

Hendrix Student Takes Harvard

Junior selected to be Amgen Scholar

By Greer Veon

Summer allows students time to pursue interesting and exciting learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Some take on internships, others travel to foreign countries and a few students do research.

But only one Hendrix student is an Amgen Scholar.

Junior Lauren Dickinson was accepted as a 2016 Harvard Amgen Scholar, a ten-week research internship sponsored by the biotechnology-oriented Amgen Foundation.

The Amgen annually funds 20 interns at each of the 10 chosen U.S. host institutions. Besides Harvard, the list includes notable names such as Berkeley, Columbia, Stanford and MIT.

"I'll be working with a Harvard professor or researcher, along with other students in the Harvard community, and I have the opportunity to present my research at the end of the program," Dickinson said.

She will also have the opportunity to attend several social events put on by the internship program, as well as attend the symposium that Amgen at UCLA hosts in July. The program provides many different types of research opportunities, and Dickinson currently awaits her specific placement.

"I used many [more eloquent] variations of the phrase 'I have no idea what field of research I want to pursue' in my application," Dickinson said. "But to put it simply, I wanted this opportunity so I could feel less like I was closing my eyes and pointing to one in a thousand options

as I try to decide what to do after graduation."

Typically, many individuals believe that those who major in science are headed into the medical field. Dickinson, a biochemistry and molecular biology (BCMB) major and physics minor, is one among many Hendrix students who participate in Hendrix research programs that also consider research as a potential profession.

"I'm excited for the chance to branch out and try a new project in the hopes that I'll learn more about myself and how I want to contribute to scientific research in the future," Dickinson said. "I'm also excited to get to know more students interested in pursuing research."

Dickinson's award notes her extreme talent in this field as well as her hard work at Hendrix. The students on this campus are more than comparable to top competitors among the country's leading colleges. In other words, these kinds of award winners are putting Hendrix on a map long marked by Ivy League and major state schools.

"The Hendrix community as a whole is a supportive, yet challenging environment that fosters individuals who are competitive for a variety of opportunities," Dickinson said. "I'm especially grateful to the science department. In my three years at Hendrix, I've always had pro-



Photo by Madison Dealing

fessors that developed their students' abilities as scientists, as well as their excitement to become one. My favorite aspects of Hendrix professors are their willingness to help and their hope to see students succeed."

Dickinson now waits until early June to move to Boston and start the research opportunity of a lifetime.