



# Profiles of the Class of 2008

**Nelson Almeida** - Wheaton HS  
*University of Maryland-College Park Honors College*



Nelson's dream is to become a physical therapist, and he intends to major in Biology. As a recipient of the Horatio Alger Scholarship, Nelson understands the value of hard work and self-determination. At UMD, Nelson looks forward to engaging his college professors in intellectual dialogue and cheering from the rafters for the Terps.

**Cathy Kuangu** - Wheaton HS  
*The College of William and Mary William and Mary Scholar*



In addition to her academic excellence and participation in the National Honor Society, Cathy was acknowledged for her dedication to community service, earning a Certificate of Meritorious Service for completing over 300 hours of volunteer work. She was especially committed to her internship as a nursing assistant at the Randolph Hills Nursing Home.

**Lealem Asrat** - Wheaton HS  
*University of Maryland-College Park*



Lealem plans to major in Biology and hopes to become an orthodontist. He interned with the Food and Drug Administration and was enrolled in the Medical Careers Program at Wheaton HS. Influenced by his CDI experience, Lealem's vision is to start an organization that reaches out to other young men in the immigrant community and share with them the opportunities available in American higher education.

**Flavio Medina** - Wheaton HS  
*Columbia University*



Flavio was named one of the Maryland Governor's Top 5% Scholars, a tribute to his academic achievements. Flavio dedicates many hours of service to his youth group at St. Catherine's Labour Church. A gifted mathematician, Flavio plans to study economics and join the Peace Corps after graduation.

**Sasini Bentota** - Wheaton HS  
*Brown University Gates Millennium Scholar*



Sasini's family moved to the United States from Sri Lanka less than 3 years ago. In that short time, she has earned numerous honors, including an internship at the National Institutes of Health, graduating as class valedictorian, and becoming CDI's first Gates Scholar. She dreams of a career as a scientific researcher or doctor.

**Kelly Medina** - Wheaton HS  
*The University of Virginia*



Kelly, a member of the National Honor Society, has remained on the Honor Roll every quarter in high school. She became a Certified Nursing Assistant upon completion of the Medical Careers Program at Wheaton HS. Kelly dedicates many hours of service to the Young Apostle Ministry at her church, and enjoys soccer, swimming and lacrosse.

**Cristina Devia** - Walter Johnson HS  
*Tufts University, Pritzker Scholar*



A National AP Scholar, Cristina plans to major in Political Science or International Relations and learn five languages. Through her studies she will explore cultural and political systems in preparation for a career in government or diplomatic service.

**Irene Neequaye** - Wheaton HS  
*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



Irene's many honors include the W.E.B. Dubois Award for Academic Excellence, AP Scholar, and county-wide recognition for her community service. Irene starred on the Varsity soccer and track teams, and was co-captain of Varsity basketball. This past summer, she worked as a Pharmacy Technician for CVS Drug Store and aspires to become an obstetrician or gynecologist.



**Isel Otero-Vera** - Walter Johnson HS  
*Bryn Mawr College*

Isel was a leader in the Minority Scholars Program and co-founded the Culture Club at Walter Johnson HS. A Maryland State Distinguished Scholar, Isel has earned numerous awards, including television recognition for the Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest and Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest.



**Marilyn Romero** - Wheaton HS  
*Dickinson College*  
*Samuel G. Rose Scholar*

Marilyn, a voracious reader, is passionate about learning. She is multi-talented and divides her time between Varsity athletics, community service and art. She hopes to work as a counselor or in a profession where she can be of service to others. Marilyn plans to double major in Latin American Studies and Spanish.



**Anita Robin** - Wheaton HS  
*Dickinson College*  
*Samuel G. Rose Scholar*

Anita is just as creative as she is intelligent. She is passionate about the performing arts, particularly writing lyrics and reciting poetry. A member of the National Honor Society, Anita has been on the Honor Roll every year since the ninth grade. She plans to major in Biology or Psychology.



**Helena Shadid** - Wheaton HS  
*Randolph-Macon College*

Helena plans to major in Biology as an undergraduate. She is a natural caregiver and has been a babysitter for many of her neighborhood's families, working with the most demanding infants and toddlers. She hopes eventually to work in the health services field so that she can have a career that allows her to care for children.



## 2008 College Acceptance List

American University  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of William & Mary  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
DePauw University  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Emory University  
Fordham University

Franklin & Marshall College  
Frostburg State University  
Goucher College  
Hampton University  
Hollins University  
James Madison University  
Juniata College  
Lafayette College  
Lynchburg College  
McDaniel College  
Morgan State University  
New York University  
Radford University  
Randolph-Macon College  
Salisbury State University  
Spelman College  
St. Joseph's University  
St. Peter's College

Temple University  
Towson University  
Trinity University (DC)  
Tufts University  
University of Chicago  
University of Delaware  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Maryland-BC  
University of Maryland-CP  
University of North Carolina-CH  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Richmond  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Tech University  
Washington College