

Summary of 2007 Marshall Scholarships Evaluation

Introduction

In December 2007 a survey was undertaken on behalf of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission to evaluate the impact of the Marshall Scholarship programme. The programme, established in 1953 as a gesture of goodwill by the UK towards the US, seeks to support exceptional students with the potential to become future leaders and opinion formers. It also aims to create links and cultivate greater understanding of the UK among its Scholars. Countless anecdotal examples have emerged of the success stories among former Scholars but this survey represents the first attempt to systematically analyse their progress and continued associations with the UK as well as their perceptions of the impact of the Scholarship on their career and personal development. One of the key messages emerging from the survey was that the programme has generated a highly influential body of alumni who continue to express profound appreciation to the UK for the opportunities provided by the Scholarship.

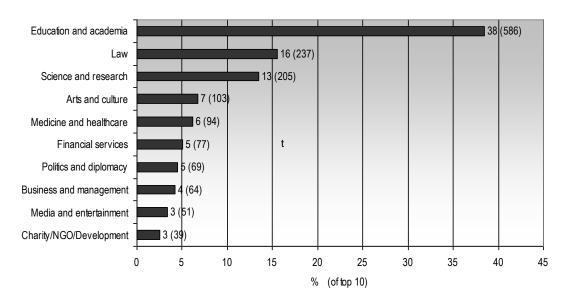
Response

Very few scholarship schemes maintain sufficient contact with their alumni to evaluate the long-term impact of the scholarships. The Marshall Scholarship programme is fortunate in this respect; due to its relatively small size it has traditionally kept close contact with its award holders, this has facilitated the development of an active US-based alumni association, a substantial database of up-to-date contact information, and strong support from former Scholars. These factors made this evaluation possible and account for the substantial response from the programme's alumni. Sixty percent of those contacted, and almost half of all former Marshall award-holders responded to the survey, with 717 submissions in total. The majority of the responding Marshall Scholars have gone on to have distinguished careers and make valuable contributions in their chosen fields. Among its number the Marshall alumni has some highly prestigious and influential figures including senior judges and political advisors, CEOs of global enterprises, leading academics and Pulitzer prize winning journalists and authors. Not all of the high profile Marshall Scholars known to the Commission were able to participate on this occasion, a few notable omissions include: Associate Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Ray Dolby of Dolby Laboratories, William Burns, the current US Ambassador to Russia and Mark Whitaker, the senior Vice President of NBC News. Nonetheless, those who did respond provided a strong, and broadly representative sample of Scholars spanning the six decades of the programme's existence.

Accomplishments of Marshalls

The Marshall Scholars are selected on the basis of their academic merit and leadership potential as well as their commitment to study in the UK and contribute to the intellectual life of their host institutions. It is hoped that Scholars will go on to have significant impact in their chosen careers but also forge a lasting relationship with, and promote better understanding of the UK. A large number of respondents went on to pursue a career in academia, but significant numbers also hold prominent positions in other sectors such as law, politics and diplomacy, medicine and financial services. The chart highlights the distribution of the 10 most commonly listed professional categories (by percentage and number of positions listed).

Distribution of top 10 professional categories (no. of posts in brackets)



Selected professional categories, and key positions within them:

Education and academia

In the field of education there are a very high proportion of professors and senior academic staff. If we take the eight Ivy League Universities¹ in the US alone, there are over 100 academic positions listed, just under 50 of which are full professors or visiting professors, one vice provost, several deans and directors of departments and 23 associate professors. There have also been some noteworthy institutional heads including the presidents of Magdalen College, Oxford (1979-1980), Wellesley College (1981-1993), the California Institute of Technology (1987 – 1997), the Pratt Institute (1990-94) and Duke University (1993-2004).

Law

Many Scholars have carved out highly successful legal careers with a substantial proportion holding partnership positions in their firms. There are also a significant number holding federal positions and providing legal counsel for the US administration, and government departments. Examples include a United States circuit judge for the US Court of Appeals [2006-07], an Attorney General, an assistant Attorney General in the US Department of Justice and the current senior Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Science and research

While many of the positions in this category are based in academic institutions, a number of positions are held in government institutes, both within and outside of the US. These include posts within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Institutes of Health and NASA, and outside the US in the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and the National Centre for Scientific Research in France. There are also senior positions held in not-for-profit private foundations and institutions including the Director for Defence and Security Research at Rand Europe, part of the global Rand corporation, and a professor leading research on treatment strategies for HIV/AIDS at the Wistar Institute of biomedical research. Several positions in this category are also listed within the private sector and industry, but this represents a relatively small proportion.

Arts and Culture

In this category also, there were a high number of academic posts but among some of the other notable positions listed are: conductor for the Royal Academy of Music; curator of American art at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington; executive producer of the Scottish Ballet; and chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association.

Medicine and Healthcare A number of senior medical positions are held in both the US and the UK. Several professorial and associate professor posts are held at a number of highly regarded medical schools including Imperial College and University College London in the UK and Harvard, John Hopkins School of Medicine and NYU Medical School in the US.

Financial Services

This category included a significant number of presidents, chairmen and CEOs. Examples include a vice president at Credit Suisse, senior vice president at Lehman Brothers, executive director at Morgan Stanley, chairman of Goldman Sachs Bank, USA and the current vice president and chief investment officer of the Hewlett Foundation.

Politics and Diplomacy

This category generated a number of high profile appointments. Examples include speechwriters for the White House, Presidential advisors and counsel, three Foreign Service Officers for the Department of State, a State Senator (for the State of Washington) and a former Ambassador to Peru and Kuwait.

Media and Entertainment Marshall Scholars have worked for a number of leading publications including Time Magazine, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Financial Times (UK) and The Economist (UK). Positions at these publications include an Editor at large and the current London Bureau Chief for Time Magazine, and the US editor (1995-1997) and African correspondent (1984-1986) for the Financial Times. In the entertainment sphere one former alumnus was the vice president of motion picture production at Walt Disney Studios.

¹ Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Cornell University and Yale University

Publications

The respondents were widely published, suggesting that many have a recognised audience and a sufficient sphere of influence to merit publication. Nearly 80% of the respondents indicated that they have published material since their Scholarship. Much of the published material is academic or journalistic, with some respondents highly prolific in their output; around 30 report having well over 100 publications. From the journalistic arena one respondent co-authored a New York Times bestselling book and wrote over 100 cover stories for Time Magazine. A quarter of those with publications have received or been short listed for prizes for one or more of their publication. One respondent received the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction and two were short listed for the National Book Award.

International presence

In terms of their international presence, a significant proportion of the responding alumni have been employed outside of the US, most notably in the UK. Almost 10% (152) of all the employment positions listed were held in the UK at some point since completion of the Marshall Scholarship, 56 posts are currently held in the UK. In addition, one fifth (156) of the respondents have worked or studied outside of either the US or the UK.

Public and Charitable Work

Thirty percent of the respondents indicated that they have held political/public or charitable positions since their Scholarship. A total of 407 positions were listed. Eighteen percent (125) of the respondents indicated they have held one or more positions in the US government. The largest proportion of public positions (39%) were in the legal profession. High profile roles included the Attorney General for the State of Indiana (1997-2000), the current senior Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Assistant US Attorney for the Department of Justice (1997-2007)*, Deputy Counsel to the President (1979-1981) and a United States Circuit Judge in the US Court of Appeal (2006-07)*. Key administrative appointments included advisors, analysts and speech writers for various government departments and the White House. A number of senior political appointments were also highlighted and include the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (1998-2007)*, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade and Investment, US Treasury Department and Deputy Assistant to President George Bush (senior).

* Posts listed to 2007 are, in most cases, current posts as the survey was carried out in 2007.

Other, public and charitable posts outside of the US government included:

- Member of the board and trustee for the Pulitzer Prize Board,
- Co-chair of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on HIV/AIDS
- Associate Director of the Federal Reserve Board
- Vice President and General Counsel for the International Finance Cooperation (World Bank Group),
- Deputy Chair of the Global Development Network

Impact of Marshall Scholarship on career and perception of the UK

The Marshall Scholarship was overwhelmingly perceived to have had a positive impact on the careers of the responding alumni. Around 90% of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the qualifications and skills gained on their Scholarship were important to their career development, a similar proportion indicated that the prestige of the Marshall Scholarship played an important role in advancing their career. In a number of cases the experience of the Scholarship appeared to broaden the horizons of the Scholars and provide them with the opportunity to refine, develop and re-evaluate their career options. Nearly 60% indicated that their career objectives had developed or changed whilst they were on award.

Almost all of the comments on the overall impact of the Scholarship were positive. Most emphasised the real and lasting difference that living and studying in the UK had made to them professionally as well as in broadening their horizons and generating an enduring bond with the UK. Many described their Marshall years as formative, and a period when they discovered who they were and what they wanted to do with their life. The experience was described variously as intellectually, socially, politically and culturally rewarding. One respondent wrote:

"This was the most pivotal and crucial time of development both personally and professionally for me. I am who I am today because of my experience as a Marshall Scholar. Academically the opportunity to study in the UK was unique and the peers with whom I interacted were just phenomenal people - thoughtful, engaged, and stimulating to be around."

Another remarked that:

"THE key to my entire academic career was my years as a Marshall Scholar. I would not now be a US college president were it not for the Marshall Scholarship, nor would I have published as widely as I have without the Scholarship." The prestige and widespread recognition of the Marshall Scholarships was viewed as a mark of "excellence and competence" and seen as hugely valuable to the professional advancement of recipients. Moreover, the ability of the Scholarship to expand the perspective and world-view of recipients was greatly valued. Several people mentioned that the social, political and cultural insights gained during the Scholarship were as important as their academic experience in shaping their career choices, with one respondent commenting:

"I left Oxford feeling like a "citizen of the world" - a self-identification that led me to work in the Clinton Administration and that spawned a life-long passion for international economic policy and economic development. I also developed a profound affection for all things British which has yet to fade 15 years later!"

In terms of cultivating links between the UK and US, one alumnus wrote:

"I benefited tremendously from the Scholarship, and I don't think there is any question that the British government received a substantial return on its investment. Within five years after finishing at Oxford, I was working closely with UK FCO [Foreign and Commonwealth Office] officials on diplomatic matters related to the Kosovo conflict for the U.S. government in a surprisingly senior policymaking position given my age. My relationship with and trust in my UK counterparts was much stronger as a result of my affinity for the country, cultural understanding and detailed understanding of the functioning of UK and EU political institutions as a result of my studies. These kinds of ties truly do bind together the "special relationship" between our countries in a manner that it is hard to imagine replicating any other way. A pretty cheap investment for the return in my view."

UK Experience and Links to UK

The respondents had an overwhelmingly positive experience while they lived in the UK. Ninety-three percent felt their experience had been largely positive while only 3% indicated it had been largely negative. One person remarked:

"I doubt that many people in the UK government know how much good will and admiration for the UK is created by the Marshall Fellowship."

Virtually all respondents felt that their awareness of the UK evolved during the Scholarship and many emphasised that the Scholarship went beyond simply developing the recipients academically but served to engender an important affinity with, and knowledge of the UK.

Since their Scholarship, 90% of the alumni have visited or lived in the UK (this was lower among alumni from the late 1990s and 2000s who had only recently left the UK). Nine percent of respondents currently live in the UK and an additional 14% have previously lived in the UK. Of those who have visited the UK since their Scholarship, 83% had professional or business ties to the UK (only 17% came purely for social reasons). This highlights the significant levels of continuing professional association with the UK among the alumni.

Donations

Forty-two percent (301) of the respondents indicated that they have made a donation to, or financial investment in, a UK institution, charity or business since their Scholarship.

The vast majority of donations went to the former university, accounting for 60% of the individual donations. Charitable donations accounted for a quarter of the donations. High value donations were concentrated in the areas of business, personal investment and endowments. Estimates of the monetary value of donations and investments to the UK were provided by 179 respondents. The donations ranged from small charitable donations to substantial business investments and endowments. The vast majority of payments were small payments of less than \$1,000 (42%) or between \$1,000 and \$5,000 (33%). However, 3% (or 5 donations) were greater than \$1 million. The total value of donations and investments came to \$50.75 million.

Conclusion

What emerges clearly and consistently in this evaluation is the high regard with which Marshall alumni continue to hold their Scholarship and the value they attach to the time they spent in the UK. The high response rate to the survey is testimony to the ongoing goodwill and support for the programme among former Scholars. The evaluation confirms that the programme has produced a high calibre of graduates, many occupying influential positions within academia and public service as well as other professional fields. It also provides evidence that a high proportion of the graduates, maintain professional and social ties to the UK.

Academic achievement is one aspect of the success of the Marshall Scholarships and Marshall Scholars consistently achieve excellent results at their UK institutions. However, the long term professional development and ties to the UK are an equally important measure of the programme's success. The study reveals an enduring gratitude to the UK for the Scholarships received and recognition of the impact they have had on the career

progression and personal development of the recipients. It is also seen, by almost all respondents, as a reflection of the special relationship between the UK and US and an important gesture towards cultivating that relationship.

There is, perhaps unsurprisingly, strong support for the continuation and development of the programme. The results provide encouraging indicators of the long term impact of the programme and the significant achievements in meeting its core objectives. It is important, however, that this is not the end of the story and that the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission together with the Association of Marshall Scholars continue to monitor the development of alumni and the impact of the Scholarship on their lives. This exercise has provided a valuable and important first step in this process.