Senior Daniel Rubin named one of 18 Luce Scholars nationwide

Daniel Rubin, AB ’12, a political science and history major in Arts & Sciences, is among 18 students nationwide to be selected as Luce Scholars.

Rubin is the sixth student in Washington University’s history to win the award. He was selected from a pool of 143 candidates nominated by 62 colleges and universities. Selection is determined after a rigorous interview process.

The Henry Luce Foundation launched this nationally competitive fellowship program in 1974 to enhance understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. Each year, the program provides stipends, language training and individualized professional placement in Asia. The scholars gain new perspectives and cultural insights through immersive living and working experiences.

The foundation welcomes applications from college seniors, graduate students and young professionals who have had limited exposure to Asia. The program is unique in that it is intended for young leaders who might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience Asia in the normal course of their careers. Those with significant experience in Asia are not eligible. Luce Scholars have backgrounds in virtually every field.

Asia placements are confirmed in May. Scholars can be placed in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand or Vietnam. The scholar year runs slightly more than 12 months, from late June to mid-July. “My assignment is at the Observer Research Foundation, a Delhi think-tank that monitors and proposes policy regarding various aspects of Indian foreign policy and economic development,” Rubin says.

Not starting his official assignment until September, Rubin spent the summer immersed in Hindi study and traveling throughout India and getting to know Delhi. “In addition to Hindi, I am getting to know the culture, while also adjusting to the fact that I am one of few non-Indians wherever I go,” Rubin says.

“Thus far, I have most enjoyed seeing the historical sites in Delhi and Jaipur, while also walking around the busy, cramped alleyways of Old Delhi. There is no U.S. equivalent to these markets, in terms of energy or the sheer number of people and vehicles crammed in. It’s exciting even to walk through, especially when you need to dodge auto-rickshaws and motorcycles.”

Of his overall experience, Rubin says that he hopes to learn about the Indian government’s perspective on engaging with China and the United States, combating international terrorism, and managing relations with Afghanistan/Pakistan.

At the university, Rubin has focused on U.S. politics and international relations, taking classes on such diverse subjects as multinational corporations, the origins of international conflict and the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

His passion for politics and public service has led him to pursue various internships. With the International Trade Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce, he researched and wrote on the liberalization of the Costa Rican...
Chinese undergraduate population rises at WU, nationally  

by Stephen Spanos, Class of ’13

The international student population at universities across the country has risen, with the number of international students at Washington University increasing from 283 to 472 over the past five years.

Of that number at the university (in academic year 2011–12), 182 are Chinese students. Chinese students, who compose 22 percent of all international students in the United States, are often drawn to top American universities for their prestige, the ability to conduct research with world-class professors, and their relatively flexible admissions process.

Sophomore Zack Gong said applying to American schools allowed him to showcase his interests, which range from finance to boxing.

“In China, admission is purely based on a test score, but in the U.S. it is a well-rounded assessment,” he said.

Many Chinese students use American universities to prepare for a higher level of graduate school or work than they would have had if they went to college back home.

“In a lot of countries, and particularly now in China, it helps to study in the U.S., because it gives them an advantage [in] where they might work,” said Kathy Steiner-Lang, assistant vice chancellor and director of the Office for International Students and Scholars.

Beyond cultural factors playing an effect, the university has also worked over the past several years to strengthen its connections to China.

Director of Admissions Julie Shimabukuro said Washington U. has attracted Chinese students in multiple ways, by getting referrals from alumni living in China, sending university representatives to conduct information sessions at Chinese high schools, and networking with Chinese universities with the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

“I think the best way that students learn about [the university] in China is through our current students from China and our study abroad students who share their great experiences about [the university],” Shimabukuro wrote in an email to Student Life.

Some Chinese students join the university’s ambassador program, visiting their high schools and speaking about their time in St. Louis. Many students studying abroad in China take part in similar discussions as well.

While the ongoing trend has led some to argue that the rise in international students means displacing otherwise qualified American students, Shimabukuro said the university does not have quotas for any group of students.

“Our goal is to attract and enroll the most talented students from the United States and around the world who will make contributions to our community by being great scholars, leaders and friends,” she wrote.

Luce Scholars, cont’d from page 1

Information and Communications Technology sector.

While working for Stewart Jackson, a member of Parliament in the U.K. House of Commons, he assisted with constituency work and researched the pupil premium, legal aid, sustainable local transport and the annual budget.

Finally, at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., last summer, he monitored state-level legislation to prepare for possible litigation related to redistricting and voter ID laws under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“While I have done a decent number of internships, I am excited to potentially be working on foreign policy issues for the first time,” Rubin says. “Specifically, it will be interesting to learn about such consequential topics from the perspective of a rising democracy, rather than that of a superpower.”

Outside of the classroom, Rubin has tutored middle school students since his freshman year and contributes editorials to the Washington University Political Review. He plans to attend law school in the near future.

“Daniel is a stellar candidate academically, but what sets him apart is his genuine leadership skill and potential to greatly contribute to the goals of the Luce Scholars program,” says Joy Z. Kiefer, PhD, assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences and director of undergraduate research.

Rubin is the second WUSTL student to be selected since 2010. Kiefer attributes the success, in part, to a strong internal nomination process and full involvement from the university’s Career Center, which helps nominees prepare for the rigorous interviews.

“This particular scholarship program looks for candidates with leadership potential and clearly defined career goals,” Kiefer says. “Amy Heath-Carpentier, my Career Center partner in this process, is an expert at helping the students articulate their intended career path and our recent positive results reflect her contribution.”

Debbie Parker is senior editor of the Record.
Alumni Profile: Nan Horng Yeh, MBA ’84

by Lisa Cary

The Olin Business School professors who taught Nan Horng Yeh, MBA ’84, can rest assured that their lessons were being absorbed. “My two favorite classes were Small Business Development and Investment With Business Plan Review,” Yeh recalls. “Those lessons helped teach me how to start a company.”

Today, Yeh is the chairman of Realtek Semiconductor Corporation, the first of many companies he has founded or co-founded in the years since his MBA graduation. Headquartered in Hsinchu, Taiwan, the company currently boasts assets of more than $850 million (USD).

Realtek is located in Hsinchu Science and Industrial Park, sometimes dubbed the “Silicon Valley” of Asia. The park is home to hundreds of technology companies and a prestigious technology research institute. The main campus of National Chiao-Tung University, Yeh’s undergraduate alma mater, is also located within the park.

In 1987, a group of his former undergraduate classmates approached Yeh about joining them to create a semiconductor design company. Yeh left his position as an investment analyst and fund manager at a top securities firm to join the new high-tech venture.

Yeh and his colleagues named their new company Realtek and chose the crab as its logo, symbolizing “strength, persistence and adaptability.” Initially, Yeh acted as the company’s vice president of sales and marketing.

Realtek now has 2,000 employees engaged in the research, design, manufacture and distribution of integrated circuits (ICs) and relevant application software for computers, mobile devices and a variety of other digital products. Its output includes ICs for communication networks, computer peripherals, and multimedia and ultra wideband applications.

The company holds many product patents, and it is developing new products that require lower power consumption while maintaining high performance. In 2011, three of its power-saving products earned “Taiwan Green Classics” awards in recognition of their environmentally responsible design.

As early as 1991, Yeh and his colleagues realized that forming strategic startup companies could enhance Realtek’s growth. During his 28-year tenure with the corporation, Yeh has helped establish 17 other technology companies in Taiwan, China and the United States.

One of the companies, Actions Semiconductor, founded by Yeh in 2001 in Zhuhai, China, is now a leading global semiconductor company that develops chips for mobile media players, including MP3 players and tablet PCs. Yeh served as the company’s chief executive officer from 2005 to 2009.

Yeh also founded HiTrend Technology, a semiconductor company that developed the top energy measurement chip used in energy meters in China.

“I often travel between Taiwan and China,” Yeh says. “As the head of strategic planning and investing at Realtek, I’m always looking for new growth opportunities and technologies and potential members for our corporate team.”

Yeh is a member of the Olin Alumni Club in Taiwan. In 2005, he returned to St. Louis to see the university and to visit the family who hosted him while he was an MBA student.

Yeh’s host family — and his Olin professors and peers — will undoubtedly continue to observe and celebrate Yeh’s career as a vanguard of global technological innovation.

Lisa Cary is a freelance writer based in St. Louis.

Volunteer Spotlight

Han Se Lee, MBA ’08

“I chose Washington University for two reasons,” says Han Se Lee, MBA ’08. “First, the small class sizes provided opportunities to build relationships with professors and classmates. Second, the university had enough international students to make close friends I could still see once I returned to Korea.”

Lee has indeed maintained contact with his fellow Olin alumni, helping to spur participation in the Olin Alumni Club in Seoul by organizing the local alumni database. He regularly updates and distributes alumni addresses and directly communicates with the Olin staff in St. Louis on ways to further develop the club.

“In organizing the alumni club, I use the leadership skills gained in the MBA program, as well as those I use in my position as a mergers and acquisitions team project leader at Korea’s leading investment banking firm, Woori Investment and Securities,” Lee says.

Lee’s goal is to help present club activities that have the same feeling of intimacy and camaraderie provided by Olin in its small-class formats.

Among his volunteer efforts, Han Se Lee, MBA ’08, and his family participate in a fashion show and bazaar, “Women Build” for Habitat for Humanity Korea. ( Courtesy photo)
News Briefs

WUSTL team selected for Revolutionary Aerospace Competition

In June, a team of Washington University students traveled to Cocoa Beach, Fla., to compete in the finals of the 2012 NASA Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts–Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) Competition.

The RASC-AL Competition is designed to challenge the engineers of tomorrow to create solutions for real-world aerospace engineering challenges today. The Washington University team was selected for their abstract titled “Manned Mission to Mars.”

“NASA is always looking for great ideas. What better group to turn to than the next generation of engineers?” said Pat Troutman, senior systems analyst at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. “Students get something out of it too. They get the chance to apply what they learn in class to real-world aerospace challenges.”

Washington University team members included Morgan Carlile, John Fetrow, Meng Gan, Adam Mendelsohn, Bo Zhang and Xiaowen Zhang.

The team was advised by Ramesh Agarwal, the William Palm Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, and Kim Shilling, assistant director of Engineering Student Services.

Nelson Wu Memorial Lecture on Japanese artist Soga Shohaku

Yukio Lippit, the Harris K. Weston Associate Professor of the Humanities, Department of Art and Architecture, Harvard University, delivered the 15th Annual Nelson Wu Memorial Lecture Oct. 4, 2012.

Lippit’s lecture, “Soga Shohaku, The Wanderer of Heian,” discussed the paintings of Japanese artist Soga Shohaku (1730–81). According to Lippit, Shohaku’s work is characterized by dramatically inventive large-scale compositions, gestural brushwork and unusually showy coloration. In addition, Shohaku’s paintings appear to have few precedents in Japanese painting history and have led to his being understood primarily as an “eccentric” or “independent” artist. Yet Shohaku claimed — in almost every case dubiously — multiple affiliations with prominent painting schools and historic artistic lineages. His emergence opens up numerous insights into the cultural context for the rise of the unaffiliated (or over-affiliated) artist in early modern Japan.

India, U.S. investing together in Clean Energy Research

The U.S. Department of Energy has selected a consortium, led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory with Washington University as a partner, to create a $25-million Solar Energy U.S.-India Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center.

The consortium will bring together experts from national laboratories, universities and industry in both the United States and India. Research will focus on sustainable photovoltaics, multiscale concentrated solar power and solar energy integration.

“This innovative research program will help promote clean energy, create jobs and open export opportunities,” said David Sandalow, assistant secretary of energy for policy and international affairs.

With an award of $25 million, Washington University in St. Louis is partnered with IIT Bombay to launch the Solar Energy Research Institute in India and the United States (SERIIUS). WUSTL investigators include Professors Pratim Biswas, Robert Blankenship, Cynthia Lo, P. Ramachandran and Venkat Subramanian.

East Asian Languages and Cultures students recognized

Among the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures 2012 student awards, Sichong Han, Business Class of ’15, received the Yukiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Japanese. And graduate student Wei Wang received the Stanley Spector Memorial Award for her paper “The Reconstruction of Female Voices of the High Tang: A Study of Women’s Poetry in the Mingyuan shigui.”

Washington University-Fudan University EMBA program celebrates 10th anniversary

The Washington University in St. Louis-Fudan University Executive MBA program, ranked second in mainland China by the Financial Times, celebrated its 10th anniversary May 25. Established in 2002 at Olin Business School, the program was among the first U.S.-China joint MBA degree programs.

The Olin Executive MBA in Shanghai now attracts around 75 percent of its students from China and is designed to prepare Chinese professionals for global executive positions.

The joint venture also provides valuable international experience for Olin’s St. Louis and Kansas City–based Executive MBA students, who spend two weeks in China working and studying with their Chinese counterparts. The Shanghai-based students also travel to St. Louis each December for a final joint session before graduation.

“We have the advantage that we have more than 500 alumni in Shanghai — and they all have a wealth of business experience and local experience to share with their U.S. counterparts,” says Kay Henry, former associate dean and director of EMBA programs at Olin from 2006–12.

Jackson Ling (left), EMBA ’04, chairman/CEO, Enhance America Inc., and Mingbo Sun, EMBA ’11, president/executive director, Tsingtao Brewery Co., are among the impressive graduates of the WUSTL-Fudan EMBA program. (Courtesy photo)
Commencement is a day for smiles!
(Mary Butkus)
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The International Advisory Council for Asia will meet Dec. 12–14, 2012, in Delhi, India. Look for more on the meeting in the February 2013 issue of Asia Extra.


Contacts

Your Washington University Contacts

Washington University Alumni Clubs offer alumni and parents of current and former students a way to stay connected with the university. For more information on the clubs in Asia, visit http://aisweb.wustl.edu/alumni/internationalrelations.nsf or contact:

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The Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP) involves alumni and parents of undergraduates in recruiting, selecting and enrolling students at Washington University. APAP members interview applicants, staff college fairs and host receptions for admitted students. For information, contact:

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Alumni, parents and friends of the university often help identify students who would benefit from a Washington University education. Refer names and addresses of talented prospective students to:

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