

Biographical Sketches of the *Agora* Writers

Aubrey Berry, who comes from Chesapeake, Virginia, is a junior at Lynchburg College. She is a health promotion major, hoping to pursue a career in physical therapy after graduation. She enjoys running, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family.

Samantha (Sammie) Chapman is currently a freshman at Lynchburg College. Although she has not declared a major, she is interested in Spanish, English, and psychology. Sammie graduated from a Christian high school where she experienced the three stages of classical education, and this experience prompted her to write her essay on that topic. Sammie enjoys reading, photography, and spending time with her family in her hometown of Hampton, Virginia.

Josh Evans is a junior at Yale University, studying psychology, aesthetics, and food and cuisine. Aside from poetry, he loves music, traveling, languages, meeting interesting people, nature, and especially everything related to food. After graduating from college, Josh hopes to work in a sustainable food enterprise in New York City, to earn his M.A. in Gastronomy and Food Studies, and to share his passion for good food and health with whoever will take a bite.

David Griffith is a senior at Lynchburg College, double majoring in computer science and English with an emphasis in writing. He has received the Charles H. Barrett award for creative writing and is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society. In the summer of 2009, David traveled with other students from Lynchburg College to Turkey and Greece to study classical literature. His plans for the future include a M.F.A. in English and a career in computer science.

Eric Jones graduated from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in 2010 with a B.A. in art history. He is currently working on a series of sculptures. Eric sometimes grows a beard.

Libby Keese is currently a senior at Lynchburg College, majoring in sociology with a human services emphasis. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honor society, and a 2005 graduate of Central Virginia Community College. Libby is a full-time employee of Amherst County Public Schools, and she hopes to use what she has learned at Lynchburg College in her current employment situation. In her spare time, Libby enjoys reading, music, movies, and gardening.

Glenn Lucker is a senior at Lynchburg College, majoring in history with a European emphasis. He was formerly the Vice President of Catholic Community and is currently Praetor of the Latin Club and an active member of the Student Activities Board. Glenn is a cinephile and enjoys outdoor adventures.

Dr. Peggy Pittas will retire in summer 2011 after completing forty years of teaching and administrative service at Lynchburg College. She is currently an assistant dean of the Lynchburg College Symposium Readings program and the Senior Symposium. She is also professor of psychology and teaches in the program. She received her B.A. (psychology) from Bridgewater

College in Virginia, an M.A. (experimental psychology) from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, and a Ph.D. (higher education administration) from the University of Virginia. Her scholarship includes more than sixty articles, books, handbooks, and presentations at professional meetings at local, regional, and national meetings on subjects ranging from the history of psychology to faculty development to internships, as well as presentations about the Lynchburg College Symposium Readings program. Her areas of expertise include assessment and program evaluation. She was instrumental in establishing the *Agora* as the national student publication of the Association for Core Texts and Courses.

Sarah Renteria is currently an English major at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. She enjoys photography, dance, literature, and spending time with her family. At the Disneyland Resort, she works in various restaurants including the Blue Bayou. Sarah loves all food and would study that forever if words were not equally delicious.

Jeremy Schiffres, originally from New York City, NY, will graduate from Yale University in May 2011 with a B.A. in Humanities. While at Yale, Jeremy has been Chairman of the Conservative Party of the Yale Political Union, served on the Union's Advisory Committee, and been Principal First Trumpet in the Davenport Pops Orchestra. His future plans remain uncertain though he is interested in the law, and it is highly likely that he will live near a good mass transit system because he strongly dislikes driving. In his free time, Jeremy enjoys running, listening to '80s one-hit wonders, and watching classic movies.

Theresa Smart will graduate from the University of Dallas in May 2011 with a double major in politics and in Spanish. During her undergraduate years, she studied for a semester in Rome, worked as Spanish Tutor and Student Ambassador, served as Student Government Secretary, ran varsity cross-country, and played varsity softball. Next fall, she intends to embark upon a new course of study in pursuit of a Ph.D. in political theory. Originally from Peoria, Illinois, Theresa loves nothing better than to spend her free time on the family farm with her parents and seven siblings.

Daniel Telele is a senior at Lynchburg College. He will graduate in May, 2011, with a degree in philosophy and political science. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Sigma Tau honor societies. Last semester he finished his senior thesis project entitled *On Morality and Happiness: The Vicious and the Virtuous*. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys studying foreign languages, music, art, history and philosophy. In fall 2011, he will begin graduate school, studying either law or history.

E-Lynn Yap is a freshman at Yale University. She is a prospective psychology major and is also interested in English literature. At Yale, E-Lynn works for CARE International, volunteers in New Haven public schools, and writes for the *Yale Herald*. She also contributes to poetry journals in Singapore, where she was born and raised. E-Lynn hopes to work in journalism or with a non-profit organization in the future.

Peter D. Zuk is a junior at Pepperdine University, majoring in philosophy and sociology with a religion minor. His areas of interest include consequentialist ethics, free will, epistemology, social justice, criminology, and higher biblical criticism. He serves as an editor for the Humanities and Religion divisions of Pepperdine's undergraduate journal, *Global Tides*, and plans to pursue graduate studies in ethics. In his spare time, Peter enjoys reading, fitness, and outdoor activities.

While an undergraduate, Ben worked as a Writing Center tutor and as an assistant editor of the Prism, which is the Lynchburg College journal of undergraduate creative writing. He also was a member of SGA Senate and the English Club. Ben is currently pursuing a Master's of Library Science at North Carolina Central University. He hopes one day to work in an academic library or a digital archives department. This involves the use of language, meter, rhyme, and the writing style or the poetic diction. The poet, he feels, should write about subjects that are outside his own sensations and experiences. A great deal of Coleridge's works were the analysis and criticism of other writers. There are many passages from various authors in Biographia Lieteraria and much of the book examines the works of Wordsworth and Shakespeare, both contemporaries of Coleridge, as Coleridge examines the link between literature and philosophy. He also examines the views of Des Cartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, as well as other philosophers. He uses this approach to examine the source of the poet's imagination. The word 'Agora' (pronounced 'ah-go-RAH') is Greek for 'open place of assembly' and, early in the history of Greece, designated the area in the city where... It was in the Agora of Athens that the great philosopher Socrates questioned the market-goers on their understanding of the meaning of life, attracting a crowd of Athenian youth who enjoyed seeing the more pretentious of their elders made fools of. In this marketplace, one day, the young poet Aristocles son of Ariston heard Socrates speaking, went and burned all his works, and became the philosopher known as Plato. His philosophical dialogues, coupled with his founding of the Academy, the first university, and his role as the teacher of Aristotle who then was tutor to Alexander the Great, chan