Information for Fellowship Candidates

The Gaines Fellowship is granted for a term of two years, renewal in the second year contingent upon continuing high-quality academic performance and meeting requirements of the Gaines Center Fellowship contract (participating in required events, e.g. special lectures and field trips). The stipend of $2000 in the first year and $3000 in the second is paid contingent upon completion of the requirements for each semester.

Junior Gaines Fellows must enroll in the special Gaines Seminar (offered for four credit hours each semester). Unlike standard undergraduate courses, the seminar entails extracurricular events and conversations among students and faculty. Junior Fellows are expected to adjust their schedules to accommodate not only the extensive reading and writing required in this seminar but also the social and cultural activities as well. The seminar course is held on Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Junior Fellows are also expected to complete a community-oriented project either independently or in small groups. Fellows design the project over the course of the fall semester in consultation with a group of mentors and present their projects around midterm of the spring semester.

Senior Gaines Fellows must complete the Gaines Fellowship Senior Thesis (usually for 6 credit hours). Thesis workshops periodically meet to assist Senior Gaines Fellows in the development of their thesis projects. The thesis must be completed and defended orally before a three-member advisory committee during the second semester of the second year. Working closely with their faculty advisors, Gaines Fellows have found preparation of the thesis an intellectually rigorous and time-consuming activity, to a degree uncommon among undergraduate courses. Senior Fellows should adapt their course schedules and credit hour distribution accordingly.

All Gaines Fellows are encouraged to share in the social and intellectual life of the Center. They are asked to attend and host a variety of activities planned for the Fellowship and for special guests. Participation in afternoon and evening events may require an adjustment in individual schedules.

Special facilities are available for Gaines Fellows. The Bingham Davis House includes a computer lab and a Fellows’ lounge. Special scholarships for research and travel are available to Gaines Fellows.

For further information, please telephone the Gaines Center office at (859) 257-1537.