faculty.

In 1981, the University gave Mount initial responsibility for identifying young candidates who might break Ohio State’s 50-year streak without a Rhodes Scholarship. Mount was assisted by Tom Minnick, assistant dean of University College, who remains very active in the recruiting and information network on campus.

When Mount was vice president of University College, it was his signature that appeared on a letter congratulating a young Mike Lanese after he earned a perfect 4.0 during his freshman year.

The fact was something Mount had forgotten until his call to the Lanese family to congratulate them on the Rhodes Scholarship. Lanese’s mother, Annette, tearfully reminded Mount of his early involvement with her son.

“It really is a combination of the efforts of many people,” Mount says of the Rhodes-Marshall process. “There isn’t any magic, just a lot of hard work and students’ willingness to stretch their minds on broad matters.”

Although retired, Mount remains active in recruiting students to attend Ohio State. Some of those students are invited to the annual spring Rhodes/ Marshall luncheon, hosted each year to inform freshman and sophomores about post-graduate opportunities.

Mount and his wife, Ruth, initiated the luncheons several years ago.

Those efforts have been boosted by the Alumni Association’s Alumni Advisory Council. Jack Eby, a 1962 Ohio State graduate and former president of Ford Motor Company of Japan, was part of the AAC when he helped found the John T. Mount Fund for Post-Baccalaureate Study. With the fund, Ohio State continues the luncheons and has begun a series of receptions to encourage students to learn about post-graduate opportunities.

Ohio State also has expanded its ongoing effort to include brochures, in-class presentations and full-time advisers.

Mary Lou Neff is the international scholarships and grants adviser at the University Center for International Studies. Neff says Ohio State tries to key on students who want to study overseas. But finding those gifted people in a student population of over 50,000 is not easy, she explains.

“We will work with students from an early stage if they will come in and let us know they’re interested. But too many wait until their junior year to get involved. We want them early so they can gain advice on structuring their curriculum for the academic stretch needed to win the scholarships.”

About 10 Ohio State students make formal applications to the Rhodes and Marshall programs each year.

Rhodes candidates must pass interviews on the campus, state and regional levels. Interviewing committees are made up mostly of Rhodes Scholars. There are eight regions in the United States, each selecting four scholars for a total of 32 U.S. Rhodes Scholars a year.

Marshall candidates must pass interviews on the campus and regional levels. On the interviewing committee are representatives of the British Embassy, Marshall Scholars, educators and professionals. There are five regions in the United States, each selecting six scholars for a total of 30 U.S. Marshall Scholars a year.

For more information on Rhodes/ Marshall opportunities, contact Mary Lou Neff, 422-9660.
Scholars face harder process

Pre-screened candidates more prepared, director says

By STEPHANIE REBER
Lantern staff writer

A new pre-screening process has made OSU candidates for the 1988 Rhodes and Marshall scholarships stronger and better prepared.

"This preliminary process encourages the more eligible applicants while at the same time lets students know who wouldn't be very competitive," said Alfred Kuhn, chairman of the Rhodes/ Marshall committee, and director of the university honors center.

The Rhodes scholarship, founded by Cecil Rhodes in 1902, honors those students of high intellect, character, and values, Kuhn said. The student should also have physical vigor. Recipients are awarded a scholarship for two years of schooling at Oxford University, he said. The Marshall scholarship grants the recipient two years of schooling at any university in England that coincides with his or her major. This scholarship places more stress on intellect and related activities.

There are 32 Rhodes scholars nationwide a year and 30 Marshall scholars.

THE PRELIMINARY application process started last spring for this year's OSU applicants. Interested students submitted a personal statement and a critical essay from a recent course. The 12 honors programs across the university also submitted recommendations. There were 35 preliminary nominations.

"The early awareness of the preliminary process encouraged students to apply. The experience with the pre-screening interview helped them with the formal interview," said Mary Lou Neff, international scholarships and grants advisor.

Twelve of the applicants were invited to the preliminary interview that was also held last spring. From these 12, five candidates were invited for the final interview.

Five students were recommended by Ohio State for the state interview held in Cleveland on Dec. 1. The list of candidates invited to the interview will be released later this month. Twelve candidates across the state are invited to interview.

TWO OF the twelve will then be asked to the district interview in Chicago. After this step, the candidates find out if they earned one of the most prestigious national scholarship awards.

Members of the scholarship committee think the process helps OSU's candidates through the process.

Two years ago when Mike Lanese won the Rhodes scholarship, he had no preparation for the formal interview, as most applicants do now.

"We get a chance to intervene earlier with the preliminary process," said David Frantz, vice-chairman of the English department. "With Mike Lanese we were unable to do this and had no idea of his high chance of success until the formal interview. We were only able to help him after the main interview."

THE COMMITTEE now sees the applicants in advance, and can work with people much earlier who have the best chance of success, Frantz said. He is also a member of the Rhodes/Marshall committee.

"The easiest thing to do is look at the essay. On paper everyone looks great. A great deal rests on the interviewing process. To be able to project yourself is very crucial," he said.

"Even if students are not successful, it is a key teaching and learning experience," Kuhn said. "They deserve our (the committee's) time and consideration."

"It's a tremendously rewarding experience to see the not-so-gifted student really improve throughout the process," Frantz added.

In order to become a strong candidate, Kuhn said, "One must be distinctive, be an intellect, have character, and have a forceful value structure. It is someone who wants to make a difference who is a leader, and is able to express one's intellect and values."
Marshall scholars speak on England

By NICOLE R. HAMPTON
Lantern staff writer

Universities in England stress independent work more than their American counterparts, according to two Ohio State Marshall scholars who studied at Cambridge University.

The Marshall scholarship is given to applicants who have the potential to make a significant contribution to society. The winner of the national scholarship studies at a university in England.

Dean Allemang, a 1982 graduate, was OSU’s first Marshall scholar.

Allemang said it is hard for students to talk to their advisers at Cambridge because advisers don’t keep regular office hours. Trying to find one might lead to a search through the coffee houses of Cambridge, he said.

“You have to work to see your adviser,” he said. “They don’t stand over you, breathing down your neck.”


“They do get help when they need it,” he said.

Williger, who is working on his doctorate in astronomy, said a student finds an adviser to supervise his or her program, but is then free to work on a thesis with very little intervention. “There is no coursework,” he said.

Williger is two years into his program and expects to attend Cambridge for another two years. His scholarship covers only three years, so he’s looking for additional funding.

Williger and Allemang shared their Cambridge experiences during a slide show and discussion presented Thursday to a group of students at the Honors House.

In addition to the independent attitude at English universities, Williger and Allemang spoke of differences in English culture they had to adjust to.

Allemang said there are many old “pots of money” around, but they are earmarked for very special, and often strange, purposes. Not just anyone can apply for them, he said.

“The English really enjoy being eccentric,” he said. “When they die, they leave their money to strange causes so everyone will remember how eccentric they were.”

Allemang said most British people don’t know what the Marshall scholarship is, and when they find out they aren’t happy about it.

“They say, ‘My tax dollars are paying for an American to come

Marshall scholar Gerry Williger here?’” he said.

Williger said the general attitude toward Americans is unfavorable because the British are used to American tourists who flash their money and don’t like the way the English do things.

“I’ve found it’s not a good thing to advertise yourself as an American,” he said.

However, being an American in England does have some advantages, Williger said.

“As an American, you aren’t part of a social class, so you get to mix with everyone,” he said.

Since the university and the city have grown up together, colleges and departments are scattered all over the Cambridge, Williger said.

“Often, you’ll find the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker between two departments,” he said.
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OHIO STATE STUDENT GARTH ROBINS NAMED MARSHALL SCHOLAR

COLUMBUS -- Garth C. Robins, a senior at The Ohio State University, has been named one of 40 recipients nationwide of the 1997 British Marshall Scholarship.

Robins, an honors student majoring in physics with a minor in Spanish, is a 1993 graduate of Hawken High School in Gates Mills. He is also a winner of the 1996 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. He is the son of Miriam K. Robins, 18432 Lynton Road, Shaker Heights.

In addition to earning excellent grades and participating in many activities, Robins has been an undergraduate research assistant in the laboratory of R. Sooryakumar, a physics professor at Ohio State. He is currently performing condensed matter experiments on metallic thin film magnetic tri-layers.

Regarded as one of the most prestigious undergraduate achievements, Marshall Scholarships are awarded by the British government in gratitude for the assistance received after World War II under the Marshall Plan, the 50th anniversary of which will be celebrated in June 1997. The scholarships cover tuition, books, travel and living expenses in the United Kingdom while students continue their studies for two or three years at a British university.

Robins plans to study physics at Cambridge University and learn to engineer microelectronic devices while participating in the Microelectronics Engineering and Semiconductor Physics (MESP) program.

"It's just amazing," said Robins. "The program is so different there. They expect you to do a lot more individual work. That is just perfect for me. And besides physics, there is so much I want to do while I'm there."

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"The Marshall is one of the most notable awards open to post-graduate students," said David Hothersall, director of Ohio State’s Honors Center. "It is a wonderful recognition of Garth and the quality of undergraduate programs at Ohio State as well as the Department of Physics."

In announcing the award, the British Consulate-General noted: "Garth’s academic accomplishments are recognized by his near-perfect (3.94 GPA) record at Ohio State, his membership in Phi Beta Kappa and the Barry Goldwater Scholarship he won earlier this year. But he is active outside the classroom too: he practices Aikido, weight-lifting, mountain biking, intramural hockey and, above all, Tae Kwon Do. Garth is president of an Ohio State Tae Kwon Do club and aims to compete in the sport as a member of the U.S. national team at the 2000 Olympics (at which it will debut). In 1995 at the Pan-American Games Open Taekwondo Tournament he exercised yet another talent as a Spanish/English/ Sign Language interpreter."

Only 40 students win the award each year, and the award is based almost entirely on academic ability. Applicants must have a minimum 3.8 GPA and are encouraged to have broad or unusual academic interests.

CONTACT: Ruth Gerstner, University Communications (614) 292-8424 or Garth Robins, (614) 299-9186 (Columbus) or (216)991-6296 (Shaker Heights).

Note: The easiest way to reach Garth Robins is by email. His address is robins.8@osu.edu He also has a web page at http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~robins/cv.html If you have trouble reaching him by phone and don’t have access to email, please call Ruth Gerstner at University Communications (614) 292-8424, who will send him an email message for you.
Ohio State senior awarded prestigious Marshall Scholarship

Ohio State senior Yoonhee Patricia Ha, of Proctorville, is one of 43 students nationwide selected as a 2007 Marshall Scholar. She is the first Ohio State student chosen for the prestigious scholarship since 1997, and the only Ohio State student ever to have won both the Marshall and the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

The highly competitive Marshall Scholarship provides the winners with two years of study at the British university of their choice, courtesy of the British government. The program began in 1953 as a gesture of thanks to the people of the United States for the assistance received after World War II under the Marshall Plan.

Ha is double-majoring in microbiology and finance, with minors in Korean and political science. She plans to pursue graduate and professional studies in public health and medicine and use her training to work as a doctor for the underserved in the United States and in developing countries.

As a Marshall Scholar in 2007, she will go to the University of London’s School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to study public health.

Ha says she feels fortunate to be selected. “I am grateful to God, my family, my friends, and the countless number of people at Ohio State who helped to make this dream a reality. If anything, the whole experience helped me to realize how fortunate I am to be a Buckeye;” she said.

“There were so many people who gave up their precious time to read over my application, write letters of recommendation, sit on mock interview panels, accommodate my travel schedule, and just encourage me.”

She has been the recipient of 26 merit scholarships, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship and the Walter M. Rudin Junior Scholarship (presented to the most outstanding junior in Ohio State’s Fisher College of Business).

She serves as undergraduate student representative on the Ohio State University Board of Trustees, and is a research assistant in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Caligiuri, in the College of Medicine Division of Hematology and Oncology. She has led a number of programs and events at Ohio State and has completed an internships at the American Cancer Society as a policy research

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Marshall Scholarship - 2

intern and worked at the National East Asian Languages Resource Center as an editor.

Last summer, she volunteered in Kibera, Kenya, with an organization that aims to help the poor cope with HIV/AIDS.

She is director of The Ohio Academy of Science’s Student Advisory Council, co-founder and co-vice president of the Global Health Initiative, a member of the Honors Cohort Program, the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, and the university’s Honors Collegium. The Honors Collegium provides support for students as they pursue high profile internships, prestigious scholarships and fellowships and acceptance into top graduate programs.

Details of the 2007 Marshall Scholarship winners are at
www.marshallscholarship.org/winners.html.
Ohio State senior Alexander Chaitoff has been named a 2013 Marshall Scholar. The Marshall Scholarship supports graduate study at any academic institution in the United Kingdom; thirty-six scholarships were awarded to outstanding seniors and recent graduates across the country. "I’m humbled to have been chosen for the award, proud to represent Ohio State, and also very excited to be continuing my education in the United Kingdom," Alex says.

Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament and named in honor of U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the Scholarships commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan, and they express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts. This year, 941 U.S. students were nominated by their universities for consideration for the award. A select group of students were interviewed at British Consulates around the country, and 36 students were ultimately chosen for the 2013 Marshall Scholar class.

Famous Marshall Scholars include Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Thomas Friedman, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, and sound engineer and inventor Ray Dolby.

A Presidential Scholar and member of the Honors Collegium, Alex is completing a double major in microbiology and political science. However, his interest in health and medicine was in place before stepping foot on campus. Growing up in Solon, Ohio, Alex began conducting research at the nearby Cleveland Clinic in high school. This culminated in the opportunity to present his work at the World Congress of Cardiology in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Upon starting at Ohio State, Alex continued his involvement in research with Dr. Tina Henkin in the Department of Microbiology.

In his sophomore year, Alex began conducting research in the College of Public Health under Dr. Thomas Wickizer, studying racial disparities in seeking treatment for mental illness. "Dr. Wickizer has been an amazing mentor," Alex says. "He was the type of advisor I dreamed of finding in college, and I feel very lucky that I have been able to work so closely with him." For his senior thesis, Alex is comparing how different people who have experienced symptoms of depression view their own race and how this view can affect the likelihood of these individuals to seek out and receive mental health care. Alex presented his research along with Dr. Wickizer in San Francisco last month during an oral session at the American Public Health Association annual meeting.

He is a co-founder and director of research for the Pure Water Access Project (PWAP), a nonprofit studying the implementation of water filters in developing nations.
Honors & Scholars Fellowships - The Ohio State University

While the focus of this organization is access to clean water, it is unique in its approach to the problem: the organization both provides aid and studies the aid itself. PWAP is a research-based group that aims to study the cultural barriers to providing water access, with a goal of arming humanitarian organizations with best practices to ensure their efforts are most effectively implemented. Last spring, Alex led a project in Nicaragua to begin a study of how rural populations use (or don’t use) newer, water filters provided by PWAP.

In 2012, Alex was named a Truman Scholar, recognizing his commitment to a career in public service. He was the only Truman Scholar from the state of Ohio and is the sixth Scholar from the University. In addition, Alex was a member of this year’s Homecoming Court, is a brother in Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, volunteers at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, and serves as a vice president of the Global Health Initiative. He also completed an internship with the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions.

As a Marshall Scholar, Alex will spend one year at the University of Sheffield in England obtaining a Master's of Public Health before returning to the U.S. to attend medical school. He plans to dedicate his career to improving the quality of healthcare for minorities. "I want to have a career where I impact both individuals and groups, and I think that as a physician-researcher I'll have the opportunity to do just that by treating patients while also contributing to policy research," says Alex.

Alex is Ohio State’s sixth Marshall Scholar; the University’s last scholar was Yoonhee Ha in 2007. Students interested in pursuing the Marshall Scholarship or other national fellowship opportunities should contact the Undergraduate Fellowship Office. More information on the Marshall Scholarship can be found through the Marshall Commission.

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