

**“SOMEWHERE, OVER THE RAINBOW”
Eric Briggs Memorial Scholarship**

Up to \$1,000 in funding towards a semester study abroad experience

Description:

Eric G. Briggs was born in Wadsworth, Ohio, growing up on the dairy and beef cattle farm of his parents, Gordon Briggs and Jean Sommers Briggs. At the family farm, Eric cultivated a vast appreciation and respect for nature. Toward the end of the Vietnam War, he was drafted into the United States Army and commissioned to Germany, which gave him the opportunity to travel throughout Europe. So began his fascination for traveling and exploring the world. In 1984 he earned a BA in Communications from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and two years later he married Rose McEwen, a Latin American literature professor who teaches at SUNY Geneseo and with whom adopted Lilia Abigail.

Although Eric possessed much talent in the field of television and radio production, he opted for continuing tending the earth. He became a professional gardener, and worked as a greens keeper with various professional golf courses, including the prestigious Oak Hill Country Club in Pittsford, New York. As a result of an automobile accident that aggravated the symptoms of a chronic disease, from 2004 on Eric became a full-time stay-at-home Dad—an endeavor he fulfilled with much pride.

Throughout his life, Eric’s passion for traveling was channeled through his hobby of bicycling (the summer of 2010 he pedaled over 2,600 miles in the vicinity of his home in hilly Western New York). But he also traveled to Spain and other European countries, many times within Central America, and in March of 2010 through several South American countries where he finally satisfied his life-long quest to climb the Inca ruins of Peru.

Eric, an enthusiastic historian and expertly knowledgeable of countless details about world geography, thought that the best way to learn about countries, people and cultures that are different than our own is by living abroad—“somewhere, over the rainbow.” During his life, he sowed numerous and everlasting friendships with people around the globe.

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**Distribution:** Scholarship ~~“SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW”~~ completion of a minimum of 12 credits through the experience abroad, as verified by the host institution’s official transcript. Awardees who drop the Spanish major before graduating must return the awarded amount.