

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Friends of Gentle House Foreign Study Grant Recipient Selection Criteria

Full-time graduate or undergraduate student at WOU

Pursuing undergraduate or graduate degree at WOU, undeclared major acceptable for undergraduate

US citizen or permanent resident at time of application

Enrolled in German when grant awarded

Maintain B average during term in which grant is awarded

Maintain B average in German courses at WOU

Awarded to student in good academic standing at WOU

Awarded to student demonstrating academic merit, participation in extracurricular activities, including volunteering in the community

Two letters of recommendation (one from a university foreign language faculty member and one from outside of the university)

If more than one candidate meets the requirements, the applicant with financial need will receive preference

Commitment in writing to participate in a Friends of Gentle House workday, tour Gentle House, send the Friends of Gentle House periodic email updates while on your program and present an illustrated lecture of the overseas experience to the Friends upon return to Campus

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Friends of Gentle House Sponsor Foreign Study Grant

The Friends of Gentle House is a volunteer organization whose goals are to maintain, promote and develop historical displays for the 19th century home of Professor Thomas H. Gentle, located just north of campus on North Monmouth Avenue.

Professor Gentle came to Monmouth in 1911, after accepting the position as Principal of the Training School at the newly reopened Oregon Normal School. His influence on the development of teacher training was felt throughout the state, affecting generations of Oregon teachers and ranking the school among the top teacher training facilities in the country. His motto, displayed on the former Training School (now the Instructional Technology Center) states "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn."

Professor Gentle's opportunity to do graduate work at the University of Jena in Germany from 1894-1897, proved to be a turning point in his life and career. Born in rural Illinois, orphaned as a child, and enduring lengthy illness, Thomas Gentle nevertheless proved to be a deft student and pursued higher education. His teachers saw that he had promise and motivation and made sure that he was aware of opportunities to broaden his view. He was encouraged to apply for admission to the highly acclaimed program in teacher education at Jena and was accepted. From this experience he not only brought back ideas that eventually changed the course of teacher education, but also expanded his own appreciation and understanding of art, music, culture and language.

With this in mind, the Friends of Gentle House is sponsoring a grant to a full-time WOU student in good standing currently enrolled in German to be used in a WOU approved study program in a German-speaking country. The \$500 grant will be awarded annually, if possible. In return, the Friends stipulate that the student receiving the award must attend a Friends' work day to learn about the house and its upkeep, take a detailed tour of Gentle House to put the award in context, and learn more about Thomas Gentle. Upon return from studying abroad, he/she must present an illustrated lecture concerning his/her experiences to the Friends of Gentle House to which the college and the community will be invited. For more information and an application packet, please contact the Study Abroad Office, APSC 501, (503) 838-8493.