

# Leadership and Volunteerism

Elaina Wood '07

Elaina (Laney) Wood was the 2014 Valedictorian of Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. She now attends Sewanee: The University of the South. She received the Wilkins Merit Scholarship as well as the Dakin's Scholarship for Creative Writing.

While her academics are very impressive, Laney is a leader in every way. Her high school resume includes a five-week intensive college course at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage. The course included History of Tennessee and Exploring Geology, field experiences in paleontology, historic preservation, museum experience and hands-on exploration. She also attended a two-week creative writing workshop. Acceptance was based on writing samples, essays, recommendations, and application.

Laney is a founder of Musical Volunteers at CCA where she started a club to enrich the music program at a Title-1 elementary school. She performed harp recitals, and raised funds for the Rivermont Elementary School music program. She also organized a group of musicians to provide string performances.

She was selected as a member of the Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, a program sponsored by the Chattanooga & Hamilton County Medical Society & Medical Foundation of Chattanooga.

Laney has been involved in several experiences that might help prepare her for a life in law or politics. She served as a delegate for the American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State at Lipscomb University where she created, developed and ran a working government, and also campaigned and was elected to serve as County Election Commissioner. This experience developed Laney's leadership and oratory skills. As a delegate for "Youth in Government" in Nashville, she participated in mock legislative assemblies where she proposed and passed legislation and actively engaged in civic processes and procedures. She was selected by the school principal as a representative for Student Congress on Policies in Education at MTSU. The group discussed and analyzed major topics in Tennessee education and participated in mock school boards and debates. As a representative for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Laney identified needs of peers, communicated concerns, and offered resolutions to the superintendent. She represented her school in the YMCA Youth Leadership Group and volunteered in local service programs actively observing leadership roles and opportunities in Chattanooga.

At Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Laney was nominated and elected by Church Session to represent views of church youth, and participated on the Service Community Board. She served as a small group leader and prepared weekly group lessons.



## HONORS & AWARDS

- **Wellesley Book Award**, Grade 11, Spring 2013
  - Recipient of only faculty-chosen junior class award
  - Recognized for excellence in academics and leadership
- **AP English Award**, Grade 11, Spring 2013
- **Dual Enrollment Pre-Calculus Award**, Grade 11, Spring 2013
- **Honors Chemistry Award**, Grade 10, Spring 2012
- **Honors English Award**, Grade 10, Spring 2012
- **Honors World Geography Award**, Grade 9, Spring 2011
- **National Honor Society Member**, 2011-present
- **TN Association of Gifted Students Summer Scholarship**, June 2013
  - Competitively selected based on thoroughness of application, merit, recommendations and essay
  - Awarded max. \$500 scholarship to apply to a select summer program
  - Selected from pool of 32 applicants
- **Jan Pennington-Grey Harp Scholarship**, 2012
  - Competitively selected based on dedication to performing on harp, application and audio performance
  - Scholarship covered cost of attendance to Jan Pennington-Grey Harp camp 2012
- **Live Poet's Society of NJ American High School Poets 2012 Topical Winner**, Nov., 2012
- **OPPF 2012 Leaders' Poetry Competition Honorable Mention Award**, Dec., 2012
- **Skipping Stones 2013 How I Serve My Community Poetry Contest Honorable Mention Award**, Winter, 2013
- **Tri-M Music Honor Society Member**, Spring 2013 - Present

## PUBLICATIONS

- Wood, E., (2013). "Harp Song." Poem, published internationally by Skipping Stones, a magazine celebrating multi-cultural literary works, Jan-Feb, 2013.
- Wood, E., (2013). "The River." Poem, published in Inside of Me, a topical anthology by Live Poets Society of NJ.
- Wood, E., (2012). "Jump", "Sophia", "The Pedestal", and "The River", published in Shift Magazine, October 2012.
- Wood, E., (2013). "On Writing Poetry", "Strings", "Tame", "Wrapped", published in Shift Magazine, February 2013

## ACTIVITIES

- Participant, Jan Pennington-Grey Harp Camp, Summers 2009, 2010, 2011
- Member, Chattanooga Harp Ensemble, 2010-present
- Member, Rivermont Presbyterian Church Youth Group, 2010-2012
- Member, CCA Earth Club, 2011-present
- 1st Chair Harpist, CCA String Orchestra, 2010-present
- 1st Chair Harpist, Junior Clinic Blue Orchestra, Winter 2011
- Volunteer, Plays harp for shut-ins and nursing-home residents