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## Eckley Scholars Spend Summer Immersed in Scholarly and Creative Activity

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# **Eckley Scholars Spend Summer Immersed in Scholarly and Creative Activity**

Aug. 6, 2015

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Can a composer convey an abstract concept such as Life through instrumental music? How do arts' organizations impact a community economically? Is it possible to design a quick test to determine a dog's self control?

The **Eckley Summer Scholars and Artists** spent their summers considering these and other questions. Established by President Emeritus Robert S. Eckley, his wife Nell and the Eckley Family Foundation as one aspect of a major gift, the endowment provides a \$4,000 stipend for each scholar to spend the summer on campus under the direction of a faculty mentor. Established shortly before President Eckley passed away in 2012, the program is designed to develop and deepen a student's creative and research competencies.

“When I learned I was going to receive the Eckley award, I felt so proud of my hard work to get this huge opportunity,” said recipient Steph AuBuchon '16. “I texted Dr. (Ellen) Furlong, called my mom and ran around my sorority house telling all my friends how excited I was. I felt very grateful for the opportunity and could not wait to get started on my project.”

Below are links to stories about each of the Eckley Scholars and what they've discovered about their projects and themselves:

**[Steph AuBuchon '16 Researches Self-Control in Dogs](#)**

**[Eckley Award Allows David Allen Flowers '16 to be Composer-in-Residence](#)**

**[Michelle Riechers' Research Indicates Arts' Local Economic Impact Exceeds \\$6 Million](#)**

**[Ryan Schonert '16 Seeks Answers to Cosmic Dust](#)**

**[Wenting Zhao '18 Refines Algorithm as Eckley Scholar](#)**