



# The Crozier

The Catholic University  
of America  
Honors Program

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Spring 2013

## Work Hard...Play Hard by Evan Wescott

Work a bit, play a bit, play a bit. This was the mantra of Dr. Michael Gomez, my high school principal at St. Joseph's Preparatory School. I carried these words with me as I entered into this Freshman year at The Catholic University of America. And this year has been nothing short of incredible. With so much to see and do in Washington DC, and all the amazing opportunities to get involved here on campus, the trip through this year has been an absolute thrill. Right from the start, Orientation Extended and Freshman Retreat brought me close to the people I now call friends. Ultimate Frisbee became a positive outlet for me to channel my energy as I learned to work with a team, and in my free time, I would jump at any opportunity to explore the nation's capital, whether admiring a monument or learning at a Smithsonian. On any given day, I would be sure to meet new people and foster lasting relationships in all spheres of college life. Continuing that

spirit of friendship, I helped work with Honors Residence Committee to help myself and others build even more friendships within the Honors Community. But what truly drew me to this University was the Catholic spirituality and tradition. As I

settled down into Catholic University, I made developing my Catholic faith a priority during the course of the next few months. I volunteered as a student lector, joined homeless *continued on page 2*



Evan Wescott (left) represents CUA at a Washington Nationals game

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## The Quest for Korea by Brendan Duffy

The following essay was written by Brendan Duffy, a senior Honors student from sunny South Dakota, who was recently awarded the competitive Fulbright scholarship to teach English in South Korea.

In July, I will depart for 13 months to South Korea on a Fulbright Scholarship. While it has been a whirlwind of activity since receiving the news, the real excitement and anticipation is only just beginning to set in. At this point, I have not been told exactly where I will be staying in South Korea. I will leave in early July and arrive in Seoul,

where myself and the other Fulbright grantees will travel to Goesan, Chungcheonbuk-do. We will spend the first 6 weeks doing an intensive Korean language program, as well as training in a general overview of Korean culture and society. After that, we will be sent to different areas to spend 20 hours per week instructing Korean students in the English language. We will also be involved in many other activities including traveling to several conferences in Korea. More than the specific day-to-day activities that each Fulbright recipient will be responsible

for, the overarching goal for a recipient of the scholarship is to be an ambassador for the United States of America, whether instructing students, giving lectures, or in generally promoting cultural understanding with the Koreans we come across. My interest in South Korea began around a year ago, when I first became interested in the Fulbright program. After I returned from a year studying at Oxford University in England, I spoke with Julie Yarwood about the possibility of *continued on page 2*

Honors graduates, we would love to hear from you!

Please update us on recent events or accomplishments that we could feature in upcoming newsletters. If you would like to share photos or memories from college, we would love those, too! Otherwise, we would appreciate if you could simply update your contact information with us in a short email.

Please direct email to:  
cua-honorsprogram@cua.edu

Or visit us at  
<http://Honors.cua.edu>



## Work Hard...Play Hard (continued)

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food runs and So Others Might Eat, a local soup kitchen, and was even selected to be a part of support staff of Senior Retreat. All these activities helped me engage both the college community as well as the DC community, and gave me insight into the life of Catholic in the 21st century. Even with all these commitments, I found it possible to balance out my school schedule, and find a real

passion for mathematics and education as my new major. Moving between friendships and activities of all kinds, time passed quickly, and I find myself looking ahead into sophomore year, where I will be a Residence Assistant to those in the Honors Community in McDonald. In doing so, I hope to create an atmosphere for students of all backgrounds, interests, and experiences to grow as one, with each person bringing his own

identity to define the group as a whole. In years to come, I hope to work closely with the University to ensure that all students enjoy the location in which they study, work hard to develop the skills that will help them succeed in the world outside Michigan Avenue, and grow in faith, prayer, understanding, and a sense of fulfillment. Particularly, I want to build up Campus Ministry with retreats and service, and Residence Life with original and engaging events, so students can experi-

ence every opportunity this university has to offer. Moving to sophomore year and beyond, I keep the words of John Paul II in mind: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." Work a bit, play a bit, play a bit, each and every day, so that others can do the same.

*Evan Wescott is a Biomedical Engineering major, Class of 2016. He is a recent recipient of the 2013 Zack S. Billotte Memorial Award for Cardinal Leadership.*



## Representing CUA: Interning at the House of Representatives by Patricia Mars

When I proudly announce that I am a history major, I am greeted with one standard response: "Oh! So you're going to teach?!" To this question, I calmly reply, "I HAVE NO IDEA!" I hate the immediacy of the "teaching" question. Maybe I will teach. I think I would even love teaching. But more importantly, maybe I won't teach. If there is one thing that being a history major at Catholic University has taught me, it is that there are options. Living and studying history in DC, I have worked for an international business, a library, a museum, and now, an office on Capitol Hill. I am excited to currently serve as an intern in the US House of Representatives Office of the Historian. Strangely enough, I had no idea the Office of the Historian even existed until November of this

year. I received an email from the history department at CUA, alerting me of an internship opportunity with the House Historian. I instantly knew I had to have the job. I have always loved government and political history and feel an inexplicable attachment to US founding fathers. I provided my resume and a writing sample to the office, and shortly after a phone interview, was offered the position. I greeted my first day of work with a mix of excited anticipation and abject terror. On this first day, I suddenly realized that, even after three years of attending school in Washington, DC, I had never entered the Capitol building. My first steps into the building were a bit unorthodox; I first visited the Capitol via underground tunnel. The Office of the Historian is located in the Cannon Building.

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## The Quest for Korea (continued)

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applying for a Fulbright Scholarship. After that, I began to contemplate which country I would be interested in. From a geopolitical and economic standpoint, my mind immediately went to South Korea. I knew how unique their "rise to power" had been from the post-Korean War to a current G20 nation. Moreover, my grandfather had fought in the Korean War, which made it an even more personally interesting location to draw my curiosity. I decided to apply to South Korea and began the process that would last several months. But with the help of Julie Yarwood, Dr. Shoemaker, Dr. Zampelli and so many people from CUA, I eventually found the finish line and completed my application in October. It was a long wait, but in late January I got word that I been selected as a Fulbright finalist and that I would be hear-

ing before the end of May if I had been chosen as a grantee. During this time period, I'm sure many of my friends would attest to the fact that I was somewhat in a state of constant anxiety. I was simultaneously applying to law school but I knew that if I received the Fulbright, I would indeed accept. Finally, in the last week of March I received the notification that I had received the grant. Since that time, it has been a mix of trying to calm my own excitement and calm my family's worries about leaving the country for 13 months.

In the end, I am both honored and humbled at being selected to receive a Fulbright Scholarship and can't wait to see what the 13 months in South Korea have in store for me. I couldn't have done it without the simultaneous support of my whole family back home in South Dakota as well as so many in the CUA community.



*Brendan Duffy,  
prepared for his role as  
English teacher and  
cultural ambassador*





## Alumna Spotlight: Maggie Comstock, B.A. 2010

During my time at CUA, I took advantage of the unique study abroad opportunities available. After a semester in Dublin working in the Irish Parliament, a summer in London working in the House of Commons and a semester at the University of Oxford, I was hooked. I knew international policy was the route for me and the ideal lens for my environmental work.

After CUA, I pursued a Master of Philosophy degree in Environment, Society and Development from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, focusing on international carbon markets and their implications for developing countries. My current position as a Policy Analyst at the U.S. Green Building Council marries many of my interests. I promote green building and climate policy through multilateral processes, including the various United Nations tracks, and working with other green building councils and or-



ganizations around the world. In December 2012, I was elected to serve as one of the two Regional Representatives for North America to UN Environment Programme. My duties include participating in the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum and representing the interests of North American civil society.

Buildings are the greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emis-

sions of any sector, including transportation and energy generation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identified buildings as the greatest impact and least costly way to reduce emissions and address climate change. Globally, buildings account for 40% of energy use, 38% of greenhouse gas emissions, 12% of potable water and 20% of solid waste streams in developed countries. Improving the sustainability of buildings not only protects the environment, but also affords cost-savings, job creation, and improved human health and productivity.

As the world's population rapidly urbanizes, we need to address future development and construction. In order to accommodate the expected increase in urban population of two billion people before 2030, we will need to construct 200 new cities larger than Paris. Our planet

cannot accommodate such development, especially if done conventionally. Clearly the decisions that we make today are crucial to ensuring the future health of our planet as cities and the built environment put more pressure on our finite resources. CUA has made positive strides towards campus-wide sustainability, including the construction of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) compliant Opus Hall and installation of several green roofs to aid stormwater management. The University deserves to be celebrated for its leadership and will hopefully accelerate their commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

*Maggie Comstock is a UHP alumna who has employed her education with work on sustainability with the U.S. Green Building Council.*

## Representing CUA

My coworkers immediately whisked me off on a lightning-speed tour of the entire Capitol complex. To reach the characteristic Rotunda, I travelled from the Cannon Building underneath the street and into the Capitol. The architecture, the paintings, the statues...everything I saw amazed me. I tried to play it "cool," but I'm afraid that my awe was embarrassingly apparent. The tour lasted only an hour, but I needed about four additional hours just to look enough.

Statuary Hall, the previous meeting place of the House of Representatives, particularly captured me. Each state provides statues of their homegrown heroes. Plaques on the floor indicate the location of famous former desks, including that of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. John Quincy Adams, the only Congressman to serve in the House following a presidency, collapsed in the very same Hall, suffering a stroke on the House Floor. He died in the

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Capitol Building in the adjacent room. I could not believe that I would be working for the same institution as these giants of American historical politics.

Thus far, I have walked on the House floor and explored the Cloakrooms. I waved at the DOMA protesters from the Speaker's Balcony of the Capitol.

I have read through newspapers from the Civil Rights movement and from the War of 1812 in the Library of Congress. I have delivered biographical records to Congressmen in every floor of every building in the Capitol complex. Every day at work, I invest in a new project, and help my office to—as my coworkers at the House jokingly claim—“protect the institution from its

members!”

When I graduate, I do not know if I will work for the House. I do not know if I will be a teacher. But I am certain that my experiences at Catholic U and at my internship have prepared me for the work that I do pursue. Besides, I'm not worried yet! I still have one whole year to go.



*Patricia Mars is an Honors Program Junior, a history major, and a future American leader!*

### Photo Corner

CUA Honors students on a “DC Life” excursion to the Smithsonian National Zoo. Honors Students benefit from many local events and activities in the metropolitan area... CUA's own backyard!



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## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

As we close in on the end of the academic year, I'd like to share with you some of the more memorable milestones from the past semester.

This February, the University Honors Program said goodbye to Mrs. Abigail Diego (née Shelton), our administrative assistant. Abbi and I started in the UHP at the same time, during the summer of 2010. Although neither of us had any idea what we were doing at first, Abbi quickly became a favorite of students and faculty alike, bringing a cheerful disposition and consummate professionalism to her work. Abbi and her husband John Paul have moved to Atlanta, where they are eagerly awaiting a baby boy.

As much as we'll miss Abbi, we're delighted to welcome Ms. Jillian Olson (class of 2010), who joined us in March. Jillian comes to us from the Office of Admissions, so she's familiar with both the University and the UHP. Although she arrived in the office during our "busy season," while we were preparing to welcome prospective students to campus in the spring, she has handled herself with poise and grace.

In March, Dr. Stefania Lucamante led a group of students on a spring break excursion to Venice. In addition to sightseeing and enjoying the local cuisine, the CUA students participated in a day-long program on "Exile, Diapora, and Migration" with students and faculty from Ca' Foscari University. A number of the participating students benefitted from the Ingrid Merkel fund, which provides travel subsidies to Honors students. If you're thinking of giving to CUA, we encourage you to consider this special fund.

Finally, the end of the academic year brought another round of national recognition for our students. Junior physics major Nathaniel Hlavin was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and senior Brendan Duffy, a Economics major, won a Fulbright to teach in South Korea in 2013-2014. This is the third straight year during which CUA has won at least one Fulbright Award.

Of course, we are proud of all of our seniors and we wish them the best of luck as they join the ranks of UHP alumni!

Yours,

Peter Shoemaker

As we come to the end of the academic year, we celebrate the generosity that makes this program possible. Please consider making a donation to one of the University Honors Program funds.

**The Suziedelis Fund** provides compensation for faculty invited to prepare new courses for the Honors Program, or, in the absence of such a program, any innovative course for undergraduates.

**The Dr. Ingrid Merkel Endowed Honors Program Fund** is used to provide financial support to the University Honors Program. Distributions for the fund may be used for costs of participation by Program students in international educational programs, study abroad programs for academic credit, or other educational or enrichment travel conducted in conjunction with the Program; travel and other costs of participation by Program students in scholarly, academic, or professional conferences; costs of participation by Program students in research projects costs of faculty development in furtherance of the academic mission of the Program; and other aspects of the Program at the Fund Manager's discretion.

Visit <http://honors.cua.edu/alumni/index.cfm>

Click under "Donate" and enter one of the two fund names in "Other" in the gift form.

We wish all of you a wonderful summer!