NYU Reynolds Scholar to Speak at NYU Commencement 2010

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Jessica Mason, a 2008 NYU Reynolds Program in Social Entrepreneurship Scholar (http://www.nyu.edu/reynolds/undergrad/08_html/mason.html), has been selected by New York University to deliver the Commencement speech for the Class of 2010 at the ceremonies to be held at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Mason is graduating from NYU’s Silver School of Social Work, with a double major in Social Work and History. She serves as the President of the Silver School of Social Work Student Government and works to create communities for those interested in social change.

Mason is Co-Director and Co-Founder of Baby’s First Home (BFH), a supportive housing project for teen mothers in New York City. BFH was awarded the grand prize of $10,000 in capital by the 2008 NYU Reynolds/Youth Venture “Be a Changemaker Challenge,” and will be opening a new 6-unit apartment this year.

After interning with the Reciprocity Foundation in a summer 2009 internship, Mason was brought on board on a near full-time basis with the group. Reciprocity Foundation is a nonprofit that serves homeless and at-risk youth by connecting them to educational and career opportunities in creative industries like fashion, music, film, photography, and more. She was recently featured as a leading changemaker on Tonic.com.

This summer, Mason will be traveling to Haiti for a year, to begin work on creating a women’s worker cooperative of artisan goods to help revitalize the economy after the devastating effects of the January 2010 earthquake.

Jessica Mason is the fourth NYU Reynolds speaker NYU has had for commencement in the past three years. In May 2008, 2006 Reynolds Fellow, Mel Ochoa (http://www.nyu.edu/reynolds/grad/06_html/ochoa.html), and 2006 Reynolds Scholar, Robert Sukrachand (http://www.nyu.edu/reynolds/undergrad/06_html/sukrachand.html), were chosen as NYU Commencement speakers, and then 2006 Reynolds Fellow Kate Otto (http://www.nyu.edu/reynolds/undergrad/alumni_html/06_html/otto.html) spoke in May 2009.