Fellowships
• Literacy
• Study Abroad
• Love of Learning
• Scholar and Artist

Showcasing 199 Phi Kappa Phi award recipients across the disciplines

AWARDS EDITION

Winter 2010
Phi Kappa Phi Forum and Its Relationship with the Society

Phi Kappa Phi Forum is the multidisciplinary quarterly magazine of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Each issue of the award-winning journal reaches more than 100,000 active members as well as government officials, scholars, educators, university administrators, public and private libraries, leaders of charitable and learned organizations, corporate executives and many other types of subscribers.

It is the flagship publication of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, with chapters on more than 300 college and university campuses across the country. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and upwards of one million members spanning the academic disciplines have been initiated since the Society's inception. Notable alumni include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former NASA astronaut Sally Ride, former NASA astronaut and astronaut and astronaut for the Humanities, to famous artists such as Stanley Fish. Notables to have contributed pieces include Ronald Reagan, fortieth President of the United States; Myrlie Evers-Williams, civil rights trailblazer; Warren Burger, the fifteenth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Molefi Kete Asante, African-American studies groundbreaker; Sally Ride, former NASA astronaut; Ernest Gaines, fiction writer; and Geoffrey Gilmore, former director of the Sundance Film Festival.

Phi Kappa Phi Forum also encourages movers and shakers to speak for themselves through exclusive interviews. Q & A have run the gamut from public servants such as Lynne Cheney, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to famous artists such as playwright August Wilson to literary critics such as Stanley Fish.

The spring, summer and fall issues further contain columns on fields such as education and academics, science and technology, and arts and entertainment in addition to book reviews, poetry and humor. Plus, these issues compile member news, chapter updates and Society developments, along with letters to the editor, the Phi Kappa Phi bookshelf and general announcements of interest to keep readers abreast of Society programs and activities.

Through words and images, Web links and multimedia components, the magazine intends to appeal to the diverse membership of Phi Kappa Phi by providing thoughtfully, instructive, helpful — and sometimes provocative — material in smart, engaging ways.

Winter issue

The winter issue (mailed late November) celebrates those who win monetary awards from Phi Kappa Phi. The Society distributes more than $700,000 annually through graduate and undergraduate scholarships, member and chapter awards, and grants for local and national literacy initiatives, and Phi Kappa Phi Forum applauds the recipients in this edition, listing them all and spotlighting a few. (For more information about Phi Kappa Phi monetary awards, go online to www.phikappaphi.org/awards.)

As an arm of the Society, Phi Kappa Phi Forum helps uphold the institution's mission: "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."
This Issue: Award Winners

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi distributed $442,000 to 199 applicants this year. Judges selected winners from more than 1,750 submissions in five categories. The awards edition compiles and congratulates these standouts.

A Three-Dimensional Warrior
By John T. Harding
Marcus L. Urann Fellowship recipient and Naval officer Michael Campbell studies the economic costs in war zones.

A Quest to Heal Others
By Gina Logue

To Harvard for Neuroscience
By Ashley Barnas
Urann recipient Taralyn Tan, a doctoral student in neurobiology at Harvard, explores animal magnetism.

Building Reading Skills One Move at a Time
By Dallas Woodburn
The SMILE (Support Makes Involvement in Learning Enjoyable) Center earns a Literacy Grant.

A Doctor in the Making
By Patrick Sullivan
Study Abroad recipient and microbiology major Opeoluwa Fawole was a medical intern in Argentina.

Playwright Sets Stage for Career
By Jason Caudill
Love of Learning winner Edgar Mendoza examines Filipino-American life at historical junctures in his plays.

2010 Phi Kappa Phi Scholar and Artist
Email Q&As
Get to know Scholar Sarah A. Rajala and Artist David Northington.

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Winter 2010 PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi bestows 57 $5,000 Fellowships (some named*) annually to members entering their first year of full-time graduate or professional study. Starting this year, Phi Kappa Phi also distinguishes three who display exceptional promise with $15,000 apiece; these new Marcus L. Urann Fellowships are named after an undergraduate student founder of the Society. This year, 148 applicants entered the competition. Including 2010, more than 2,500 recipients have earned fellowships of one type or another totaling more than $12.75 million since the program began in 1932.

**Kaitlyn M. Alcorn**
University of Kansas
School of Medicine
Medical student
Career objective: Pediatric surgery
Favorite book: *At the moment, Arthur Koestler by Heller and Darkness at Noon*

**Jennifer Michelle Bazemore**
University of Central Florida
College of Medicine
Medical student
Role model: My grandfather Enrique, who moved his family from Mexico to the U.S., working low-paying jobs and long hours, to give them the possibility of a better future

**Janine P. Bernardo**
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
Medical student
Role model: My mother

**Kevin A. Oliveira Callender**
Yale University
Doctoral student in clinical psychology
Memorable course: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
Best part of Phi Kappa Phi: Funding opportunities

**Robert Bonacci**
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine
Medical student
Role model: My grandmother, a nurse in the former Soviet Union

**Sarah Baqi**
University of Delaware
Medical student
Role models: My mom and dad

**Seyar Baqi**
University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry
Dental student
Role models: My mom and dad

**Laura Armstrong**
University of California-Berkeley
Doctoral student in physical chemistry, emphasis on computational research
Favorite books: *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller and *Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler

**Janine P. Bernardo**
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
Medical student
Role model: My mother

**Kevin A. Oliveira Callender**
Yale University
Doctoral student in clinical psychology
Memorable course: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
Best part of Phi Kappa Phi: Funding opportunities

**Robert Bonacci**
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine
Medical student
Career objective: Infectious diseases and public health policy
Favorite book: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Rachel E. Dudley**
The Jewish Theological Seminary
Pursuing a master’s degree in modern Jewish studies and rabbinic ordination
Favorite author: On theology,
A Quest to Heal Others

By Gina Logue

A mythical land of gallant knights and ladies fair might not seem like the dream of the United States Military Academy’s 2010 valedictorian. Yet Alexandra Rosenberg once wanted to be Lancelot.

The second lieutenant, a Marcus L. Urann Fellowship winner, earned numerous honors as a sociology major training to be like the noble Arthurian: yearbook editor, squad leader, platoon leader, academic officer. And she was a 2009 Truman Scholar for her leadership potential and commitment to public good.

But the woman warrior’s childhood fairy tale morphed into a realistic drive toward humanitarian service.

Working as an assistant physician at a rural hospital in Gambia through the cultural exchange program Operation Crossroads Africa transformed her. “How could it not, given the spartan (at best) operation?”

So did volunteering with the Red Cross at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. “It was very sobering and inspiring to see these soldiers (injured in Iraq and Afghanistan) in the process of recovery,” she said.

A 2010 Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University enables her to pursue a master’s degree in medical anthropology and learn about treating diverse communities. Then it’s on to Duke University School of Medicine. “I will always admire the Lancelots of the world, struggling to rescue those in distress. But I no longer believe that Lancelot alone can save the world, one battle at a time,” she wrote in her Fellowship application. “There are too many ways the world needs saving. Instead, I plan to dedicate my life to implementing programs and policies that prevent people from needing to be rescued in the first place.”

Gina Logue (Middle Tennessee State University) is an award-winning producer and media representative in the Office of News and Public Affairs at Middle Tennessee State University, her alma mater. She entered academia after more than 20 years of covering politics as a broadcast journalist at regional radio stations. Email her at odahleen@gmail.com.

Abraham Joshua Heschel Influential person met: Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core Memorable undergraduate experience: International travel-exchange program “Three Faiths, One Humanity” that enhances understanding among Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities (Syracuse University)

Jennifer Faust University of Wisconsin-Madison Pursuing a doctorate in physical chemistry Most proud of: Conducting chemistry research in Argentina last summer Satisfying community service: Tutoring grade-school students at a local elementary school (Illinois Wesleyan University)

Andrea Fowler Vanderbilt University Pursuing a doctorate in audiology Memorable course: Sign language Satisfying community service: Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentoring elementary school students (University of Oklahoma)

Gina Logue

Teresa A. Franzen Black Hills State University Pursuing a master’s degree in strategic leadership Fantasy career: Think tank or motivational speaker Satisfying community service: Local homeless shelter Most proud of: Raising two amazing daughters (Black Hills State University)

Jennifer Ghandhi University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Studies and Pritzker School of Medicine Pursuing a doctorate in public policy and a medical degree Satisfying community service: Habitat for Humanity International (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

Drago Andrés Guggiana Nilo Harvard University Doctoral student in biophysics Fantasy career: Professional jazz and/or metal piano and keyboards player Most proud of: Making it to Harvard

Merranda Holmes East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine Medical student Advice for peers: Seek things that initially seem impossible and pursue them with all that you can. The most incredible opportunities come when you expect the unexpected. (Middle Tennessee State University)

Courtney Jean Innes University of Cambridge Pursuing a master’s degree in Jewish-Christian relations (via anthropology) Memorable course: Fieldwork/excavations in Petra, Jordan; Tell Es-Saaf and Tel Gezer, Israel; and Fayoum, Egypt Satisfying community service: Picking olives from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, pressing them to make olive oil, and selling it to raise money for cancer Most proud of: Participating in Building Bridges for Peace with Israeli, Palestinian, and American youths (Brigham Young University)

Kristin A. Juhasz Seton Hill University Training to become a physician assistant Favorite author: Dr. Seuss Satisfying community service: House-building projects in Louisiana and Kentucky Role models: My parents (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
To Harvard for Neuroscience

By Ashley Barnas

As a 2008 biochemistry/biophysics major at Oregon State University, Taralyn Tan studied homosexuality in sheep, among other investigations into what the budding researcher calls the nexus between the brain and sexuality. She sniffed out the role pheromones play in procreation. And the undergraduate teaching assistant wrote two songs about biochemistry to help her students learn, and professional journals picked up “Citrate Sonata” and “March of the Proteins” for publication.

No wonder she’s begun a doctoral program in neuroscience at Harvard University.

The Marcus L. Urann Fellowship recipient plans on using a portion of the grant to buy lab equipment that might otherwise not be provided through her graduate program.

“The fellowship is great financial relief in terms of living expenses but also the money will help me out in the professional-development sense,” said the driven Tan. “It’s a nice education-expense bonus.”

It’s also somewhat ironic. Part of her motivation to succeed as, in her words, a woman in science stems from her mother’s refusal to get her a chemistry set for her sweet-16 birthday, Tan wrote on her Fellowship application. Mom advised thinking more about makeup and less about chemicals. But the undeterred Tan, the first student in her family to pursue a doctorate, credits her success to her proud parents (dad is an IT manager for an insurance company and mom is an instructional coach for teachers at an elementary school), plus professors and related mentors.

When not in the lab — and Tan worked in one at Harvard Medical School after graduation — Tan loves playing soccer and reading murder mysteries. Another hobby is graphic design, which she puts to good use by “making nerdy science T-shirts.”

Ashley Barnas (Elon University) is the lead video producer at The News Journal/DelawareOnline.com in New Castle, Del. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and broadcast communications from Elon University in May. Email her at ashley.barnas@gmail.com.

Taralyn Tan spoke to Society members at the 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Convention in Kansas City, Mo.
Donors of Named Fellowships

Ruth E. Brasher Fellow.3 Ruth E. Brasher, Professor Emerita at Brigham Young University, served as Director of Fellowships for the Society for nine years and provided a planned gift to endow a fellowship. Established in 1998, it is awarded to a nominee from the Brigham Young University chapter. If there is no recipient from this chapter, preference is given to an applicant whose record of service is exceptional and/or whose undergraduate major is domestic and family science.

Kathleen Greey Fellow.5 Created in 2001, the fellowship honors the memory of Kathleen Greey, a longtime chapter officer at Portland State University and an education librarian, who provided funds for the fellowship in her estate plan. Preference is given to a top-ranking nominee whose undergraduate field is other than the basic sciences.

Walter and Adelheid Hohenstein Fellows.4 University of Maryland System administrator Walter Hohenstein and his wife Adelheid (Heidi) were initiated into Phi Kappa Phi at University of Maryland. The former served as president of the Society and of the University of Maryland chapter, among numerous national and local roles spanning more than three decades. The Hohenstein Fellowship, awarded since 2004 to honor the deceased couple, goes to a top-ranking Hohenstein Fellow.1

Marjorie Schoch Fellow.4 The Marjorie Schoch Fellow celebrates a top-ranking nominee in any discipline. Schoch earned a B.A. in political science from Butler University in 1938 and a master of library science from University of Illinois in 1944. When not working as a librarian at a number of schools in Indiana, she also enjoyed photography and travel. Schoch, who died in 2005, was a lifelong supporter of her Butler chapter and the Phi Kappa Phi Foundation. The fellowship in her honor began in 2004.

Alfred M. Wolfe Fellow.6 The Alfred M. Wolfe Fellowship pays tribute to Alfred M. Wolfe (pictured), the first member of the Society to endow a fellowship in the donor’s own name. Preference is given to the top scorer whose undergraduate field is in the biological sciences.

Slater Fellow.2 In 1985, on his 95th birthday, James R. Slater, emeritus professor of biology at University of Puget Sound (and since deceased), became the first member of the Society to endow a fellowship in the donor’s own name. Preference is given to the top scorer whose undergraduate field is in the biological sciences.

Yoeger Presidential Fellow.7 Established in 2001 from the generosity of deceased Society president Roger Yoeger, the fellowship in his name is awarded each year to a student in one of the basic science disciplines such as engineering or agriculture. Yoeger taught in and headed the department of agricultural engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Gretchen Renshaw University of Arkansas Pursuing a master of music in euphonium and tuba performance Influential teachers: Velvet Brown; Steven Mead Notable groups played with: Besses o’th Barn Brass Band; World Youth Wind Orchestra Project (Pennsylvania State University)

Rebecca Rodger Arizona State University Doctoral student in applied mathematics Career objective: Mathematics Satisfying community service: Playing hand bells for church hand bell choir Question not asked you want to answer: Hobby? Playing bassoon in an orchestra Best part of Phi Kappa Phi: Recognition of scholastic achievement (Samford University)

Jenny Roemer Colorado State University Pursuing a master’s degree in human dimensions of natural resources Memorable course: Environmental Conflict Management Favorite author: Willa Cather Role model: My parents Satisfying community service: Respite Care, Inc. (for children with developmental disabilities) and Kids at Heart (foster and adoptive families) in Fort Collins, Colo. (Colorado State University)

David Rounce Texas Tech University at Austin Doctoral student in environmental and water resources engineering Satisfying community service: Water systems in rural communities in Waslala, Nicaragua (Villanova University)

Ermal Rrapaj University of Washington Doctoral student in theoretical physics Career objective: Nuclear physics Role model: My parents (Old Dominion University)

Jessica Ryan Carnegie Mellon University Pursuing a master of arts management Career objective: Education director for an arts organization Most proud of: Creating a music wellness series to help fellow undergraduate students learn about healthy musicianship Satisfying community service: I designed a musical storytelling program for students at a local elementary school (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Building Reading Skills One Move at a Time

By Dallas Woodburn

Playing chess fosters reading skills, research indicates. So some fourth through sixth graders in Central California move pawns across the board to help move eyes across a page at a center named SMILE: Support Makes Involvement in Learning Enjoyable.

Activities like that one, which builds memory, concentration, and self-esteem, earned the SMILE Center, part of Project LEAP (Leadership Education to Address Poverty), an initiative involving California State University-Fresno’s chapter, a Literacy Grant for the second straight year.

“Our goal at the SMILE Center is twofold: to help meet academic and social needs for at-risk children; and, just as important, to provide students at Fresno State with a positive, meaningful service-learning experience,” said founding member and program coordinator Don Romsa.

The after-school program for children from low-income families began in 1999 as a neighborhood effort. The response from parents and teachers was so positive that the SMILE Center was invited to Vinland Elementary School a few blocks away from Fresno State. Today, the SMILE Center serves approximately 30 elementary school students there annually, with 100-150 college students volunteering as tutors.

Within the first three weeks of school, teachers refer struggling students to the SMILE Center. “Most of the children come from disadvantaged families and don’t have much support at home,” Romsa said. The SMILE Center provides one-on-one guidance throughout the academic year.

Program director and chapter public relations officer Chris Fiorentino, who also runs the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Leaning at Fresno State, called the SMILE Center “one of our most valued community partners.”

The Literacy Grant will go toward purchasing chess sets and other materials, plus books, often the first the students have owned, Romsa said.

2010 Fellowship Recipients continued

Claire Henrietta Rydell
Stanford University
Doctoral student in American history
Favorite book: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Satisfying community service: Helping register thousands of voters for the 2008 elections
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Staci Sakai
University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine
Medical student
Favorite book: American history
Satisfying community service: Medical student
(University of California-Davis)

Christopher San Miguel
University of North Carolina
(at Chapel Hill) School of Medicine
Medical student
Favorite book: Behavioral Medicine and International Law
Satisfying community service: Hurricane Gustav medical relief efforts
(University of North Carolina School of Medicine)

Katherine Hollister Smith
Washington University School of Medicine
Satisfying community service: Medical student
Most proud of: Being a member of the Louisiana State University Tiger Band Colorguard for four years
(Louisiana State University)

Britta Spaulding
State University of New York at Buffalo
Doctoral student in anthropology, concentration in archaeology
Influential person met: William Kelso, director of the Jamestown (Va.) Rediscovery archaeological project
Role model: My parents
Most proud of: Learning four new languages as an undergraduate:
Biblical Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German
(Lycoming College)

Cody Tramp
Utah State University
Doctoral student in biological engineering

Dallas Woodburn
University of Southern California
Doctoral student in biological engineering
Career objective: Synthetic biology
Influential person met: Synthetic biologist Drew Endy
(Utah State University)

Kipp Voth
The Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
Medical student
Career objective: Cancer treatment
Best part of Phi Kappa Phi: Recognition for hard work
(Pittsburg State University)

Rachel Waldemer
University of Illinois College of Medicine
M.D.-Ph.D. student
Satisfying community service: Spanish translator at a women’s shelter
(University of Missouri-Kansas City)
Literacy Grants support endeavors that build and otherwise encourage the knowledge, confidence, and related benefits that come from reading, math, science, and computers, among other fields. Twelve grants worth up to $2,500 apiece were awarded this year to Phi Kappa Phi chapters and members for ongoing projects or new initiatives that reinforce part of the Society’s mission “to engage the community of scholars in service to others.” Sixty-nine applicants entered in 2010, the same number as last year. Including 2010, more than 100 recipients have earned Literacy Grants totaling upwards of $200,000 since the program began in 2003.

**Civic Engagement Teams**

University of Arizona honors students mentor up to 72 youths in after-school activities emphasizing the intersection between technology and literacy. Hosted at two Pima County Public Library branches, one plan targets third through sixth graders who live in a subsidized housing complex and utilize library computers for fun but little else, while the other motivates teens from rough neighborhoods to develop multimedia skills. Funds underwrite digital cameras, for example, and photo-editing software. (Barbara Whittlesey, *Lewis & Clark College*)

**Elon Academy Book Jam**

Elon Academy is a year-round college-access program for 75 or so academically talented but underserved 10th-12th graders in Alamance County, N.C., with financial need and/or no family history of higher education. It used a 2009 Literacy Grant to start a monthly Book Jam. Elon University students, who primarily were Phi Kappa Phi members, facilitated group discussions and served as role models. The grant paid for books (fiction). A second grant this year does the same. (Darris Means, *Elon University*)

**Family Reading Castle**

Pre-K through first-grade kids, and their grownups, explore an eight-foot tall Family Reading Castle populated by Mother Goose et al. in this interactive experience at the free Arizona State University Museum. The site owns the tower and readied a computerized display of 10 nursery rhymes; the grant allows for setting the stage with, for instance, tuffets and a tent, puppets and dress-up costumes, props and scenery. The museum’s website contains a rendition, too. The local Phi Kappa Phi chapter handles the media campaign. (Lenore Shoult, *Arkansas State University*)

**GED Lending Library**

Those studying for the General Education Diploma (GED) can use the GED Lending Library at the Augusta State University (ASU) Literacy Center. The educational levels of more than 65,000 adults in the area measure less than those of an average eighth grader, according to the center’s website. Participants check out preparatory books and receive individual tutoring from undergraduate and graduate students, including ASU Phi Kappa Phi members. The goal: assist at least 95 people. (Paulette Harris, *Augusta State University*)

**GED Preparation for Inmates**

According to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 80 percent of Ohio inmates are high school dropouts; reading ability averages at a 7.5 grade level. The Phi Kappa Phi chapter at Youngstown State University (YSU) and United Purpose, YSU inmate students at Trumbull Correctional Institution in Leavittsburg, hope to improve these statistics. United Purpose members tutor fellow prisoners reading for the GED. The grant and YSU chapter provide supplies and advising. (Tammy King, chapter past president, *Youngstown State University*)

**Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds**

Lock Haven University’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter collaborates on the Ross Library Building Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds program for children ages 4-9 and their families. Six sessions extend community outreach of the Annie Halenbake Ross (Clinton County, Pa.) Library system by pairing wellness with literacy. Participants work out (e.g., yoga, playground games), read books, and eat nutritious snacks. Phi Kappa Phi members help teach and select items. (Kathleen Allison, chapter secretary and treasurer, *Lock Haven University*)

**Literary Livewires**

Literary Livewires: Bringing Books to English Language Learners earns a third grant for working with three- and four-year-olds from low-income families whose main language is not English. It’s part of a service-learning project between University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and the Open Door Preschool. UTA students/prospective teachers read weekly for a month to the children, who receive a tote bag and relevant books at a family literacy celebration. Classroom teachers also get a set of books. (Kathleen Tice, *University of Texas at Arlington*)

**Mathematics and Science**

In an undertaking called Promoting Interest and Literacy in Mathematics and Science, the Phi Kappa Phi chapter at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) provides books in these subjects for K-6th graders at John Pittard Elementary School. The campus of some 900 students also receives wireless reading devices and ebooks for pupils. The Pittard liaison, a sixth-grade teacher, mentors MTSU students taking pedagogy courses in how to develop lesson plans about these materials and shares results with Pittard colleagues. (Rebecca Watts, *University of Louisiana-Monroe*)

**Neighbor to Neighbor**

Duquesne University’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter purchases multicultural fiction and nonfiction for K-8th graders who live in shelters served by the Homeless Children’s Education Fund in Pittsburgh, Pa. The shelters include resource rooms with books and computers. In this project called Neighbor to Neighbor, the chapter also recruits student and faculty volunteers to read with children in the shelters and partner daycare centers in the university’s neighborhood. (Laverna Saunders, chapter president-elect, *Duquesne University*)

**Read & Succeed**

Four hundred volunteers tutor K-6th graders in the Washoe County School District in Reno/Sparks, Nev., through its Read & Succeed program. Eight hundred are needed for those among the 33,000 young minds in question. Kids receive age-appropriate books through the grant as incentive to participate. Phi Kappa Phi members, honors students, and others from various service organizations at University of Nevada-Reno are approached to be tutors, recruiters and screeners. (Kim Soule, *University of Nevada-Reno*)

**Rock-n-Read**

This is the third year in a row that the Rock-n-Read Literacy Program earned a grant. University of West Alabama’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter, the school’s Students in Free Enterprise organization, and the HealthStart Maternity Care Program within the Tombigbee Healthcare Authority partner on this effort. Volunteers decorate tote bags and fill them with baby board books and literacy materials; the tote bags are then given to expectant and new mothers, many enrolled in maternity-care groundwork for the disadvantaged. (Janie Gregg, chapter treasurer, *University of West Alabama*)

Winter 2010 PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM
Opeoluwa Fawole has walked on four continents, traversing countries such as England and Nigeria. But it was her most recent adventure in Argentina, a trip partially defrayed by a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant, that helped Fawole take another step to realizing her dream of becoming a doctor.

The University of Georgia senior majors in microbiology and minors in Spanish, and her six-week medical internship last summer in the small city of Río Ceballos, population around 20,000, married her two fields of study.

At an emergency hospital at which she worked once a week, Fawole witnessed a facial reconstruction surgery and performed electrocardiograms, sewed stitches and gave physicals. At a clinic at which she worked four days a week, shadowing a doctor whose most advanced tools were his “stethoscope, hands and brains” as he was fond of saying, Fawole “learned a lot about patient care,” she said. “I loved seeing the love between patients and doctors.”

It wasn’t all work; Fawole traveled on weekends and was surprised at the diversity of Argentina’s terrain, parts of which reminded her of Nigeria, the land of her parents. Fawole would have likely stayed longer had she not been taking the Medical College Admission Test in August. Cornell University is near the top of her list of medical schools, but she wouldn’t mind staying closer to her home of Lawrenceville, Ga.

Art, dance and music are important to her, as is her Christian faith. But Fawole has wanted to be a doctor since she was young. “I like anatomy, learning about the human body,” she said, “and just being able to help people.”

By Patrick Sullivan

Opeoluwa Fawole poses in medical scrubs with an unidentified person during fieldwork in Argentina last summer.
Siobhan Kirkpatrick
University of Montana
Senior, majoring in organismal and ecological biology
Study abroad: Worked last summer at the Esther Honey Foundation, a nonprofit animal protection organization in the Cook Islands
Career objective: Veterinarian
(University of Montana)

Ellen Lubbers
Ohio University
Sophomore, majoring in biological sciences
Study abroad: Fall semester in Denmark taking classes
Satisfying community service: Montaña de Luz, a home for children with HIV/AIDS in Honduras
Question not asked you want to answer: Other pursuits? I row for Ohio University’s women’s crew

Sabrina Luensmann
Texas A & M University
Senior, majoring in biological and agricultural engineering
Study abroad: Six weeks last summer in Belgium, taking courses in hydrology and waste water treatment
Career objective: Environmental consultant in air or water quality

Katherine MacDonald
Elon University
Junior, majoring in history and anthropology
Study abroad: History classes in Scotland for fall 2010 semester

Aaron M. Marti
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Sophomore, majoring in water resources and German
Study abroad: Learning about natural resources in Poland, Germany, and Iceland for a month last summer
Satisfying community service: Playing tuba with my high school ethnic band, serenading senior citizens with foxtrot, polkas, and waltzes

Justin McIntyre
Youngstown State University
Junior, majoring in political science and history
Study abroad: Semester at sea last summer: Canada, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco

Elizabeth Mundy
The Ohio State University
Sophomore, international studies major
Study abroad: Ten days last June in Managua, Nicaragua, learning about fair trade and globalization

Xavier Neal-Burghin
University of Alabama
Sophomore, majoring in film production
Study abroad: Cannes, France, in May, around the international film festival
Most proud of: I am the first male in my family to make it this far in my undergraduate education and I still have so much further to go!

Tina Ngo
San Diego State University
Senior, biology major
Study abroad: Arts and science courses at University of Oxford last June
Career objective: Dentist
(San Diego State University)

Sarah Nott
Western Michigan University
Senior, majoring in arts education
Study abroad: Touring major cities in the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria in May to learn about important eras in European art
Role models: My parents, public school teachers, amaze me

Meryn Noel Oswald
Pennsylvania State University
Junior, majoring in English and French
Study abroad: Three weeks of service learning in India
Role model: Humanitarian Carl Wilkens

Deanna Pan
The Ohio State University
Junior, majoring in English and comparative studies
Study abroad: Fall semester in India, focusing on international development
Most proud of: Last year, I founded a quarterly student-run magazine called Ology
(The Ohio State University)

Mariah Proctor
Brigham Young University
Junior, majoring in acting
Study abroad: Teaching English last summer in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Brianne Laine Randall
University of Georgia
Junior, marketing major
Study abroad: Three weeks last summer in Siem Reap, Cambodia, writing, photographing and teaching English
Influential person met: Sasha, my middle-school bully, because her torture taught me how to handle criticism effectively

Daniel Richardson
James Madison University
Sophomore, majoring in political science and public administration
Study abroad: Three weeks in the United Kingdom investigating the works of economist John Maynard Keynes
Satisfying community service: Spring break with AID for America, building homes and providing basic services in Welch, W.Va.

Harry Rosenbaum
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Junior, majoring in architecture and mathematics
Study abroad: Switzerland last spring to learn about its architecture and development of cities
(Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Zeltzyn Rubi Sanchez Lozoya
New Mexico State University
Senior, majoring in English and French
Study abroad: A month in the United Kingdom last summer reading British writers

Loraine Iune Ysibido Santiago
San Diego State University
Junior, nursing major
Study abroad: Three weeks last summer at University of Oxford integrating religious and psychological aspects of culture
Influential person met: My college scholarship benefactor, 92-year-old retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Alexander Kreiglowa
(San Diego State University)

Tory Saunders
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Junior, chemistry major
Study abroad: A month in San Jose, Costa Rica, learning Spanish, focusing on medical terminology
Career objective: Physician assistant who goes on medical mission trips

Avery Scherer
Eastern Kentucky University
Junior, majoring in aquatic biology
Study abroad: Two weeks in Belize taking a tropical biology course on ecosystems in rainforests and coral reefs
Influential person met: Oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau

Elise Schoch
North Dakota State University
Junior, Spanish major
Study abroad: 2010-11 academic year in Spain
Satisfying community service: Building a home in Guatemala for a poor family and fighting the flood in Fargo, N.D.
Memorable course: Women’s studies

Jason Shah
University of New Orleans
Junior, international studies major
Study abroad: Spring 2011 in Germany, taking courses in economics and law
Favorite book: Wars, Guns and Votes by Paul Collier

Krista Skoglund
University of Minnesota
Junior, architecture major
Study abroad: Three weeks in Greece and Cyprus analyzing the architectural heritage of civic spaces
Best part of Phi Kappa Phi: Learning about the accomplishments of my peers is inspiring!
(University of Minnesota)

Melora Slotnick
Columbus State University
Junior, majoring in theater education
Study abroad: Fall semester pursuing theater at Edge Hill University in the United Kingdom

Kellyn Smith
University of Tulsa
Junior, biochemistry major
Study abroad: Medical internship in Costa Rica for two months last summer
Fantasy career: Doctor on a space mission
(University of Tulsa)

Leslie Paige Snyder
Arkansas State University
Junior, majoring in communication disorders
Study abroad: Fall semester in the United Kingdom, focusing on languages, dialects and speech-language pathology
Memorable course: Phonetics

Tolan Thornton
University of Arizona
Senior, majoring in finance, entrepreneurship, French, and Chinese
Study abroad: Fall semester in France; spring semester in China.
Question not asked you want to answer: Hobby? Cooking.

Lindsay Walter
University of Florida
Senior, psychology major
Study abroad: A month last summer in Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico, studying Spanish and ecology
Most proud of: Traveling alone in a foreign country

Jennifer Rene White
Georgia College & State University
Senior, biology major
Study abroad: Two weeks last summer in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, studying its zoology, botany, and geology

Kathryn Williams
Virginia Commonwealth University
Sophomore, majoring in Spanish and biology
Satisfying community service: Pediatric emergency room at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center
Love of Learning Awards help fund career development and/or postbaccalaureate studies for active Phi Kappa Phi members. Eighty $500 awards are given annually for career development and pertinent travel as well as for professional or graduate studies, doctoral dissertations, continuing education, and the like. This year, more than 1,200 members competed, an increase of some 20 percent from last year. Since the inception of the program in 2007, 230 members have earned Love of Learning Awards totaling $115,000.

Melissa Adams
Regulatory project manager, Hematology/Oncology Clinical Research Unit, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Using grant for: Professional certification in project management (University of Massachusetts)

Dhanapati Adhikari
Oklahoma State University
Doctoral student in mathematics
Using grant for: Research (Oklahoma State University)

Kathleen Allison
Associate Professor of Health Science, Lock Haven University
Using grant for: Software (Lock Haven University chapter secretary and treasurer)

Maysa Husni Almomani
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Doctoral student in nursing
Using grant for: Graduate school (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Laith Al-Shawaf
University of Texas at Austin
Doctoral student in psychology
Using grant for: Research in evolutionary psychology (University of Texas at Austin)

Brett Amedro
University of Michigan
Dental student
Using grant for: Instrument rental fees (University of Michigan)

Lauren A. Anaya
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Doctoral student in anthropology
Using grant for: Dissertation research in Rome, Italy, on European Union efforts to harmonize family law
Fantasy career: Hunting guide (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Tracy L. Arambula-Turner
University of Texas at Austin
Doctoral student in higher education administration
Using grant for: Dissertation Most proud of: Achieving academically as a Latina from a working-class background (University of Texas at Austin)

Faith E. Bartz
Emory University
Postdoctoral student in public health
Using grant for: Dissertation Career objective: Bridge scientific community and agricultural industries of resource-poor areas (North Carolina State University)

Ryan Becker
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Medical student
Using grant for: Licensing exam Career objective: Family medicine in a rural community (Wayne State College)

Whitney Bignell
University of Georgia
Pursuing a master’s degree in foods and nutrition
Using grant for: American Dietetic Association Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Boston
Fantasy career: Own a shop like the Barefoot Contessa (University of Georgia)

Brandon T. Bodor
U.S. Army captain and intelligence officer with the 10th Mountain Division and deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan
Using grant for: Dartmouth Tuck

Playwright Sets Stage for Career

By Jason Caudill

Playwright Edgar Mendoza calls theater “the perfect marriage of my interests.” With good reason. As an undergraduate political science major at University of California, Los Angeles, he attended a show with a classmate and intuited that authors could entertain audiences while expressing ideas. Plus, the musicality of dialogue compares to the rhythm of the trumpet Mendoza had played in secondary school, he said.

Mendoza went on to earn an M.F.A. in dramatic writing at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama in 2009. He’s focusing on a three-play saga about Filipino-American experiences set in various eras and will use a Love of Learning Award to fund travel research for A World on Display, which takes place on the 47-acre Philippine Reservation that formed part of the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Mo.

The drama concerns a man from Manila so determined to live in America that he pretends to be an indigenous villager in order to be recruited for the living anthropology expo. An American mourning her American fiancé killed in the Philippine War of Independence helps him for her own reasons. Mendoza will visit relevant sites in St. Louis for context.

Actually, it took Mendoza awhile to switch from politics to theater. After completing his undergraduate degree in 2001, he worked for U.S. (Calif.) Senator Barbara Boxer for a year as a liaison between constituents and federal agencies, then for Calif. State Senator Liz Figueroa for two years in a similar capacity via state entities, before attending Carnegie Mellon, his Phi Kappa Phi chapter.

“I found myself constantly writing scenes during my lunch break,” he said. When Figueroa’s second term was ending, it seemed the right time for Mendoza to begin a new stage.

Edgar Mendoza applies a Love of Learning Award to research his play, A World on Display.

Act Two seems to have paid off. Based in New York City, Mendoza is a member of Leavittian Lab and Ma-Yi Writers Lab, both supporting Asian-American artists. Among other honors, his M.F.A. thesis play, Blue Note Run, won the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival’s inaugural Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award earlier this year. Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang (M. Butterfly) mentored him on this romantic drama between a Filipino immigrant and an American taxi dancer in Depression-era California.
2010 Love of Learning Recipients

Online Bridge Program to prepare for an M.B.A. program
Most proud of: Wife who has been rock solid through two deployments and is pregnant during my tour now (United States Military Academy)

Rosemary Burk
University of North Texas
Doctoral student in biology, emphasis in aquatic ecology
Using grant for: Presenting research at World Water Week in Stockholm (University of North Texas)

Cynthia L. Butler-Mobley
Supply chain analyst, Twist Beauty Packaging US, Inc.
Using grant for: Exam fee for Certified Supply Chain Professional
Influential person met: My husband, who taught me how to relax, uplifts me, and encourages me to dream (Middle Tennessee State University)

Erik Jon Byker
Michigan State University
Doctoral student in teacher education
Using grant for: Research in Bangladesh, India
Most proud of: Marrying such a wonderful and supportive woman and helping deliver our son (Michigan State University)

Jamie M. Byrne
Director, School of Mass Communication, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Using grant for: Project on fund development at universities
Satisfying community service: American Cancer Society. This outreach became even more important when my husband, Chuck, was diagnosed with colon cancer nearly four years ago. Most proud of: Chuck. He passed away from cancer in January and was a dignified, loving, inspiring example of how to face this illness. (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

Edward J. Carvalho
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Doctoral candidate in English
Using grant for: My upcoming journal about literature and cultural studies, The Acknowledged Legislator

Michael Certo
Columbia University
Postbacalaureate premed student
Using grant for: School (Carnegie Mellon University)

Linda Chamberlin
Columbia University
Postbacalaureate premed student
Using grant for: A trip to Zambia to volunteer in a rural health clinic (University of Southern California)

Laura Christianson
Iowa State University
Doctoral student in agricultural and biosystems engineering and sustainable agriculture
Using grant for: Nitrous oxide greenhouse gas sample analysis (Kansas State University)

Kaira Clapper
University of Alcalà, Alcalà de Henares, Spain
Pursuing a master’s in teaching Hispanic language, literature and culture
Employed as an English teacher at an elementary school
Using grant for: Living expenses (University of Central Florida)

Barbara Mather Cobb
Associate Professor of English, Murray State University
Using grant for: Completion of an article about bringing the work of 19th-century South Carolina enslaved poet-poetter Dave to middle and high school students (Murray State University)

Erik Jon Byker
Michigan State University
Doctoral student in teacher education
Using grant for: Research in Bangladesh, India
Most proud of: Marrying such a wonderful and supportive woman and helping deliver our son (Michigan State University)

Margaret Hattori-Uchima
Assistant Professor of Nursing, University of Guam
Using grant for: Attending symposia and music educator workshops (University of North Texas)

Elizabeth A. Hazzard
Supervising consultant, transfer pricing services, BKD, LLP, a CPA and advisory firm
Using grant for: A course at the Kiel (Germany) Institute for the World Economy (Mckendree College)

Lori Holsington
Michigan State University
Doctoral student in human development and family studies
Using grant for: International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine Meeting in Stockholm
Satisfying community service: Therapy Dogs International (Michigan State University)

Tasha Randall Galardi
Oregon State University
Pursuing a master’s in human development and family sciences
Using grant for: Laptop computer

Betty (Ehrnthaller) Gavin
Family nutrition coordinator, Henry-Stark Extension Unit, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Using grant for: Chapoering 4-H teens to Japan

Most proud of: Obtaining a master’s in adult education, human resources development, later in life (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Stephanie Hultmann
Oklahoma State University
Doctoral student in clinical psychology
Using grant for: Dissertation on stress in parents of children with cancer (Oklahoma State University)

Andrew T. Kamei-Dyche
University of Southern California
Doctoral student in Japanese (University of Southern California)

Cara Killingbeck
Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
Pursuing a master’s in library science
Using grant for: Graduate school

Career objective: Children’s or young adult librarian (Ball State University)

Erik Jon Byker
Michigan State University
Doctoral student in teacher education
Using grant for: Research in Bangladesh, India
Most proud of: Marrying such a wonderful and supportive woman and helping deliver our son (Michigan State University)

Kaira Clapper
University of Alcalà, Alcalà de Henares, Spain
Pursuing a master’s in teaching Hispanic language, literature and culture
Employed as an English teacher at an elementary school
Using grant for: Living expenses (University of Central Florida)

Andrea Harriott
University of Maryland, Baltimore Campuses
M.D.-Ph.D. student
Using grant for: Research and travel (University of Maryland, Baltimore Campuses)

Margaret Hattori-Uchima
Assistant Professor of Nursing, University of Guam
Using grant for: Attending symposia and music educator workshops (University of North Texas)

Elizabeth A. Hazzard
Supervising consultant, transfer pricing services, BKD, LLP, a CPA and advisory firm
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Doctoral student in clinical psychology
Using grant for: Dissertation on stress in parents of children with cancer (Oklahoma State University)

Andrew T. Kamei-Dyche
University of Southern California
Doctoral student in Japanese (University of Southern California)

Cara Killingbeck
Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
Pursuing a master’s in library science
Using grant for: Graduate school

Career objective: Children’s or young adult librarian (Ball State University)

Albert H. Kim
Virginia Commonwealth University
M.D.-Ph.D. student
Using grant for: American Society of Human Genetics Conference in Washington, D.C.
Memorable course: Advanced Anatomy with Mrs. Bowman at Westlake High School, Westlake Village, Calif. We dissected cadavers! (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Catherine Klasne
University of Central Florida
M.B.A. student
Using grant for: Graduate school
Fantasy career: Blogger for an intelligent, respected celebrity
Most proud of: My three children (University of Miami)

Renée A. Knepper
American University
School of International Service
Pursuing a master’s in international communication, emphasis in public diplomacy
Using grant for: Graduate school (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Anthony W. Knight
Superintendent, Oak Park Unified School District, Oak Park, Calif.
Using grant for: Marine Science Leadership Institute at USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, for my school district leaders
Influential person met: President Bill Clinton when the school I was principal of won a National Blue Ribbon Award in 1993 (University of Southern California)

Gene Ko
San Diego State University
Doctoral student in computational science
Using grant for: Graduate school (San Diego State University)

A’ame Kone
Bowling Green State University
Pursuing a master’s degree in cross-cultural and international education
Using grant for: Research about domestic servants in Mali
Most proud of: Integrating into a Malian village in Peace Corps service (Bowling Green State University)

Brad Korbesmeyer
Associate Professor, Department of English and Creative Writing, State University of New York-Oswego
Using grant for: Research for my latest play, Twain’s Last Chapter (State University of New York-Oswego)

Erin E. Krupa
North Carolina State University
Ph.D. student in math education
Using grant for: Dissertation
Most proud of: Being captain of the Raleigh Venom, 2009 Women’s DI
2010 Love of Learning Recipients

Rugby National Champions
(North Carolina State University)

Amber S. Kujath
University of Illinois at Chicago
Ph.D. student in nursing
Using grant for: Lab fees
Satisfying community service: Summer program for children with diabetes
(University of Illinois at Chicago)

Kyrstie Lane
Monterey Institute of International Studies
Pursuing a master’s in international policy studies, with a focus on conflict resolution
Using grant for: Conference
(University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Emily D. Langston
University of Missouri-St. Louis and Webster University
Pursuing master’s degrees in curriculum and development and mathematics for educators
Using grant for: Conference
(University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Tracy J. Lassiter
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Doctoral student in English
Used grant for: Expenses when giving a paper at the International Comparative Literature Association Congress in Seoul, South Korea
(Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

Rachel M. Latham
University of Montevallo
Pursuing a master’s degree in elementary education
Using grant for: Tuition
(University of Montevallo)

Shin-Young Lee
University of Illinois at Chicago
Doctoral student in nursing
Using grant for: Dissertation about colorectal cancer screening for Korean-Americans
(University of Illinois at Chicago)

Jonathan Leiman
University of Montana
Pursuing a master’s degree in environmental studies
Using grant for: Textbooks
(University of Montana)

Adrian LePique
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Pursuing two master’s degrees: in music performance (trumpet) and computer management information systems
Using grant for: Playing with my school’s wind symphony at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference in Chiayi City, Taiwan
(Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville)

Christine Lesh
University of Southern Maine
Pursuing bachelor’s degree in
nursing. Earned B.A. in journalism in 2002 from Saint Michael’s College
Using grant for: Trip to the Dominican Republic with school nursing program
(University of Southern Maine)

Ratessiea L. Lett
Mississippi State University
Doctoral student in mechanical engineering
Using grant for: Supplies like an automatic desiccator with a hygrometer
Influential person met: Metalcasting visionary John Campbell
(Mississippi State University)

Ross A. Levesque
Duke University
Ph.D. student in physical therapy
Using grant for: Books and supplies
(Pratt Institute, New York)

Honea Lee Lewis
Seattle University School of Law
Law student
Using grant for: Textbooks
Fantasy career: Founding partner, Lewis & Lewis
(Western Washington University)

Jeremy Lipkowitz
Outdoor education teacher at a children’s camp in Singapore
Using grant for: Language books
(University of California, Davis)

Tassi M. Long
Southern University Law Center
Law student
Using grant for: Books
Career objective: District Attorney’s office, Ninth Judicial District Court, Rapides Parish, Alexandria, La.
Fantasy career: Judge Judy
(University of Louisiana-Monroe)

Amanda Celine Longoria
University of Texas at Austin
Internship in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics
(University of Texas at Austin)

Jennifer Louie
Looking for a position in student affairs in higher education
Earned master’s in post-secondary educational leadership from San Diego State University
In May
Used grant for: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education regional conference
(San Diego State University)

Joe Louis
University of North Texas
Doctoral student in plant biology
Using grant for: Research and professional meetings
(University of North Texas)

Echo Love
Intern (small-animal rotating) at San Francisco Veterinary Specialists
Using grant for: Books and meetings
(University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Robert L. Lowe
The Ohio State University
Doctoral student in mechanical engineering
Using grant for: Conferences
(Ohio Northern University)

Rachel A. Lowes
University of Florida
Levin College of Law
Law student
Using grant for: Tuition
Influential person met: Dinner with Clarence Thomas, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice
(University of Missouri-Kansas City)

Michael Daniel Lucagbo
University of the Philippines
Pursuing a master’s in statistics
Using grant for: School
(University of the Philippines)

Amanda C. Lynch
Special education teacher, Patrick Henry High School, Ashland, Va.
Finishing a master’s degree in special education
Using grant for: Doctoral programs in special education
(Virginia Commonwealth University)

Lee M. Malvin
University of Maine
Pursuing a master’s in social work
Using grant for: Books and travel
Favorite book: The Glass Castle
by Jeannette Walls
(University of Maine)

Amanda Melenick
Portland State University
Ph.D. student in urban studies, focus on environmental policy and sustainability development
Using grant for: Graduate school
(University of Wyoming)

Roger Lee Mendoza
Economist and professor
Using grant for: Research on leptospirosis, an infectious disease of domestic animals
Most proud of: My two very smart, creative and funny children
(University of the Philippines)

Sara Schwabe
Arizona State University
Pursuing M.F.A. in performance
Using grant for: Research and travel
Most proud of: Not giving in to my insecurities about beginning graduate studies 11 years after graduating from college
(Arizona State University)

Megan Hyland Tajjil
Virginia Commonwealth University
Pursuing a master’s in counselor education
Using grant for: Tuition
Fantasy career: Broadway musical actress
(Virginia Commonwealth University)

Megan Tomei
Florida Atlantic University
Pursuing a master’s degree in women’s studies
Role model: Feminist scholar Catharine A. MacKinnon
(Florida Atlantic University)

Sean McGrath
Vivarium novum Academy, Rome, Italy
Studying Latin and Greek for a year
Using grant for: Airfare
Further educational plans: Pursuing a doctorate in classical archaeology
(Lycoming College)

Darris Means
Assistant Director, Elon Academy, Elon, N.C.
North Carolina State University
Doctoral student in educational research and policy analysis
Using grant for: Graduate school
Most proud of: Being a first-generation college student in my family
(Elon University)

Dennis R. Matson
Southern Illinois University
Pursuing a master’s degree in veterinary medicine
Using grant for: Books
(Francisco Veterinary Specialists Intern (small-animal rotating) at San Francisco Veterinary Specialists)

C. Bernard McCrory
Student development specialist,
Columbus State University
Using grant for: Applications to doctoral programs in higher education administration
Most proud of: Being the first college graduate in my immediate family
(Columbus State University)
2010 Scholar

Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Sarah A. Rajala (North Carolina State University) lights up a room and not only because the electrical engineer secured a patent in digital imaging. Dean of Engineering at Mississippi State University (MSU), Rajala is the first woman in this position at the school. Earlier, she was the first female tenure-track professor in engineering at North Carolina State University and as an administrator helped create the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Village for applicable first- and second-year majors.

Other honors cite her diversity outreach and include the 2010 Women in Engineering ProActive Network Educator Award and a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2000.

Rajala also holds an endowed chair at MSU. She has authored or coauthored more than 100 articles and contributed to 13 books. And the servant leader was 2008-09 president of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Perhaps most telling about her education in electrical engineering — B.S. from Michigan Technological University and M.S. and Ph.D. from Rice University — was that as an undergraduate, she was the only female in her major.

She answered email questions from Editor Peter Szatmary about her trailblazing efforts. Here are edited excerpts.

**You serve as a role model for women in engineering.**

It’s rewarding to hear from women students and faculty that I had a positive impact in their lives and in some small way helped enable their success.

**Explain your patent for a general audience.**

It describes a method for reducing the amount of data contained in digital video so that it may be transmitted efficiently and with high quality. This work was one of the precursors to the compression techniques that have become standards for digital video.

**What should engineering education stress?**

Preparing graduates to work in a global environment and on cross-disciplinary teams.

**What haven’t you done in your career that you hope to tackle?**

I have been blessed with many opportunities and have tried to make the most of each, and there is little I would change. Two things I have not done but would find rewarding are government service and working abroad.

**Proudest role with Phi Kappa Phi?**

Serving as president of the North Carolina State University chapter and encouraging and recognizing the outstanding work of students were extremely rewarding. Being named the 2010-12 Phi Kappa Phi Scholar was my most humbling moment.

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2010 Artist

Praise from a New York Times review of David Northington’s 1974 debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City explains one reason why the classical pianist is the 2010-12 Phi Kappa Phi Artist: He “combines the technical mastery of a virtuoso with the musical sensitivity of a poet.”

The longtime Professor of Music at University of Tennessee, and current Phi Kappa Phi chapter president, earns such acclaim routinely. For example, Northington won first prize at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition and the East & West Artists International Competition, to list only two of his honors.

He solos with the likes of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and played the world premiere of Morton Gould’s Patterns for piano (1984). Northington also tops foreign marquees, including the American Academy of Music in Rome, Italy, and the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, China.

With degrees in piano performance from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (bachelor’s and master’s) and Yale University (master’s and doctorate), Northington often holds master classes at conservatories and judges piano competitions. He has received numerous teaching awards and assumed leadership roles at various arts organizations.

Northington answered email questions from the Editor about his noteworthy career. Here are edited excerpts.

**Most satisfying performance?**

Hopefully, it will be the last performance that I have given! However, since that is not always the case with performers, my debut at New York’s Carnegie Recital Hall was probably the most professionally satisfying because of its prestige and positive responses.

**Recital or orchestral work?**

Both. The artist is capable of exploring greater degrees of pianistic color and emotional sensitivity in solo repertoire, which is so intimate, since the piano is not “pitted against” a major orchestra ensemble. It’s also joyous to perform Mozart and Beethoven concerti with a wonderful orchestral ensemble and conductor.

**Who is your favorite composer?**

This is like asking whether I prefer crème brulee or lemon sorbet! However, I feel a kinship with Beethoven and Schumann. Since Aaron Copland was one of my mentors, I also enjoy playing his music and am recording for Centaur Records the complete piano works, which have not been appreciated as much as his orchestral and ballet scores. The first of three CDs will be released early next year.

**Proudest part of Phi Kappa Phi?**

That it upholds the academic and artistic standards necessary for the perpetuation of excellence and beauty in our world.