

Dr. Julie Ivey



accepted for presentation at the group's 2009 national conference. The study is also under review for future publication.

"It seems that every time I present my thesis results," Hodges says, "someone in the audience approaches me telling about family members with autism or an autism spectrum disorder." Often, their examples of uncertainty and unavailable resources for their family member or friend mirror the frustration her own family felt.

"My mother knew her son," Hodges says, "and she knew that the definition of autism the doctors gave her in no way resembled her child." Joe's diagnosis was later reestablished as Asperger's syndrome; he has since completed high school and wants to go into screenwriting and animated film production.

"He is one of the most brilliant individuals I have ever met and extremely and uniquely talented," Hodges says. "I have the utmost admiration for his courage and strength. My brother and my parents never cease to amaze me and inspire me."



The Baylor Autism Resource Center offers a range of resources to children and families dealing with ASD. Current services include social circle groups aimed at improving social skills of children and teens, resource information and ongoing research.

The center was founded in January 2008 and is supported by Baylor University and the Baylor Waco Foundation. For more information call 254-710-6222 or e-mail autism@baylor.edu.

alumni profiles



Kristin_Kan

2005 university scholars major, plans on adding M.D. to the end of her name because she wants to make a difference.



Kan is scheduled to graduate from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2010, but she took a year off to complete her master's of public health in 2009, because she "... feels like someone interested in medicine has a place in public service and public policy." Kan's passion for public health began while she was still an undergraduate at Baylor. She was awarded the Truman Scholarship in 2004, becoming Baylor's seventh Truman Scholar since the program's inception. During the grueling application process, Kan says she had to defend her position on health care.

"As much as health care reform is important, sometimes the focus is on the clinical process and not law reform," she says. "I love clinical medicine, but at the same time, I know I need to be involved in something bigger than the day-to-day patients."

As an undergraduate, Kan focused on indigent care and worked with Dr. Gaynor Yancey, professor of social work, on her thesis.

Yancey walked Kan through the entire research process and how to recruit a focus group. "I would have had no clue about how to go through the research process if it wasn't for Dr. Yancey," says Kan. "Undergraduate research taught me how to form a research question, protect a sample population, ensure no conflict of interest and how to come up with a research proposal."

"Kristin's work was outstanding," Yancey says. "While she knew that she was passionate about this topic, she basically had to learn on her own about research methods and the type of research design that would be most appropriate to use in this type of study. She served as a model student in her diligence and her search for discovery about a population and issue of which she had little knowledge."

The research exposure helped Kan when it came time for her to apply to medical schools, but she wishes she had gotten involved in research sooner. "I very much valued my social work research and internship opportunities while at Baylor," she says. "Unfortunately, I didn't get involved in the design of my research until my senior year and I wish I would have engaged in those opportunities earlier. I feel that every student needs

the opportunity to engage in research, especially if they are applying to [graduate school]."

Her past research experiences have directly benefited her in medical school. "The research introduction I had as an undergraduate helps me understand the process I have to go through today in medical school and public health school," she says.

"Research is about making a difference. I think in many ways, my experience at Baylor is a stepping stone for everything I am doing now," Kan says.



James_Nortey

2008 philosophy major and honors college graduate, now studying at Harvard Law School, has an insatiable thirst for knowledge that took off while he was still at Baylor.

Nortey says his exposure to research at Baylor helped him prepare for Harvard. "Research helped my core values by exposing me to a level of academic research that helped

At Baylor, Nortey relied on Dr. James Curry, professor of public policy and administration, for guidance with his thesis. Nortey was interested in criminal justice and what happens

materials that I provided to him, plus many others that he sought out on his own. ... His thirst for knowledge and answers is inspiring." Nortey's research guided him to study recidivism, the cycle of a person who repeats a criminal behavior after being released from prison, and possible solutions.

Nortey's academic success at Baylor was also noticed by others. He held summer internships with the Friedman Billings Ramsey Group, a real estate investment trust business, and the FBI, and was a member of The Institute for Responsible Citizenship, an organization dedicated to preparing high-achieving black men for successful careers.

Nortey is already establishing a name for himself at Harvard. As a first-year law student, his classroom curriculum is set, but he says he strives to be an agent of social change through public policy outside the classroom. He was surprised to find out that Harvard didn't have an NAACP chapter, so he decided to create one. The chapter now boasts more than 50 members and is growing.

"At Baylor, I developed personally in a lot of ways," says Nortey. "My research gave me academic credit for what I was already thinking about. Research helped me find my path."

me prepare for law school." He adds that he was already accustomed to a lot of reading and that it made the transition from undergraduate studies to law school studies easier. In addition, he says he's positive that his honors thesis helped his application stand out when applying for graduate programs. Nortey applied to nine graduate programs, including Columbia, Vanderbilt and Georgetown Universities, and was accepted by the majority of them.

to people after they enter the prison system. "In a lot of ways, I was very quick to draw conclusions about the prison system," he says. "Dr. Curry challenged me to go back and dive deeper into the research again and again and go beyond the surface issues. He is a great mentor and sounding board, and has a different perspective that I appreciate."

"I would say that James Nortey [possesses] the wonderful combination of curiosity and perseverance," says Curry. "... He eagerly devoured all research



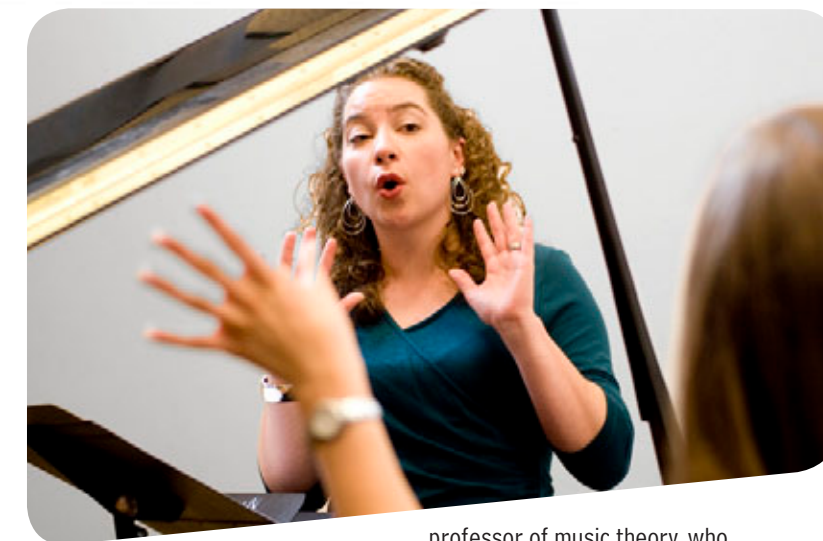
Ellie_Jarrett

Auditioning with nearly 800 other talented opera singers for one of 23 slots is a daunting task and the odds are that you won't make the cut.

In fact, the first year Ellie Jarrett auditioned for the Merola Opera Program, she did not advance to the finals. However, in her 2008 audition, she not only advanced to the finals, but she was offered one of the coveted slots.

The Merola Opera Program is part of the San Francisco Opera Center and is an intensive, all-expense-paid, 11-week summer program for young artists. Singers participate in daily musical coaching, diction classes, stage deportment, movement, make-up, languages and acting from the distinguished San Francisco Opera staff. In addition, they perform on stage multiple times.

Jarrett, 2005 music major in vocal performance and 2009 Master of Music, says she didn't really discover her voice until she was an undergraduate at Baylor. Jarrett's love for music started with the piano when she began playing at four years old.



in her academics. "She helped encourage me to be serious in my studies because every class we have as an undergraduate molds us into better performers and better musicians. [All my classes] combined to help influence my performing," says Jarrett.

Boyd says she watched Jarrett grow as a person and in her craft and become completely devoted to opera. "I have never met a more dedicated and determined musician in all of the years that I have taught at Baylor. She will



At Baylor, she learned she loved opera and wanted to pursue a career as a professional opera singer. The path to becoming a professional musician starts with the basics – theory, musicianship, history and lots of discipline. Dr. Jean Boyd, professor of musicology, mentored Jarrett

definitely make a memorable mark on the musical world."

"During my undergraduate years, the Baylor Music School taught me discipline, how to meet deadlines, how to research and what it meant to actually do hard work," she says. Jarrett's piano background helped her with theory, but it was her theory teacher, Dr. Eric Lai, associate

professor of music theory, who helped her relate more to the music as a singer. "He was excellent at presenting the material. ... He was able to help me connect to it mentally so I could apply it to my voice," says Jarrett. Likewise, the multiple semesters of musicianship training "... helped tune my ear better so I could tune when I was singing."

Baylor music majors are required to perform in public multiple times every semester of their undergraduate experience. Their performances are critiqued by professors, as well as recorded for the students to study on their own. The scholarship involved in this process takes time, but is well worth the effort. "What most prepared me for my opera auditions in undergraduate was being able to make my own mistakes, and reap my own consequences," says Jarrett. "... Being able to look deep inside yourself and accept criticisms about yourself, problems with yourself ... is such an important component to becoming a successful performer."

"If I hadn't attended Baylor as an undergraduate, I would not be the same me I am today," says Jarrett.



Jamie_Gianoutsos_Jordan

In the time since Jordan graduated from Baylor in 2006, she's earned two master's degrees and completed her first year of a Ph.D program. The foundation for her academic success came from her four years at Baylor as an undergraduate.

Jordan, Bachelor of Arts in both political science and great texts, went on to Queen's University Belfast in Ireland to earn her master's in English, and then to University of Cambridge in England to earn her master's in history. She is now at Johns Hopkins University pursuing a doctorate in history with an emphasis in British intellectual history from 1500-1800.

Jordan was awarded the Marshall Scholarship, a prestigious award that fully funds up to 40 students per year to study in the United Kingdom. The scholarship covers university fees, living expenses, an annual book grant, thesis grant, research and daily travel grants, fares to and from the United States and, where applicable, a contribution towards the support of a dependent spouse. Jordan's award covered both her master's degrees.

The path to earning the Marshall Scholarship started while Jordan was at Baylor. "Being published as an undergraduate student greatly helped me when applying for graduate school and especially when applying for the Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in the United Kingdom," she says. "Having experience in publishing, and having my research verified by a wider academic community, made me competitive for this scholarship."

While at Baylor, Jordan published five papers in various sources, and had editing experience with the *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. She worked alongside Dr. Sarah-Jane Murray, assistant professor of medieval literature and French, and co-authored an article that was published in *The Encyclopedia of Sex,*

Love and Culture in the Medieval World. Jordan also published two articles in *The Pulse*, the honors college publication that showcases top-quality student research. Jordan submitted both of her articles published in *The Pulse* as part of her graduate applications.

"... The very experience of working papers into a publishable form improved my writing skills, and these



publications also allowed me to deeply explore interesting topics of research, helping me discern what I desired to study in graduate school," she says.

When it came time to work on her honor's thesis, Jordan turned to Dr. Dwight Allman, associate professor of political science. "I cannot stress how important Dr. Allman was in my academic development," she says. "He would meet with me individually, sometimes weekly ... and he took

great care to help me shape the questions in my thesis."

Allman says that he watched Jordan grow into a careful and thoughtful philosophical text reader, writer and commentator. "Our conversations could revolve entirely around her questions and concerns, and I was free to concentrate on probing her understanding in detail and on pushing her to take account

of the insights of recent scholarship. By the time she had completed her thesis, moreover, she had achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency as a researcher and a scholar."

"The formation I received while at Baylor has served me better than I could have imagined," says Jordan. "Professors at Baylor introduced me to important political and philosophical questions that continue to fascinate me, and they prepared me to pursue graduate work in several disciplines and contexts. For all these reasons, I am very grateful."

Graduate Degrees at Baylor

Accounting — MAcc, MAcc/BBA
 American Studies — MA
 Air Science and Environment — IMES
 Biology — MA, MS, PhD
 Biomedical Engineering — BSE/MSBME, BSECE/MSBME, BSME/MSBME, MSBME
 Biomedical Studies — MS, PhD
 Business Administration — MBA, MBA/JD, MBA/ME, MBA/MSCS
 Business Administration, Dallas, Austin — EMBA
 Business Administration in Informational Systems Management — MBA/ISM
 Business Administration in International Management — MBA/INTM
 Business Administration/Information Systems — MBA/MSIS
 Chemistry — MS, PhD
 Church Music — MM, MM/MDiv
 Church State Studies — MA, PhD
 Clinical Psychology — PsyD, MSCP
 Collaborative Piano — MM
 Communication Sciences and Disorders — MA, MSCD
 Communication Studies — MA
 Computer Science — MSCS, MSCS/MBA
 Conducting — MM
 Curriculum and Instruction — EdD, MA, MSED
 Directing — MFA
 Earth Science — MA
 Ecological, Earth and Environmental Sciences — PhD
 Economics — MSEC

Educational Administration — MSED
 Educational Psychology — EdS, MA, MSED, PhD
 Electrical and Computer Engineering — MSEC, BSECE/MSECE
 Engineering — BSECE/ME, BSME/ME, BSE/ME, ME, ME/MBA
 English — MA, PhD
 Entrepreneurship — MBA
 Environmental Biology — MS
 Environmental Science — MES, MS
 Exercise, Nutrition and Preventative Health — PhD
 Family Nurse Practitioner — FNP
 Geology — MS, PhD
 Health Care Administration — MHA/MBA
 Health Care Administration, Fort Sam Houston — MHA, MBA/MHA
 Health, Human Performance and Recreation — MSED, PhD
 History — MA
 Information Systems — MSIS, PhD
 International Economics — MSIEco, MAIEco
 International Journalism — MIJ
 International Relations — MAIR
 Journalism — MA
 Limnology — MSL
 Mathematics — MS, PhD
 Mechanical Engineering — MSME, BSME/MSME
 Museum Studies — MA
 Music Composition — MM
 Music History and Literature — MM
 Music Performance — MM

Music Theory — MM
 Neonatal Nurse Practitioner — MSN
 Nursing Practice — DNP
 Nutrition, Fort Sam Houston — MS
 Philosophy — MA, PhD
 Physical Therapy, Brooke Army Medical Center — DScPT
 Physical Therapy, Fort Sam Houston — DPT
 Physical Therapy, West Point — DScPT
 Physician Assistant Studies, Brooke, Madigan, Darnell and William Beaumont Army Medical Centers — DScPAS
 Physics — MS, MA, PhD
 Piano Accompanying — MM
 Piano Pedagogy and Performance — MM
 Political Science — MAPSci, PhD
 Psychology — PhD, PhD/MA
 Psychology & Neuroscience — PsyD, PhD
 Public Health — MPH-CHE
 Public Policy and Administration — MPPA, MPPA/JD
 Religion — MA, PhD
 Religion, Politics, and Society — PhD
 Social Work — MSW, MSW/MDiv
 Sociology — MA, PhD
 Spanish — MA
 Statistics — MS, PhD
 Taxation — Tax, BBA/MTax, MTax/JD
 Transition Doctor of Physical Therapy Program — MPT to DPT

University Research Centers and Institutes

Allbritton Art Institute
 Baylor Advanced Research Institute
 Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion
 Center for Analytical Spectroscopy
 Center for Spatial Research
 Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics & Engineering Research
 Center for Business and Economic Research
 Center for Christian Education
 Center for Christian Ethics
 Center for Christian Music Studies
 Center for Community Learning & Enrichment

Center for Community Research & Development
 Center for Drug Discovery
 Center for Exercise, Nutrition & Preventative Health Research
 Center for Family & Community Ministries
 Center for International Education
 Center for Jewish Studies
 Center for Ministry Effectiveness & Educational Leadership
 Center for Reservoir & Aquatic Systems Research
 Institute for Air Science
 Institute of Archeology

Institute of Biblical & Related Languages
 Institute of Biomedical Studies
 Institute of Ecological, Environmental, & Earth Sciences
 Institute for Faith & Learning
 Institute of Gerontological Studies
 Institute for Oral History
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