Rachel Yellon

Rachel Yellon is, understandably, quite proud of her most recent academic accomplishment- becoming the first Beacon College student whose proposal was accepted for presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Conference in Chicago. Rachel will be attending this conference with Dr. Marsden on Friday, May 1st, meaning that she will be missing out on the treasured Senior Day experience preceding graduation. Anyone who knows Rachel, however, is well aware of her drive and determination, and it should come as no surprise that she would readily sacrifice fun for an opportunity to develop academically and professionally.

Rachel is originally from Chicago, Illinois. She began attending Beacon College immediately following graduation from high school, becoming a Human Services major minoring in psychology. Dr. Marsden has been one of Rachel’s most influential professors in the field, but she has also valued classes outside of her major, such as Van Galyon’s Humanities class, which taught her how to look at art differently and in a new, deeper way. Dr. Marsden notes, “Rachel is an exceptionally hardworking and determined individual. I am so proud of all that she has accomplished at Beacon. I know that she will leave here and achieve even more greatness and success.”

Rachel has excelled academically at Beacon. In high school, she admits she was a B-student. At Beacon, she is an A student. She attributes this academic transformation to the teaching methods Beacon College professors use, making it much easier for her to grasp the material. Her auditory processing deficit coupled with ADHD made it difficult for her to understand the course concepts the way they were taught in high school, even with a learning specialist to assist her. Rachel’s experiences in high school convinced her that she needed to attend a college designed specifically for students with LD.

While it may be difficult to believe this, seeing the role Rachel now has on campus, she admits that the transition to college was difficult, due mainly to being homesick. Her attitude of determination, though, meant she never even contemplated giving up, and she thrived at Beacon. Her academic accomplishments started to add up, including being the first student Jacob Pinkston hired as a Peer Writing Consultant when he began his tenure as Director of the Writing Center, and taking on roles as a Peer Tutor as well as positions with Bloggers Club, Yearbook Club, and Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society.

Rachel’s focus on campus has primarily been on academics, but she has also developed her social skills as well. In high school, she reveals that she couldn’t process jokes quickly enough and didn’t fit in culturally with her peers. At Beacon, she has developed a more comfortable social life and developed a strong rapport with many of her fellow students. Skills she has learned at Beacon have served her in both her academic and social environments. She now knows how to handle multiple tasks better and maintain an active social and academic life.

As Rachel prepares to embark on the next phase of her life, she reflects on what she has accomplished thus far and she is considering the possibilities for her life beyond Beacon.
Rachel’s internship at a local elementary school has made her realize how much she enjoys working with children, so she is hoping to complete training this summer to become a child advocate. Rachel’s life has changed dramatically since enrolling at Beacon, and while she is open to possibilities regarding career options, we are certain that her determination and drive will help her succeed no matter which she chooses to pursue.