

Biographical Sketches of the 2009 *Agora* Writers

Samantha Bryant is a sophomore at Lynchburg College, majoring in History with an American emphasis. Samantha plans to pursue an academic career after she completes her undergraduate and graduate studies.

Michael Colebrook is a junior, majoring in philosophy and French at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is captain of the baseball team and enjoys reading and fishing in his free time. Michael has studied abroad in Quebec, France, and Israel, and plans to spend a year in Rwanda before attending graduate school. His favorite authors include Nietzsche, Plato, Shakespeare, Camus, and Dostoyevsky.

Shane Durie enrolled at Lynchburg College after years of traveling the world and the United States because he felt the need to be educated on issues he feels strongly about, specifically the environment and politics. Shane is pursuing a major in environmental studies and a minor in political science. Upon graduating, he hopes to have a career that allows him to influence environmental policy at the local, state, national, and international levels. Shane also hopes to be involved with the design and building of sustainable, green buildings at Lynchburg College's Claytor Nature Study Center, which is the topic of his senior thesis.

Ashley Ferry is a twenty-year-old junior at Lynchburg College, majoring in English with a minor in psychology. She plans to pursue a career in editing. Currently, she works as a tutor in the Wilmer Writing Center. Her hobbies include reading, sewing, and singing in the Lynchburg College Concert Choir. Ashley lives in Ashburn, Virginia.

Clyde Harkrader, originally from Mineral, Virginia, is a senior at Lynchburg College, majoring in English with a writing emphasis. He is a member of the English Honorary Society, Sigma Tau Delta, and has contributed creative writing to the 2008 and 2009 *Prism*. Eventually, Clyde intends to obtain an MFA in creative writing.

Elizabeth Healy graduated from Thomas More College with a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a discipline in literature in May, 2008. She lives in Walpole, Massachusetts, and is currently working towards her MLS degree in Library and Information Science at Simmons College in Boston. As a librarian, she will have the opportunity to be a lifelong learner while helping others gain access to knowledge and the great works of literature that she is so passionate about. Some of her favorite books include *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev, *Wuthering Heights* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

Mary Patricia Jones is twenty years old and a senior at the University of Dallas. She is an English major and a music enthusiast, being a member of Collegium Cantorum, the university's liturgical choir. Mary comes from Dallas, Texas, and is the third in a family of nine children. She looks forward to becoming a teacher of the liberal arts at the high school level.

Kate Kauffman, who comes from Baltimore, MD, is a sophomore at Lynchburg College, where she is doing a double major in environmental studies and studio art. She loves the outdoors,

nature, and striving to preserve it. Kate hopes to be able to relay her love of nature through her art one day. Kate also has a deep love of writing, specifically describing nature and art pieces. She has been writing since she was little and hopes to continue writing throughout her career.

Stephen Marowitz, a senior at Lynchburg College, is currently pursuing a career in teaching high school English. Though passionate about American literature, his true love is all things Russian, particularly the work of Chekhov, Pushkin, Turgenev, and Dostoevsky. When not reading, Stephen can be found on the "links" of the nearest disc golf course, honing his "skills."

Jessica Quinlan, who comes from Manassas, Virginia, is a senior at Lynchburg College, completing her major in English with an emphasis in writing and her minor in history. She enjoys reading, writing poetry, and playing outside. After graduation, Jess plans to get married and attend graduate school to earn an M.F.A. in creative writing. Then she would like to teach poetry on the college level, but she is more than willing to go wherever the road might take her.

Alan Reynolds is a senior at Pepperdine University, majoring in philosophy and political science. Born and raised in Chico, California, Alan plans to attend graduate school in fall 2009 for philosophy. His philosophical interests lie in the Continental tradition, namely with Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gadamer, and others, as well as in political theory.

Paul Shannon Tierney, a senior at Lynchburg College, was born in Alexandria, VA, and has lived his entire life in north-central Virginia. His interests include Classical and Medieval literature and history, etymology, politics, creative role-playing, and archeology. During the summer he works at one of his uncle's crabhouses along the Potomac River as a steamroom supervisor. Paul is currently working towards a BA in English literature and plans to pursue a career in either politics or higher education later in life.

Sean Manning Udell is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies with a concentration in Economics at Columbia University, which he plans to complete in May, 2011. The Columbia College Office of the Core Curriculum will award Sean the Joshua A. Feigenbaum Prize in Literature Humanities at its annual awards ceremony in May 2009; this prize is offered to the student who is judged by the faculty to have exhibited excellence in Literature Humanities, a class that serves as the cornerstone to Columbia College's Core Curriculum. In addition to his course of study, Sean has served on Columbia College's Student Council for the past two years and has dedicated the past five years to working with Breakthrough Collaborative, a nation-wide, educational, not-for-profit organization. Upon graduation, Sean is hoping to work as a public school teacher in New York City.

Katie Wilcox, who graduated from Lynchburg College in May, 2008, comes from Newport News, Virginia. She completed a double major in political science and English (writing emphasis). While she was an undergraduate at Lynchburg College, Katie was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority; she was also a Bonner Leader, a Writing Center tutor, and a member of six honor societies (ODK, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Delta, Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Sigma Alpha). Her favorite professors, Dr. Chidsey Dickson, Dr. Rich Burke, and Professor Laura Mareello, completely changed her life, and she will feel grateful to them forever. Now Katie is a first year law student at West Virginia University and plans to graduate with a J.D. degree in 2011.