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NEWS

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Duke Senior Daniel Bowes Selected as MDC's 2007 Autry Fellow

Chapel Hill, NC - Duke University senior Daniel Bowes has been awarded MDC's 2007 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.

"Daniel is an extraordinary young man whose impressive resume indicates both his leadership abilities and his passion for economic and social justice," said MDC President David Dodson. "As the official liaison between Duke and the Durham community and as a court mediator, Daniel has acquired rich experience that will serve him—and MDC— well. We look forward to welcoming him as a colleague for the 2007-2008 fellowship year."

The Saxapahaw, North Carolina, native already has been accepted at New York University School of Law and has deferred entrance for a year in order to work with MDC. His undergraduate experiences will enrich his law school education as well as his work at MDC. Bowes is president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) at Duke and has organized more than 25 events intended to educate Duke students and the Durham community about their civil rights and led four campaigns in defense of student liberties. Additionally, he serves as an executive board member of the North Carolina ACLU. Serving on the Duke Undergraduate Judicial Board and as a North Carolina District Court mediator (trained at the Orange County Dispute Settlement Center) adds to his store of valuable experience.

Bowes also was appointed to represent Duke students to the local community as the Duke-Durham Community Liaison. In that capacity, he organized the Duke-North Carolina Central University Unity festival and a successful employee appreciation initiative, among many other activities.

A graduate of Hugh M. Cummings High School in Burlington, North Carolina, Bowes gives credit to his parents, Renee and Douglas Bowes, for his success and interest in MDC's work. "I think MDC is about empowering people and allowing them to fulfill their potential," he says. "I watched as my parents were negatively judged by the jobs they held. Throughout my childhood, they were always depending on the next paycheck and struggling just to get by. How can you see that and not understand the importance of MDC's mission?"

The political science major is interested in MDC's work with community colleges and with workforce and asset development. He is the eighth Autry Fellow and will begin his fellowship with MDC in June.

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About MDC: *MDC is a 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 40 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 help organizations and communities close the gaps that separate people from opportunity. www.mdcinc.org*

