

## Magnet Graduate Testimonials

***Mary Courtney Delvin '07***

***President's Scholar, Georgia Institute of Technology***

“Choosing to attend Wheeler and the Magnet program was a great fit for me in high school. It was the perfect segue to my college experience and I feel well equipped to be successful as a President's Scholar and in the Honors Program at Georgia Tech. The Magnet program and Wheeler High School prepared me thoroughly and allowed me to pursue many opportunities I would not have had otherwise, including completing my internships at Emory conducting brain tumor research and working with veterinarians in every aspect of animal health care. My scholarship at Georgia Tech allows me the opportunity for paid research in order to build on my high school internship experiences. The warm atmosphere at Wheeler, the variety of programs, the outstanding teachers and staff all made me feel welcomed, valued and an important part of the Wheeler Family.”

***Lindsay Haines '06***

***Sophomore, Yale University***

“Why Wheeler Magnet and why not Walton? I still get asked with this question, especially when my academic interest back then was not in math and science. That was one of the many reasons why I came: to strengthen my weak areas. I saw many opportunities at Wheeler and I took full advantage of them to combine my passion for writing, social studies and arts with science. At Wheeler, I learned so much more than just calculus, AP Biology or AP Literature from books and lectures. I learned to think, read and write critically and, most importantly, to apply what I learned in the most meaningful ways with the most caring teachers, wonderfully diverse and supportive student body and awesome Wheeler family and community. I carry with me every day not only the academic skills I learned from Wheeler but, more importantly, the conviction to make a meaningful contribution to people's lives as so many of Wheeler's staff have done for me.

In addition to her academic accolades (Siemens-Westinghouse Finalist, Intel Science Competition Semi-Finalist, YES Competition Finalist, USA Today All Academic First Team), Lindsay is also an inventor (she had a patent pending on her Magnet Foundations project while at Wheeler Magnet), a published author, a Leukemia researcher and a dedicated volunteer with the Yale Cancer Center and Yale Cancer Survivorship.

***Jonathan Kent '06***

***Molecular Biology Major at Princeton University***

“I think the most outstanding thing about the program is the opportunity one gets to experience something typically only seen at the college and graduate school level — that is, your peer group is as focused on and excited about the material being presented

in class as you are. The Magnet experience becomes even more “collegial” when you include an administration and staff that spend considerable time with students individually [Thank you, Mr. Farmer and Mrs. Banks], assessing student goals and providing personalized advice that goes far beyond what’s seen in the traditional high school guidance counselor role. This is matched by an excellent curriculum that prepared me well for advanced science and math curricula at Princeton [Thank you, Mrs. Corn!], and gave me more than a solid foundation in areas outside the sciences [Dr. Carter and Mr. Ravenscroft deserve special mention here].”

***Drew Regitsky ‘06***  
***Chemical Engineering Major at MIT***

“When I chose Wheeler Magnet over Pope, I knew that the math would be great, but I wasn’t sure about everything else. What I found was a diverse group of friends that shared my enthusiasm for learning, more math and science opportunities than I could have imagined, and supportive teachers and administrators that really cared about their students. I discovered my love for chemistry in freshman Magnet Chemistry and Robotics Club showed me how my talent for math could be applied to engineering. My senior year research internship in Chemical Engineering resulted in my selection as a semifinalist in the Siemens and Intel national science competitions. The Magnet program helped me to figure out what I am passionate about, and helped me get where I am today -- a sophomore at MIT majoring in Chemical Engineering.”

***Benjamin Tyndall ‘03 (inaugural class)***  
***Magna Cum Laude Graduate of Vanderbilt University***

Benjamin took as many AP courses as possible which enabled him to *completely* exempt his entire freshman year of college (a savings of tens of thousands of dollars)! In his senior year at the Wheeler Magnet school, Ben was actively courted by Vanderbilt University which offered to pay nearly 85% of his tuition and expenses. Ben decided to attend the esteemed Vanderbilt University where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude* this past May with a dual major in Psychology and Sociology as well as a minor in Japanese. He currently resides in Japan where he teaches Japanese to a wide range of pupils. He is saving up for graduate school where he plans to study either Business or Law.

***David Hines, Jr. ‘06***  
***University of Michigan College of Engineering Undergraduate Student***  
***Michigan Marching Band Euphonium***  
***Former Drum Major of the Wildcat Pride***

“Let me begin by saying that the Wheeler Magnet Program is the main reason for why I am a student at the University of Michigan College of Engineering right now. The rigorous courses, excellent teaching, and quality recommendations from the prestigious

staff were enough to get me into one of the best engineering schools in the country. As for my experiences...

“Freshman year was an awesome year. I came into Magnet from East Cobb Middle School so I already had tons of friends. Also, my close friends and I decided to do marching band together, which only added to the fun. Through Magnet, marching band, and baseball, I met two of my best friends who were involved in all three activities with me. Academically, I struggled initially with balancing all of my activities and my tough school work, but I eventually got settled and began to excel in my classes after a few months...except for math.

“Sophomore year was my best year academically. I began going to my teachers after class for help when I did not understand concepts and it made a world of difference. Ms. Boudreaux was especially helpful with answering any questions I had about physics and even encouraged me to look into engineering as a profession. Also that year, I saw my Wheeler baseball career come to an end (hip injury) and my Wheeler band involvement begin to grow. I became a student leader in the marching band that year and was chosen to be one the next Drum Majors at the end of school. This was also the year that I discovered just how great Ms. Banks office was when I needed a snack...

“Junior year was tough in every regard. AP classes, thinking about college, and my first year as Drum Major of the Wheeler High School Wildcat Pride Marching Band all began that year. Though it was extremely tiring, junior year was when I started learning how to effectively manage my time, which is a ridiculously important skill to me now that I'm in college.

“Senior year = SENIORITIS!!! Just in case you thought it was a myth, I'm here to dispel it: it is 100% real. There was so much going on at all times that it went by way too fast. From the Senior Walk to my last performance as a member of the Wildcat Pride to the Who's Who ceremony to the Senior Banquet, senior year was so incredibly awesome that the stress of school seemed to float away. It was a great ending to a great chapter in my life.

“In closing, I loved being a Wheeler Wildcat and a Wheeler Magnet student throughout my entire high school tenure. The Magnet program helped to prepare many of my friends and me for our current college careers in numerous ways and I could not see myself in the position I am in right now without my experiences as a Magnet student. Thanks for your time and God Bless!!”

***Matthew Ellis '07***  
***Georgia Tech University Freshman***

“My years at Wheeler High as a student in the magnet program were the best years of my life to date. I came to the program from the opposite side of Cobb County, knowing only one person at the time. I made a lot of new friends from both inside and

outside of the magnet very quickly and I really felt accepted. I loved the new freedoms and enjoyed attending school events such as football games and pep rallies. Classes took a little bit of adjusting to, but I worked hard and really learned a lot; my teachers were great so that made the process much easier. Ms. Banks, Mr. Farmer, and Ms. McGinnis also helped to lighten the load, helping out in any way they could and generally allowing students to concentrate on their studies.

“As I continued in my years at Wheeler, I really felt like I was part of a community of people that cared about how I was doing and that people were in general very helpful and understanding. The classes were still difficult, but I was really enjoying myself and I felt a sense of accomplishment when I did well. My hard work paid off during my senior year, which was easily the best part of my high school experience. I still had tough classes, but all my teachers were incredible, especially Mr. Slater (AP Government) and Ms. Barry (AP Calculus), who made classes fun and allowed me to learn in the most effective way possible. The football team had a great season, beating then-#1-in-the-state Roswell and beating Walton for the first time of my high school career to capture the region title. Running onto the field with all of my friends to celebrate the incredible victory was a truly special moment that I won’t forget. I finished my high school career strongly, achieving academic success and being admitted to Georgia Tech.

“Looking back at my days at Wheeler now, I have no regrets. I couldn’t have asked any more of the teachers or administration during my time at Wheeler, and I really appreciate becoming part of the tradition of excellence of Wheeler High School. If you are questioning whether or not you can do well at Wheeler, or whether you should go to Wheeler over another magnet program, I cannot express enough how much I recommend taking the opportunity to join the Wheeler community. Taking advanced classes at Wheeler allowed me to enter Georgia Tech with many credits from AP classes, meaning I am already well ahead of many of my peers. Obviously magnet classes are more difficult, but the teachers are better too, and there are a lot of opportunities to get help if you need it. If you are invited to the program, the school must have recognized that you have the ability to succeed in the program should you make the effort, and believe me, the rewards are well worth the effort. Best of luck in the future and Go Wildcats!”