

## *Gipson Honors Program*

Gipson Fellows are outstanding students who have demonstrated broad intellectual curiosity and a developed aptitude for academic leadership. The Gipson Honors Program offers these select students guided opportunities for leadership development, academic growth, and professional preparation. The Program is named for a former College of Idaho professor and author, Lawrence Henry Gipson, who was both Idaho's first Rhodes Scholar and a member of the very first class of Rhodes Scholars at Oxford University. He went on to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize in history. Today, the Gipson family continues its tradition of distinguished leadership at CofI and beyond. The Gipson Honors Program seeks to advance this legacy of academic leadership and professional excellence.

- Regular gathering of Gipson Fellows, including special workshops on grants and fellowship awards, gatherings of visiting scholars and dignitaries, and fun and interesting social events focusing on the activities and achievements of upper-class Fellows.
- Individual attention and advising, including a dedicated academic advisor, access to advanced-level courses and research opportunities, and special notice of available scholarships and fellowships.
- Individual, guided assistance with portfolio preparation in the junior/senior years, including personalized preparation for post-graduate awards such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge, and National Science Foundation awards.

### **Even before classes begin, a student selected as a Gipson Fellow may:**

- Attend a special reception for admitted Gipson Fellows and their parents/guardians, meeting the College President, the Dean of the Faculty, members of the faculty and administration, the program director, and other admitted Gipson Fellows;
- Speak with a faculty member in the Gipson Fellow's area of interest; and
- Speak with the program director regarding the course registration process and any lingering questions.

### **In the first year, which is largely one of discovery, a Gipson Fellow:**

- Works closely with the Gipson Fellows program director to chart academic plans and course selections, find ways to develop leadership abilities and contribute meaningfully to the community, and discuss aspect of college life;
- Meets regularly with a Gipson Fellow Student Mentor—an older Gipson Fellow who shares the Fellow's interest areas and has gained experience in the program and at CofI;
- Participates in a fall semester Gipson Honors First-Year Seminar (FYS 110)—an intimate seminar featuring rigorous analysis and dialogue, and intended to prepare Gipson Fellows to be academic leaders (this course substitutes for the First-Year Seminar required of all first-year students);
- Talks individually with the Director of The College of Idaho's Center for Experiential Learning (CEL), an office that assists students in gaining professional experience and connecting with distinguished C of I alumni; and
- Attends the *Gipson Honors Colloquium* (see description below).

### **In the sophomore year, a Gipson Fellow:**

- Works with the Gipson program director to apply for a faculty-mentored experience (creative work, research, business-leadership, information technology, community outreach, etc.) related to his/her chosen area of study;
- Is eligible to apply to the *Gipson Fellows Fund* (see description below);
- Is encouraged to present work at C of I's Student Research Conference;
- Attends the *Gipson Honors Colloquium*; and
- May choose to be a Gipson Fellow Student Mentor.

### **In the junior year, a Gipson Fellow:**

- Attends the *Gipson Honors Colloquium*;
- Is eligible to apply to the *Gipson Fellows Fund*;
- May choose to be a Gipson Fellow Student Mentor;
- Is encouraged to present work at a national undergraduate research or creative conference; and
- In consultation with the Gipson Fellows Program Director, is encouraged to select national and international honors and fellowships to pursue.

### **In the senior year, a Gipson Fellow:**

- Attends the *Gipson Honors Colloquium*;
- In consultation with the Gipson program director, is encouraged to finalize a portfolio in preparation for applications for graduate or professional school, international or honors fellowships, or other leadership/professional opportunities; and
- Graduates from C of I as a Gipson Honors Fellow.

### **Special Features of the Gipson Honors Program:**

#### *Gipson Honors Colloquium*

All Gipson Fellows attend the Colloquium, which features specially arranged programming, including receptions with college-featured national speakers, research presentations by faculty, receptions with special campus guests and notable alumni, discussions with distinguished leaders and professionals, and group attendance at events in the fine arts.

#### *The Gipson Fellows Fund*

Gipson Fellows at the sophomore level and beyond are invited to apply to this fund, which is intended to facilitate Fellows' development as leaders and professionals. Funds may be used to undertake a creative project, to travel to research sites, as a stipend for an unpaid internship, for travel required by a research experience or an internship, to attend an academic conference, or toward a study abroad experience.

Gipson Fellows may receive one award while they are students at C of I. The maximum award amount for a Gipson Fellow is \$2500. (Recipients of the Heritage Scholarship may apply for up to \$3500.)

#### *The Honors Program Director*

The program director is a faculty member who is dedicated to the Gipson Fellows throughout their tenure at C of I. The program director serves as an academic advisor and provides guidance regarding academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Even after Gipson Fellows are working with a PEAK academic advisor within a chosen major field, the program director remains available to them.