

# **Jefferson Scholars Foundation**

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## **JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$7.65 MILLION IN ACADEMIC AID**

Jefferson Scholars to Receive up to \$180,000 in Assistance

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (May 16, 2008) – The Jefferson Scholars Foundation has awarded scholarships to thirty three outstanding high school seniors entering the University of Virginia. This year's class of Jefferson Scholars was selected from over 1,000 nominees. Included the list of finalists were students from 26 states, as well as China, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and Turkey.

Jefferson Scholarships cover the full cost of attending the University, including tuition and fees, room, board, books, and other expenses. "We are delighted with this year's class," says James H. Wright, President of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. "These young men and women embody excellence in leadership, scholarship, and citizenship, and possess the potential to provide the next generation of leadership to the University, the nation, and the world."

In addition to outstanding academics, finalists excel in a wide range of endeavors outside the classroom. Two started their own businesses; another created a non-profit that raised over \$67,000 for a Katrina house. The group includes one of only ten American Academy of Neuroscience Research Prize winners, an Olympic torchbearer for the 2008 Olympics, and an individual who grew 800 oak trees to fund a humanitarian trip to South Africa to help AIDS orphans.

The majority has participated in varsity athletics; thirty-two served on student councils; twenty-six have been class president or vice president; twenty-two founded new student organizations at their respective schools; and eleven have conducted independent science-related research. "The entering class holds promise in all fields of endeavor," says Wrights, "By any measure, these scholars excel as individuals and as contributing members of our society."

The 28-year-old not-for-profit Jefferson Scholars Foundation serves the University of Virginia by identifying, attracting, and nurturing individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. The Foundation currently supports 128 undergraduate students and 33 graduate students.

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