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UMM Student Among Fulbright Scholarship Recipients

Summary:

(May 29, 2003)-Ilona Moore credits her student experience at the University of Minnesota, Morris with preparing her for a successful future and, in particular, for her most recent honor. Moore, who graduated from UMM in 2002, is among the most recent recipients of a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship. The scholarship will cover Moore's expenses for one year to do research in her country of choice. Moore has chosen Bangladesh in southern Asia where she will travel to study and contribute to the discussion of development and its relation to indigenous knowledge and local conditions.

"It is an amazing opportunity and honor to receive a Fulbright," said Moore.

An amazing opportunity indeed, but an intricate process by which to get there.

U.S. Student Program applicants like Moore undergo a competitive selection process including review of their project proposals and applications by the Fulbright National Screening Committee and the relevant supervising agency abroad final approval is conferred by the Presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Selection is based on the applicant's academic or professional record, language preparation, the feasibility of the proposed study project and personal qualifications. UMM Assistant Professor of French Sarah Buchanan is chair of the campus Fulbright Screening Committee.

"Although Bangladesh is unremarkable by many standard development indicators, it has defied conventional models by achieving some human, social and political development without the assumed prerequisite economic infrastructure," said Moore. "I hope to research Bangladesh's approach to development, to see if the concept has been reconstructed by integrating Western theory with local wisdom."

A Duluth native and daughter of Beth Tamminen and Henry Moore, Moore majored in political science while a student at UMM. She credits political science faculty member and her adviser, Paula O'Loughlin, for mentoring her.

"Paula's guidance and teaching are what made my education at Morris challenging, fulfilling and eye-opening," said Moore.

Tom McRoberts, director of the Center for International Programs at UMM, "helped by facilitating the scholarship process and ensuring everything was taken care of," added Moore. The Fulbright process doesn't allow a student to do any of the logistics, said Moore the process necessitates an approved on-campus supervisor.

Said McRoberts: "We are enormously proud of Ilona and her accomplishments. This speaks well of her and of UMM."

The United States Congress created the Fulbright Program in 1946, immediately after World War II. Senator J. William Fulbright, sponsor of the legislation, saw it as a step toward building international cooperation.

The Program has provided more than 255,000 participants-chosen for their leadership potential-with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.

Since the establishment of the Fulbright Program, more than 96,000 Americans and 158,000 participants from other countries have benefited from the Fulbright experience. Prominent alumni include former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, author Jonathan Franzen, opera singer Renee Fleming, actor John Lithgow, television journalist Garrick Utley, and other leading Americans in all fields.

"I hope UMM can make it a tradition, with many more Fulbright grantees in future years," Moore added.

"We believe there are many other UMM students who are capable of receiving Fulbrights," said McRoberts. "Ilona provides the model."

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.