



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNIQUE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE  
HOSTS YOUNG SCHOLARS VYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

On February 13 and 14, the Fourth Annual Montaigne Scholars' Competition will occur at Shimer College, a small liberal arts school where students read and discuss the Great Books of Western Civilization.

Forty competitors—a number equaling almost half Shimer's current enrollment—are expected to be in attendance. These competitors will come from all over the country to vie for two full- and two half-tuition scholarships, all renewable for four years.

Each competitor is asked to read an essay by Michel de Montaigne, a 16<sup>th</sup> century French writer who popularized the genre, prior to arriving on Shimer's South Side campus. Performance in the competition is judged on two counts: the competitors' essays written in response to Montaigne's work, and their participation in a discussion modeled after one of the college's small classes.

Says 2008 winner Erik Boneff, of Royal Oak, Michigan, "The Montaigne Scholars competition was an opportunity not only for me to win a scholarship, but also to get a sense of the Shimer ethos – what it really feels like to be a student here. It is the ultimate college visit – one that is as experiential as it is informative."

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