

Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

Volume 27

Article 17

4-1-2005

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Mark Sullivan

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Recommended Citation

Sullivan, Mark (2005) "Student Profiles: Joseph Halli, Boston College," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 27, Article 17.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol27/iss1/17>

Student Profile

BC Runs in the Family Blood

Joe Halli: His Father's Son

By Mark Sullivan

Boston College's Joseph Halli '05 has taken to heart the Ignatian challenge to be a man for others, volunteering at a South End soup kitchen and tutoring at the county jail.

His commitment to service has brought the BC senior from Northport, Ala., a prized Truman Scholarship. The Truman, carrying \$3,000 for the senior year and \$27,000 for graduate study, is given on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability, and likelihood of "making a difference."

Halli is the fifth Boston College student in seven years to win a Truman. BC has been named a Truman Honor Institution for its exemplary participation in the scholarship program named for the 32nd president that supports students aspiring to public service.

The Presidential Scholar majoring in English and minoring in Faith, Peace and Justice plans to put the award toward graduate studies in law and social work.

Family and Jesuit tradition carried Halli to The Heights. His father, Robert '68, a product of Loyola High School in Baltimore who won the Gargan Medal for debate at BC in 1965 and 1966, is an English professor and director of the Honors Program at the University of Alabama. His sister, Anne '02, preceded him as a Presidential Scholar at BC, and now is studying medicine at the University of Alabama.

"I come from a tradition of fellow Eagles," he said. "BC is a Halli family legacy. For me, it was the Jesuit identity of Boston College that made me brave the snow and the cold. I wanted to be a part of an institution that saw creating 'men and women for others' as a core value.

"I was asked in my Truman interview, 'How would I like to be intro-



Joseph Halli

duced if I were giving a speech at Boston College in 25 years?' My response was simple: 'Joe Halli is a man who has lived up to our ideal of being a man for others.'

"To be at a school that fundamentally integrates education with empathy is the reason I am here in Chestnut Hill."

Halli said his studies in the Faith, Peace and Justice minor have strongly influenced his career goal to combine a law degree with a master's in social work.

His greatest inspiration, he said, has come from his experiences as a Boston volunteer.

"The work I have done in this service program, for the first two years at Haley House, a soup kitchen in the South End, and now at the Suffolk County House of Corrections, has

been the most important thing I have done here at BC," he said.

"Classroom experience can only go so far as a motivator for social change. My interactions with the guests at Haley and my students at the House of Corrections have provided an education I could never have imagined.

"This program, with its emphasis not only on service but on the ideas of spirituality, social justice, and community, has transformed me to be the person I am today, a person who is wholeheartedly committed to public change."

The BC Presidential Scholars Program of which Halli is a part is considered among the premier merit scholarship programs of its kind. Fifteen young men and women a year are chosen for the integrated honors educational experience designed to embody the best of the university and its Jesuit heritage of educational excellence in service to society.

The Presidential Scholars Program works in tandem with the University's honors curricula, challenging Scholars over four years through summer programs focusing on community service, international experience and professional internships.

Joe Halli has more than fulfilled the group's mission, Presidential Scholars Assistant Director Jennie Thomas told the *Tuscaloosa* (Ala.) *News*.

"Our goal is to help students become leaders with a conscience," Thomas said. "And Joe is someone that people look to. He's always willing to help out and lend a hand."

Mark Sullivan is a senior writer in the Boston College Office of Public Affairs.