

The Star Fund
Student Travel and Research
Select Awards and Student Comments 2004-06

The STAR Fund provides partial support for students to

- 1) Travel to present research at an academic conference.
 - 2) Travel to a significant performance or performing arts competition.
 - 3) Travel to take advantage of a significant research opportunity.
- Thomas McCargar (music) won the right in state and regional competitions to travel with his accompanist to the Music Teacher's National Voice Competition in Kansas City in March 2004, where he won a national award.
 - Karen Murphy (Psychology) presented a poster session on her research on beliefs about chance in gamblers and non-gamblers. at the Midwestern Psychological Association's annual conference in Chicago in April 2004.
 - Michael Cagley. (anthropology/sociology and English), Michael presented his paper "Finding the Strange in the Familiar: Victor Turner's Rite of Passage in TRIO Student Support Services" at the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges 2004 Annual Meeting in Montreal in April 2004.
 - Teah Philips (Art/Painting) and Brad Brennan (Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Chemistry) worked with two faculty – Angela Battle (Art) and Mark Vitha (Chemistry) – to deliver a session entitled "Creativity in a Straightjacket" at the November meeting of the *Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning*.
 - Mallory Knodel (Physics) made a presentation at the IEEE Applied Superconductivity Conference in October in Jacksonville, Florida. Out of 1500 attendees only 10 were undergraduate students. She presented research she had compiled during summer at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Palo Alto, California.
 - Renae Steichen. (Environmental Policy and Politics) participated in the Energy Action Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in January 2005.
 - Grant Mitchell (music) used STAR funds in October 2004 to attend a saxophone master class at the University of Minnesota.
 - Carrie Williams (Music) presented a research paper on "The Plain and Simple Way: Quaker Hymnody and the Articulation of Quaker Identity" at the National Conference on American hymnody in September 2005.
 - Cecile Forsberg (Music Business) traveled to the Aldeburgh Music Festival in England to work as an intern in the Summer 2005.
 - Steven Patton, Wesley Robinson, Laura Brill, Lewis Christopher Helm, Andy Poppen, Anthony DiMeglio, Lauren Dudding, and Jonathan Marten received partial support based on need to sing with the Chamber Choir on its January 2006 tour of England.
 - Timothy Bostwick, (Music) traveled in 2005 as a semi-finalist to an opera contest held in Shreveport, Louisiana named "The Singer of the Year." Timothy won the contest.

- Khin Lay Win (Physics) traveled to the American Physical Society meeting in April 2006 in Dallas where she presented work she has done on the Dirac equation.
- Matt Smith and Skyler Nesheim (Computer Science), traveled to the 2006 Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium at Iowa Wesleyan College., presenting research that they conducted with Professor Michael Rieck on wireless routing protocols.
- Jacob Klinkhammer, Douglas Graham, Ashley Sinclair (Theatre) attended the American College Theatre Festival in Minnesota in 2006 to present a scene from Drake's production of "Picnic."

Students are overwhelming grateful for the chance to pursue these experiences. Although we only provide partial support, from \$100-\$300, it often makes the difference in their ability to travel.

- "I greatly appreciate the money that this STAR fund has provided, and hope that other students in the future will have the same opportunity as I did to be assisted with their special events."
- "I was able to meet other researchers conducting similar research, which could lead to future studies."
- "The experience was completely positive and tremendously beneficial...I had the opportunity to converse with a variety of experts in the field as well as graduate level students [and develop] a better understanding of the behaviorist perspective." It was "the perfect conclusion [to my Drake education] bridging my time at Drake with my future in graduate school and the professional world."
- "Singing in the amazing cathedrals and churches of England was exciting because I encountered history, fantastic acoustics, and the creation of personal memories all in one irreplaceable experience."
- "I don't think I've ever walked away from a choir tour with such a new appreciation from the music performed on that tour...it has more to do with the emphasis placed on the spaces we sung in and the cultural context with which we were immersed. So many of the places we sung had such a long reverb, something not easily obtained here in the States. The fact that we sang music that was composed during the same time period that most of these establishments were in their heaviest use demonstrated to me exactly why the music of this time period was composed as it was. The reason each part worked autonomously was because in each of those spaces the parts would individually ring and reverberate, and each chord would sing in a way that couldn't be emulated here in the states. In that way I learned so much about each piece of music with regards to how the composer would have wanted it to sound..."
- "Thank you for the support of the Chamber Choir ... Most especially, thank you for the scholarship. Without it, I would probably only dream of going to England and because of the [STAR Award] it became reality."