Wellesley College

News Release

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Wellesley Senior Wins Marshall Scholarship

Wellesley, MA -- Wellesley College senior Jocelyn Benson is one of 40 Americans to be awarded the Marshall Scholarship to study at a university in Britain next year. Winners are selected for their intellectual distinction and their potential to become leaders in their fields and make a contribution to society.

A nationally recognized student leader, Benson will earn her bachelor's degree in political science this month after an accelerated three and one half years of study at Wellesley. In January, she will work full time at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in Montgomery, Ala., where she had an internship this past summer tracking and reporting on hate groups in the United States. When her Marshall Scholarship to Oxford University begins this fall, Benson will study race...
relations and the ties between hate groups in the U.S. and Great Britain.

Benson's leadership skills recently earned her a place in Glamour magazine's Top Ten College Women for 1998. She was profiled in the magazine's October 1998 issue.

In her junior year, Benson founded the Women in American Political Activism Conference at Wellesley, which attracted 300 participants to its debut. She is the co-author of a book chapter, "California's 46th District: The Sanchez-Dornan Rematch," that will appear in The Road to Congress 1998, to be published next year. While a sophomore, Benson was elected a member of Wellesley Town Meeting.

Her future career goals include attending law school and then working to ensure equal access to housing, education, employment and health care. When it comes to activism, Benson says she encourages those around her "never to take 'no' for an answer."

Benson is the eighth Wellesley College graduate to be awarded the Marshall Scholarship since its inception 45 years ago by the British government as a 'thank you' to the United States for instituting the Marshall Plan after World War II. Duke University President Nannerl Overholser Keohane '61, former Wellesley College president (1981-1993), was the first Wellesley recipient of the award.

Benson is from McMurray, Pa., and is a 1995 graduate of Peter Township High School there.

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