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Library Research Award Winner Earns Marshall Scholarship

December 7, 2005

Alletta Brenner, a UO student who earlier this year earned top honors in the UO Libraries' Undergraduate Library Research Award competition, has been awarded a prestigious Marshall Scholarship from the British government.



Brenner, 21, is a senior enrolled in the Robert D. Clark Honors College. She will use the Marshall Scholarship to pursue degrees in international politics and African studies at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests focus on how nongovernmental organizations can influence the development and spread of human rights in principle and practice.

Only 40 British Marshall Scholarships are awarded each year to students throughout the United States. The scholarship was created by the United Kingdom to honor the American general and statesman George Marshall for his vision of post-World War II recovery through the Marshall Plan. The purpose of the scholarship is to foster U.S.-British relationships by supporting outstanding American students as they pursue advanced degrees in the United Kingdom.

"The Marshall Scholarship is one of the two most distinctive honors for study abroad that can be won by any American student," said Dave Frohnmayer, university president. "Alletta is an exceptionally gifted and hard-working student who entered the University of Oregon with great promise and has excelled in her studies. She has brought great honor to the academic program of the university."

Born and raised in Forest Grove, Brenner developed an early interest in issues of social justice while helping her parents bring food and clothing to migrant farm workers. At Edinburgh, she'll broaden her humanitarianism to the international arena through an examination of efforts by non-governmental organizations to end slavery in Niger.

"Eventually, I'd like to help establish an international standard for labor around the world," said Brenner, "particularly in countries that join in trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. We need to establish a level playing field for all workers."

Brenner is majoring in history and women's and gender studies, with a minor in political science. She plans at some point to enroll in law school, where she will focus on human rights issues and international law.

Last March, Brenner won top honors in the library's [Undergraduate Library Research Awards competition](#) for her paper entitled "The Good and Bad of That Sexe: Monstrosity and Womanhood in Early Modern England," written for a Historical Epistemology seminar taught by Daniel Rosenberg, assistant professor of history in the Clark Honors College.

The research awards program honors UO undergraduates who produce outstanding original research and scholarship during each calendar year using resources available in the UO Libraries. Applications are currently being accepted for research papers written in the 2005 calendar year. For complete details, visit the library's [Undergraduate Library Research Award page](#).

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