



WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE

# ARTS & SCIENCES

## Student Achievement Newsletter

NUMBER 3

JULY 2007

*Dear Colleagues,*

*I hope that you will all enjoy this third annual edition of the Student Achievement Newsletter as much as I have. We all know how terrific our students are, but it's great to take a moment to share our knowledge and celebrate their achievements.*

*Enjoy!*

*Mary Jane Chase*  
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

### PROGRAMS

#### *ANTHROPOLOGY*

The 2007 Outstanding Student Awards in Social Sciences went to **Nicole Croft** and **Jacob Fitisemanu**.

**Sherrie Bakelar** presented a paper at the Utah Conference for Anthropology Undergraduates, entitled "Opportunistic Learners: Great Apes in Captivity."

**Jacob Fitisemanu** presented a paper titled "Perpetuation and Adaptation of Ceremonial 'Ava Drinking Among Ethnic Samoans of Salt Lake County'" at the Utah Conference of Undergraduate Research. He made an impression and was later asked by the organizers of the Utah Conference for Anthropology Undergraduates to present this paper again, which he did.

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTATIONS:

**Sherrie Bakelar**: "Opportunistic Learners: Exploring the Continuum of Orangutan Learning"

**Jacob Fitisemanu**: "Perpetuation and Adaptation of Ceremonial 'Ava Drinking Among Ethnic Samoans of Salt Lake County'"

**Sherrie Bakelar, Glenna Christensen, Nicole Croft, Nicholas Cummings, Lisa Dunton, Jayson Estrada, Emma Haupt, Daniel Iverson, Michael Manning, Peter Miterko, Alexandria Moorner, Brittany Paull, Brianne Rietbrock, Nissa Roper, Christopher Short, and Spencer Woolley**: "Constructing Theory: Prehistory Migration in the New World"

**Kim Hammer, Kelsy Young, Peter Miterko, Holly Medrano, and Stephanie J. Sampson**: "A College or University: Varied Perspectives from the Campus Community"

#### *BIOLOGY*

**Peter K. Kuennemann, Stephanie Goshorn, Chris Glezos, Haverley Coy, and Stephen Stanfield** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards in Biology.

For the second year in a row, **Misty Riddle** received the Doyle Stephens Scholarship for her research, "Microbial Influence in the Great Salt Lake: Identification of Great Salt Lake Microbes Associated with the Brine Shrimp, *Artemia Franciscana*." She was also selected for honorable mention in the highly prestigious Barry M. Goldwater scholarship competition for her project, "Microbial Influence on Great Salt Lake *Artemia*."

**Rue Van Dyke** has been awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the American Society for Microbiology for his proposed summer project entitled “UV Protection in Halophiles: Carotenoid Investigation.” This fellowship will include a summer stipend and passage to the national meeting next year in Boston where he will present his research alongside graduate students and post-doctoral researchers.

**2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR  
BIOLOGY PRESENTATIONS:**

**Emily Rohn Alleman:** “Bird Phylogeny”

**Jennifer Deardurff, Konstance Wickham, Taylor Phillips, and Chris Glezos:** “Effects of a Urine Environment on Esp and Ace Expression in *Enterococcus faecalis*”

**Breanne Eddington and Tabitha N. Webster:** “Resistance to Ultraviolet Irradiation & Desiccation in Great Salt Lake Halophilic Archaea”

**Lindsey Harden:** “The Upregulation of Thioredoxin Reductase in *Artemia*”

**Ali Jahromi:** “The Effect of Crowding on the Sex and OMP Expression of the Teleost Fish Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*)”

**Rhiannon Michelle Key and Misty Riddle:** “Understanding the Effects of Caffeine on *C. elegans*”

**Kimberly Mawhinnie, Kristen Haas, Morgane Lauf, and Jimena Repetto:** “Effects of Different Media and Aerobic vs. Anaerobic Growth Conditions on Esp and Ace Gene Expression in *Enterococcus faecalis*”

**Misty Riddle:** “Identification of Great Salt Lake Microbes Associated with *Artemia franciscana*”

**Marianka Sochanska, Jessica Roestenburg, and Sadie Roestenburg:** “Vitamin E effects on MPP+ Induced Parkinson’s Disease using *C. elegans* model”

**Robin Tillery and Ryan Brass:** “Using Mitochondrial DNA Segments to Determine Evolutionary Relationships within Avian Species”

**Rue Van Dyke, BreAnna Bogden, Michael Nord, and Imran Khan:** “DNA Protection Mechanism in Halophiles: Carotenoid Investigation”

***CHEMISTRY***

**Patricia Wayment** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Award in Chemistry.

**2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR  
CHEMISTRY PRESENTATIONS:**

**Tenzin Norgyal:** “Quantifying and Identifying Carotenoids in Halophilic Archaea”

**Amberlyn Peterson:** “MD Simulations of Oligonucleotide Duplexes of Peptide Nucleic Acid”

**Cindy Spangler:** “Extraction and Isomerization Rates of  $\alpha$ -acids for Bittering Beer”

**Patricia Wayment:** “Synthesis of Novel West Nile Virus Inhibitor”

***MOVING ON...***

**Patricia Wayment** will enter the University of Utah School of Pharmacy.

**Brian Dorich** obtained a Research Position at Dionex Corporation in Salt Lake City.

**Cindy Spangler and Traci Anderson** accepted Chemical Technician Positions at ARUP.

***COMMUNICATION/MPC***

**Kayla Smith, Jessica Shurtleff, Ashley Bunk, and Stephanie Petersen** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards in Communications.

**Brian S. Clark, Sarah Ryther, and Chalice Randazzo** presented papers at the 2007 Popular

Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in Boston. Brian's paper was titled "Law-Abiding Outlaws: A Rhetorical Analysis of the National Website of Bikers Against Child Abuse." Sarah's paper was "Girls in Skirts and Men at Work: Have Textbooks Progressed beyond Obvious Gender Stereotypes?" Chalice's was titled "Missing *The Point*: A 'Feminist' Cartoon Based on Patriarchal Norms."

**Kayla Smith** received the Board of Trustees' Character Award at the 2007 Commencement Ceremony.

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTATIONS:

**Kathleen Bratcher** and **Kristina Larsen**: "Applying Critical Theory to Organizational Communication: Examining the Role of Communication in Workplace Power Structures"

#### *MOVING ON...*

**Ashley Bunk** and **Angie Bastian** accepted positions with the Girl Scouts of Utah. Ashley is the Adult Recruitment Coordinator and Angie is a Graphics and Publications Designer.

**Tara Hair** is working in Communication for Comcast.

**Kirsten McGann** has headed off for a year-long internship at the Seattle Repertory Theatre.

**Jessica Shurtleff** has taken a marketing position with Ririe Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City.

**Kayla Smith** is now Director of Development and Admissions at J.E. Cosgriff Catholic Elementary School.

#### *COMPUTER SCIENCE*

The 2007 Outstanding Student Award in Computer Science was awarded to **Saida Tripp**.

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR COMPUTER SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS:

**Jacob Kruse**: "An Analysis of Compiled Versus Interpreted Programming Languages"

#### *ENGLISH*

**Kirsty McLaren** and **Seth Bryant** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards from the English Program.

**Emily Alaniz** was chosen by James Galvin as the winner of the Academy of American Poets Student Poetry Contest. Her poem "Ladybug" will be published in *Ellipsis*, and she was asked to read it at the debut on April 20, 2007.

**Seth Bryant** presented his research on religiosity and spirituality among the Westminster student body at the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research (UCUR) at the University of Utah in February.

**Miles Fuller** was one of eight students and the only undergraduate (from thousands of submissions) chosen to win an Intro Award from the Associated Writing Programs. His poem "The Wheels in Your Perfect Bones" will be published in *Quarterly West*.

**Tiffany Kinney** presented a paper entitled "Invisible Laborers" at the 2007 National Undergraduate Literature Conference at Weber State University.

**Sumiko MacDonald** presented her paper "Family Ditchers, Black Widows, and Sex Fiends: Deviance and Debunking Social Norms in the 1950s" at UCUR.

**Kirsty McLaren** presented a paper entitled "The Metaphor of the Pastoral in *The Heart of Darkness* and *The Return of the Soldier*" at the 2007 National Undergraduate Literature Conference at Weber State University.

**Amanda Webb** presented her paper “High-School Peer Consultants: Not Just the Inmates Running the Asylum” at the Rocky Mountain Peer Tutoring Conference at Weber State in March. Mandy has since been invited to serve on the high school planning committee for the 2008 International Writing Centers Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### **2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR ENGLISH PRESENTATIONS:**

**Alana Dela Cruz:** “Deceptive Appearances: A Deconstructionist Approach to Mixed Race in Twain’s Pudd’nhead Wilson”

**Lela Larson:** “From Cold War to 9/11: An Analysis of Foreign Policy Doctrine and its Effect on National Security”

**Allison Parks:** “It’s Just a Little Misunderstanding: “The Influence of Jazz Music in Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road*”

**Stephanie Petersen, Miles Fuller, Anna Hansen, and Carl Evans:** “Editing *Ellipsis*”

#### ***MOVING ON...***

**Seth Bryant** was accepted to the graduate religious studies programs at Temple University and the University of Florida and will be entering the program at Florida.

#### ***ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES***

**Allison Parks** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Award from the Environmental Studies Program.

**Sarah Adamson** will do her summer and fall 2007 internship as the Watershed Communications Specialist with Salt Lake County.

**Jake Barnes** has been selected by Rowland Hall as their Sustainability Intern for next year.

#### ***GENDER STUDIES***

The 2007 Outstanding Student Award from the Gender Studies Program was given to **Stephanie Petersen**.

During Spring 2007, **Jamee Roberts** compiled a substantial bibliography for Fatima Mujcinovic’s extensive research on masculinity theories and criticism in an effort to refashion the introductory Gender Studies course GNDR100.

#### ***GEOLOGY***

**Megan Dalton** is the first Westminster College student to graduate with an academic minor in Paleontology.

#### ***MOVING ON...***

**Megan Dalton** accepted an internship with the San Diego Zoo research station in Hawaii.

#### ***HISTORY***

**Adam R. Wilkins** and **Richard Brockmyer** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Award from the History Program.

The Phi-Eta chapter officers **Amy Yag**, **Sherrie Bakelar**, and **Psarah Johnson** did an outstanding job planning and carrying out the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) 2007 Utah Regional Conference, drawing papers from five Utah institutions and a visit from national president Dr. Thomas Alexander. They had help from other PAT members, notably **Joshua Jentsch** and **Travis Estes**.

**Adam Wilkins** won Best Undergraduate Paper (the top undergrad prize!) at the Phi Alpha Theta 2007 Utah Regional Conference. His paper, “Within Our Midst: Subversive Art in America,” was part of his History 490 thesis.

**2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR  
HISTORY PRESENTATIONS:**

**Stan Sarkisov:** “Playing for the State”

***HONORS***

**Sharayah Coleman** will spend July in Kampala, Uganda, volunteering with the non-profit organization Come Let’s Dance.

**Breanne Eddington** spent spring semester volunteering at the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

**Heather Hicks** will be studying at the University of Edinburgh in their Political Internship Program, which also consists of working with a member of the Scottish Parliament.

**Jessica McKelvie** will spend 10 weeks this summer on a Summer Project with Campus Crusade for Christ in Lake Tahoe.

**Blakely Neilsen** will be spending the summer in Washington, DC, at the Engalitcheff Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems.

**Ashley Peterson** and **Ben Rackham** lobbied in Washington, DC, this March for legislation protecting Red Rock Wilderness.

**Marie Robinson** spent the Winter Break interning at Mayor Peter Corroon’s office of Environmental Policy.

**Whitney Strong** will go to China for the fall semester to teach 4–8 year olds English at the Wuxi Guanghua School.

**Ashley Pederson** and **Ben Rackham** will be traveling to Meru, Kenya, this summer, where they will volunteer at the Kaaga School for the Deaf.

The following Honors students are presidents of Westminster College clubs this year: **John Cook** (Mock Trial); **Marie Robinson** (Alpha Chi); **Amy Burns** (Oxfam); **Sharayah Coleman**

(Pierced); **Lindsay Harden** (Circle K); **Ben Haverkost** (Finance); **Ben Rackham** (STAND).

**2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR  
HONORS PRESENTATIONS:**

**Jennifer Bowen:** “Knowing and Forgetting: The Function of Traumatic Dreams in Shakespeare, Brittain, and Owen”

**Meghan Hekker:** “The Road to Recovery: The Importance of Communalization for Female Trauma Victims Within the Iliad and Richard III”

**McKay Holland:** “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Laugh at Myself: The Role of Humor in the Recovery of Trauma Populations”

**Ashley Pedersen:** “Socially Forged Identities in *Testament of Youth* and *Richard III*”

**Benjamin Rackham:** “Ignorant Siblings in the Congregation: Anger and Post-Traumatic Reconnection to the Community”

**Tiana Smith:** “The Effect of Age on the Recovery Process in Vera Brittain’s *Testament of Youth*”

***MOVING ON...***

**Ray Bradford** was accepted to Stanford Business School and will start his MBA there in the coming fall quarter.

**Lenni Keyes** was hired as a sales assistant for *Salt Lake, Utah Style & Design* and *Utah Bride & Groom* magazines.

**Seth Longhurst** has accepted a position with Freestyle Marketing Group as an Account Coordinator, and will begin working full time upon graduation.

***JUSTICE STUDIES***

**Erika Dawn Backlund** and **Jill Hartsen** were awarded the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards for Justice Studies.

## ***LANGUAGES***

**Joel Miller** received the 2007 Outstanding Student Award for Spanish. The 2007 Outstanding Student Award for French was awarded to **Julianne Jensen**.

**Jeremy Degagne** and **Nima Mahak**, who graduated from Westminster College last June, are traveling from Salt Lake City to Mexico to the Pacific Coast and will finish in the Patagonia, the very south part of the Pacific on the American Continent. Everyone is invited to check their web page: [www.vwviaje.com](http://www.vwviaje.com).

## ***MATHEMATICS***

**Christopher Davis** and **Megan Orton** were awarded the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards by the Mathematics Program. **Chelsea McCarty** and **Christopher Davis** received the high scores on the Putnam Exam.

**Chelsea McCarty** won second place in the “Integration Bee” at the regional meeting of the MAA (Mathematical Association of America) at the University of Utah. The “Bee” is much like a spelling bee, but for solving integration problems.

### **2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR MATHEMATICS PRESENTATIONS:**

**Christopher Davis**: “Adaptation of the Ray Tracing Computer Graphics Algorithm to Visualize Hyperbolic Three Dimensional Space”

## ***MCNAIR STUDENTS***

**Nissa Roper** and **Jeremy Sheikh** presented at the 2007 NCUR. Nissa was also published in the 2007 NCUR Proceedings.

### ***MOVING ON...***

**Joshua Graehl** (2006 grad) is entering the Research Master in Philosophy and Economics

at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**Krystle Cook** (2005 grad) will enter USU's Master of Educational Technology.

## ***MUSIC***

### ***MOVING ON...***

**Tommy Lamb** accepted a position with a marketing firm in Los Angeles.

**Asha Despain** will pursue a nursing career in Salt Lake City.

**Ashley Alfieri** will be back to Westminster in the fall to pursue a master degree in psychology.

## ***PHILOSOPHY***

The 2007 Outstanding Student Awards in Philosophy went to **Asia Ferrin** and **Ashley McIntosh**.

**Asia Ferrin**, **Ali Jahromi**, **Blakely Neilson**, and **Nissa Roper**, as Westminster College's ethics bowl team, took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country at the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl championship in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was Westminster's first experience at a national ethics bowl.

Competition was tough; Westminster's four team members often debated against five-member teams, many of which had been to the national playoffs before. They competed against Texas A&M, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Clemson University, among others. They played in the championship match against the University of Miami, the only other undefeated team in the tournament. They won five straight matches, losing only to the University of Miami in the final match and earning second in the nation.

**Asia Ferrin** also submitted her thesis proposal for the Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference at the University of Utah. Her paper was accepted and awarded best undergraduate paper.

**Lynette Sieger** received honorable mention in the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics. Her essay, "Torture: The Bleeding of Universal Human Rights," was selected as a finalist from approximately 300 essays submitted nationwide.

**Conor Walline** presented his paper "Aristotle's Metaphysics and Social Constructivism" at UCUR.

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR PHILOSOPHY PRESENTATIONS:

**Ali Jahromi:** "Homosexuality: Science, Society, and Theory"

**Nissa Roper:** "Rethinking Christianity: Environmental Ethics in Light of the Apocalypse"

#### *MOVING ON...*

**Asia Ferrin** has been admitted to the doctoral program in philosophy at the University of Washington. According to her acceptance letter, several faculty in applied ethics were "very impressed" with her application file. She also received a McNair scholarship.

**Ashley McIntosh** was accepted to University of Utah Law School, deferring attendance until fall of 2008.

#### *PHYSICS*

**Edwin Solak** and **Amy Rogers** presented posters at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at Dominican University in San Rafael, California, in April 2007. Ed's paper is titled "Phase Transitions of Entropy and Mutual Information in Fully Connected, Directed Networks," and Amy's is "Evolvability of Totally Connected Networks."

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR PHYSICS PRESENTATIONS:

**Amy Rogers:** "Evolvability of Totally Connected Networks"

**Edwin Solak:** "Phase Transitions of Entropy and Mutual Information in Fully Connected, Directed, Networks"

#### *POLITICAL SCIENCE*

**Joseph Lerner** and **Lara Abuzeid** were awarded the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards by the Political Science Program.

#### *PSYCHOLOGY*

The 2007 Outstanding Student Awards in Psychology were awarded to **Nicole Turnidge**, **Meghan Hamilton**, and **Rinthida (Lin) Rangrajitpakorn**.

#### 2007 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR PSYCHOLOGY PRESENTATIONS:

**Ashley Alfieri:** "Eating Attitudes, Beliefs and Body Dissatisfaction of Westminster College Female Students"

**Raquel Gabbitas:** "Global Self-Esteem, Body Image and the Effectiveness of Self-Affirmation"

**Vanessa Benedict:** "Religiosity and Self-Esteem in Both a Heterosexual and Homosexual Sample"

**Collin Arsenault:** "Smell-Attraction Relationship in Heterosexuals and Homosexuals"

**Lindsey North:** "The Effect of Sexual Orientation on Expectations for Gender Role Conformity"

**Alex Runolfson:** "Temperament Differences in Movie Goers"

**Shontol Torres Burkhalter:** "Immigrant Health Project: Analyzing Healthcare Disparities Among Latina/o Immigrants in Salt Lake City, Utah"

**Meghan Hamilton:** "Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury and Outcome: Motor and Cognitive Measures in an Experimental Model"

**Nicole Y. Nguyen:** “Impact of Morphine Metabolite Differences on Analgesia in Women and Men”

### ***SOCIOLOGY***

**Jamie Kalikakism, Kirsty McLaren, Jennifer Popich, and Jamee Roberts** were awarded the 2007 Outstanding Student Awards by the Sociology Program.

**Asia Ferrin, Eliza Tompkins, Kirsty McLaren, and Breanne Nalder** presented papers at the 2007 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in Boston. Along with two other panelists from St. Mary’s University, the students composed the first all-undergraduate panel at the National Conference. Asia’s paper was entitled “Affluent Ethics: Can We Stop Consuming?” Eliza’s paper was “Cool Psychology: Therapeutic Applications of Popular Culture.” Kirsty and Breanne presented their joint paper, “Hot Girls Here!: Pornography’s Influence on Popular Culture, Gender Construction, and Bedroom Intimacy.”

### ***MOVING ON...***

**Jamee Roberts** was accepted into the MSW program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice and will be starting her graduate studies there this fall.

### ***SPEECH & THEATRE***

**Kayla Smith, Kirsten McGann, and Jessica Shurtleff** were recognized as Civically Engaged Students by the Utah Campus Compact for their leadership in organizing the events surrounding the *Vagina Monologues*. The students raised more than \$10,000 for the Rape Recovery Center.

### ***MOVING ON...***

**Kirsten McGann** was awarded an internship (amidst a very competitive internship application process) at Seattle Repertory Theatre.