Fulbright Week

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It’s Fulbright week at WKU, a chance for the campus community to learn more about the U.S. government’s flagship international exchange program.

Amy Bingham has more on the Fulbright opportunity in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU has made the “Chronicle of Higher Education’s” Top Producers of Fulbright Students two years in a row. It’s becoming more and more common for WKU students and faculty to receive this prestigious honor.

Dr. Tony Harkins \ Assoc. Prof. of History

Kristin Wilson \ Fulbright to South Africa ( second reference )

Dr. Laura McGee \ Dept. Head, Modern Languages

Brittany Broder \ Fulbright to France

History professor Tony Harkins, who was awarded a Fulbright to Austria in 2012, now serves as a scholar liason.

 “Main thing is encouraging them to try it.”

“It’s my first one I applied for yes and I got it..”

Educational Leadership professor Kristin Wilson is talking about receiving a faculty Fulbright award to South Africa for two months a year for the next three years.

 “ I wrote a proposal for studying college student persistence. It’s something I’ve done in the U.S. so it’s a familiar type of research for me. I’m just applying it in a new context and a new country.”

 “There’s a lot of different kinds of Fulbrights people can apply for, you don’t have to go for a full year, there are shorter terms, lots of locations and disciplines.” Brittany Broder is a senior majoring in both physics and Arabic.

She recently received word she had been offered a Fulbright to continue her studies in France.

 “Having already wanting to go to France and France being a good place to study nuclear engineering, it seemed like a good combination.”

Harkins says it was unique having an outsider perspective which is what the Fulbright is all about.

 “When Senator Fulbright created the program it was designed for that. For Americans to understand the world better and for the world to understand America better.”

A record 15 WKU students are up for Fulbrights this year. So far six have been offered grants, four have been designated alternates and three are still waiting to hear.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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