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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY COMMENCEMENT SENIOR SPEAKER SELECTED

MILWAUKEE (April 29, 2009) Jean Baumgardner, a Biomedical Science major in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been chosen as the Senior Speaker for the 2009 commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bradley Center.

“I feel very humbled and grateful for the opportunity to speak at commencement. We are all surrounded by such an incredible community of professors faculty and friends that have helped us all grow into the people we are today,” Baumgardner said.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to address the friends, family and Marquette community who have touched my life and the lives of so many,” she continued.

During her time at Marquette, Baumgardner has been on the Deans List, held many leadership positions and was involved in many community service activities. She was a board member for Marquette’s first Relay for Life, went on a mission trip to Guatemala and was a retreat leader for the Manresa Project.

The Senior Speaker must be a full-time undergraduate student with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. They must have attended Marquette for five consecutive semesters, never served on the MUSG Executive Board and never been on academic probation.

The Senior Speaker is nominated by students, faculty and staff through the MUSG website. “It really is a remarkable process,” said Senior Speaker Commissioner Megan Ward. “I’ve enjoyed being a part of it the past two years!”

The Senior Speaker Committee is made up of one senior from every college and two faculty administrators. After collecting the applications, the committee selects 10 semi-finalists, and then over 700 seniors vote for the top three finalists during the MUSG election.

The three finalists were Jean Baumgardner, Patrick Lehman and Mary Kate Wagner. Once all three finalists were interviewed, the committee voted for Senior Speaker. A recommendation letter and list of suggestions were sent to the Office of the President for consideration and approval.

For more information on MUSG's news and events, visit <http://musg.mu.edu> or contact the MUSG office, AMU 133.

The mission of Marquette University Student Government is to identify, understand, actively address and represent students' needs, concerns, and interests through acts of leadership and service, which reflect Catholic, Jesuit ideals and contribute to the betterment of the Marquette University community.

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