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Leslie A. Fiedler discusses Woodrow Wilson graduate fellowships

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An election campaign promising rich rewards to the successful candidates gets under way this month as members of college and university faculties in the United States and Canada prepare to nominate college seniors for Woodrow Wilson graduate fellowships.

Dr. Leslie A. Fiedler, professor of English at Montana State University and member of the Wilson Foundation's regional selection committee, estimated that over 9,000 students would be nominated for fellowships by the closing date of Oct. 31.

A thousand of the nominees will receive fellowships covering the first year of graduate study at the school of their choice in the United States or Canada, Dr. Fiedler said. The candidates are elected only after rigorous screening and personal interviews by regional selection committees. Each elected fellow receives a $1,500 stipend for living expenses plus full tuition and family allowances.

The program to encourage college seniors of outstanding ability to earn advanced degrees to qualify as college teachers is administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation under a $24,500,000 five-year grant from the Ford Foundation.

The program is open to college graduates, mainly in the humanities and the social sciences, according to Dr. Fiedler. Both men and women are eligible and there is no limit on the age of the candidate or on the number of years he has been out of college. Those who receive awards are not asked to commit themselves to college teaching but merely to "consider it seriously" as a career.

The foundation does not accept applications directly from students, Dr. Fiedler pointed out. Every candidate for the award must be nominated by a faculty member. Nominated students then declare themselves active candidates to the chairman of the regional selection committee.

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