

Kemper Foundation to Fund Shimer's Internship/Mentorship (SIM) Program

Kemper J.S. Kemper, founder of the Kemper Foundation, felt that a liberal arts education is the ideal preparation for life and work, and of course we at Shimer agree. We recently received a commitment \$50,000 from the Kemper Foundation for the first year of an ambitious new internship program, the Shimer Internship/Mentorship (SIM) Program. The SIM Program, starting in Fall 2008, will bring selected Shimer students together with experienced mentors, so that those students may engage in guided internships with the aim of bridging the worlds of ideas and work, empowering them to apply their liberal arts experience to non-academic ventures.

The SIM program is designed to develop students who may lack confidence outside the academy, but who have the talent and leadership potential to flourish in and contribute to the worlds of business, technology, and not-for-profits. These students may be the last to grasp the relevance of their education to those worlds; the SIM program is intended to help them understand the utility of their liberal education.

In the pilot year of the program, we plan to match 9 Shimer students with 9 mentors, drawn from among those suggested by Shimer alums, Shimer Board of Trustees members, and leaders in institutions with relationships with Shimer including Newberry Library, Chicago Public Library, Exelon Corporation, Aon Corporation, Great Books Foundation, Illinois Humanities Council, Encyclopedia Britannica, and Executives' Club of Chicago. Potential mentors will have experience in bridging the world of ideas and the world of work, and must show some affinity for working with liberal arts students. The role of each mentor will be to guide the intern toward completing full-time non-academic summer internships facilitating reflection, analysis, and group leadership skills.

If you are interested in the SIM program, please contact **John Meech**.