

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SOM FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNER OF  
2005 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP**

CHICAGO, IL – The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) Foundation announced today that it has awarded the 2005 Structural Engineering Traveling Fellowship to Annè Kountz of the University of Washington. The Foundation's Traveling Fellowships allow students to broaden their professional education, instill in them a heightened sense of their responsibility as future practitioners to improve the quality of the built and natural environments, and encourage them to appreciate the influence of place-making, culture, and technology in the design of buildings and their settings. This year's \$10,000 Structural Engineering award will be used by Kountz to travel and study structurally significant buildings and bridges in person, thereby fostering an appreciation of the aesthetic potential inherent in the structural design of buildings, bridges, and other major works of architecture and engineering.

Ms. Kountz will be receiving her Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Degree with a specialization in Structural Engineering with honors in June. She is complementing this degree with minors in Architecture and Mathematics. She plans to continue her education by pursuing double Master degrees in Structural Engineering and Architecture, but first this summer Kountz's proposed journey will take her to Egypt, Turkey, France, Italy, Switzerland and Spain where she will study the ancient pyramids, the builders of Hagia Sophia, gothic cathedrals, architecture by Nervi and structures engineered by Maillart and Menn, finishing her travel with studies of Calatrava works.

"The jury felt that Annè had an understanding of the importance of aesthetics in structures and would benefit from the traveling to see important buildings, bridges and other structures. Her proposed itinerary was well thought out and reflected a consistent line of thought. She had obviously developed her travel plans as a result of research into significant structures, and we thought she would greatly benefit from seeing them in person," said Jury Chair William Baker, Structural Partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. Baker continued, "The finalists this year, Shaun Valdovinos of the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign and Andrew Parker from the University of California, San Diego, were exceptionally well qualified. Selecting the winner was a challenge." Other distinguished jurors deliberating in finalist and winner selections were James Carpenter, Director, James Carpenter Design Associates Inc., Thomas Phifer, Principal, Thomas Phifer and Partners, and Theodore Zoli III, Vice

President—Northeast Division & National Director Long Span Bridges, HNTB Architects Engineers Planners.

### **SOM Foundation**

The SOM Foundation has awarded more than \$1,000,000 in educational prizes to students, faculty and young professional engineers. The programs of the SOM Foundation are funded through an endowment established by the Partners of the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM). Established in 1936, SOM is the first two-time recipient of the prestigious American Institute of Architects Architecture Firm Award. Some of SOM's design projects include the Sears Tower and John Hancock Center in Chicago, Lever House and the new AOL Times Warner project in New York, the San Francisco International Airport, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Extension and the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai. The Foundation's activities are wholly separate from those of the firm.

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