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Class of 2012 Fulfilling Their Dreams After Graduation

Winthrop University

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Class of 2012 Fulfilling Their Dreams After Graduation

Quick Facts

- Everett Johnson, a McNair Scholar and dance performance major, was selected as one of 15 \$50,000 national winners of the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award for those with artistic or creative promise.
- Matt Horn, a soccer player and a biology major and chemistry minor, was selected as one of 51 \$5,000 national winners of the Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship.
- From 1920-2000, six Winthrop chemistry graduates earned Ph.Ds. Since 2003, 14 chemistry graduates will have earned Ph.Ds. by the end of 2012.

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Many Winthrop University **Class of 2012** graduates have reported to work or are preparing for graduate schools in the fall.

Everett Johnson, a **McNair Scholar** and dance performance major, was selected as one of 15 national winners of the **Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award** for those with artistic or creative promise. Nearly 470 students applied for the award, which provides up to \$50,000 annually for three years of graduate study.

Johnson will attend **New York University's Tisch School of the Arts** where he will pursue a master's degree in fine arts in choreography/performance.

Matt Horn, a soccer player and a biology major and chemistry minor, was selected as one of 51 \$5,000 national winners of the **Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship**. He was chosen as the recipient of the **Walter & Adelheid Hohenstein Endowed Fellowship**, which is given to the best candidate within each of the five PKP regions. Horn will study medicine at the **University of North Carolina Medical School**.

Few students are able to excel in athletics, scholarship and service, as Horn managed to do, according to **Jennifer Disney**, previous director of Winthrop's **Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)**, who assisted Horn and Johnson with their applications.

Winthrop instituted **ONCA** in 2006 to help its students compete with the best and brightest across the nation and the world. Since then, **ONCA** has assisted 90 students in applying for nationally competitive awards, 30 of whom have received recognition as finalists or winners of prestigious scholarships, including 15 **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships** to study abroad and the first **Rhodes Scholar** finalist in Winthrop's 125-year history.

Meanwhile in chemistry, the department continues to make huge strides. From 1920-2000, six Winthrop chemistry graduates earned Ph.Ds. Since 2003, 14 chemistry graduates will have earned Ph.Ds. by the end of 2012.

The 2012 chemistry class is particularly well-prepared for graduate work. Three seniors – **Zach Curry**, **Becca Toor** and **Abigail Bradner** – captured top awards in three different categories this spring with the Carolina-Piedmont Section of the American Chemical Society, a first for Winthrop.

Curry is now in the combined M.D./Ph.D. program at **Virginia Commonwealth University** in Richmond, Va., where he is working summer rotations within the program and will start medical

school classes in August. He earned a full scholarship for both degrees and a stipend. **Toor**, the volleyball captain, heads to **Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's pharmacy school in Florida**.

Other chemistry majors, **Natalie Bremner** and **Ron Nelson**, will seek their Ph.Ds. at Wake Forest University, **Christine Harvey** at Boston University, **Jeff Myers** at University of Virginia, **Paisley Trantham** at University of Maryland and **Amber Wallance** at Virginia Commonwealth.

Here is a sampling of other seniors from December or May graduations who are heading to graduate school or the workforce:

Molly Baker, computer science: engineer, Cyber Forensics division of SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic.

Tiffany Benjamin, M.B.A., accounting: process support specialist, Zenta/Accenture Credit Services, Charlotte, N.C.

Brandon Clopton, computer science: software engineer, Xpient Solutions, Charlotte, N.C.

Stephen Crawford, English and philosophy/religion: attending Charleston School of Law

Stephen Dickey, business administration: leasing representative for Boxer Properties, based out of Dallas, Texas, in charge of leasing retail space to prospective tenants for a few shopping malls around the region.

Laura Falendysz, digital design: web developer, IBM, East Lansing, Mich.

Jamie Glass, business administration: staff accountant, Flakeboard America Ltd.

Elizabeth Goodin, special education: teacher, Scranton Elementary School, Scranton, S.C.

Ryan Graczyk, computer science: associate software engineer developer, Fidelity Investments, Durham, N.C.

Ashley Grech, special education: special education teacher, Pageland Elementary School, Pageland, S.C.

Tristan Horan, business administration: buyer, Performance Friction, Clover, S.C.

Allison Howard, psychology: accepted to Oxford University in England to complete a Master's of Science in evidence-based social intervention. She was a Rhodes Scholar candidate.

Theresa Horton, business administration: head of accounts receivable, Adams Services in Fort Mill, S.C., where she handles all the invoicing, billing, and purchase orders for the company.

Adam Hudson, business administration: recruiter in the professional services division, Aerotek, Charlotte, N.C.

Jonathan McFadden, mass communication: crime and public safety reporter and assistant online editor, The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald newspaper.

Tyler McNeill, business administration, finance: loan documentation specialist, Wells Fargo's home mortgage department, Fort Mill, S.C.

Kaitlyn Nardi, integrated marketing: marketing production assistant, Wild Dunes Resort, Isles of Palms, S.C.

Noel Rizzuti, integrated marketing: will pursue a strategic communications degree at Kansas State University. She received a graduate research assistantship position for a full scholarship for her degree program.

Kathryn Scott, psychology: recruiting analyst, Aon Hewitt, Charlotte, N.C.

Nichole Shelly, psychology: accepted into Teach for America program. She will be teaching middle school math in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alexandra Simon, modern languages: teacher at Knowledge Is Power Program, a charter in Galveston, Texas, where she will be a Teaching Fellow in the kindergarten classroom, with the hopes of becoming a middle school Spanish teacher the next year.

Arthur Takahashi, master's in history: social media and production, WRDW News 12 in Augusta, Ga.

April Tucker, business administration: loan adjuster, Wells Fargo, Fort Mill, S.C.

Patrick F. Turney, M.B.A.: property manager, Walk2Campus Properties, Bowling Green, Ky., market at Western Kentucky University

Keith Walker, business administration: assistant national bank examiner, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Robert Wheeler, M.B.A, accounting: regional accountant, Compass Group, Charlotte, N.C.

Danitra Williams, sociology: manager trainee, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Rock Hill, S.C.

Curtis Wright, business administration: human resources assistant, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte, N.C.

Ashley (Rye) Yauilla, digital information design: network analyst, Windstream Communications.

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