

PINNACLE PROJECT WINTER NEWSLETTER

Pinnacle Scholars Julia Carey and Rachel Emery Receive Davidson Institute Fellowships

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On November 7th, the Davidson Institute presented Pinnacle scholars Julia Carey and Rachel Emery with Fellows Awards in the Russell Senate building in Washington, D.C.

Both Carey and Emery were introduced by Bob and Jan Davidson with words of praise.

According to the Institute, the Fellowships are presented to, "recognize outstanding achievements of

young people who can demonstrate the development of their talents with a



Rachel Emery, Rena Subotnik, and Julia Carey were all smiles after the Davidson Fellowship Award Ceremony.

significant piece of work." Carey submitted her *Compositions for Orchestra and Chamber Groups*.

which consists of five orchestral scores, one string orchestra score and two chamber works. At the ceremony, a presenter said of Carey: "As a composer, she manipulates the sound of 70 instruments, and controls the mood of all within earshot."

Emery submitted her novella *I-Ana* to the Institute, the same work she worked on with the Kellermans this summer.

In addition to a trophy, each of the six Davidson Fellows received a \$10,000 scholarship.

Did You Get a Copy?

In the October 2001 issue of the *Monitor on Psychology*, the magazine described the Pinnacle Project and interviewed several participants.



APF Announces Pinnacle Summit II for August 2002

The Center for Gifted Education Policy recently announced plans for Pinnacle Project Summit II to take place August 4 through 11 at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. Pinnacle participants from last year are invited to attend August 4 through 6 while the new

Pinnacle Summit will last from the 5th through the 11th. The fields will likely be mathematics, theoretical physics, computer science, creative writing, psychology, music, visual arts, and journal-



Author Diane Ackerman

ism. Thus far, four masters have committed to the Summit; including Diane Ackerman. To read more about one of the newest additions to the Pinnacle Family, turn to page 4. We'll feature the others in our next edition.

Julia Carey



Julia Carey in November.

Julia has had a busy fall and winter since the Pinnacle Summit. She and Beatrice Affron have met several times since the Summit and have stayed in contact during Beatrice's absences from Boston. Julia has finished the score and parts for her recently commissioned orchestral work, *Harvest*, and has made a number of trips to Minneapolis for rehearsals. The work will premiere with the Youth Symphony in Minneapolis in

May. In addition, Julia has finished a setting for a Yeats poem for chorus and orchestra that will go on tour in England and Ireland this spring. Julia will leave the tour in Dublin and travel on to St. Petersburg, Russia for the International Young Composers Competition, where she will be performing her duet for violin and piano with a young Russian violinist who befriended Julia on previous Russian trips.

Julia now has a publisher: Theodore Presser, the oldest publisher of music in Amer-

ica, will be publishing and distributing two of her works, the duet and a concertino a cinque, and offering five of her orchestral works through its rental library. Julia continues to study at the New England Conservatory, taking classes in composition, piano, theory, and chamber music. She is also having a great time at Milton Academy, where she recently won the Wales Prize in science.

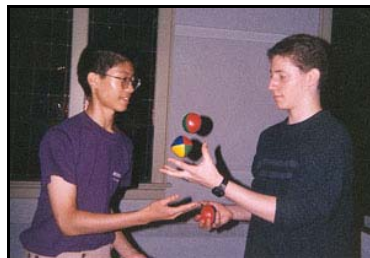
Finally, Julia plans to spend a month this summer in France, studying literature and European history.

Po-Ru Loh

Po-Ru continues a record of high achievement in his normal high school courses, and he has been elected to a position in his school's new student government. He also took a course in multivariable calculus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison last fall,

and is taking a computer science course there this spring. He is excited about attending a mathematics mini-

camp at Harvard University during spring break, sponsored by the Clay Math Institute, which is headed by Math Master Arthur Jaffe.



Po-Ru and Zach showing their skills at the Pinnacle Talent Show last August.

Zach Wissner-Gross

Following the Pinnacle Summit, Zach enjoyed a family trip to Japan, where he was especially impressed with the recently opened National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo.

Zach has been very busy with school work and science research ever since. He has continued to work with Matt Albert on the kin recognition project that originated at Pinnacle, and he reports that the research is progressing well. He has also been participating in science competitions, presenting skin stem cell research that he

did (also last summer) at the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute. Zach recently earned first place in the Nassau County Interscholastic Mathematics League competition for a second year in a row. He has also kept up with his foil fencing, leading his team to an undefeated season and the Nassau County Championship; he is trying out for the nationals. Meanwhile, he continues to sing opera and is performing in his high school production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

**Multivariable
Calculus Anyone?**

Scott Thompson

This fall, Scott has been very busy trying to manage the college application process while still maintaining a hectic extracurricular activity schedule.

Scott has kept busy this semester serving as a deacon at his church and working as an officer for the psychology club. He's also been doing research on the Constitution as a member of his school's "We the People" team, which competes in state and national competitions on Constitutional issues. Scott was named a National Merit Semifinalist, and inducted into National Honor Society. He's also been work-

ing as a copy editor for his school newspaper.

Scott finished the Nebraska Veterans Oral History Project, which involved interviewing veterans of World War II and condensing the interviews into summaries to be included in a book. And, of course, the usual activities like jazz band and trombone lessons have continued.

Since the Pinnacle Summit, Scott has been working to administer a test of social intelligence which he developed this summer. Scott has administered different versions of the test to two different focus groups of students at his school.

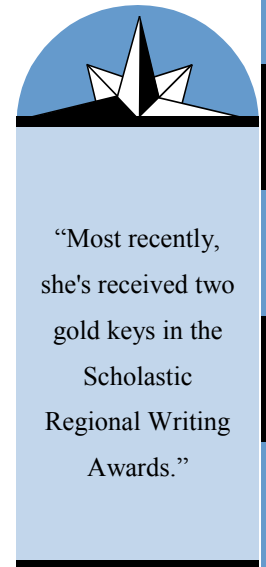
Rachel Emery

Rachel has been hard at work at her new school, Simon's Rock College of Bard, where she is active in numerous extracurricular activities, including the school's Gamelan Ensemble. She is also preoccupied with her newest work, a novel called *Beyond the Reach of Fluorescent Lights*, as well as an outbreak of short stories and a series of poetry and monologues, *My Favorite Color Is Still Yellow*. Most recently, she's received two gold keys in the Scholastic Regional Writing Awards. In May, Rachel plans to work with the Kellermans in person for a week.

David Sonnenborn

David has enjoyed a busy senior year since the Pinnacle Summit. Recently, he finished his tenure as the In-Depth Editor of his school newspaper, *Maroon*. David has met with Phil Scheffler and Kay Lim on a regular basis since the summer, and David is planning to work with them during late May and June as a part of the Senior Options program at his high school. David is excited to finally be working on a short news documentary under the guidance of the "60 Minutes" producers.

In other news, David recently stepped back on the court for the start of tennis season.



"Most recently, she's received two gold keys in the Scholastic Regional Writing Awards."

Matthew Baker

Matt left Simon's Rock College and hit the ground running. After visiting with some family in Chicago, Matt participated in preseason football camp for a grueling week in late August. The team had a tough season, finishing ranked 17th in the Washington metro area. Matt led the team in receptions, receiving yards, and receiv-

ing touchdowns.

Matt has also been busy this winter as the co-captain of his school's basketball team. In addition to sports, Matt has been involved in many musical activities at his school. He co-wrote a school fight song during the last week of the summer, and he hopes to make it the official school fight song later this

year. So far this year, Matt's a capella quintet has performed at the National Gallery of Art and the Indian Embassy. During Christmas break, Matt started work on his project with Dr. Wimbush. Earlier in the year, Matt attended a conference at Union Theological Seminary on one of Dr. Wimbush's studies.



Matthew Baker speaking at Simon's Rock College this summer.

Pinnacle Project

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The Pinnacle Project

The Pinnacle Project brings together at a summit established masters in the arts and sciences, outstanding researchers and professionals beginning careers (for each discipline), and extraordinarily talented high school students (one in each of the disciplines)

The overall purpose of the Pinnacle Project model is to bring together developed and developing talent in important disciplines in order to:

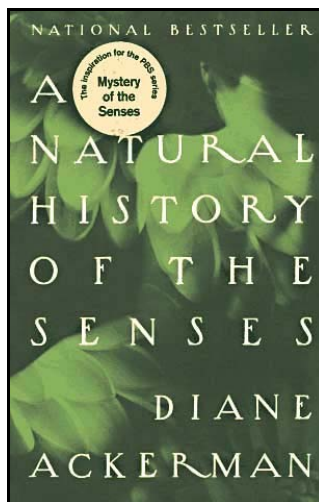
- Publicize the talent development needs of gifted adolescents.
- Provide an opportunity for highly gifted adolescents to learn from and be guided by mentors in their fields of interest.
- Plan investigations that would serve as a basis of mentoring relationships.
- Discuss in a safe forum the joys, psychological stresses, and expectations associated with talent development at the very highest levels.
- Establish a venue for fertilization of ideas about talent development across disciplines.



Zach Wissner-Gross, Po-Ro Loh, Reid Barton, Scott Thompson, Matt Baker, David Sonnenborn, Rachel Emery, Rena Subotnik, and Sarah Hood. Missing: Julia Carey

Diane Ackerman

Diane Ackerman, a highly accomplished author, is the first master to sign on as a part of Pinnacle II. Ms. Ackerman's large body of work consists of poems, essays, and plays and is often drawn from her wide range of experiences from becoming an airplane pilot to working as a crisis line counselor.



Ms. Ackerman has received many prizes and awards, including the John Burroughs Nature Award, and the Lavan Poetry Prize, as well as being honored as a Literary Lion by the New York Public Library. She also has the rare distinction

of having a molecule named after her (dianeackerone). She has taught at a wide variety of universities, including Columbia, the University of Richmond, and Cornell. Her essays about nature and human nature have appeared in *Parade*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and other journals, where they have been the subject of much praise. A five-hour PBS television series, inspired by *A Natural History of the Senses*, aired in 1995, with Ms. Ackerman as host.