

ALAN R. JONES '50 TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ▪ GRINNELL COLLEGE

The Alan R. Jones '50 Travel Fellowship is a new grant offering financial support to Grinnell College students who would like to travel to conduct research on a topic of American history connected to their work in a history course, an independent study, or a Mentored Advanced Project (MAP). The fellowship covers travel expenses and costs in a library, archive, museum or research collection (outside of Grinnell) that pertains to the history of the United States, broadly conceived. Both short trips (e.g. Iowa City or Ames) and long trips (e.g. Warsaw or Washington D.C.) will qualify for funding. Funds may be used during the school year, over any school break, or over the summer.

The grant honors Alan (“Al”) R. Jones, a legendary professor of history at Grinnell College, whose passionate teaching, scholarship, and civic engagement left an indelible mark on the character of the college as well as generations of students. A native of Iowa, Jones graduated from Grinnell in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in history, and then returned to teach at the college in 1954 after pursuing his doctorate in history at the University of Michigan. Over his forty-year career at Grinnell, Jones taught a rich array of courses in American history, European history, American studies, and the humanities, and was eventually named the L.F. Parker Professor of History in 1979. Although his scholarly interests were wide ranging, Jones maintained a life-long fascination with the distinct history and culture of the college, captured in his 1996 book *Pioneering*, in his long-standing lectures on the history of Grinnell to incoming students, and in countless conversations with students, faculty, and alumni. The quintessential values that Jones found at the heart of Grinnell’s tradition—a passionate embrace of knowledge, critical thinking, rigorous debate, and social justice—were the same values that students and colleagues admired in him. Known for his sharp wit, generous humor, probing intellect, and social consciousness, Jones exemplified the liberal and humane spirit that Grinnell College seeks to cultivate.

Eligibility: Any Grinnell student (sophomore-senior) who is doing research on an American history topic for a history course, an independent study, or MAP, is eligible to apply for funding from the Alan R. Jones '50 Travel Fellowship fund. Individuals may apply more than once, but students who have not previously received funding will get priority consideration.

Application Guidelines: Applicants must provide a typed, double-spaced proposal of not more than 2,000 words explaining how they plan to use the grant money if awarded. The proposal should provide a description of the project’s genesis, its central question or goal, a research plan, an itinerary, and a complete itemized budget. Travel must adhere to college guidelines for student travel: see the “MAP Student Travel Guidelines” webpage for details. Application cover sheets are available in the Mears Cottage administrative offices and on the history department’s website. The department will consider proposals only if accompanied by the signature of the faculty project director or the applicant’s academic adviser.

Application Deadlines: October 1; December 1; February 15; May 1

The fellowship committee may award grants after each round, contingent on funding availability. If you are considering applying for an Alan R. Jones '50 Travel Fellowship, please check with the history department chair prior to each deadline to see whether funds are available.

Recipients of the Alan R. Jones '50 Travel Fellowship must submit a written report, suitable for distribution to history students and faculty, explaining their use of the funding and benefits of the research.