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**MVC STUDENT AND MARSHALL RESIDENT WINS NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD IN RUSSIA**

**Marshall, Mo.** (June 11, 2007)—MVC student George Wesley Kessler, a junior political science major from Marshall, has been awarded a *Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship* of \$3,500 to apply toward his semester abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia this fall.

Kessler is the only MVC student to win a *Gilman*. Out of 1,422 applications, there were only 420 *Gilman* scholarships awarded. Kessler will take courses in Russian history, political science, and language at the St. Petersburg Polytechnic University through a program operated by the American Institute of Foreign Study (AIFS).

“Wes did a great job of putting together his application for the *Gilman* scholarship,” said Dr. Claudia Milstead, MVC study abroad coordinator. “He took his time, followed the directions, and met the deadlines. I hope that more Valley students will follow his example and apply for a *Gilman* scholarship. It’s a good way to pay for a semester abroad.”

In addition to the *Gilman* scholarship, Kessler will also receive two \$500 scholarships and free roundtrip airfare from St. Louis to St. Petersburg from AIFS. Free airfare was offered by AIFS to encourage students to spend a semester abroad in locations outside Western Europe. Since Kessler was interested in going to Russia anyway, he was glad to save the \$700 or more that airfare would have cost. The total cost of a semester in St. Petersburg runs about \$10,000, plus books, meals, transportation to St. Louis, and personal expenses. Kessler’s scholarships add up to more than \$5,000.

In recent years, Valley students have studied abroad in London, Sicily, Spain, Ireland, and China. MVC senior Melody Wiegert spent her final semester of college this spring at the Coleraine campus of the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland through Valley’s Irish-American Scholars program. Sophomore Sarah Rodgers is currently in London taking a course in British literature.

Valley faculty members have also participated in study abroad. John Preus, associate professor of art, and his wife Margaret, have just returned from a semester in London, where John taught art appreciation and photography. Dr. Tim Baumann, associate professor of anthropology, is in London with his wife, assistant professor of anthropology Valerie Altizer, teaching a course in museum studies and supervising internships. Dr. Karla Bruntzel, assistant professor of physical education, taught a course on Sport in European Society in London last semester. Tiffany Howard, assistant professor of theatre, taught a theatre course.

Established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000, the Gilman International Scholarship Program provides congressionally funded awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding at a 2-year or 4-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. A principal objective of the program is to expand international educational opportunities by encouraging applications from students who have not previously studied abroad for undergraduate academic credit.

For more information:

Gilman scholarship website: <http://www.iie.org//programs/gilman/index.html>

AIFS website: <http://www.aifsabroad.com>

Valley Study Abroad webpages: <http://www.moval.edu/academics/studyabroad/>

#### ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 27 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit [www.moval.edu](http://www.moval.edu).

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