

A PUBLICATION ABOUT COCA-COLA SCHOLARS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Quest 2004



FOREVER CONNECTED

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN

Robert Accordino

Robert Accordino (1999) is passionate about helping children with autism connect to the world through music. A Fulbright Scholar, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at Oxford University, Oxford, England, and the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, with plans to go to medical school. Robert is also co-founding Music for Autism, a charity which will organize fund-raising concerts to raise money for educational and music programs for children with autism, and build a web site to unite parents, teachers and autism researchers.

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“I’m motivated by a desire to help others, and to go about it in exciting and original ways,” says Robert, a singer who has performed at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall and on Broadway. “My particular research area, the musical abilities of children with autism, is an exciting marriage of my interests – autism research and music.”

Even during his undergraduate years at Princeton, Robert found innovative ways to bring people together. He connected Coca-Cola Scholars with each other through informal pizza receptions that he organized, along with fellow Scholars and friends Elizabeth Cason Crosby and Allen Taylor. “I wanted to give back to the scholarship organization

ROBERT ACCORDINO WORKS WITH CHARLIE LAGDEN TO ASSESS MUSICAL MEMORY AND PROCESSING IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM FOR A STUDY AT OXFORD.

that had given me so much,” he says. “During my senior year, I remember telling younger scholars that because they were part of the Coca-Cola family, we already felt as though we were friends.”

DID YOU KNOW...

Each year, 250 new Coca-Cola Scholars connect with one another during the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend in Atlanta. During the weekend, a group service project reinforces the important role of community service in the lives of Coca-Cola Scholars.

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship, established in 2000 through a \$5 million grant from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, awards over \$400,000 in scholarships annually to more than 400 students attending U.S. community colleges and technical institutes.

