

1-1-2011

# Reach for the Stars

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## Recommended Citation

Gadde, Neale, "Reach for the Stars" (2011). *Bucknell Believes*. Paper 7.  
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Neale Gadde  
Class of 2015

### Reach for the Stars

I believe in the stars. For the entire human race, the stars are our ultimate goal. I believe that the human race wants to explore the stars to find others like us. For myself, as a lover of astronomy, I have always wanted to explore the stars in a literal sense; however, the stars have also become a part of my personal philosophy.

In my freshman year of high school, the first generation iPod Touch had come out. I begged and pleaded with my parents to buy it for me. On September 23, 2007, as a half-birthday gift and “starting of high school” gift, I received one. I ripped open the box and looked over it excitedly. Then I saw on the back that there was an engraving, “Neale Gadde RFTS 9232007 MD.” I assumed that the “MD” was Mom and Dad, but I asked what the “RFTS” stood for. They told me it stood for “Reach For The Stars.” As a 14-year-old-boy, I thought it was stupid and complained that I now had to take it around school with that stupid engraving on the back. Little did I know, that phrase was already a significant part of my life.

As a student, I tried for the toughest courses, but I began high school in all regular classes. This did not do well for my ego. I worked my hardest to get into at least one honors class the following year and made it to Chemistry Honors. Yes! Then I wanted AP courses. I got into AP Chemistry my junior year, while moving my history up to honors. Then came the SAT. However, I did not receive the score that I wanted, which troubled me a bit. Then my parents told me about the ACT. I thought, “Why not?” I got a 32. Score! Now that I am in Bucknell, I plan on studying as hard as possible, cause my goal is once again at the top, Medical School. And not just any Medical School; I want to

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attend the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, the original and one of the most prestigious medical school.

As a person, I am incredibly competitive and always strive to be number one. Which is why I go for the highest grades, highest-ranking college and hope to attend the most-prestigious medical school possible. But, a true example of RFTS in my life was my dog, Buddy. Every time I give him a treat, I hold it up incredibly high so that he will have to jump to reach it. Even my dog is reaching for the stars to achieve his ultimate goal, a cookie.

Reach For The Stars. It is not just some engraving on the back of my iPod. It is my life philosophy. It is my guiding principle. It is what I believe. I believe in working as hard as you can right now. I believe that the future rewards will be worth the hard work. I believe that there is no one there but us to do our own work. I believe in making one's goals as tough and as "high" as they can be. Reach for the stars, because if you miss, at least you'll be on top of the world.