

Adam Moscoe to receive Cooper Scholarship

By Benita Baker

Adam Moscoe is the 2011 recipient of the George Joseph Cooper Scholarship from the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

At 19, Moscoe has just finished his second year studying psychology at the University of Ottawa and is already an accomplished community leader as well as an award-winning student. He will be spending the upcoming winter semester at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is in the process of applying for a fall semester internship in Africa and Asia working with youth.



Adam Moscoe has a résumé filled with community service and academic achievement.

still his passion for community service and the drama instruction he received there for establishing his self-confidence. One of his earliest initiatives was creating *Branching Out to Help Out*, a program to help students volunteer.

“It was a rewarding experience to work with students from all grades to make volunteering fun and meaningful,” said Moscoe.

All the time Moscoe devotes to volunteer work has not interfered with his academic achievement. In high school, Moscoe earned three Silver Medal Awards (average above 90 per cent), three Subject Awards for top marks in Science, English and French, and was valedictorian of his graduating class. At the University of Ottawa, he won a National Millennium Excellence Award.

If all this was not enough to make him a worthy recipient of the Cooper Scholarship, the references that accompanied his application undoubtedly clinched his selection. Inspiration, role model, innovative and leader are some of the terms used repeatedly by his endorsers.

“I have nothing but good things to say about Adam,” wrote Heather Reisman, CEO of Indigo Books and Music in her reference.

Five years ago, when Reisman was looking to promote reading among teens, she initiated a nation-wide competition for teen advisers. Moscoe, then 14, landed a coveted place on her team and worked with her for two years.

This summer, Moscoe will spend two months in Berlin, Germany, attending a Jewish Studies program at Humboldt University. He hopes to bring what he learns to the Holocaust Education Week events he will be organizing at the University of Ottawa.

With so many laudable accomplishments already under his belt, it is easy to forget that Moscoe is still a teenager. His goals for the future include a career in clinical psychology along with a continued active involvement in the arts and the Jewish community. He might even run for elected office one day.

“I am not ruling anything out,” he said.

George Cooper was an Ottawa native and a long-standing member of Congregation Beth Shalom. Upon his death in 2004, the career public servant left a bequest to the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation to establish the George Joseph Cooper Award Scholarship Fund.

Moscoe will receive the scholarship at the annual general meeting of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, Thursday, June 16, 7:30 pm, at the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building. For more information about the meeting, contact Francine Paulin at fpaulin@ojcf.ca or 613-798-4696, ext. 252.

“I am thrilled by this scholarship,” said Moscoe. “It is so wonderful to get this kind of recognition and applause from the community.”

The scholarship, valued this year at \$13,029, recognizes a member of the Ottawa Jewish community between the ages of 18 and 30 “who has displayed leadership qualities, academic excellence and an interest in the Jewish community. The scholarship award is to be used for formal education or apprenticeship in the artistic, literary or social sciences.”

Moscoe’s impressive résumé includes several pages of community leadership and advocacy roles for various organizations including Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa, Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards and United Way. In 2009, he co-founded Israel Peace Week, an effort aimed at demonstrating Israel’s commitment to pursuing peace, which has expanded to more than 30 university campuses in Canada, the United States and Australia.

Moscoe is co-chair of the Social Justice and Jewish Identity Committee of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students where he has been involved in social justice initiatives such as STAND (Students Taking Action on Darfur), Stop Childhood Executions, and UN Watch. He has been the director of Holocaust Education Week for Hillel Ottawa since 2009 and is currently the group’s vice-president elect. He created the *Save a Child’s Heart Campaign* in Ottawa, raising more than \$1,000 in support of the Save a Child’s Heart Children’s Home in Holon, Israel, which provides lifesaving heart surgery to children from developing countries.

One of Moscoe’s proudest accomplishments is his relationship with Tamir participants.

“My awe of them has translated into gratifying opportunities for me,” he said.

In addition to working with them on the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and teaching them musical theatre, he has also been helping six participants prepare for their bar and bat mitzvahs.

Moscoe credits Nepean High School for in-