

Biographical Sketches of the *Agora* Writers

Although **Haydar Ali** wrote his *Agora* paper while he was a student at Henry Ford Community College, he is now a sophomore at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Haydar wants to pursue a career in medicine, so he has chosen biochemistry as his undergraduate major. However, Haydar also loves English, which he has chosen as his minor. He writes regularly for *The Michigan Journal* as a guest columnist in the “Perspectives” section. In his spare time, Haydar loves to play sports, particularly soccer.

Ashley Brown is a Lynchburg College Junior from Orange County, Virginia, majoring in American History and minoring in Museum Studies and Art History. She has a deep interest in twentieth-century American history, especially the period of the Cold War. Through her courses in history and Museum Studies, Ashley has become convinced of the importance and influence of art in today's society as well as society's reciprocal impact on art (war, disease, cultural struggles, etc.). In her free time, Ashley enjoys playing tennis and reading, especially biographies. Over the past two summers, Ashley has worked as an interpreter at James Madison's Montpelier, and during the school year she works as a student assistant at the Daura Gallery. She hopes to gain more work experience in museums after graduating and to earn a Master's degree in Museum Studies. Ashley would also like to travel extensively in the future.

Moni'ca Brown is currently a senior at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. All her career dreams have always involved the study of writing. She decided to major in English so that she could continue to do the thing that was most like taking her next breath. Moni'ca plans

to graduate with a B.A. degree in English and then to study for a Master's degree in creative writing.

Dr. Danny Cline received his undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Chemical Engineering from West Virginia University. He completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics at Virginia Tech. Since 2005, he has been teaching mathematics at Lynchburg College, where he has taught courses on number theory and the foundations of geometry. In 2008, he will be serving as the director of the Summer Residential Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology at Lynchburg College.

Lee Elliott is a Lynchburg College senior from Atlanta, Georgia, pursuing a B.A. with a major in Communication Studies and a minor in Political Science. He is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and a staff writer and columnist for the *Critograph*, the Lynchburg College student newspaper. After graduation, Lee hopes to work as either a weekly columnist or in the advertising field.

Justin Lerche, who is a senior at Lynchburg College and a member of the Westover Honors program, comes from Baltimore, Maryland. While he was growing up, Justin developed a strong love of sports, particularly basketball, football, and baseball. He also enjoys traveling and has participated in two study abroad trips to Argentina in 2007 and to Switzerland and France in spring 2008. Justin's interest in other countries fits very nicely with his major in political science and his two minors in history and international relations.

Conor McFarland is currently a Lynchburg College freshman, planning to major in International Relations and Philosophy. He is a member of the Westover Honor Society, the Student Judicial Board, and Phi Eta Sigma, the freshman honor society. Conor enjoys playing the piano and also studying foreign languages, such as Mandarin. He comes from northern Virginia.

Shannon Melchior is a sophomore at Lynchburg College, majoring in Biomedical Science. Shannon lives with her family in Greensboro, Maryland. She is a PASS Leader, teaching group study sessions at Lynchburg College for Chemistry and Biology.

Rachel Moore is a senior at Lynchburg College. She is majoring in Communication Studies, with an emphasis in Journalism/Public Relations and a minor in Sports Management. Rachel is a member of the Lynchburg College tennis team as well as the Publications Chair for the Westover Honors Program. Next year she hopes to attend graduate school to get a Master's degree in Sports Management, and then she plans to work in a recreational sports setting.

Robert Cameron Seay was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, but raised in Hanover County, Virginia. He is a senior Human Development and Learning major with an emphasis in Special Education. He has also pursued a major in Theatre at Lynchburg College. He likes to spend his spare time with his family and friends, and when back home, he has his favorite corner booth at the Waffle House, where he enjoys many polite discussions about current topics in the news or the world today.

David Sutton grew up about a mile from the Lynchburg College campus and now resides just outside of Lynchburg on Candler's Mountain. He and his family attend Grace Memorial Episcopal Church near campus. David is a former welder and motorcyclists' rights activist. In 2006, he graduated *cum laude* from Central Virginia Community College. At Lynchburg College he is now majoring in history (American emphasis) with a minor in secondary education. He has been on the Dean's list every semester and is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta history and Kappa Delta Pi education honor societies. David plans to finish his academic course work in fall 2008 and to do his student teaching in spring 2009.

Tao Tan graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University in 2007 with a degree in History and Economics. He worked for the investment bank Lehman Brothers in New York before joining its new office in Sydney, Australia. In between following the price of oil, contemplating the interest rate environment, and dodging wombats, he finds time for his old friends Homer, Mencius, Vergil, Augustine, Han Fei, Montaigne, Kautilya, Castiglione and Munqidh.

James Young is a freshman at Lynchburg College in the class of 2011. He is an English major and currently holds a minor in international relations. James also runs cross country and the 5K race in track and field for Lynchburg College.