

Biographical Sketches of the *Agora* Writers

Lauren Bruce graduated from Lynchburg College in 2006 with a degree in Human Development and Learning. She now lives in Richmond, Virginia, and teaches kindergarten in Short Pump. Lauren and her fiancé are very excited about welcoming their first child this summer.

Kelly Castillo is currently an Honors student at Henry Ford Community College, in Dearborn, Michigan. While preparing for pharmacy school, Kelly works as a student ambassador, takes part in the Community Service Club, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Jennifer Ervin graduated from Lynchburg College in 2006 with a major in English (concentration in writing) and a minor in Business. She is now pursuing a Master's degree in English at Lynchburg College. Jennifer also works full time at Genworth Financial as a Contracts Analyst and enjoys being a newlywed with her husband, Boyd Ervin '05, whom she married in July, 2006.

Elizabeth Giglio graduated from Lynchburg College in January, 2006, with a BA in English with an emphasis in writing and a minor in Religious Studies. Her *Agora* essay is an excerpt of her Westover Senior Thesis. Elizabeth hopes to continue to study religion and its implications on literature.

Michelle Hensley is a Lynchburg College senior who commutes from Altavista, Virginia. She is an English major with a concentration in literature and a business minor. Michelle works in the Wilmer Writing Center as a peer tutor. After graduation, she plans to return to Lynchburg College to obtain a Master of Arts degree in English. Following graduate studies, she hopes to pursue a career in the publishing field.

Robert Howell, who is majoring in graphic design, is a mature-age student who decided to return school after a career as a radio announcer. His experience at Lynchburg College has been wonderful, mainly because the professors in the art department have helped him learn a new way of viewing the world through lines, shapes, colors, textures, and values. Robert says that he will always cherish the richness that has been added to his life because of his experience in these Lynchburg College art classes. After graduation, he plans to start his own graphic design studio. Robert loves anything to do with music and the arts, and in his spare time he enjoys playing the flute and the saxophone.

Ryan Mayr is a senior at Lynchburg College; he is majoring in English with an emphasis in writing and is minoring in Business Administration. He is a tutor in the Wilmer Writing Center and a facilitator for New Horizons.

David Neasz is a student at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan, and currently resides in Wyandotte, in the Metro-Detroit area. He has many areas of interest, chief among them music, writing, and philosophy. He is constantly striving either to improve or to expand his thinking, which has led him to a current interest in both transcendentalism and Zen.

Ellen Parks is a Lynchburg College senior, double majoring in Psychology and English. After graduation in May 2007, she plans to attend George Washington University for a Master's degree in Infant Special Education.

Chris Rand, a senior English major at Lynchburg College, was born in Walnut Creek, California, but he considers himself a native of Richmond, Virginia. He enjoys playing bass guitar for his band in Richmond as well as for the Lynchburg College Jazz

Ensemble. Chris enjoys writing and reading recreationally. He especially enjoys modern literature and science fiction, the French existentialist authors, the theater of the absurd, fantasy humor, and anything bizarre, original, or profound. Chris has a fraternal twin brother, named Michael, who also attends Lynchburg College.

Grace Rochfort, a Lynchburg College senior from Baltimore, Maryland, is active on campus as a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and the Wilmer Writing Center staff. She is majoring in graphic design and hopes to pursue a master's degree after a year working abroad. In her spare time, Grace enjoys traveling and playing tennis.

Andrew Rohr, a freshman at Lynchburg College, comes from Easton, CT. He is majoring in English with an emphasis in literature. He hopes to further his interests in classical literature and history by studying in Turkey, Greece, and Italy during the summer of 2007. Andrew was thrilled to be invited to join the Lynchburg College chapter of Phi Eta Sigma., the freshman honor society.

Shoshana Sakolsky is a junior at Lynchburg College, majoring in Chemistry. She is a member of the Lynchburg College Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society and Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. Shoshana comes from Lynchburg, Virginia.

Dana Sliva comes from Evington, Virginia. She is a senior at Lynchburg College, majoring in English with an emphasis in writing. Dana is active on campus as a member of the Westover Honors program, the Wilmer Writing Center staff, as well as the Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Tau Delta honors societies. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and cats. After graduation, Dana plans to attend law school and to pursue a career in international or business law.

Kyra S. Smith is a native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, and a recent graduate of Lynchburg College, where she earned a BA in Business Administration with a minor in Economics. Since she graduated, Kyra has made her a home in Northern Virginia and works as a Logistic Consultant for Fannie Mae. Her hobbies are traveling, exploring various genres of music, and reading. Kyra plans to complete a Masters in Finance in the near future.

Neal Sumerlin was born in Texas and raised there and in Arkansas. At the tender age of 26, he moved to Virginia to become an assistant professor of chemistry at Lynchburg College. Thirty-one years later, he hasn't found anything he likes to do better. He is especially pleased that people pay him to do it.