



The West Virginia Legislature's
Walter Rollins Scholars Program &
Robert W. Burk, Jr. Student Intern Program

Application Packet - 2009 Session

West Virginia Legislature

Legislative Intern Committee

Senator Roman Prezioso & Delegate Scott Varner
Co-Chairmen

August 2008

Dear Graduate Student:

The West Virginia Legislature is pleased to offer two graduate student internships, the *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program*.

Through participation in these programs, graduate students from across the state experience the legislative process by working with members of the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates.

Walter Rollins Scholars and *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Interns* assist members of the Legislature in the highest leadership offices while gaining insight into the intricacies of legislative procedure, developing legislative research and bill drafting skills, making key contacts with state leaders, studying how the legislative process works B learning much more than simply how bills become law.

Graduate students chosen for these two programs become an integral part of the West Virginia Legislature. Those of us in the Legislature who knew our late colleagues, Walter “Lefty” Rollins and Robert W. “Bob” Burk, Jr., are especially honored to present these graduate student internship opportunities to you.

Please take a moment to peruse this information packet. We encourage you to apply for these distinctive programs and look forward to receiving your application. Best wishes to you in your graduate school endeavors in West Virginia.

Roman Prezioso
State Senate

Scott Varner
House of Delegates

Co-Chairmen
Legislative Intern Committee
Walter Rollins Scholars Program
Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program
Judith Herndon Legislative Fellows Program
Frasure-Singleton Internship Program
Legislative Information Journalism Internship Program

The Walter Rollins Scholars Program

&

The Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program

The *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program*, offered by the West Virginia Legislature, provide exceptional educational experiences to graduate students attending West Virginia's colleges and universities. Through these programs, graduate students suited for placement in legislative offices gain an understanding of the state Legislature and its role in the making of public policy.

Each year, the *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* selects up to two graduate students to serve as legislative interns. *Rollins Scholars* study and work with those officials of the Senate and House of Delegates in the highest positions of leadership. Throughout their placement in these leader's offices, *Rollins Scholars* participate in the development of legislation affecting West Virginia's citizenry, conduct independent research within or about the legislative process and assist leaders with decision-making preparations during the legislative session.

The *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program* selects up to four graduate students each year for placement in the offices of committee chairpersons and other leaders in the Senate and House of Delegates. *Burk Interns* observe the making of public policy, analyze policy considerations, conduct research pertinent to the issues of the session, study how legislative structure bears upon the manner in which decisions are made and gain insight into the inner workings of the political process.

These two educational programs, the *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program*, are the Legislature's most prestigious internships.

Graduate students honored by the successful completion of these programs bring to their lives a unique insight into West Virginia's state government - an insight few people ever have the opportunity to acquire. Undeniably, this insight will help shape each participant's personal future - and perhaps the future of the State of West Virginia.

Eligible Applicants:

The *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program* are open to students accepted to and currently enrolled in graduate degree programs at accredited public or private West Virginia colleges and universities. Applicants must be in good standing. No specific major or prerequisite course work is required, but applicants should be interested in state government, legal research and/or policy analysis. Interested students in all academic disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Available Positions:

Up to two *Rollins* positions and up to four *Burk* positions are filled each year.

Length of Program:

Both programs run from January 5th to May 18th, 2009.

Stipend:

Each *Rollins Scholar* receives a stipend of \$1,400 per month (\$5,600 total).

Each *Burk Intern* receives a stipend of \$1,400 per month (\$5,600 total).

Tuition and Fees:

Payment of tuition and fees for the academic term are waived by some colleges and universities to legislative interns. For more information about the possibility of obtaining a tuition waiver, please contact your graduate dean.

Academic Credit Hours:

Upon successful completion of either of the legislative internship programs, each graduate student will receive at least six (6) credit hours toward his or her degree. *Rollins Scholars* and *Burk Interns* are prohibited from enrolling in any additional classes during the semester of the internship unless the classes do not interfere with the successful completion of the internship in any way. (For example, while independent study courses, readings courses and courses of that nature are allowed, attendance at classes that meet even as infrequently as one evening per week is prohibited due to the scheduling flexibility required of interns during the legislative session).

Orientation:

Each year, *Rollins Scholars* and *Burk Interns* participate in a comprehensive legislative orientation at the start of the internship.

Some orientation activities are general in nature and therefore have been combined for legislative interns participating in all five of the Legislature's internship programs. Basic activities include tours of the Capitol and legislative offices; meetings with key legislators and legislative staff; introductions to bill drafting, the committee system, the Code of State Laws, legislative research, parliamentary procedure, the legislative computer system, etc..

Upon completion of the orientation, graduate student interns report to their assigned placements for the remainder of the internship program.

Legislative Placement:

Rollins Scholars may be placed with the President or the Majority Leader in the Senate, the Speaker or the Majority Leader in the House of Delegates, the Chairperson of one of the four major standing committees in the Senate or House (Finance, Judiciary, Government Organization, Education) or other high leaders in the Senate or House.

Burk Intern placements in the Senate or the House may include: Chairperson of a major standing committee (listed above), Chairperson of a minor standing committee (Health & Human Resources, Banking & Insurance, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Roads & Transportation, Constitutional Revision, Veteran's Affairs, etc.) or other legislative leader.

Please note: If an intern has significant background expertise in or expresses particularly strong educational interest in a specific issue area OR if the Legislature is in need of extra assistance for a specific legislative leader or committee, an intern's placement may be tailored accordingly.

Daily Schedules:

Graduate student interns are required to keep daily schedules per the instruction of the legislative leader to whom they are assigned. *Please note:* Historically, during the first several weeks of the session, typical days run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. However, during the mid-to-latter weeks of the session, interns may be required to report to the Capitol early in the mornings, to stay late into the evenings and/or to work weekends. The pace increases dramatically as the session nears completion. While certain absences may be unavoidable and therefore are excused, frequent missed work hours may result in removal from the internship program.

Weekly Academic Seminar:

Rollins Scholars and *Burk Interns* are required to participate in academic seminars held one afternoon per week at the State Capitol. These seminars are led by the internship academic director (a professor at an area university). During these seminars, graduate student interns meet to discuss legislative process, their research papers and other related topics.

Research Paper:

Each graduate student intern is required to submit a completed research paper at the end of the internship program. The topic is to be agreed upon by the intern, the intern's academic advisor at his/her college or university and the internship academic director by no later than the 30th day of the 60-day regular session. Upon completion, each intern must provide copies of the paper to his/her academic advisor on campus and to the internship academic director. *Please note:* Often, this research paper (which the Legislature's Internship Committee requires) will fulfill the credit requirements set forth by the intern's college or university. However, in the event the completion of this research paper does not fulfill the college's or university's requirements for credit, the college's or university's requirements for credit must be completed in addition to the research paper.

Accommodations and Transportation:

Housing, meals and daily transportation to and from the State Capitol are the responsibilities of the graduate student interns.

Please note: Furnished and unfurnished apartments usually are available for short-term rental in the AHistoric East End@ of Charleston, located within walking distance of the Capitol. Should an intern so desire, the committee will make available to him or her a list of other legislative interns who are seeking Aroommates@ with whom to share an apartment during their stay in Charleston. (In past years, most legislative interns have roomed together and managed to cut down on their living expenses quite successfully.) Charleston maintains frequent bus service for those without automobiles who choose to reside in areas of the city not within walking distance of the Capitol. Also, in past years, most interns have developed among themselves an Aintern car pool@ system. While some interns chose to commute from home if they resided within an hour or so from Charleston, please be aware that finding empty parking spaces near the Capitol Complex is extremely difficult at best. The state does provide a free Arolley@ service to and from paid public parking lots and from a paid public parking building located approximately 2 mile from the Capitol, but these parking spaces tend to fill fast. As for food, the Capitol maintains a cafeteria (open for breakfast and lunch), one snack bar (open until mid-afternoon) and a few vending machines.

**Application & Selection
For the Graduate Student Internship Programs:**

Students interested in the *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program* first should discuss the internships with their academic advisors on campus to ensure that potential participation will fit into their graduate education plans and complement their future career goals.

To apply to the programs, students must submit to the Legislature's Intern Committee the following: application form, application check list and all items listed on the Adetailed application requirements@ page of this booklet.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS

MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT SIMPLY POSTMARKED BY)

ON OR BEFORE

Friday, October 31, 2008

(Late or incomplete applications will NOT be considered.)

**The Legislature's Intern Committee will interview applicants
at the State Capitol in Charleston, West Virginia, on
Wednesday, November 17th, 2008.**

Applicants will be notified by no later than Monday, November 10th, 2008, of the specific time and State Capitol room number of their Wednesday, November 17th interview.

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE'S
GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
for the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature

THE WALTER ROLLINS SCHOLARS PROGRAM
THE ROBERT W. BURK, JR., STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM

Name: _____

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Mailing address that can be used during the school year to send reading materials:

Your campus phone number (if applicable): _____

Graduate Institution: _____

Graduate Major/Type of Degree Sought: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average (Graduate): _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____

Undergraduate Major/Type of Degree Earned: _____

Final Grade Point Average (Undergraduate): _____

Number of graduate hours earned by the end of the semester immediately preceding the start of the internship: _____

Contact in case of emergency (Name, Address & Telephone): _____

Please circle up to three topics that would be of most interest to you as an intern:

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Banking & Insurance

Budget, Finance & Taxation

Business & Economic Development

Constitutional Issues

Crime & Judicial Process

Education

Environment

Health Care

Labor & Industry

Regulatory Rulemaking

Roads & Transportation

Structure & Operation of Government

Veterans' Issues

Other (specify) _____

Please outline (briefly) your long-term career objectives:

DETAILED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Please enclose a copy of your resume. Your resume should include your current (and permanent, if different from current) address and telephone number(s) and your e-mail address. Your resume also should include your educational history, employment history, extracurricular activities and any other relevant information you care to provide.
2. Please enclose a brief statement B no more than one page in length B stating the reasons you wish to become a graduate student intern with the West Virginia Legislature. (You may want to include how the internship may complement your educational or career goals, skills you possess that may be helpful to a legislator or committee and/or any other information you believe to be relevant.)
3. Please enclose three letters of reference B two academic and one character letter. (The academic letters of reference should be obtained from faculty who know your academic work, while the character letter of reference should be obtained from someone outside academia. You may wish to ask those writing for you to explain briefly in what capacity they have come to know you; to evaluate your academic skills, interpersonal skills, professional skills, strengths and/or weaknesses; and/or assess how they believe you would perform in an office setting with state leaders.) **Letters from incumbent Legislators and members of the Legislature's Intern Committee are prohibited.**
4. Please enclose one copy of a recent research paper (or project, or published article or the like) that you believe best displays your writing skills, research abilities, and thought process. This paper does not need to be government related B it may be on any topic. **Also**, please attach a brief statement of *not more than one page* explaining why you chose to submit this document to the committee and if it was an **independent project or assigned topic** for a class.
5. Please enclose sealed copies of your graduate and undergraduate academic transcripts from each institution of higher education you have attended with official stamps or signatures across the back flap. (*Note*: If you are in your first semester of graduate study and do not yet have a graduate transcript, please enclose a note from **each** instructor from whom you are currently taking a course that states your current grade or standing in the instructor's course.)
6. Please mail the complete packet of your application materials in one envelope to:
 7.
Legislative Intern Committee
West Virginia Legislature
Attention: Sara Jones, House Minor Committees
State Capitol Complex, Building 1, Room 200B- East Wing
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
8. All application materials must be submitted together in **ONE ENVELOPE** and received by the committee at the address above by no later than **Friday, October 31, 2008**.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

As an applicant for the West Virginia Legislature's *Rollins* and *Burk* Internships, on the following list I have placed a check mark beside each document that I have obtained and am placing into one envelope to mail to the Legislative Intern Committee.

(If I have not placed a check mark beside an item on the list, I have written in the margin an explanation of why that particular document is not included in the envelope.)

___ Completed two-page application form

___ Resume

___ Statement on my interest in becoming a graduate student intern with the Legislature

___ Two academic letters of reference

From (name & institution):

From (name & institution):

___ One character letter of reference

From (name):

___ Copy of a research paper (or writing sample, project, article or the like)

___ Brief explanation of why you submitted this research paper, etc., and if it was an independent or assigned topic

___ Sealed copy of graduate transcript(s)

___ Sealed copy of undergraduate transcript(s)

___ (*If applicable:* If this is the first semester of graduate study, letters from instructors stating applicant's standing in each course.)

___ This check list.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

9. Should you have any questions about the application procedure or other issues related to legislative the *Rollins* or *Burk* internships, please feel free to contact Ms. Sara Jones, staff to the Legislative Intern Committee.

Mrs. Jones may be reached by phone at **304-340-3386**, toll-free at 1-877-56-LEGIS, by mail to the House Minor Committees, Building 1, Room 200B- East Wing, Charleston, West Virginia 25305 or by e-mail: sara@mail.wvnet.edu

For general information about the West Virginia Legislature (including information about all five of the Legislature's internship programs), we invite you to visit the Legislature's official Internet web site at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>

10. Applicants are advised to keep copies of their application materials, as the Legislature is not responsible for applications lost, damaged in the mail, etc..
11. Applicants are trusted to use the honor system in providing information to the Legislature; all information provided is expected to be accurate.
12. All materials submitted are for the confidential use of the West Virginia Legislature and its Legislative Intern Committee. **Application materials will not be returned.**
13. The Legislature seeks to attract a diverse pool of applicants for the *Walter Rollins Scholars Program* and the *Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program*.
NO APPLICANT WILL BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, GENDER, AGE PHYSICAL DISABILITY, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR ETHNIC/NATIONAL ORIGIN.

Thank you for your interest in the
West Virginia Legislature's

Walter Rollins Scholars Program

and

Robert W. Burk, Jr., Student Intern Program.

Best of luck to you in your educational endeavors.

