

12 May, 2011

My name is Tim Ogino and I am a graduating senior in the College at Georgetown University. A little more about myself: I am currently a full time student, an intern at the Japanese Embassy, a youth group leader at my church, a musician, dancer, and a leader of a Georgetown University community service outreach organization.

I am here tonight to tell you about one of the many student-run groups at Georgetown that reaches out to kids in DC public schools. My program's name is GUMSHOE. GUMSHOE stands for Georgetown University Math and Science Hands-On Enrichment. Since its beginning in Spring 2008, it has flourished, expanding to four different public or charter schools (El Haynes PCS, CCPCS Shaw and Brightwood Campuses, and HD Woodson SHS) and tutoring six days a week. Our organization is unique in that our programming specifically targets the needs of students in the high-need fields of math and science. In addition to our work in schools, we serve as teaching aids Saturday mornings with MICP (Meyers Institute for College Preparation), a program that supports and encourages middle and high school students to graduate and go to college. We work with over 100 students throughout the year from as young as 4th grade to as old as seniors in high school.

In addition to tutoring, at the end of each year, GUMSHOE brings its tutees to campus for a hands-on math and science experience in Georgetown science labs called the Discovery!Summit. In the past, we have dissected cow hearts and rats to learn about anatomy, dropped a watermelon off of a bridge and sunk makeshift boats to learn about physics, and extracted strawberry DNA and worked with a human simulator to learn about biology. With my testimony, I am submitting pictures from our past two years of the Discovery!Summit. We hold the event each year to introduce the students to a college campus, labs, and different real life applications of math and science. This year at our third annual Discovery!Summit, we had a total attendance of 67 students.

In addition to GUMSHOE, there are thirteen other student-run education outreach programs at Georgetown's Center for Social Justice that work in after school programs, weekend programs, in-class workshops, and community centers throughout the city.

Reflecting on the past four years at Georgetown, there was one thing that really stuck out about this university that I value most: its Jesuit identity. Particularly, I am proud that Georgetown students embody the Jesuit value of being men and women for others. On a daily basis, my friends, those I meet, and those I work with on campus all care about something that is greater than themselves in places that extend beyond Georgetown's campus. Though not a founding member, I have been with the GUMSHOE program since it was created three years ago and have come to be deeply invested in the community of students of this city. My experiences in GUMSHOE and other service groups have truly shaped my time at Georgetown.

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Student Tutoring Program Finds Formula for Success

By Dane Petersen, Georgetown Alumni Online managing editor



(photo courtesy of Roland Dimaya)

The dozens of student groups at Georgetown that volunteer their time and service to others might seem to cover every possible need, but Roland Dimaya (N'09) and Jonathan Brower (C'09) were surprised by the immense response when they decided to start a math and science tutoring program.

"Jon and I went from an idea on paper to a roomful of Georgetown students in a hurry," Dimaya says. Brower adds "What we thought might happen with this program 10 years down the road came about in a year and-a-half. We found an untapped resource."

The two roommates were looking for tutoring opportunities that better matched their skill sets—Dimaya majored in human science, Brower in biochemistry—than the existing programs that mostly focused on literacy. They had written down their plans, but realized they didn't know exactly how to proceed. With help from the provost's office and the Center for Social Justice (CSJ), they created the [GUMSHOE math and science outreach program](#), now in its second year and with more than 70 Georgetown students offering assistance to high school students throughout Washington, D.C.

A Welcome Presence

Suzanne Tarlov, associate director at the Center for Social Justice, says she "jumped on the idea immediately" when Brower and Dimaya came to CSJ. "These were two science guys—we rarely get guys and we rarely get science people," she says. "And we frequently get requests from organizations for help with that."

Another thing that Tarlov says made the minds behind GUMSHOE stand out was their comprehensive planning. "Often people come with an idea, and they haven't thought through things completely," she says. "These two had clearly thought about the challenges they might face and had questions about what to do. They were very well organized."

That level of preparation hinged in part on the fact that the two of them would be leaving Georgetown soon. "We were seniors, so we knew we'd need a board in place that had people knowing where we wanted to go and how to get there. It was important to sustain it," Dimaya says. He adds that the overwhelming response on campus ramped things up a bit. "We got off to a strong start, which was good and challenging at the same time. The build was gradual, the implementation was fast."

Tarlov says GUMSHOE's ability to attract classmates to the cause was another asset. "One of the hardest things for groups on campus to master is volunteer retention, and they've done well with that," she says. "They really knew how to manage people."

Branching Out

In its first year, GUMSHOE helped students at two schools, as well as at the Meyers Institute on the Georgetown campus and at the Spark!Lab at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. The duo says it was challenging to add the administrative duties of a new organization to their senior year of schoolwork. Brower notes that they were also open to new opportunities as they arose.

"One school asked us for help with SAT prep, so we gave that a shot, and it went well," he says. "It fit into our larger picture." That larger picture included plans to mentor promising students as well as tutoring, and GUMSHOE took on another major venture to address that, creating a "Discovery Summit." The idea was conceived in December 2008, and they managed to have it ready to go in April.

"We came up with the idea for the summit as a way to encourage the most talented students at our partner schools to explore science as it is applied in the world beyond the classroom," Brower says. Students attended workshops designed and led by Georgetown undergraduates in biology, chemistry or physics on the Georgetown campus, worked with those Georgetown students to solve problems and took campus tours while parents and teachers learned about college admissions and financial aid. "We hoped that the involvement of the Georgetown students inspired the visiting students to see opportunities available to them and their future," Dimaya says.

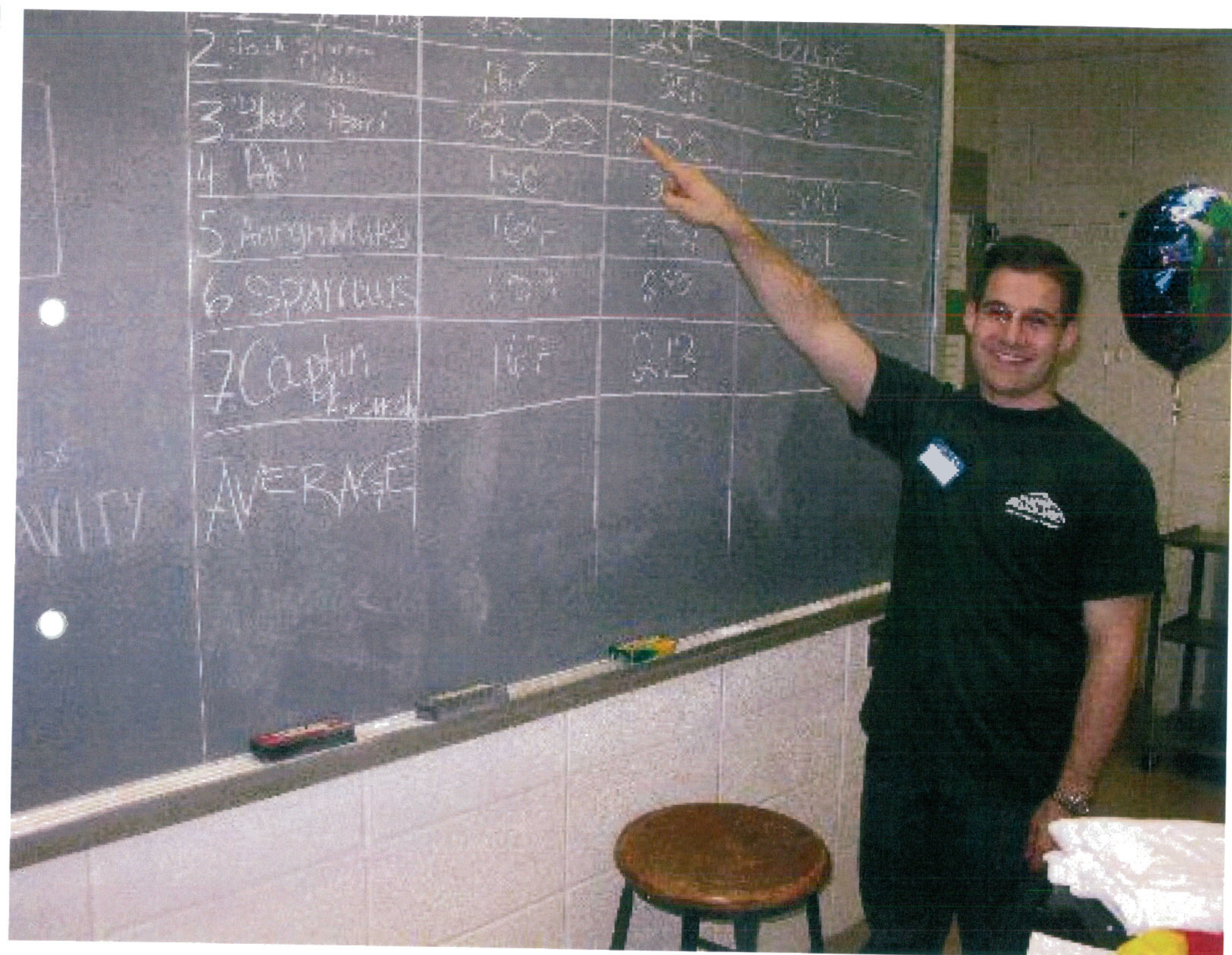
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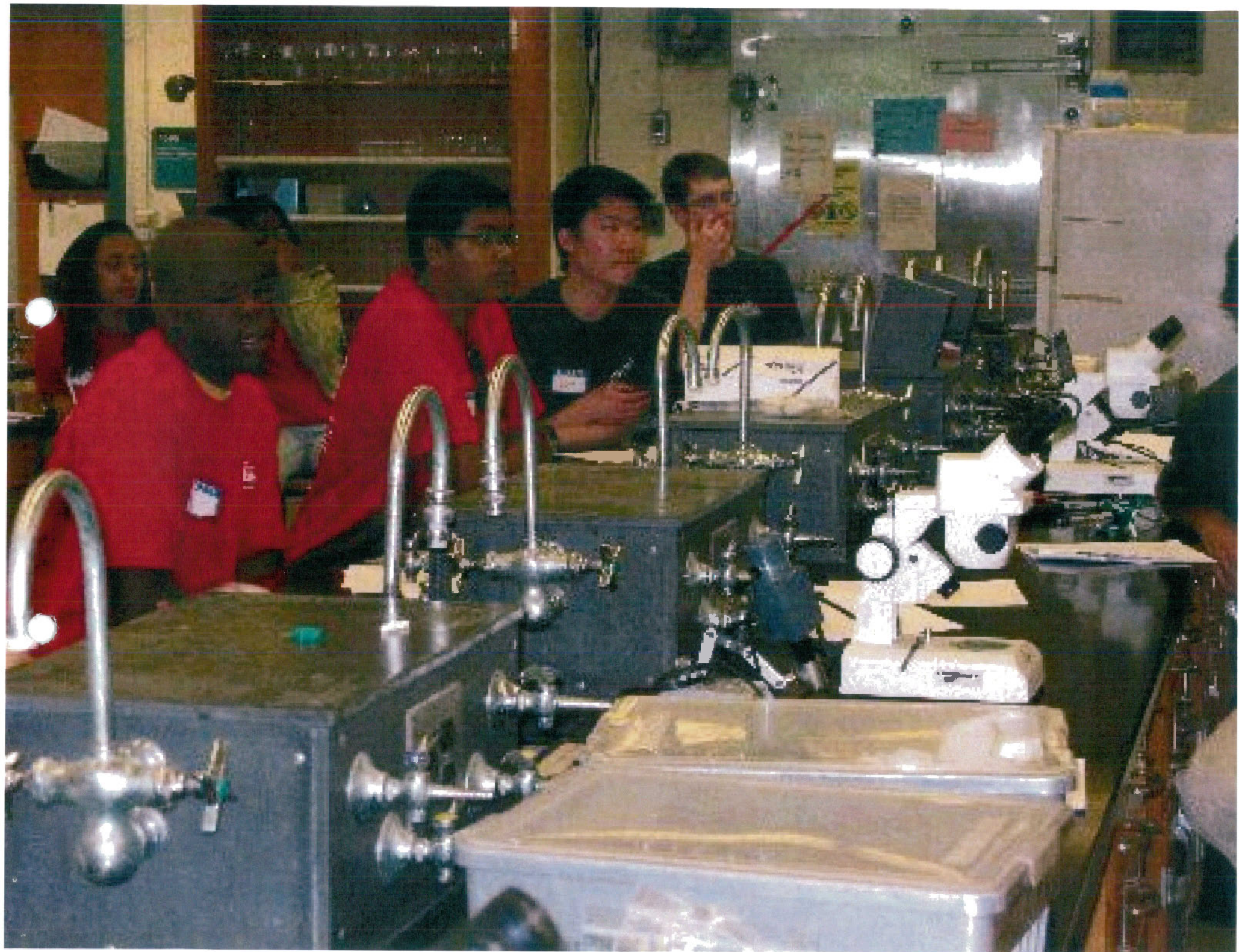
Dimaya and Brower graduated last May—Dimaya is now studying health policy at Yale, while Brower is pursuing a medical degree at Tufts University—but GUMSHOE is going strong. Last spring, CSJ recognized GUMSHOE as the outstanding direct service student organization for 2009. Brower and Dimaya also were honored with Landegger Community Service awards. Now under new co-directors, GUMSHOE keeps growing, adding two new area schools to its partners list. Co-director Sana Haq (C'10) says the board recently discussed strategies for recruiting and training new tutors.

The two founders stay in touch, which Haq says is helpful. "I visited the two new sites over the summer, and talked with them about that," she says. "They are great resources, and we talk with them just to let them know what's going on or if we need guidance on something."

Brower says it's gratifying to see GUMSHOE operating without them. "It's going well, and they're forming good partnerships," he says. "It's nice to see they don't need Roland and myself to run it. It's exciting to see it in a different way."

Dimaya, busy with his schoolwork at Yale, and working part-time as an art teacher, says being in touch only when he's able is the best sign the program is sustaining, as they had hoped. "Last year, Jon and I had to get smart phones because people always needed us to reply quickly to e-mails from tutors, teachers and Georgetown administrators," he says. "Now that my phone doesn't constantly ring with GUMSHOE inquiries, I know the organization is doing well."









Undergraduate Research Broadens Possibilities

Senior Roland Dimaya Turns Medical Ambitions Into Quest to Make Differences in Health Policy



When Roland Dimaya (**NHS'09**) first set foot on the Hilltop as a high school student, the Los Angeles native knew he had found the place to begin his studies toward a career in health and medicine. On May 16, he will come one step closer to his career goal when he earns his degree from Georgetown's School of Nursing and Health Studies.

"As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to go into medicine. I've always wanted to be a doctor, and I knew that I would be entering some kind of pre-med program," Dimaya recalls, thinking back to the days before he became a Hoya. "The human science curriculum just really spoke to focusing on the human system, and I knew that would help me toward my goals."

Today, Dimaya still has plans for medical school, but his undergraduate experience has broadened his horizons. In the fall, Dimaya will pursue his master's degree at the Yale School of Public Health.

"I'm focusing on microbial disease, and I hope to pursue research internationally and later receive my M.D.," says the human science major.

Dimaya says the disciplines within the School of Nursing and Health Studies have made him a well-rounded student.

"My research and academic interests are an intersection of nursing, health policy, international health and human science," he says.

And he has been able to blend those interests together through his research.

Achievements in Undergraduate Research

Last summer, Dimaya traveled to the Philippines to study the effects of nursing migration on the country's health care system.

With a national nursing shortage looming in the United States, many recruiting agencies have turned to foreign countries to replenish the country's workforce. In turn, the recruitment has prompted a significant drain on global health systems.

"I felt that the only way to examine the problem was to be there firsthand," he says.

Statistics from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in the United States highlight the growing nature of international nurse migration.

During his research abroad, the student held focus groups with nursing students and professors. He conducted site visits to regional and private hospitals. He also met with public health professionals and government representatives.

Kathryn Leonhardy, an assistant professor of international health who closely studies international nurse migration, calls Dimaya's work impressive.

"As a faculty member, I find it fulfilling to see an undergraduate student employ his knowledge and love of the various facets of health care to address a real global problem," says the professor who has advised the NHS student about his research.

For Dimaya -- whose parents are from the Philippines, the experience also allowed him to combine his cultural heritage with his passion for science and health care.

"As I grew at Georgetown, I found myself growing closer to my ethnic culture," he says. "My studies abroad were able to take my interest in medicine, my strong roots in being a Filipino and my interest in service to the community and combine them all for my future plans."

Josefina Tuazon, dean of the College of Nursing at the University of the Philippines at Manila, served as one of the experts with whom Dimaya consulted during his research project.

"His diligence and dogged pursuit of his personal and professional goals make me wish he was one of my students," she says. "I know he'll do my university and country proud (with his research)."

Aside from his work abroad in the Philippines, Dimaya also pursues scientific research at Georgetown University Medical Center as part of the human science honors program.

"I don't do research just to put it on my resume," Dimaya says. "I do it because it is a legitimate interest of mine. Working with faculty who are professionals in the area helps me to develop as a young member of the scientific community."

For his honors thesis, Dimaya has studied language function and Tourette's syndrome in the lab of neuroscience professor **Michael Ullman**.

"While I was defending my thesis, there was this great feeling of being able to inspire a kind of awareness in others with my research," says Dimaya. "It also showed the product of all the hard work I had done."

In addition, he has participated all four years in the university's annual Undergraduate Research Conference. During his junior year, he acted as co-chair of the conference's student planning committee. And this year, he served as chair.

The conference allows undergraduate students to track their development as researchers.

"In all research, there is this continuum that exists of being a novice to an expert," Dimaya says. "As research novices, we rarely get the opportunity to exhibit what we already know or have learned."

Dimaya says the Undergraduate Research Conference allows for that step in the continuum -- for students to evaluate how far they've come in their growth. Also, planning the conference helped him realize the breadth of interest his peers have in science and health care and allowed him to strengthen his leadership muscles.

"I think I've grown as a leader at Georgetown."

Getting Stuck on GUMSHOE

Through the Georgetown University Math and Science Hands-On Enrichment (GUMSHOE) program, Dimaya uses his leadership skills to tutor D.C. high school students in math and science.

The graduating senior launched the program, which now includes 80 undergraduate tutors who work with Coolidge Senior High School, H.D. Woodson High School, Georgetown's Meyers Institute for College Preparation and the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center Spark!Lab.

Dimaya notes that launching GUMSHOE was not a single-person effort. Half the credit, he says, must go to fellow graduating senior **Jonathan Brower (C'09)**, a biochemistry major in Georgetown College.

"When Jon and I developed GUMSHOE, we really wanted to address the math and science education gap in two ways," he says. "One is tutoring students who are struggling. And the second is mentoring students who are already excelling."

Brower and Dimaya co-founded the program with the help of **Suzanne Tarlov**, associate director of the Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service. She praises their D.C. community outreach efforts to the two schools in Ward 4 and Ward 7.

"Roland has been so impressive as a leader ... He wants to understand the school system, rather than criticize it," she says, "and he really believes that math and science are the way out of poverty."

On April 25, GUMSHOE welcomed participating high school students and their families to campus for the Discovery!Summit, GUMSHOE's capstone project.

While on the Hilltop, the high school students worked with "GUS," the human patient simulator in St. Mary's Hall; analyzed the physics behind bridge-building; and put their chemical knowledge to use by running tests on city water.

"The most rewarding thing for me in co-creating GUMSHOE is to see how an idea that was written on a piece of loose-leaf paper can be transformed into tutors working in the classroom, giving students that spark of realization and understanding," Dimaya says.

Just as Dimaya's initial visit to the Hilltop had a profound effect on his academic decisions, he's hoping his efforts through GUMSHOE may do the same for other high school students.

"A lot of people quote (Mahatma) Gandhi, 'be the change you want to see in the world,' " he says. "I didn't realize how I could embody that quote until I reflected on my time here at Georgetown."