

## **2008 Plastino Scholars Award Recipient Abstracts**

### **Gina Siddiqui**

Gina Siddiqui is a junior International Relations and Economics major from Clifton, VA. Gina was named a 2007 Plastino Scholar, but due to political unrest in her region of interest, delayed plans until summer 2008. Gina will use her Plastino Scholar experience to investigate the differences in health care delivery systems in Pakistan and Chile, taking their social, political, and economic contexts into account. She plans to record audio testimonies from providers and consumers of health in some of the best and some of the direst medical facilities in these regions. Her research will take her to Karachi and the North West Frontier Province in Pakistan, and to Santiago and the indigenous tropical regions in Chile. Within her rural studies, the marginalized groups of special interest are Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the indigenous population in Chile. She hopes studying a range of environments will allow her to better understand each state's systemic organization in theory and in practice. She will use her understanding to move towards combating inequities in health care delivery. Upon her return, Gina plans to use her data to contribute to dialogue and understanding on two crucial issues in the health sector: universal health coverage, and the conflict between standardization and local practices in response to globalization.

### **Victoria Clark**

Victoria Clark is a junior Applied Music and English major with a minor in voice from Newark, DE. Victoria will travel to Wales to participate in a four-week intensive language course to learn Welsh and experience cultural life. After becoming dissatisfied with educational standards that do not encourage inter-disciplinary studies, Victoria created her Plastino Scholar Experience to satisfy a desire to intertwine music and literature with culture. She chose her own Welsh heritage, a culture where interdisciplinary research and teaching is mandatory. The Welsh bardic tradition consists of *cerdd dant* ("craft of the string") and *cerdd dafod* ("craft of the tongue" or poetry). Her time in Wales will provide her with knowledge to research musical and literary manuscripts which will further her studies into the close working of music and English in cultures. She hopes to use her interdisciplinary studies to advance her plans to change educational standards and one day teach cross-listed classes at a collegiate level.

### **Joshua Kling**

Joshua Kling is a junior Hotel, Restaurant & Institutional Management major from Clifton, NJ. Joshua will become a certified sommelier after taking a wine education tour of the famous Old World vineyards in Europe. He has designed an independent wine study tour which will begin in the French regions of Champagne and Bordeaux and end in the Italian regions of Tuscany, Barolo and

Barbaresco. Through this experience, Joshua will enhance his knowledge of viticulture and further develop his palate to distinguish subtleties between wines, a necessary skill to become a Master Sommelier. Upon his return from Europe, Josh plans to complete the first exam on his way to becoming one of the youngest Certified Sommeliers in the United States.

### **Amy Weniger**

Amy Weniger is a junior Biological Sciences major with minors in Biochemistry and Psychology from Boothwyn, Pennsylvania. Amy will participate in an internship program with ProWorld in Peru. ProWorld works to promote social and economic development, empower communities and cultivate educated compassionate global citizens. Amy will serve the Sacred Valley and Cusco communities for three weeks working to improve public health issues that plague the region. She also plans to use her time in Peru educating expectant and new mothers on appropriate prenatal and infant healthcare. Upon her return to the States, Amy will use her experience to contrast health systems in the United States and Latin America. Through her experience, she hopes to gain a sense of awareness with regard to the high levels of diversity she will be introduced to in her career as a physician.