

## Scholar Updates

2009

Yemesrach Tadesse

Yemesrach Tadesse completed her third year at Emory University where she currently is pursuing dual degrees in Economics and Anthropology. Yemi has continued working to establish libraries in four rural schools north of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. She organized a fundraising event in February: an Evening of Ethiopian Coffee and Culture that drew many people and caught the attention of Emory's President Wagner who arranged for a special meeting with her. Yemi's work can be followed on her web site: [www.action-4words.org](http://www.action-4words.org).

Yemi spent the past summer in Ethiopia again with two of her closest Emory friends: Faven and Terri. They traveled to all the schools, setting up libraries, meeting with parents and developing plans for another school. She wrote:

"When we visited Ilketenju, specifically Olomai where the satellite school is located, the Woreda Education Bureau arranged for us to have mules to ride for the 2 hour trip up the mountain. We decided to stay for two full days so that we could have time to interview some of the farmers and visit the kids in their classrooms. We trekked up the mountain and all of us were awe struck at the rolling green hills and beautiful scenery passing by as our mules carried us higher and higher. As we got nearer to the village, we could hear human voices in the distance. Little did we know the entire town was outside waiting for us! When we got into the village, hundreds of the farmers were outside and they all began clapping for us as we walked in! We headed to the pathway leading to the school where hundreds of schoolchildren were lined up and cheering for us! We were led to a tent with Ethiopian music playing and we were handed a bouquet of flowers! That was the warmest welcome we had ever received!"



2010

Alex Pribbenow

Alex Pribbenow completed his second year at the Savannah College of Art and Design where he is majoring in Interactive Design and Game Development. He writes: "My first quarter at SCAD, as I'm sure is true with everyone's first college experience, was unlike anything I had experienced before, or since. I made many friends quickly, and being the only person from my high school attending, I had to branch out. As the months rolled by, and our first quarter transitioned into the second, and third, I met other people from many different walks of life. From all over the country and the world, SCAD has brought so many diverse people to a small city, all by the love and passion of creating art. I made more friends, with stronger bonds that I know will now last me a life time.

"As a scholastic experience, and lacking any real art training prior to SCAD, I have learned a lot about the world of art: the terms, the histories, the short comings; I have loved every second of it. For the first time in my life, I am surrounded by people who see the world in a way similar to me. I have flourished in both my Studio art classes, as well as my Academic ones, hungry for any knowledge presented to me.

"I am confident that Savannah is where I belong, and that nowhere but SCAD could give me the opportunities and experiences I have been given. In just two years, and especially during this past sophomore year, I have effectively become a Video Game Designer. I am confident and knowledgeable, have met dozens of my peers, and have worked on countless professional level projects. I have branched outside of school even, taking on a private project of my own, as well as joined a private Studio established by a fellow student, designing and developing Games to enter the market within the next few years."

In January, Alex will leave to spend a semester with SCAD in Hong Kong.



## Scholar Updates

2011

Raven Osborne

Raven Osborne completed her freshman year at Valdosta State University. Don and Ann Heroman drove with her to college and helped move her in to her dorm in August last year. They were both so wonderful, helping her to get settled in and to pick out courses for first semester. Reflecting back on her experience, she writes to the Board:

“Mary told me that freshmen year was going to be a learning experience, and she was a 110% correct. Ever since middle school, I had been preparing myself for college by reading about it and getting advice from people who had experienced it firsthand. In my opinion, nothing can prepare you for your freshmen year; you just have to experience the four-hour sleep routine, more days than meals, roommate drama, and seven page papers all on your own face to face.

“College is about independence and taking the initiative at all times. You only get to see your grade twice a semester and the last time is final. Your teachers don’t have much time on their hands between grading to assist you but if you show them that you are serious about your work, they are willing to help. Papers aren’t really that awful either; you just have to break those seven pages into chunks and take advantage of the free tutors. If you feel like you need a counselor, they’re right around the corner; you just have to take the first step. Everything is possible in college but you just have to use your time wisely and prioritize yourself.

“Thank you for funding my first year of college! I intend on taking everything I learned my freshmen year and use it to help me survive this second year.”



2012

Melanie McCall

On May 2, 2012, the fourth Madeleine Jude Brown scholar was named at the Tucker High School Senior Awards Ceremony. Melanie McCall started at the Georgia Institute of Technology in September and hopes to study Computer Engineering. Melanie assembled an impressive academic record at Tucker. She was named to the National Honor Society in 10th grade and graduated in the top 10% of her class with an International Baccalaureate diploma. Her mentor wrote about her: “[She] excelled in our most rigorous courses. She has handled the pressure, stress and tremendous work load with diligence and grace.”

In addition to the MJB Scholarship, Melanie received several other awards including the Illuminations Grant (from Oglethorpe Power to support the implementation of innovative ideas), the Scholastic Silver Key Art Award, the Gold SAT Award and the Juanita Curtis Award (for Excellence in Athletics or the Arts).

Melanie’s most impressive quality may be her fearlessness and generosity of spirit. She directs her talent and energy toward helping others, a legacy of having lost her own mother in the 8th grade. During her junior year, she co-founded iHeart, Inc, and organized a 5K race to raise funds for a friend undergoing heart transplantation. Melanie was inspired by her friend who she describes “as a compassionate and generous person that made people gravitate towards her. I believe that if anyone wants to be a leader, they have to do it by setting an example”. We are convinced that Melanie is a leader for tomorrow and on her way to a successful college career!



## Activities

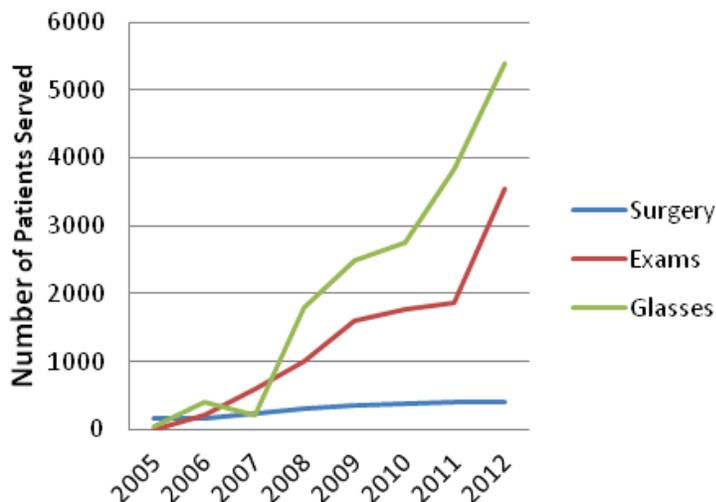
### Madeleine Jude Brown Invitational Swim Meet

From Terry Blish, Marist Swimming and Diving Coach:  
“Atlanta meteorologists have determined that unseasonably warm temperatures on December 17, 2011 were a direct result of the sizzling times produced inside the Madeleine Jude Brown Aquatic Center on the campus of Emory University. With first-time teams Brookwood, Milton, and Westminster in attendance, the 4th Annual MJB Meet was a record-setting display of some of the best swimming and diving talent in Georgia. Over 700 swimmers and divers from 28 schools attended, and Meet Records fell like rain in 15 of the 22 swimming events. Once again, this meet was a fitting tribute to Madeleine’s legacy of excellence in Swimming and Diving.” Many friends of Madeleine turned out for the event, greeting athletes and families on the upper concourse.  
The 5th MJB Invitational Meet will be held at the Madeleine Jude Brown Aquatic Center at Emory University on Saturday, December 15, 2012. All are welcome to come and meet our scholars!



### Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

The Madeleine Jude Brown Foundation has been a supporter of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation since 2008. In 2007, the Lighthouse, which began primarily as an eyeglass recycling project for the Georgia Lions Clubs, began to develop primary eye care clinics for low income and uninsured Georgians. What began as a single examining room in a basement closet has grown to a network of mobile and stationary clinics throughout Georgia. In 2011, the Lighthouse moved into a new facility in Atlanta with more advanced eye care equipment and a full scale Optical Shop. The Lighthouse provided primary and intermediate (glaucoma, diabetic screening, etc) eye care to nearly 6,000 patients in 2012.



## Activities

### Capital City Waves Madeleine Jude Brown Award

---

The 6th Annual Madeleine Jude Brown Capital City Wave Award was presented on July 11, 2012 to Alex Gracey. Alex is a 7th grader at Westminster who swam with the 11/12 year old boys during the 2012 summer season. This was his 6th summer with the Waves. Alex also plays soccer at Concord and is a member of the Westminster swim team during the academic year.

Alex is a “quiet leader” who never complains and always does his best. Alex demonstrated this leadership by “swimming up” an age group to help the team out. Alex was named a “Big Kahuna” for the Waves team after the Cherokee meet in which he swam on the 13/14 200 Yd Freestyle Relay and 13/14 200 Yd Medley Relay. At the 2012 Country Club Championship Meet, Alex won the 11/12 Boys 100 Yd Individual Medley and placed 2nd in the 50 Yd Breaststroke. He is a member of several record holding relays at Capital City Club.

At the Awards Ceremony, Mary Brown said a few words to the parents and children: “We are so happy to be with everyone tonight. We enjoy coming to this awards banquet each year. It gives us an opportunity to share with you all something about Madeleine that made her special. One of the things I have been thinking about lately is Gratitude. Madeleine was a person of gratitude. She was not afraid to say thank you and I love to people – her family, her friends. She would call out across the gymnasium: “I love you!!!” unafraid of what others might think.

“Gratitude is like air and is a powerful force in the world. Once it is released, it diffuses out to the people around you. It expands. They take it in, are changed and release it again. Gratitude is all about Carpe Diem, the club motto. Live for today, be fully present in the present moment and be grateful.



“Madeleine loved working at Capital City. She loved her coworkers and the children she taught. She was so grateful for the opportunity to work here. She was grateful for her family – her parents and sisters – and her friends. She was not afraid to say “I love you”. It takes a lot of courage and real leadership to say these things. Most of us probably don’t say them enough. “Reay and I are very grateful for what Capital City has done, for continuing to remember her. It is the most important thing to a mother’s heart. And this year’s recipient of the Madeleine Brown Award will be grateful for this honor. He is a young man who has been a quiet leader, having the courage to swim up in meets even though he knows he won’t do as well against older swimmers. It is with great pleasure to announce that this year’s recipient is Alex Gracey.”