

Guidelines for Therkildsen Student Scholarly Award

Submission deadline: April 4, 2011, 5 p.m.

Submit electronically to: lemke.michael@uis.edu

Submission Materials:

1. Application
2. One (1) Recommendation Letter

Summary

The Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon is offering scholarships to support STUDENT projects at Emiquon. The deadline for submitting these proposals is **April 4, 2011**. This year, two scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded to UIS students. *Students can be from any major.*

The research topics are open but the proposed scholarly activity should be conducted at Emiquon. Examples of possible projects include: oral history of the Emiquon region, poetry inspired by Lake Thompson, study of the economic impact of converting agricultural land to natural preserve, or a study of the fish population in Lake Thompson. The Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon will provide awardees free overnight stay as needed while conducting their work at Emiquon.

Faculty advisors and/or potential applicants are encouraged to contact faculty members of the Emiquon Advisory Board (J. Bonacum, M. Cheney, H. Chen, K. Dungey, M. Lemke, K. Miller) for assistance in preparing the proposal. The awardees of the scholarships are required to present their results at the 2012 UIS Emiquon Science Symposium. The final recipients of this award will be announced by **May 1, 2011**.

Purpose

The Therkildsen fund recognizes the importance of education in promoting the future of the restoration of the Emiquon site. Original scholarly work is an integral part of the teaching-learning process and so the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon is offering modest monetary support to encourage students to pursue scholarly activities at Emiquon.

This program targets projects that encourage the SCHOLARLY GROWTH OF STUDENTS. Students are encouraged to work with a faculty member, and the research/activity must focus on students' scholarly development and participation in intellectual inquiry. The project must foster student achievement of advanced levels of competence in the student's academic discipline.

These summer research opportunities are only possible because of the generosity of the Therkildsen Trust. The staff of the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon, and the students of UIS, are grateful for the Therkildsen's investment in learning and the environment.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Only UIS undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in degree seeking programs may apply. Students from all disciplines may apply.
2. Undergraduates who are graduating seniors must plan to complete their research prior to graduation.

3. Individual applications are accepted from co-workers on the same project. Each applicant must demonstrate how the applicant's work is a unique contribution to the larger project.
4. Scholarly activity will take place at Emiquon or be directly related to the Emiquon Restoration Site.

General Information

1. Funding is provided as an award to the student (half at the beginning and the rest at the completion of the project). It may not be used for:
 - o Curriculum development.
 - o Faculty salaries.
2. Each application should include:
 - o A short description of the proposed work
 - o A timeline of proposed activities

Award Procedure

The Emiquon Advisory Board focuses on the following aspects of proposals when making award selections:

- The intellectual merit of the project, as indicated by clear goals, methods and expected results
- The clarity of the explanation of how the project fits into the student's scholarly agenda
- A demonstration of how the project central focus on students' intellectual growth
- Relevance to the mission of the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon (mission statement available at <http://www.uis.edu/emiquon/about/Mission.html>)

Note: The present application guidelines were patterned after Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society (<http://www.sigmaxi.org/>).

Therkildsen Student Scholarly Award Application

Application due date: April 4, 2011
Report due date: March 31, 2012

I. Personal Information

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Education Status (circle/highlight one): Undergraduate Graduate
Degree Program: _____ Area of scholarly work: _____
Research Advisor: _____
Date current program began: _____ Expected Completion Date of Current Program: _____

II. Proposal

Study Title: _____

Proposal Description:

(Your proposal should not exceed 500 words. Please do a word count check.)

III. Supporting Literature

(Indicate the literature used to develop the proposal. Please list no more than 15 sources).

Coworkers (if any):

Therkildsen Student Scholarly Support Program Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

1. A reference letter needs to be submitted by **April 4, 2011** and should be no longer than ~500 words in length.
2. The letter should be from your research advisor or person familiar with your proposed work.
3. Submit electronically to: lemke.micahel@uis.edu
4. The letter should include the reference's Name, Department, and Title.

Tips for Writing Effective Letters of Recommendation for the Therkildsen Student Scholarly Support Program

Solid letters of recommendation contain a number of common traits. Some of these traits are listed below.

- Begin the letter by briefly stating your relationship to the applicant, and how long you have known and/or worked with the applicant.
- Describe the candidate's personality and work ethic, using concrete examples that demonstrate a strong relationship.
- Be vivid and specific, including memories of the candidate, anecdotes, something to indicate that you know this candidate very well and think highly of him or her. Letters that matter to the review committee bring the candidate to life on the page.
- If the applicant will use any complex techniques or need any specific instrumentation or facilities, the letter should indicate the availability of the equipment and training in its use.
- If the applicant's work falls within the constraints of an ongoing project, clearly state how the applicant's work meshes with the larger project and is a unique contribution.
- Describe and evaluate in detail the student's scholarly work, especially work related to the proposed research project, if possible. The letter should help the review committee understand the significance of this research, and the potential for contribution that it has.
- Address the scholarship criteria specifically in ways that demonstrate your abundant confidence in the student and your knowledge of the candidate beyond grades and classroom performance.
- Provide evidence of the candidate's leadership and teamwork skills. The most effective letters use narrative technique to highlight the student in action, as a teaching assistant, researcher, volunteer, employee, innovator, etc.
- Reflect, refer to, and elaborate on themes in the candidate's proposal. The student should provide a copy of this proposal for you. Request one from him or her if the student hasn't already provided it for you.
- Rank the candidate in relation to other students you have taught/worked with, if possible.
- The length of letters of recommendation varies greatly, but one page is generally enough. The most effective letters consist of wisely chosen content. Remember that a concise letter is usually more useful than an overly verbose one.

Therkildsen Student Scholarly Support Program End of Project Report Form

Name:

E-mail:

Research Advisor:

Title of Study:

Report Guidelines

- send to the TFSE Director by March 31, 2012
- Please explain how you used the funds awarded to you.
- Indicate the status of your research (completed, ongoing, data analysis, etc.)
- Length of Narrative: not to exceed 500 words

Narrative: