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West Hartford grandparents can't stop smiling

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Cynthia and Bob Gross of West Hartford seem to have cornered the market on “qvelling” these days. Their grandson, Alexander D. Wissner-Gross, recently was awarded the 2008-2010 Harvard Environmental Fellowship, a two-year super-postdoctoral fellowship given to only 6 scholars per year internationally. A graduate of MIT with three majors, Alexander holds a PhD from Harvard.

Alexander lives in Great Neck, N.Y. and is the son of the Gross' son, Sigmund, who grew up in West Hartford and is a partner in the law firm of Brown Rudnick, with offices in Hartford and New York. The 27-year old's mother is Elizabeth Wissner Gross, renowned author of “What Colleges Don't Tell You.”

Rounding out the accomplished family is Alexander's younger brother, is also a Magna Cum Laude of MIT. He is currently in the PhD/Med program at Harvard and MIT. Both brothers have been awarded the Hertz fellowship.