



Acting *on Her* Dreams

“I came close to having to leave school because of a lack of funds, but because of my scholarship aid I could stay

and afford books, food and other college supplies.” – Sara Accardi '07

By Michelle Tooker '07

For more than 20 years, the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust has helped Arcadia students like **Sara Accardi '07** (pictured at left), fund their education. The scholarship is awarded to deserving students exhibiting financial need who reside in the Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery or Philadelphia, or the city of Camden, N.J.

The W.W. Smith Foundation was created in 1951 by William “Bill” Wikoff Smith, a successful businessman dedicated to assisting educational, health and charitable organizations. Smith funded the Foundation with shares from Kewanee Industries, the company he presided over. For more than 20 years, the Foundation helped support charitable needs of the Philadelphia community. The Foundation was liquidated by merger into the Independence Seaport Museum in 1973. When Smith died unexpectedly in 1976, his will established an enduring legacy in the founding of the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust to continue enhancing the quality of life for those less fortunate.

While an undergraduate student, Accardi, a Theatre Arts and English major, experienced Smith’s legacy of goodwill as she received funding from the W.W. Smith scholarship. Accardi says that without scholarship aid she would not have been able to stay at Arcadia. “I came close to having to leave school because of a lack of funds, but because of my scholarship I could stay and afford books, food and other college supplies,” she says.

For Accardi, the generosity of the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust helped allow her to continue her

Arcadia education—an experience that prepared her well for a successful career in theatre. Accardi graduated only a little over a year ago and is working full-time as the assistant director of theatre arts and director of upper-class one-act plays for Pennsbury High School’s theatre program. Her dedication and application of the skills she learned at Arcadia have paid off. Her theatre troupe was selected as one of only 10 groups to perform at the International Thespian Festival this past June. The group’s production of *Little Shop of Horrors* included puppets originally created for Arcadia by Costume Shop Supervisor Alisa Kleckner.

When asked what the most rewarding part of her undergraduate experience was, Accardi says, “I would have to say getting the opportunity to work one on one with many of my skilled professors. They care so much about each person and his or her goals.”

Accardi has shared her love for Arcadia with many of her Pennsbury High School theatre students. “Students have become interested in the school because of the stories I have told them from my experiences. A few times this year, I have brought my students to Arcadia productions to let them witness firsthand what they can realistically accomplish after high school.”

In the future, Accardi hopes to continue working with performing arts students, pursue her own acting career in the Philadelphia area and earn a master’s degree in education. The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust helped make Accardi’s big dreams a reality and formed a foundation for accomplishing her dreams to come. ■

‘We Met Surprise Each Minute’ in India



Back row: Kelly Callahan '08, Cindy Spitko '08, Dashiell Davis '09, Danielle Crone '10, Marc Lombardo '08, Alicia Mercado '10, and James Musselman '08. Front row: Ren Manley '09 and JoLynne Holloman '10. Pictured in front of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India.

By Michelle Tooker '07

This spring, nine Arcadia students ventured to India with the class “Visual Culture in India” taught by **Dr. Shekhar Deshpande**, Associate Professor and Director of the Communications Program. With two aims in mind—to discover, identify and study the specific visual idiom of Indian culture in various forms and to acquire from that experience a broader world view about visual culture, social conditions and practical insights—the group set out on a nine-day cross-cultural journey.

“The class offered at Arcadia University was unlike anything that any of my friends at nearby colleges were able to enjoy,” says **JoLynne Holloman '10**. “I had the opportunity to visit traditional Warli artists’ homes, travel to the slums of Dharavi, and visit temples in Delhi. Without the guidance of my professor and the chance to travel for an extended amount of time, I would have been unable to visit these sites.”

For most, a trip to India wouldn’t be complete without a visit to the legendary Taj Mahal. The students did, in fact, visit the mausoleum often referred to as “the jewel of Muslim art in India,” but they found the rest of the country far more interesting. The Taj turned out to be just a building. The real treasure turned out to

be the people and Indian culture.

One revelation came to students as they toured Dharavi, the largest slum in Asia. After adjusting to the striking poverty of the area, the students found the tour enlightening. “Nothing we read could have prepared us for it,” says **Alicia “Ace” Mercado '10**. “It was real-world with real people. We witnessed this little community with people living there and surviving. It was humbling, moving and incredible.”

Afterward, they met with journalist Kalpana Sharma, author of *Rediscovering Dharavi: Stories from Asia’s Largest Slum*, to discuss historical and economical aspects of India. The students agreed that visiting Dharavi was unlike anything a typical Westerner does while in India—they truly were traversing another culture.

“By spending nine days in India, I was able to visit the sites I had spent months learning about and was able to go beyond the simple tourist attractions that many Westerners see,” says Holloman.

“We visited the proverbially great Taj Mahal, the epic and erotically sculptured temples of Khajuraho, the intensely busy streets of Mumbai, the industrious slums of Dharavi, and the tribal artists of the Warli Village,” says **Lauren “Ren” Manley '09**. “We developed an insatiable appetite for naan, enjoyed the thrills on a man-powered Ferris wheel, tasted deliciously diverse food each day, and met surprise each minute for all of the senses. We left with curiosity and returned with bountiful knowledge and lasting friendships.”

As part of their coursework, the students conducted in-depth research on specific topics including Bollywood, photography and religious idols. Through collaboration with the National Center for Performing Arts in Mumbai, the students gave presentations on what they had learned firsthand and through their research while still in India. They presented again after returning to Glenside.

From sampling fragrant, colorful curries and developing an appetite for naan to visiting temples and acclimating to the streets crowded with people and all sorts of animals, the communications students absorbed all of India’s images. ■

Science Endowment

Ensures Funds for Faculty Research

By Katie Aviles

A traditional part of an Arcadia education is the personal relationship between a student and his or her faculty mentor. Throughout the years, faculty have inspired students to become enthusiastic about learning and guided them along career paths. In just that spirit, the Thomas P. Dougherty Endowed Faculty-Student Research Award has fostered hands-on student involvement in faculty research and helped to shape many careers in science.

Dr. Thomas Dougherty was an Arcadia faculty member in the Chemistry Department from 1994-97. The award established by family and friends following his death in 1997 is designed to help develop the research potential of junior faculty members in the sciences and to involve students collaboratively in the research. **Dr. Janice Foust**, Thomas Dougherty's wife, saw an opportunity to honor her late husband's passion for chemistry and teaching, with help from other family, friends and colleagues of Dougherty.

"Research cultivates an academic environment," Foust says. Students not only become excited about the research, but because of the opportunity to conduct scientific explorations with faculty, they are often led to new career opportunities. Some get the opportunity to publish in scientific journals. Others incorporate the research into their Senior Capstone Project. The faculty members also benefit by being able to pursue new research interests.

"It's the job of faculty members to do research, but in order to do so, they need funding and equipment," Foust explains. Creating an endowment for scientific research ensures that new studies in the sciences can continue year after year inde-

pendent of the University's operating budget.

And, after 10 years, the award has proven to be very beneficial. "It's terrific," Foust says. She visited Arcadia in the spring at the President's Circle Reception, and she had the chance to talk with some of the recipients of the Dougherty Award and discuss where their research has led them, noting, "I'm pleased it's been so successful" in continuing the tradition of student and faculty collaboration and honoring someone so passionate about teaching. ■



Dr. Janice Foust (fourth from left) poses at the President's Circle Reception with Dougherty Award winners, from left, Dr. John Hoffman, Dr. Naomi Phillips, Dr. Wesley Rose, Anna Vorobyeva '08 and Dr. Josh Blustein.