

## **ADAM BENNETT**

Cambridge and Churchill Scholar 2004

Degree: University of Florida: B.S., Chemistry, 2004

Research Area: Structural biology of Human Immunodeficiency Virus



Adam Bennett is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Florida earning a bachelor's degree in Chemistry with a 3.97 GPA. Adam's academic achievements began early as he was in the first graduating class at Palm Harbor University High's medical professions magnet program. Out of 7,500 students at the University of Florida, Adam was the Commencement Valedictorian and gave the graduation address alongside Senator John McCain. He is the first U.of F. student to receive the prestigious Winston Churchill Foundation Scholarship. As an undergraduate, Adam conducted original research in chemistry under Dr. Jon Stewart using cells and enzymes to carry out organic syntheses. The goal of his research was to develop new chemical syntheses in drug development that were less expensive and environmentally cleaner than traditional chemistry. As a Cambridge Scholar at Churchill College, Adam is studying the structure of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) using cryo-electron and atomic force microscopy with Mentors Sriram Subramaniam and Robert Henderson. He was recently chosen to participate in the Fifth annual Linz Winter Workshop and Winter School in Biophysics, Johannes Kepler Universitat, Linz, Austria. He also recently studied for a month at the Biotechnological Center of the Technology University of Dresden, under Daniel Mueller, Professor of Cellular Machines and Scientific Director of the Center to study techniques in Single-Molecule Force Spectroscopy, a powerful new analytical instrument. Outside of the lab, Adam is a long distance marathon runner and has interests in world religions, philosophy, and anthropology. At Cambridge, Adam played on the Churchill College Football (soccer) Team which succeeded in making the semifinals this year in the cup, despite it being their first time in Division 1. Regarding his major research goals, Adam says, "I have a desire that my research be of immediate help to people, research that might lead to a better vaccine or treatment for a disease."