

Megan Wasson Class of 2009

There is not a doubt in my mind that I would not have the opportunities that I have today in college if it were not for the 8 years that I spent at Alpha. Most notably, after going through six science classes in high school, Alpha's science program is easily one of the most comprehensive programs within the Diocese if not the city that prepares its students for high school. Moreover, my two years at PJAS with Mrs. Cessar continued with another 4 years in high school where I was able to thrive with complex experiments that forced me to appreciate science. My decision to study chemistry in college was definitely influenced by the exceptional foundation I received at Alpha. The other disciplines, whether it be the foreign languages or the Social Studies department, clearly outshone some of the other local schools in terms of how prepared the Alpha graduates were upon entering high school as compared to our peers from other schools.

Aside from the overall academic excellence that Alpha instills in all of its graduates, I believe that Alpha also serves a far deeper role in the lives of its students, as almost a "second home". The teachers, students, and even parents all seemed to perfectly mesh into one loving, and certainly quirky, family. For the past five years, my classmates and I from the class of 2009 have continued to spend time together at least once a year. These reunions are filled with countless hours of laughter and smiles when thinking back to some of our favorite memories. It's an amazing privilege to be able to stay so class with everyone after all of these years.

I think it's such a rarity to find and attend a school like Alpha. My advice to the current students is to enjoy every minute of it! Even though it may seem stressful and frustrating at times with the workloads while participating all of the after-school activities, you will definitely miss it later!

Megan currently attend Duquesne University on a full academic scholarship though the Bayer Corp. Scholars Program A complete list of Megan's achievements can be found in the alumni news section of our website.

The Bayer Scholars Program is a cooperative program between Duquesne University and the Bayer Corporation. Benefits of this program include personalized course work, original research projects both at Duquesne University and at the Bayer Material Science Pittsburgh Campus, funded summer research experiences at Duquesne, paid summer internships at Bayer, mentoring by both Duquesne science faculty and Bayer professionals, and significant tuition scholarship support.

Researchers and executives from Bayer Corporation will offer mentoring on the corporate research and business environments, allowing these students to gain an appreciation of the relationship between basic and applied research in academic and corporate settings. In their junior and senior years, the Bayer Scholars receive the opportunity to participate in significant internships at the company's facilities.

Duquesne has augmented the contribution of the Bayer USA Foundation to ensure that all Bayer Scholars will receive full tuition scholarships during their four years of undergraduate study. Over the next four years, an additional 16 students will be selected for the program.

Megan's Achievements include
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- Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science
 - Five first place awards (over six years) at PA State PJAS competition including Perfect Score (2013)
 - Five first place awards at regional PJAS competition – and one second-place finish (tough competition that year)
 - Duane Keenan Award, PA State PJAS competition – 2013

- Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society – regional competition – 2013
- Sigma Xi Award, Carnegie Mellon University – regional competition – 2013
- Society of Analytical Chemists, Pittsburgh Chapter – regional competition – 2012
- Special award, biology – regional competition – 2011
- Six-Year Perseverance Award – regional competition – 2013
- Five-Year Perseverance Award – PA State competition - 2013
- Academic – Oakland Catholic High School
 - National Honor Society
 - Joan of Arc Society of Scholars
 - Highest honor roll – for six years
 - Forensic Team for three years, Captain – Senior year
 - Participated in National Catholic Forensic Tournament (2012)
- Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science
 - Five first place awards (over six years) at PA State PJAS competition including Perfect Score (2013)
 - Five first place awards at regional PJAS competition
 - Duane Keenan Award, PA State PJAS competition – 2013
 - Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society – regional competition – 2013
 - Sigma Xi Award, Carnegie Mellon University – regional competition – 2013
 - Society of Analytical Chemists, Pittsburgh Chapter – regional competition – 2012
- Tennis:
 - PIAA AAA Girls Doubles Tennis Silver Medalist (state competition) – 2012
 - WPIAL AAA Girls Doubles – Tennis Silver Medalist (Western PA) – 2012
 - WPIAL AAA Girls Doubles – Tennis Bronze Medalist (Western PA) – 2010
 - Captain, Oakland Catholic High School Tennis team – 2012

Meg's father, A. Robert Wasson, Ph.D., told us, "She is a very talented girl – and you can see that some of her interests (Forensics and PJAS) were stimulated by the faculty at the Alpha School."

Watching Megan grow and flourish has been a real privilege for the faculty and staff at the Alpha School. Not only is she extremely bright but her smile and personality light up a room. Congratulations Megan! We love you and are so proud of who you have become!