

# James Garrad

## *A Local Scholar Makes His Choice*

The Face of Westchester

**F**our of James Garrad's closest friends are now at Ivy League universities. Meanwhile, he is in his first year at Westchester Community College, and is quite content.

"I'm very happy," says Garrad, who scored a 1320 on his S.A.T.'s and was ranked eleventh in his class at Carmel High School. "The college is close to home, it has a great campus, and it's challenging."

A serious, articulate young man wise beyond his years, he's comfortable on a campus where the faculty's main focus is teaching, not research. "I was facing the reality of not being able to afford a four-year school, when my high school guidance counselor suggested Westchester Community College. I'm a logical person and it made sense to me – being able to start a progressive education at an affordable college while I prepare to move on to a four-year university," he says.

Because of his grades, he received a full scholarship. Entering with 32 Advanced Placement credits, he had freedom to select his classes, including his "American Literature through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century" course.

"The great works of literature offer a lot to me intellectually, and they offer a lot to society. Plus, they're entertaining. I enjoy the solitude of reading but I also need the give and take of a classroom setting," he says.

Garrad, who intends to move on to Liberty University, a Christian institution in Virginia, is hoping that he gets the same attention there as he has in Westchester. "I wasn't sure what to expect here. Now that I have a good sense of the college, I'd recommend it to



anybody. The instructors are approachable and friendly, and they look out for your best interests. I've become a big supporter of the community college approach. I think it's advantageous to start at a two-year college. It just doesn't make sense to pay so much more for Liberal Arts courses at a four-year school."

Garrad anticipates transferring to his chosen four-year school. But that's in the future. For now, he's quite at home, learning from caring, award-winning instructors and capitalizing on the institution's resources.



Due to his outstanding high school grades and S.A.T. scores, James Garrad (pictured with Scholarship Administrator Sandra Ramsay) was given a full scholarship to attend Westchester Community College.

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