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NEWS

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Duke Senior Noah Robert Raper Selected as 2006 Autry Fellow

Chapel Hill, NC - Duke University senior Noah Robert Raper has been awarded MDC's 2006 Autry Fellowship, a competitive fellowship program for recent college graduates that provides a paid, year-long work experience at the Chapel Hill, NC-based nonprofit. The fellowship's goal is to educate the South's future leaders in economic and social justice, thereby perpetuating the work of the late George B. Autry, MDC's founding president, who led MDC for 32 years until his death in 1999.

"Noah simply stood out among a large group of impressive applicants," said David Dodson, president of MDC. "He is an accomplished young man who already has gained substantial experience working with Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) and tutoring ESL students. We are delighted that he will be joining MDC for the 2006-2007 fellowship year."

In the summer of 2005, the Marshall, North Carolina, native worked as an intern with SAF, building links between farmworkers and faith-based communities and supporting the efforts of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and the Farmworker Advocacy Network. He also has been active in campus government, serving as vice president of his quad council.

Raper, a history major, is a civil war reenactor and principal drummer for the Carolina Legion Field Music, a Civil War-era fife and drum corps that performs at educational events during the year. He is the recipient of several scholarships from Duke University—the Robert C. Byrd National Merit Scholarship, the Peabody Scholarship; the Ivey Fund Scholarship, and the Bruce and Martha Karsh Scholarship.

Raper will be able to work on specific MDC projects as well as become familiar with a variety of economic, workforce, and community development issues related to MDC's work. He is the seventh Autry Fellow and will begin his fellowship with MDC in July.

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About MDC: MDC is a private, nonpartisan nonprofit headquartered in Chapel Hill, NC. Founded in 1967 to identify and help remove barriers to progress for the South, MDC has been publishing research and developing policies and programs focused on expanding opportunity, reducing poverty and building inclusive civic cultures in the American South for the past 39 years. We build the capacity of institutions and communities to work for more just and equitable conditions now and into the future. MDC's mission is to provide communities and their leaders with the research, strategies, and assistance they need to advance equity and opportunity. www.mdcinc.org

