



**Blacksburg
Rotary Club**
Rotary International
District 7570

April 22, 2010

Blacksburg Rotary Club Recognizes Outstanding Fine Arts Students

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg continued a nearly twenty-five year tradition of recognizing outstanding, talented graduating seniors from Montgomery County with scholarships for continuing education.

“This year we were pleased to again receive a strong set of nominations from around Montgomery County for our **Award For Excellence in Arts**,” said Fine Arts Committee Chair Leslie Frantz. “We selected six students to honor this year based upon their demonstrated excellence in art following personal interviews, portfolio presentations and auditions with each nominee,” Frantz said. This year, the Rotary Club of Blacksburg recognized the following students:



*Back Row, L to R - Aaron Craggett, Kimberly Slater,
Gwendolyn Sewell, Dillon Meacham
Front Row, L to R - Emily Eyestone, Emma Cobb*

Gwendolyn Sewell - Christiansburg High

Sewell attends Christiansburg High School and serves as the President of the Art Guild and “has brought energy and purpose to a club that had become stagnate for several years,” says Art teacher Carrie Lyons. Sewell won 2nd Place in the 2010 CHS Art Gallery, Honorable Mention in 2008 Sinkland Farms Show, 10th Grade Award in 2007 at Sinkland Farms, 11th Grade Award in 2008 Sinkland Farms Show, has had artwork featured in the 2005-2010 annual school calendars, and won a Laban Johnson Art Scholarship from the Art Council of the Blue Ridge sophomore year. Sewell was selected to attend the Summer Residential Governor’s School for the Humanities and the Visual and Performing Arts at Christopher Newport University during the summer of 2009. In the Fall, she plans to make the trek to attend Virginia Tech.

Aaron Craggett - Eastern Montgomery High

Craggett loves to draw and specializes in attention to detail. His more recent works focus on “human anatomy and its captured motions.” Aaron also volunteers with the Shawsville Emergency Medical Crew and is certified in Swift Water Rescue. Craggett intends to attend Jefferson College of Health and Science to pursue a degree in Emergency Medical. He was awarded 1st place in VHS Art Show, 2nd Place in the Montgomery School Art Show, 2nd Place Honda Innovation Concept art, 2nd Place in Museum Roanoke Art Show, 3rd Place in EastMont High School Art show and Art I & Art II Medallion winner in 2008 and 2009.



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His Art teacher, Kelly Smith-Price says “Aaron is an exceptionally bright, creative thinker and exemplifies a level of understanding of how to use the visual arts to communicate.”

Emily Eyestone - Blacksburg High

Eyestone is a Senior at Blacksburg High School and a student of the Renaissance Music Academy for 11 years. She has studied piano, music theory and chamber music during her time with the Academy. Eyestone has taken advantage of the many opportunities to perform over the years for school groups, at Warm Hearth and other events throughout southwestern Virginia which were provided as free concerts extended to the public through the Renaissance Academy where music outreach through service to the community is a founding principle. Her instructor at the Academy describes her as a “talented, serious, dedicated, hardworking student who has continued to study because of her love and passion for music. She is technically and musically mature, and has reached an advance level of playing. She has personal high standards and the drive and determination to achieve what she sets as her own personal goals.

Kimberly Slater - Blacksburg High

Slater moved to Blacksburg from Spokane Washington and began her Senior year with her parents following a few months later. She began studying drama her Freshman year and has played in “Juvie”, “The Enabling Club”, and “Oh My God, It’s Another Play” while in Washington. During her senior year she has taken part in the “Crucible” as Ann Putman and the One-Act Competition as Rapunzel in “Rapunzel UnCut” and received an Award. Her Drama teacher, Terrye Chisholm describes Kimberly as “a creative and dedicated theater student (who) takes great pride in preparing her roles, memorization, research, practice, fleshing out every character she portrays.” Kimberly plans to attend Mary Washington in the Fall.

Dillon Meacham - Blacksburg High

Meacham, a senior at Blacksburg High School who started his “musical journey” at six with the piano. He began playing the bassoon because he wanted to join the marching band and there weren’t very many bassoon players. He “fell in love with it immediately” and has triumphed. Meacham made 1st Chair in All District and All County Band every year he auditioned, 1st Chair at Virginia Tech Summer Music Institute each of the four years he attended; he has played as the principal bassoon of the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra for three years and principal of the Blacksburg Community Orchestra since the eighth grade. Meacham made 1st Chair All Virginia Band and Orchestra for the past two years and the All Regional Orchestra twice and playing as principal this year. He has attended the Virginia Governors School for Visual and Performing Arts and the Brevard Music Center. Meacham is a self taught Saxophonist and plays the Alto Saxophone in the Blacksburg High School Marching and Jazz Bands as well as for Musicals in the Pit Orchestra. Dillon plans to attend Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore Maryland pursuing a dual Bachelor of Bassoon Performance and Bachelor of Recording Arts and Sciences degree.



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Barbara Jackson Duke, Adjust Professor for Bassoon at Radford University describes Meacham as “thriving on being challenged and possessing physical abilities along with musicality and sensitivity to achieve an extraordinary level of excellence.”

Emma Cobb - Blacksburg High

Cobb, a senior at Blacksburg High School who “is highly respected by her teachers and peers as she is not only talented, but humble about her many accomplishments and abilities” said Choral Director Jan Blumenthal. She has many achievements during her study at Blacksburg High School, including; Madrigals, Jazz Choir, Playing Adelaide in “Guys and Dolls”, various roles in “Wonderful Town” and winning Best Actress Award in the District VHSL One Act Competition as Lynn Swift in “A Small Wooden Horse.” Throughout community events, Cobb has played Kim MacAfee in “Bye Bye Birdie”, Sharpay Evans in “High School Musical”, Sally Brown in “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” Aunt Polly in “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and was 1st place winner at the district level of the Bland Scholarship competition. She won VANATS 1st Place in both categories for 10 and 11 and VNATS Best High School Female Singer Overall in 10. Cobb has been part of the All District Chorus for 4 years, All Virginia Chorus for 2 years and the VMEA Honors Choir for 1 year.

Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors enrolled in accredited secondary programs in Montgomery County who are pursuing further education in the fall of 2010 at the college or university level. The award \$750 cash award a framed certificate. Students are nominated by their teachers for their art in vocal, instrumental, visual, theater, dance or literary.

About the Rotary Club of Blacksburg, VA - Rotary International is a global network of community volunteers, an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg (club #5753) began in 1978 and today consists of over 100 members who meet at noon on most Thursdays at the Blacksburg Country Club. To learn more about the service of the Rotary Club of Blacksburg see its Web site, www.blacksburgrotary.org.

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