



THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM OF
THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is always a special pleasure to communicate with our alumni and friends, to hear of your interests and achievements, and to celebrate with you the accomplishments of our current College Scholars. This has been a year of firsts, with our first NIH–Oxford/Cambridge Scholar, Brad O’Dell. It has also been a year of continuing achievement, as Anne Buckle became our third Scholar in as many years accepted as a State Department intern. And it has been a year of some frustrations; while the Scholars are very much “Ready for the World,” as we want our whole campus to be, we have gone through another year without having a Scholar study in Antarctica. We remain a program confined to only six continents.

As director of this exceptional group of undergraduates, I am blessed to see in action the combination of intelligence and energy that is the hallmark of each College Scholar, however diverse their interests. There is not space to celebrate each Scholar properly, and in what follows, we have been painfully selective.



BRAD O’DELL, UT’S FIRST NIH OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE SCHOLAR AT THE ISIS PULSED NEUTRON AND MUON SOURCE IN THE U.K.

I say “we” because my work-study student, Scholar Chris Hedgepeth, has done most of the work on this newsletter. Chris is a gifted writer who has interned in the White House in the correspondence office. He volunteered to draft this issue, and his

draft has usually defied improvement. As he handed me his typescript, he exclaimed, “This is such a great program!” I think he’s right. Happy reading.

—Chris Craig, professor and director of College Scholars

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FROM COCKE COUNTY TO CAMBRIDGE



There aren't many first-generation college students who matriculate at the University of Tennessee and go on to study at Cambridge University, but College Scholar **William Brad O'Dell** of Newport, Tennessee, is one of those success stories. Graduating summa cum

laude from UT in May 2009, Brad was accepted into the prestigious NIH–Oxford/Cambridge Scholars Program to work on his doctorate in biochemistry at Cambridge while conducting research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. The program, which funds tuition and provides living and travel expenses for students entering doctoral programs at either Oxford or Cambridge, chose only 11 students this year from a strong national pool. This is a tremendous honor, certainly befitting someone like Brad, a star student and an exemplary ambassador for the College Scholars Program for the past 3 years. As an undergraduate, Brad worked with Dr. Fred

Schell and Dr. David C. Baker, both of the UT Knoxville Department of Chemistry, to craft a program in structural chemistry combining chemistry, physics, and mathematics. With particular emphasis on nuclear magnetic resonance and neutron scattering experimentation, Brad's research involved the structural characterization of aqueous solutions of amino acids and carbohydrates. For all his good work, he was a 2009 recipient of the Cambridge International Student Scholarship, and in 2008 he was one of three UTK students—the rest also College Scholars—awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Now Brad is using his graduate partnership with NIH to work in the laboratory of Dr. Kevin Brindle at the Cambridge Department of Biochemistry, immersing himself in the techniques of hyperpolarized MR spectroscopy and MR spectroscopic imaging. He hopes to apply his learning and experience to his work involving brain-specific metastasis in the laboratory of Dr. Kathleen Kelly at the National Cancer Institute. Wherever his exciting research and accomplishments take him, we know that Brad will continue to do his family, and all of us associated with College Scholars, proud.

TORCHBEARERS—AT HOME AND ABROAD

Whether they're engaged in peace-building in Africa or in tutoring children of our inner-city schools, College Scholars continue to make a positive difference with their leadership and service at home and abroad. Two College Scholars this year were recognized at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet as Torchbearers, the highest honor the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, bestows on students who "walk in shadow to give light to others." Here we pull these two students out of the shadows for a moment to spotlight their remarkable achievements.

Our first Torchbearer is **Mary Braddock** from Germantown, Tennessee, who graduated with a College Scholars program in nonprofit leadership. Hers was a curriculum that essentially trained her to work with people to mold the vision, do the planning, and execute a



MARY BRADDOCK

successful strategy for improving our society. But for Mary, this has been more than an academic program; it is a way of life. She has proudly involved herself with the Alzheimer's association and Alternative Fall Break, but she has done so much more beneath the surface, exercising quiet yet effective leadership that never tries to seize the spotlight. Mary has held some of the most respected student positions on campus, including president of the Mortar Board honor society, orientation leader, and staff editor of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Journal of Applied Public Policy.

READY FOR THE WORLD

College Scholars continue to be completely engaged in our campus's Ready for the World initiative, the plan to remake UTK as a community with truly international and intercultural awareness. It is impossible in this space to recount all of their adventures, so we focus on just two Scholars, one who has gone to foreign lands and one who has come from them.

KNOXVILLE, WASHINGTON, BEIJING— ONE SCHOLAR'S JOURNEY

One of our May 2009 graduates, **Georgia Varlan** of Knoxville, exemplifies the reasons that the director comes into campus every morning with a smile on his face. Georgia has been a true academic star, a terrific leader on this campus, and an effective ambassador for our program, both in Tennessee and abroad. Georgia worked with her mentor, Professor Yang Zhong of the Political Science Department,



GEORGIA VARLAN
SAMPLING LOCAL
DELICACIES AT
THE WANGFUJING
MARKET IN BEIJING

to design a program combining the emphases of Chinese language, Asian history, global economics, and international policy to study the concept of globalization as it pertains to the rising markets and changing political systems of East Asia. Pursuing this program both in Washington and in Beijing, Georgia was a White House intern assigned to the National Economic Council, and she was chosen for a very selective program to teach English at Tsinghua University in Beijing. She received a fuller immersion in

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She has served the Student Alumni Associates and Sigma Kappa sorority in several capacities and has been a peer mentor for first-year studies students and program director for her residence hall association. She also has lent the College Scholars program her time and talents through participation in the admissions committee, our seminar planning committee, and the College Scholars recruitment advisory committee. Mary has undertaken all these involvements without ever focusing on herself. Instead, she embodies quiet, effective leadership. Our campus is a better place because of Mary's commitment to make it a better place—to touch her fellow students' lives in a positive way. Inasmuch as she is never one to call attention to herself and her good deeds, we are glad to do it for her.

Our other Torchbearer is **Erin Bernstein**, from Knoxville. The college's Outstanding Graduate in the Humanities, Erin had worked closely with her mentors Dr. Rosalind Hackett and Dr. Bob Kronick on a College Scholars Program in reshaping humanitarianism in Africa, a program that reflects her true calling. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and Mortar Board, Erin was president



ERIN BERNSTEIN

of the UTK Rotaract (the student Rotary Club) as well as co-president (with fellow College Scholar Lindsay McClain) of Knoxville Jazz for Justice, the collaboration that supports the victims of civil war in northern Uganda. She has been an advocate for the victims of that war, both in Washington and in Kampala, where she has interned in the Ugandan Parliament. On the side, she has also spearheaded a successful fundraiser to help treat AIDS in South Africa. But that's not the half of it. She volunteered in Knox County in the Sam E. Hill Family Community Center (pre-K and kindergarten) and worked closely with Dr. Bob Kronick on his full-service schools program. The summer before her senior year, when most students were, well, enjoying the summer, Erin was glad to find a fellowship that allowed her to work on community-building in a low-income neighborhood in inner-city Philadelphia. Erin also has worked with members UTK's faculty and administration to increase support for travel-abroad opportunities combining study and service. She has taken time after graduating to accept a national Rotary Ambassador Scholarship to France so that she can learn that language. Then she will be back in Africa in 2010 pursuing her humanitarian calling. Two faculty members who wrote letters of recommendation for her Torchbearer Award described Erin one of the top five students they have known in their 30 or more years of teaching. We think of her as another College Scholar and are very proud.



I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

Part of UT Knoxville's special role as our state's flagship public research university is to offer our students opportunities to do important research while they are still undergraduates. Every College Scholar takes full advantage of the research opportunities that this campus has to offer.

Among other activities, each year College Scholars receive about half a dozen of the 25 summer research internships sponsored by the UT Knoxville Chancellor's Office through the Office of Research Administration. To give you a better idea of the exciting research our College Scholars are doing, allow me to highlight the work of the College Scholars who received these Chancellor's Summer Internships in 2009.



DANIEL CURRY

Behind many psychopathologies of mood and anxiety lurks the memory of a traumatic experience. While many individuals emerge seemingly unscathed from such experiences, others suffer through years, if not a lifetime, of disorder. Under the direction of Dr. Matthew Cooper of the Psychology Department, **Daniel Curry** spent the summer researching how individual differences and prior experience affect susceptibility to psychiatric disorders stemming from

Ready for the World, *continued from page 3*

Chinese language and culture by spending another semester at Tsingua. For her senior project, Georgia built on her experience in Beijing and her work on trade policy to design a careful and methodologically sophisticated study to help the State of Tennessee's new trade office in Beijing. Georgia, who is the most charming budding economic policy wonk you could ever meet, is now augmenting her training by earning a law degree. She chose the University of Virginia, in part for its proximity to Washington. Wherever her path takes her, we know that she will do Tennessee and the College Scholars proud.

THE WORLD COMES TO US, TOO



MAURICIO VALENZUELA

Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology (BCMB), Mauricio's program combined chemistry,

Another of our May graduates, **Mauricio Valenzuela** from Asuncion, Paraguay, was educated in Peru before coming to Tennessee. Mauricio did a College Scholars program in biochemistry and computational biology, with an emphasis in molecular dynamics. Under the supervision of his mentor, Dr. Hung Guo in the

biochemistry, and bioinformatics to study the structure and specificity of enzymes using computer simulation and molecular dynamics. Mauricio worked as an undergraduate chemistry researcher and later as a BCMB researcher. For his College Scholars senior project, Mauricio combined computer modeling with experimental data from the lab to propose new mechanisms for enzymatic reactions involving proteins that are essential for human health. Outside the lab and the classroom, Mauricio was the cofounder of UTK's Latin American Student Organization, tutored other students in Spanish and chemistry, was part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and AED (the pre-med honors society), and served on the Dean's Student Advisory Council. "The best part of my academic program has been interacting with different faculty members and learning new concepts and skills," Mauricio says, reflecting back on his experience as a College Scholar. "The program gave me the flexibility to take specialized courses that fulfill my scientific interest and add more research hours into my schedule. I strongly believe my undergraduate experience as a College Scholar has prepared me to reach my goals." Mauricio is taking another year in the lab to finish several research projects before entering graduate school in pursuit of an MD-PhD. Last summer, he earned a credential that is even more important than being an MD-PhD, or even than being a College Scholar. Mauricio became a citizen of our country. We are enormously proud of our newest fellow American.



trauma. Having used Syrian hamsters, Daniel's study revealed that previously subordinate subjects were significantly more vulnerable to debilitating social stress following trauma than dominants or controls were.



ANDY HAHN

For his summer internship, Mount Juliet native **Andy Hahn**, a winner at the 2009 Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, focused on the synthesis of functional analogs of a potent antitumor compound, originally synthesized in the laboratory of Dr. David C. Baker of the Chemistry Department. The overarching goal of this project

was to find changes in the structure of the analogs that would optimize the ability of the chemical compound to stop the growth of tumor cells. Andy is continuing his work on two functional analogs, with one close to completion and the other progressing nicely, he is happy to report. The final novel analogs will be sent to the National Cancer Institute for anticancer screening, determining their ability to kill tumor cells in many cancer cell lines.

In light of the ongoing healthcare reform debate in the United States and the current need to improve health conditions around the world, two Scholars from Knoxville, **Lindsay Merriman**, mentored by Professor Rosalind Hackett of the Department of Religious Studies,



FROM LEFT: ALLISON THIGPEN AND LINDSAY MERRIMAN

and **Allison Thigpen**, mentored by Professor Michael Fitzgerald of the Department of Political Science, spent the summer exploring the dynamics of healthcare as a human right, from the intricacies of international law to the philosophical groundwork of multiple disciplines. From this work, they identified a need for health rights to emerge as a unified field that can address the plethora of individual situations that arise, from access to primary care to the distribution of essential medicines. This research forms the groundwork of Lindsay's thesis examining the effect of war and structural violence on health and human rights and will inform Allison's analysis of the suggested outcomes of current healthcare reform policy proposals. Lindsay has already travelled to Ghana and to Haiti to do medical aid work and to collect data for her project. Allison is interning this semester in Washington with the Alliance for Health Reform.



BRITTA JOHNSON

Britta Johnson, who works with Professor Robert Hinde of the Chemistry Department on quantum chemistry, describes her project in this way: "The behavior of matter on the atomic scale is described by a mathematical function called the wavefunction, which is obtained by solving the Schrödinger equation for a system. The wavefunction describes the probability that

a particle will be found in a specific region of space and also tells us the allowed quantum mechanical energy levels of the particle. By focusing on the surface interactions between a magnesium oxide crystal and a helium atom, the energy levels in helium that are quantified by the Schrödinger equation were determined using an estimation process known as the coupled channel approach. This approach estimates the wavefunction using Fourier analysis, which represents a function as the product of cosine waves that are periodic along the surface of a crystal. The next step in this project involves estimating the Fourier coefficients with greater accuracy and comparing these energy values to values obtained using direct summation." Britta is the first to admit that her work with

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A NONTRADITIONAL TRADITION



NORMA PRAHL

Nontraditional students, those who return to college after the age of 25, are a terrific resource for our student body and for our program. Our most recent nontraditional student, **Norma G. Prahl**, graduated in May 2009 with a College Scholars program combining anthropology with an emphasis in studio sculpture. Norma had graduated from nursing school in the 1970s, when an RN rather than a BSN was the standard credential. She went on to a long and fruitful career as a pediatric nurse. Norma was there when local hospitals first began their neonatal critical care units. She pioneered the role of the advance practice nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the UT Medical Center, where she is currently a neonatal nurse practitioner. And now she continues that role with a College Scholars degree. Under the mentorship of Jason Brown in the UTK School of Art, Norma completed the requirements for an

anthropology major while gaining artistic competency as a sculptor of the human form, ultimately combining these interests and applying them to forensic sculpture, better known as facial reconstruction. In the summer of 2004 Norma studied abroad at the Archaeology Field School in St. Kitts and worked with Dr. Gerald Schroedl on a research project analyzing button production from that archaeology site. Anthropology strongly appealed to her. Then in 2005, Norma attended a 2-week workshop on the fundamentals of facial reconstruction taught by the leading expert in the field. The next year she received a student scholarship to the International Sculpture Conference in Cincinnati. These experiences revealed her true course as a forensic sculptor; Norma may be the only dedicated sculpture student in the School of Art who also volunteers with the Forensic Research Center (“the Body Farm”). As she continues to care for newborn babies, Norma now focuses on the end of life, as well, and on using her artistic gifts to help ensure that crimes do not go unpunished and that families can have a chance of closure when loved ones have disappeared. She is also interested in medical

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I Know What You Did Last Summer, *continued from page 5*

Dr. Hinde may seem a little abstruse, but she is confident that it will be a steppingstone to all chemists’ bigger goal, “Better living through chemistry!”



CHRIS HEDGEPETH

Focusing on the news coverage of the 2008 presidential election, senior **Chris Hedgepeth**, from Memphis, used his research internship to examine the extent to which journalists truly live up to their reputation as “watchdogs of democracy,” fulfilling Thomas Jefferson’s ideal of keeping the people safe with information. Chris conducted a content analysis of front-page

election articles by *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* during the 2-month general election period, coding each story according to their narrative schemas (whether they emphasized issues or the gaming strategies used by the candidates) and their reporting styles (interpretive or descriptive)—important factors affecting how well the press is able to inform the public.

Chris’s findings, which form the basis of his senior project, rather gloomily revealed a campaign “mostly defined by sport and spectacle,” he notes, “clearly at the expense of a focus on the real issues facing the country.” Chris, who had already served as a White House intern in the Correspondence Office, will return to Washington this fall for discussions with the Pew Center, which has expressed strong interest in his work.



ALUMNI NEWS



**NANCY-ANN MIN
DEPARLE**

College Scholars alumna and former Torchbearer **Nancy-Ann Min DeParle**, who has worked in Tennessee state government and in the administration of former president Bill Clinton, was chosen by President Barack Obama in March to direct the White House Office for Health Reform. *The Washington Post* described her job in this way: “On her petite shoulders rests the

administration’s top domestic policy goal: to cover millions of uninsured Americans, improve care nationwide and control skyrocketing medical bills that are devouring personal, corporate, and government budgets.” Nancy-Ann, originally from Rockwood, Tennessee, was our first woman student body president. She graduated in 1978 with a College Scholars program in history, then went on to study at Harvard Law School and Oxford, ultimately using her degrees for a career in public service and later the private sector. It was White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, her colleague from the Clinton administration, who persuaded her to return to government and work under President Obama, who describes DeParle as his “point guard” on the White House healthcare team. She is married to Jason DeParle, a senior writer at *The New York Times* and a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*. They have two sons.

A Nontraditional Tradition, *continued from page 6*

anthropology, historic archaeology, women’s studies, sculpture, drawing, and ceramics. She and Jerome, her husband of many years, also enjoy travel, especially in Central America and the Caribbean. Having graduated, Norma continues her work in neonatal critical care as she takes the first steps to establish herself in her new field.

This year’s winner of the Chancellor’s Honors Notable UT Woman award is College Scholars alumna **Mary Anne Peine Hitt**. A 1997 graduate of the program, she currently serves as the deputy director of the National Coal Campaign for the Sierra Club. When she was a student, Mary Anne founded SPEAK, Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville, which has helped change campus culture by leading the effort to create the student environmental fee, which funds many environmental initiatives and has helped make the university one of the largest purchasers of green power in the Southeast. For her College Scholars senior project, “The Greening of Big Orange,” Mary Anne examined UT’s campus policies regarding recycling, energy use, and waste disposal. She presented her work to the chancellor, and it quickly became the framework for UTK’s sustainability agenda over the next decade. Mary Anne currently works through the Sierra Club to end mountaintop mining in Appalachia. Before this job, she served as executive director of Appalachian Voices and joined forces with Google Earth Outreach to bring light to the impact of the coal industry on the mountains, waterways, and wildlife of the area.



MARY ANNE PEINE HITT

We were recently pleased to hear from one of the “charter” members of the College Scholars Program, 1976 graduate **Randy Richardson**, originally from Shelbyville, Tennessee. A Neyland Scholar considering both law school and medical school at the time, Randy was able to tailor a College Scholars curriculum that best prepared him for his plans after graduation. Deciding against graduate school, Randy was hired by the army in January 1977 to work at its contracting organization. He spent more than 27 years in contracting, eventually becoming the associate director of the Acquisition Center, a position where he managed about 300 people

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executing contract actions valued at about \$4 billion a year. In February 2004 Randy became the command ombudsman for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), which is responsible for worldwide acquisition management, operation, and sustaining the army's aviation and missile systems, providing parts, equipment, maintenance, and support to U.S. soldiers around the world, as well as for sustaining more than 3 million combat flying hours in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Randy serves as a business advisor to the commander and his deputy, as well as the group's personal representative to industry, working to resolve complaints or issues with any command organization. Reflecting on his College Scholars experience, Randy believes that the diversified curriculum he completed as part of the College Scholars Program prepared him for a long and interesting career in the field of defense acquisition. "In a field where you need the ability to communicate with, coordinate with, and manage the effort of engineers, logisticians, attorneys, soldiers, contracting professionals, and a variety of private businesses," he says, "the wide-ranging assortment of knowledge you gain from such a program helps you find the way to handle rapidly changing circumstances and conditions. I have always been proud of my association with the university and the College Scholars Program." We at College Scholars are certainly proud of our association with Randy.

John E. Roberts III, MD, '82, has recently been in touch after too many years. After finishing his College Scholars degree with an emphasis in biochemistry, John went on to medical school at the University of Miami, then did his surgery training at Baylor in Houston and Dallas. Back in south Florida since 1995, and board certified and recertified in general and colorectal surgery, he has sustained a busy and satisfying surgical practice. He has also kept up his hobbies, including fishing, watercolor, and classical guitar. Most important, he is the dad of two beautiful daughters, with all that that implies—Girl Scouts, choir, band, volleyball, and so much more!

We were glad to get this information from a friend of a friend: **Suresh Karne, MD, '88**, is in private practice with three other physicians as a gastroenterologist in Huntsville, Alabama. Suresh graduated from Yale medical school and spent 2 years as a teacher in New Haven,

Connecticut, teaching science to high-school students. He loved the experience and will forever have a great sense of admiration for educators. Suresh mentioned recently that the College Scholars program at UTK was a great experience and very much helped him acclimate to the teaching style at Yale.



BOB DAVIS

Since leaving UTK 18 years ago, **Bob Davis, '91**, has been keeping busy. He writes: "I graduated from UT in College Scholars in 1991 and have been a creature of academia ever since. I received a PhD in economics from Duke in 1995, taught for a couple of years, then decided to return to graduate school at UC—Berkeley to pursue a second PhD, this one in political philosophy. I graduated from Berkeley in 2002, did visiting stints at Duke and Stanford, then finally landed a tenure-track job at UC—Davis in 2004, where I still teach in the Political Science Department. I'd be more than happy to serve as a contact for College Scholars interested in graduate school in the Bay Area." Thanks, Bob. The willingness of our alumni to help our recent graduates is pure gold.

Alan Gratz, '93, continues to produce youth fiction that young people (and not so young people) want to read. *Something Wicked*, his very modern tale inspired by Hamlet, is now out in paperback. And there is much else. Your faithful editor regularly checks his site at alangratz.com.

Maj. Ted Rhodes, U.S. Army (Ret.), '96, military consultant and author, was back at UT Knoxville teaching military science last spring in the interstices of his writing career. While in the army, his deployments included serving as a public affairs officer in Iraq. His talk to the College Scholars Seminar was one of the most provocative and stimulating we have ever had. Thanks, Ted!

Patrick Bolt, MD, '97, and spouse **the Rev. Michelle Warriner Bolt, '98**, have given son Bayliss a new role, that of big brother. Their twin boys, Brandon and Alexander,

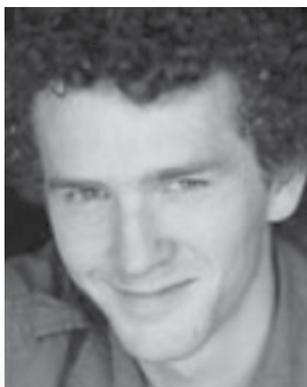


came into the world on May 8. Both the new arrivals are lively, intelligent, and keen judges of character; any discerning observer can see that they smile with delight when they see your faithful editor.

Laura Houston, MD, '02, has been e-mailing with her CS faculty mentor (your faithful director) from Washington University in St. Louis, where she is finishing her ob-gyn residency. She writes, "I matched last week in maternal-fetal medicine at MUSC in Charleston. I am extremely excited; it was very much a place I was interested in. Wash U has been a great place to train, but I am really looking forward to being closer to home (and the beach!)." We will be very glad to have Laura a little nearer to East Tennessee.

Marcus Thiele, '03, was the subject of a nice article in Knoxville's *Metro Pulse* this summer (metropulse.com/news/2009/jul/08/marcus-parcus-knoxvilles-own-pop-artist). After finishing at UT Knoxville, Marcus went on to graduate from the Academy of Art in San Francisco, and to a remarkable career as Marcus Parcus, a comic book artist who has done graphics for venues as diverse as *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brian* and the *New Yorker* magazine.

Casey Mock, '05, finished his law degree at Vanderbilt in May and immediately shipped out for a stint in the Peace Corps in Moldova. As you may know (and your editor did not) the local language is not Russian but Romanian, at which Casey is getting pretty good while he teaches in a local school and has enough exotic experiences to write a delightful blog, onebloccast.wordpress.com.



FISHER NEAL

Fisher Neal, '06, spent another summer season with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. In the short time since graduating, Fisher has now acted throughout the U.S., and we were glad to see him back in Knoxville last year to play one of the title roles in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* at the Clarence Brown Theatre. To know Fisher is to know that he is completely dedicated to his art, even if it

means going back to school. We were happy to learn that he entered the graduate theater program at Yale this fall.



ALEX PERKINS

Alex Perkins, '06, has been sighted at ORNL and on campus this semester. Alex, a mathematical ecologist who trained with Susan Riechert and Lou Gross, is now a doctor and in Population Ecology at UC Davis, a premier program in this field. For a technical explanation of exactly what he does, and of his considerable accomplishments, your faithful director had to turn to his

website at two.ucdavis.edu/~taperkins. Alex provided me with this simpler explanation: "The reason I'm at ORNL is to complete a practicum requirement of my fellowship [DOE Computational Sciences Graduate Fellowship]. They give me very generous funding for four years, and part of what they ask in return is that I spend a few months at one of the national labs. ORNL was the best choice for me both professionally and personally, so here I am. In a nutshell my project involves simulating Chinook salmon populations in Idaho's Snake River system to assess their extinction risk under different scenarios." Clearly, Alex is using his considerable mathematical gifts and his love of nature to make the planet better. We look forward to hearing more about this before he returns to California.

Beth Wilson, '07, married fellow 3rd-year UT Law Student on August 15. Your faithful director has never seen a happier couple, or a couple better suited for this adventure. Beth and Brad, warmest congrats!

Joseph Samuel Wright, '08, is one of those rare individuals who went to New York to pursue a theater career and actually seems to be getting away with it. Sam (as we knew him) came by for a visit this fall, and was bubbling over with projects. He had already succeeded in getting one of his plays produced and has other good things in the offing. Like any New York theater professional, he has his own website, josephsamuelwright.com. He blogs at josephsamuelwright.blogspot.com.



ENSURING OUR FUTURE



JOSEPH BRUCE "JOE" KENNEDY, 1959–2002
COLLEGE SCHOLARS '81

honor, combined with other generous alumni support, allows us to provide the resources that help each Scholar live up to his or her promise. Some examples:



ANDREW WHEELER

Andrew Wheeler, '09, was our college's top graduate in the natural sciences this spring. His senior project, part of a larger work that will be published next year under the guidance of Professor Engin Serpercu in the Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology, is an attempt to improve the efficacy of a whole class of antibiotics.

The reagents that Andrew needs for this work are very expensive. Because of your support, he had the tools he needed to finish an excellent and useful project. Andrew is

As part of another project, I have made site visits this year to some of the most highly regarded public and private universities in our country. Having seen the curricula offered, and having met some of the most outstanding students at each of these institutions, I am more convinced than ever that the best students in our university are the equal of the best students at any university, public or private, in the United States. The College Scholars Program is one way we ensure that these special young people receive all the challenges and opportunities that will help them become leaders in their fields and in our society. The extra resources that help them reach their goals are essential to keeping this program strong. I am pleased and heartened to announce that this year the Joe Kennedy Memorial Excellence Fund has become fully endowed. As an undergraduate, **Joe Kennedy** (College Scholars, '81) was a Neyland Scholar, the UT valedictorian, an exemplary student leader, and a Torchbearer. In later life, he became a distinguished attorney, a community leader, and a devoted family man. After his untimely passing at the age of 43 in 2002, Joe's family made a commitment to honor his life in a way that continues to help our best students. The fund named in his

spending the year after graduation finishing other research projects before going to medical school.

Lindsay McClain, who will graduated December, has committed herself to humanitarian work in sub-Saharan Africa, where she is engaged in trying to heal the wounds of a 20-year civil war in Uganda. This fall, Lindsay presented an overview of her work in Accra, Ghana, at an international meeting on current humanitarian initiatives in Africa. Your generosity made it possible for us to send her to this meeting, which has



LINDSAY MCCLAIN
(RIGHT)



resulted in speaking invitations in Nigeria and in Sierra Leone in the spring. Lindsay will not have so far to travel to these, since she plans to work with a humanitarian NGO in Uganda after graduation.

Sandy Shelton, '09, dancer and choreographer, included in his senior project a showcase of new work by young choreographers performed by members of the UT Dance Society, of which he served as president. Because of you, he was able to produce this show in the spacious and elegant Cox Auditorium. (By the way, it was a hit!)



SANDY SHELTON



IAN ORR

Ian Orr, '09, is a living example of the ways that it is possible to balance partisanship and civility. Although a deputy director of the Tennessee Obama campaign in 2008, Ian is good friends with other Scholars who served as White House

interns under President Bush. That model of civility in a partisan world is one of the great strengths of College Scholars. Before politics set in, Ian had planned to pursue his passions, formal systems and artificial intelligence, as an academic philosopher. Now he plans to pursue graduate work in the analysis of political decision-making. Last summer, he advanced toward that goal by attending the summer institute of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. Through the support our program was able to provide, Ian now has the training and the network to move forward with his vocation.



ANNE BUCKLE

Anne Buckle, the recipient of this year's Laura Bowe Scholarship, made a major advance in her training to become an expert on international relations with a concentration in Western Europe. Anne had already spent a semester

at the Sorbonne burnishing her French. This helped equip her to continue a recent tradition as our newest College Scholar at the U.S. Department of State. Her State Department internship at the Western European desk confirmed her career ambitions, and helped her make valuable contacts with several of our current ambassadors. That could not have happened without your support.

We could multiply examples. Every current Scholar benefits directly from your continuing belief in the value of our program and your willingness to support each new group of Scholars. If you would like to support us this year, please send your contribution to

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
2524 DUNFORD HALL
KNOXVILLE, TN 37996-4000
PHONE: 865-974-2365
E-MAIL: CBLAIR@UTK.EDU**

There are many kinds of support. Your financial gifts are important. Your willingness to share your time and expertise with current Scholars is precious, as well. And the news you send helps our current group of outstanding young people, and their faithful director, to understand and to celebrate the vibrant tradition of College Scholars who come here to make the most of their opportunities and

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THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
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build on that education to make full, satisfying, and productive lives. Whether you are able to give this year or not, please let us hear from you.

Please send me an e-mail to scholars@utk.edu, or write to this address:

CHRISTOPHER CRAIG
PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE SCHOLARS
1118 McCLUNG TOWER
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37996-0413

We look forward to hearing from you!

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