



Scholars Developing Scholars

a newsletter for Georgetown College faculty

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Dean's Honor Award winners represent the broad range of scholarly achievement for Georgetown College graduates

One of them is going to graduate school at Yale. Another will be spending a year in Germany on a Fulbright grant. The third will take her triple major to the University of Massachusetts to pursue her Ph.D. The three winners of the Dean's Honor Award would be the pride of any college in the nation.

Michael Newcomer: Good Chemistry

Michael Newcomer was selected because of what Provost/Dean of the College Dr. Rosemary Allen called "an extraordinary dedication to research and scholarship in a challenging field."

Newcomer will graduate in May with a 4.0 average and a major in chemistry. He will be attending graduate school at Yale University in the fall, where he will be pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry. Newcomer was also accepted at several other top graduate schools.

"It's not hard to see why graduate schools might want to accept a Renaissance man like Michael," said Allen. In addition to keeping a perfect grade point average, he has multiple awards for academic excellence: outstanding student in first year chemistry and first year biology, outstanding student in second year biology, and outstanding student in completion of the Latin sequence. He is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi (both academic honor societies), and Omicron Delta Kappa (which recognizes student leadership).

But Newcomer doesn't spend all of his time in the lab and the library. He is a varsity cross country athlete, ran varsity track, and spent a year as a varsity soccer player. One of his proudest accomplishments, he says, is running an eight kilometer race in less than 29 minutes.

But despite his many varsity athletic commitments, Newcomer also has found time to play intramural basket-



Whitney Purcell, Michael Newcomer, and Mike Puglisi with Dr. Rosemary Allen, Provost and Dean of the College

ball and to serve as an Interfaith Volunteer as well as volunteering for Impact of Kentucky and the Salvation Army.

Newcomer credits his success in graduate school application to "the letters of recommendation that I received from the professors here as well as from the professor I worked under this summer," when Newcomer was a student researcher at University of California/Santa Cruz.

His work at UC/Santa Cruz gave him a taste of what chemistry research could be like. He conducted independent research on the folding of Cytochrome c in urea and SDS.

"Any students who want to go to grad school in the sciences should spend at least one summer in a program like this," said Newcomer, "so that they are able to see what research is like." He advised students to become as involved as possible in research at the undergraduate level.

Newcomer followed his own advice, not only in his work in California but also in his participation in a research project supervised by Dr. Jeff Fieberg, assistant professor

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of chemistry at Georgetown College. The results of that research were presented this past November at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society. The project, entitled "Assembling an Ultrahigh Vacuum Chamber for Surface Science Studies," was coauthored by C. Daniel Benson, Michael B. Newcomer, Ali K. Said, John D. Craddock, Kourtney L. Gordon and Jeffrey E. Fieberg.

"He is amazing in that he consistently does everything that is suggested to improve learning—he immediately reviews lectures, reads the book, and works diligently on his homework," said Fieberg. "When he does not understand something, he stays after class or comes to office hours to receive a full explanation—most of the time his questions probe beyond the classroom discussion."

Newcomer may end up spending the next few years in New Haven, but it's guaranteed that wherever he goes, the chemistry will be good.

Michael Puglisi: Fulbright Bound

Dean's Honor Award winner Michael J. Puglisi, Jr., who will graduate in May with a double major in history and political science, has recently been awarded a Fulbright Grant to study in Germany during the 2005-06 school year. He will spend a year helping to teach English in the German schools and working on his thesis for his masters degree.

Puglisi is also already a student in the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, under a cooperative program that allows select Georgetown College seniors to begin work on an M.A. in diplomacy while they are still undergraduates.

His path to a career in diplomacy grew in part out of a summer study trip he took to Germany. While there, he conducted an independent study on Green Party politics in Bavaria. A former member of the Green Party originally promised him 15 minutes, but ultimately gave him 45 "because his questions were so good," said Dr. Ellen Emerick, a professor of history at the college.

His work with German politics helped inspire his decision to become a diplomat, and his desire to gain further international experience inspired him to apply for a Fulbright Grant.

Puglisi credits close relationships with his professors for the degree of his academic success, particularly citing the influence of Dr. Michael Cairo and Dr. Sigrid Suesse.

But he also indicates how important it is to challenge oneself in the classroom. "I think rigorous course loads help students better prepare for high-stress jobs in the real world.

Of course, the best way to prepare is to take courses that interest the student, but that are also very challenging."

Puglisi pushed himself in academic matters (he is a member of the Honors Program and is currently completing an Honors Thesis), but he pushed himself equally hard in extracurricular activities. Some of the diplomatic skills that Puglisi has developed through his academic studies came in handy during his year as editor-in-chief of the college's student newspaper, *The Georgetownian*. Puglisi continues to write for *The Georgetownian* and serves as the paper's managing editor. He is also a Writing Center tutor, a member of Phi Alpha Theta (history honorary), Delta Phi Alpha (German honorary), Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honorary), Omicron Delta Kappa and Alpha Lambda Delta.

In January of 2004, Puglisi made his national scholarly debut, presenting a paper at the national conference of Phi Alpha Theta, an honor society for history scholars. His paper, "A New World on Their Own Terms," discussed Italian immigration to American in the early 20th century.

Whitney Purcell: Stretching the Envelope

In announcing Whitney Purcell's Dean's Honor Award, Provost Rosemary Allen recognized her for her success in taking on academic challenges.

"For most students the basics for graduation (a major, minor and 120 hours) is enough," said Allen. "This student's Georgetown career included a triple major, 157 hours of credit, two terms at Oxford University, and an Honors Program degree."

Purcell is an Honors Program triple major in English, History and American Studies. She also participated in the college's innovative cooperative program with Regent's Park College of Oxford University, where she studied history in the university's individualized tutorial instruction format. She was able to work one-on-one with a leading expert in Anglo-Saxon history.

Purcell's academic achievements have earned her other recognition as well. In 2004, she received the Coleman Arnold Award for Excellence in Research from the English department for her work on Renaissance dramatists, and she is currently working on an Honors thesis involving the novels of Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding. She also aided Dr. Roger Ward, associate professor of philosophy, by helping create the index for his book, *Conversion in American Philosophy*.

Purcell also stays involved outside of the classroom. She is a member of Phi Mu, as well as a Brown Scholar, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and a Dean's Ambassador. She

participated in the Mock Trial Team and was part of the Chapel Leadership Team.

Purcell also served as copy editor for *Inscope*, the college's student literary magazine, and was president of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honorary that sponsors the magazine. She was also for many years the student secretary for the English department.

"I know that Whitney will make a great teacher someday," said Allen, who is director of Purcell's Honors thesis.

"She's creative, and she never stops learning. She also has this uncanny ability to recall just about everything she hears or reads. It's disconcerting to realize that although she never takes notes in class, she always remembers everything I say."

Purcell has always wanted to be a teacher, and this fall she will get her wish when she takes up her teaching fellowship at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, where she will be pursuing a Ph.D. in English Literature.

Graduate School Admissions

John Askew will enter the Department of Mathematics at University of Kentucky, where he has a teaching assistantship. He intends to pursue a Ph.D.

Brad Barnett will be pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Samford University

Marisha Belcher has been accepted to the University of Kentucky to pursue a Master of Science in Health Promotion.

Daniel Benson will be attending medical school at the University of Louisville.

Bolton Bevins has received a scholarship to attend Northern Kentucky University's Law School and has also been accepted to several other law schools.

Jennifer Bolton will be attending the University of Kentucky's College of Nursing.

Beth Bradley has been accepted to University of Kentucky Law School.

Keaton Brown will attend Bellarmine College's nursing program.

Thomas Brawner will be attending American University for Graduate work in Peace and Conflict Studies in the Fall.

Lisa Cannon has received a graduate assistantship at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in College Student Personnel/Higher Education.

Jay Claywell will be attending University of Kentucky's dental school.

Megan Copley has been admitted to the Pikeville College

School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Parker Diabo has been accepted to MBA programs at Eastern Kentucky University and Bellarmine College.

Nick Edelen has been accepted into the Stanford University business program.

Betsy Evans has been accepted to the Martin School of Public Policy at the University of Kentucky.

Tera Gabbard has been admitted to the pharmacy school at the University of Kentucky.

Stephanie Goodrich will be attending the University of South Carolina for pharmacy school

Michael Gould has been accepted to graduate school in Chemistry at University of Illinois-Chicago

Joshua Hearne has a full scholarship to attend Duke University's Divinity School.

Andrea Heflin will attend Eastern Kentucky University to earn a Master's degree in their sports administration program.

Wes Hunt will pursue a Masters in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University.

Jessie Langlitz was accepted to the graduate program in English at University of Houston.

Joanna Lile has been accepted into the graduate history program at the University of Kentucky.

Roy Lowdenback will be attending Bowling Green State University, where he will earn his Masters degree in Higher

Education Administration.

Ben McKown was admitted to Law School at the University of Kentucky.

Yale Madden has been accepted into the graduate program in computer science at the University of Kentucky and to the graduate school in math at Western Kentucky University.

Andrea Meredith will be attending the University of Kentucky's College of Nursing.

Brandon Montgomery will be attending pharmacy school at the University of Kentucky.

Michael Newcomer will be attending Yale University's graduate program in chemistry. He was also accepted to several other graduate programs.

Shannon Ollier will be attending University of Louisville's Educational Counseling program (mental health emphasis) in the fall.

Andrea Packer will be attending the University of Kentucky's College of Nursing

Mike Puglisi, who is already working on his graduate degree at the Patterson School of Diplomacy while he completes his Georgetown College degree, has accepted a Fulbright Grant to study in Germany.

Patrick Purcell has been accepted into graduate school in chemistry at the University of South Carolina and the University of Florida

Whitney Purcell has accepted a fellowship to pursue her Ph.D. in English at University of Massachusetts/Amherst. She was also accepted at Carnegie-Mellon University, Temple, SUNY-Binghamton, and University of Maryland.

Jordan Ragsdale has earned a full tuition scholarship for the three-year Master of Divinity program at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University.

Sarah Risner will be pursuing an advanced degree in Counseling Psychology at Lee University.

Cody Ryan will be attending the Patterson School of Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky.

Daniel Scott has been accepted to Chemistry graduate school at Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky

Amy Shaver will be attending McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University.

Lindsey Smith will be attending Indiana University's optometry school

Meredith Stutts has been admitted to the University of Alabama, where she will pursue a Masters of social work

Neeley Thomas will pursue a Masters degree in Health Promotion at the University of Kentucky

Naomi Trahan will pursue a Masters of education and policy in higher education at University of Kentucky

Candace Wheatley will study speech pathology at the University of Kentucky.

Evan White will attend University of Kentucky's dental school.

Amy Yancey will be attending medical school at the University of Kentucky--or perhaps at the University of Louisville (we have conflicting reports!).

Whom have we left out? Please contact Dr. Rosemary Allen, Provost, with any names that should be added to the list, and to correct any errors.

Selected Job Notes....

Danielle Rust has been hired by the Austrian Ministry of Education to teach English in a program administered by the Fulbright Commission.

Ashley Grassham has been chosen to be a Leadership Consultant for Phi Mu Sorority.

Mitch Woods has been chosen to be a Leadership Consultant for Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Jordan Hicks has signed a contract with the Oakland Raiders to compete in the NFL.

Jessica Hewitt will teach English in Temuco, Chile

Jessica Conn has been accepted into the Teach for America program.

CPA firm hires: **Amanda Dyer**--Moore, Stephens & Potter; **Adam Davis**--Crowe Chizek; **Megan Biagi**--Blue & Company; **Haley Hurt**--Ray, Foley, & Hensley.