From the Director

The 2015 Rector Record continues to feature Rector Voices, the words of Rector Scholars. All of the previous contributions have been from alumni, but this year’s piece is from current Rector Clare Hasken ’15.

Last fall a fourth Rector Scholar joined professors Jeff Hansen ’86, Carrie Klaus ’93 and Jeff McCall ’76 on the DePauw faculty. Andy Cullison ’01 is director of The Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics and associate professor of philosophy.

A major DePauw event during the last year was the creation of the Murad Medal, named in honor of Rector Scholar and Nobel Laureate Ferid Murad ’58. Fittingly, the first recipient of the medal is Rector Scholar Samantha Anderson ’14.

The past year has seen several generous contributions to the Rector Scholarship Endowment Fund totaling over $250,000. These gifts continue the long practice of Rector alumni supporting the program which meant so much to them.

Comments, questions or suggestions concerning the Rector Record or the Rector Scholarship Program may be sent to John Morrill at johnmorrill@depauw.edu or to Bartlett Alumni House Annex, DePauw University, P.O. Box 37, Greencastle, IN 46135.

Rector Voices: Clare Hasken ’15

When I first began my search for the perfect college, I figured DePauw University would offer an undergraduate experience very similar to other liberal arts colleges of the Midwest. Each school boasted of small class sizes, ample opportunities to interact with professors, and longitudinal integration of liberal arts competencies within its curriculum. The deciding factor for me was the offer from DePauw to receive the merit-based Rector Scholarship. As I reflect upon the past four years, I realize that the Rector Scholarship program is a special part of DePauw’s history that cannot be found anywhere else.

My most memorable learning experiences at DePauw did not take place in the classroom. Although I majored in biology, I had the opportunity to study the link between poverty and education while in Nicaragua and assisted with the treatment of injured and sick animals in the Cook Islands. In both situations I interacted with a diverse group of people, learned about local cultures and customs, and delved deeper into social and geographical factors that influence one’s access to essential resources.

From these experiences, I have a better appreciation for the liberal arts’ emphasis on the development of communication and critical thinking skills as well as the ability to integrate ideas from multiple disciplines.

Additionally, my involvement in the Science Research Fellows Program of Distinction provided me with hands-on research opportunities beginning my first semester of college. In Dr. Henning Schneider’s lab, I studied the effects of Lorcaserin, a weight loss drug, and SB242084, a stimulant, on the nicotine response of the 5HT2C serotonin receptor of zebrafish larvae. After 24 hours of incubation in a specific concentration of the drug, we measured (Continued on page 2.)
the percentage of zebrafish larvae that were actively moving in each treatment by capturing a series of photographs taken two seconds apart at various time points before and after the introduction of nicotine. Compared to control activity levels, Lorcaserin blunted the effect of nicotine because no increase in activity level was observed. SB242084 treatments, however, demonstrated increased activity levels similar to control treatments after exposure to nicotine. Therefore, Lorcaserin may reduce zebrafish sensitivity to nicotine and could perhaps reduce its addictive effect in people. Through this experience I developed basic laboratory techniques essential for research in a variety of scientific fields.

My research internship on campus the following summer provided me with a completely different experience. Instead of looking at science through a molecular or behavioral lens, I studied the effect of functional diversity of chironomid macroinvertebrate larvae on carbon cycling within freshwater sediment using a broader community ecology approach. With the DePauw Nature Park’s quarry pond serving as our model ecosystem, I worked with Dr. Ken Fortino and a fellow DePauw student to design and complete this study. We determined the rate of organic matter breakdown (OMB), or the conversion of carbon from plant material into carbon dioxide gas, within the sediment by measuring the change in concentration of dissolved oxygen within the water column of pond-simulated treatments. The treatments consisted of a glass Mason jar, filtered pond sediment, pond water, and larvae from tanypodinae, chironominae, or both of these chironomid subfamilies at their natural densities. Since oxygen gas is required for the conversion of plant particles to carbon dioxide, the change in dissolved oxygen over time reflected the amount of oxygen consumed by all organisms and microbes present in the treatment. Our results suggested that tanypodinae larvae, which function as predators and inhabit the most superficial sediment layer, did not affect OMB within the sediment. Chironominae larvae, which function as collectors, did significantly affect OMB and likely stimulated metabolic activity of surrounding microorganisms by forming channels that increased oxygen availability deeper within the sediment. Additionally, I completed two summer research internships off campus. At the University of Wisconsin–Madison I studied neurogenesis in the third ventricle of the adult rat brain. I also contributed to two quality improvement projects with DePauw alumna Dr. Kathryn Fletcher, M.D. at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee with the goal of improving patient outcomes by minimizing error. Through these internships I gained valuable experience available only at larger academic institutions, and I established relationships with faculty mentors that will be beneficial as I continue along the path towards medical school.

Four years ago, I decided to attend DePauw University primarily because I received the Rector Scholarship. My Winter Term and research opportunities, as well as the rigor of DePauw’s curriculum, have set me apart from other medical school applicants fighting to secure a spot in the entering class next fall. I cannot reflect upon my DePauw experience without feeling grateful for the generous support I have received through the Rector Scholarship program. I feel honored to be a member of this special group of people, and I wish the best of luck to all of the Rector Scholars graduating in May!
Inaugural Murad Medal Citation for Samantha Anderson ’14

Named for Nobel laureate Dr. Ferid Murad ’58, the Murad Medal recognizes the senior who has had the most significant scholarly or artistic achievements during his or her time at DePauw.

Samantha is graduated from DePauw in three years as both a Rector Scholar and a Science Research Fellow. Committed to teaching science, she worked as a teaching assistant for the chemistry and biochemistry department and as a Quantitative Reasoning Center tutor. She encouraged other women to pursue their interest in science through her role as a peer mentor for the Women in Science organization.

Samantha worked on five different research projects during her time at DePauw University. As a first-year student, she learned how to weld while designing and building the protein sculptures that now hang in the atrium of the Percy Lavon Julian Science & Mathematics Center — a collaborative research project between biochemists and artists. Samantha found her passion for science research while completing a second research project that investigated protein structure and function. During another project, Samantha worked to create a drought resistant plant that could make its own water.

Based on this work, combined with extraordinary classroom performance, the biochemistry department awarded Samantha the Wylie-Condit Science Scholarship for promising science students. Samantha completed an internship in biochemistry and microbiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This work resulted in publication in Molecular Microbiology.

She also worked on a project focused on neglected tropical diseases. Many of Samantha’s projects culminated with poster sessions and oral presentations where Samantha was able to hone her science communication skills.

Samantha continues her education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Integrated Ph.D. Program in biochemistry.

Little Known Rector History from the May 1932 Rector Record

The pages at right appeared the May 1932 Rector Record. The awarding of Edward Rector Fellowships was discontinued in 1935 because of a decline in Rector endowment revenues during the Great Depression. They were never reinstated.
Recognition Dinner.

The Class of 2014 Rectors were presented their Rector Scholar citations by the Rector faculty members at the annual Rector Senior Recognition Dinner.

Current Rector Scholars

Class of 2015
Brooke Addison ’15 Louisville
Kieron Clark ’15 North Manchester, Ind.
Kevin Courtade ’15 Jenison, Mich.
Elizabeth Dilbone ’15 Newark, Ohio
Kunyu Fang ’15 San Diego, Calif.
Clare Hasken ’15 Richmond, Ill.
Nicholas Heberbrand ’15 Palatine, Ill.
Giles (Chip) Locke ’15 Rochester, Minn.
Colleen McArdle ’15 Fort Wayne, Ind.
Madeline Perry ’15 Cincinnati
Haley Pratt ’15 Fishers, Ind.
Adam Thacker ’15 Minnetonka, Minn.

Class of 2016
Megan Bailey ’16 Columbus, Ind.
Timothy Brauer ’16 Greenwood, Ind.
Sam Cole ’16 Indianapolis
Page Daniels ’16 Amboy, Ind.
Lauren Falotico ’16 Arlington Heights, Ill.
Conner Gordon ’16 Carmel, Ind.
Shannon Hall ’16 Jacksonville, Fla.
Erin Horne ’16 Arlington Heights, Ill.
Mark Johnson ’16 Northbrook, Ill.
Risa (Lisa) Kanai ’16 Kanagawa-Ken, Japan
Scott Lockwood ’16 Carmel, Ind.
Olivia Muller ’16 Carmel, Ind.
LeeAnn Sausser ’16 Indianapolis
Hannah Short ’16 Saint Robert, Mo.
Erin Tolar ’16 Grove City, Ohio
Noelle Wittwer ’16 Bluffton, Ind.

Class of 2017
Joshua Clark ’17 Indianapolis, Ind.
Danielle Dattilio ’17 Lexington, Ky.
Kristin Hillman ’17 Scottsdale, Ariz.
Carolyn Jedd ’17 Chicago, Ill.
Stephen Johnson ’17 Frankfort, Ill.
Midori Kawae ’17 Yokohama, Japan
Lauren Saint ’17 Indianapolis, Ind.
Olubusola Shifat ‘17 Lagos, Nigeria
Peter Steiner ’17 Atlanta, Ga.
Amanda Straw ’17 Chicago, Ill.
Amanda Weber ’17 Cary, Ill.

Class of 2018
Jacob Bertucci ’18 Valparaiso, Ind.
Mei Fujisato ’18 Osaka, Japan
Colin Gleason ’18 Santa Barbara, Calif.
Hussain Habib ’18 Fort Wayne, Ind.
Benjamin Kusber ’18 San Carlos, Calif.
Abigail Martin ’18 Fort Thomas, Ky.
Leland Nelson ’18 Fort Wayne, Ind.
Johnathan Pai ’18 Saint Louis, Mo.
Samuel Showalter ’18 Fort Wayne, Ind.
Madeleine Storm ’18 Wheaton, Ill.
David Tekien ’18 Chicago, Ill.
Michelle Wiebe ’18 Elmwood Park, Ill.

An Investment in Humanity, the story of the Rectors and their historic scholarship written by Rector Scholar Lew Gulick ’44, is available on The Rector Scholarship website. A printed copy can be ordered by calling the Eli’s Bookstore, 765-653-0618.