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## Introducing More of Our 2008 Scholarship Recipients

By David Perry and Jeff Cox

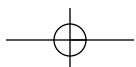
The previous *All American* introduced you to three of the 18 graduates who earned scholarships this year. In this edition, you will meet the 15 other recipients. We are proud to count them among the 1,300 alumni who have earned American School scholarships in the past 70 years.



### Roxana Alexandru

Roxana Alexandru is equally comfortable writing computer code or returning a back hand. When she isn't teaching tennis lessons, she designs and creates web sites. Roxana will use her American School scholarship to attend the University of Florida, developing her computer programming skills and preparing for her career, whether it be as a professional web developer or tennis player.

Roxana says the American School's flexible schedule has prepared her well for either, giving her "discipline, a good work ethic, organizational skills, and a lot of confidence."





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### **Krystyn Connell**

Krystyn Connell has been preparing for a future in law enforcement since she was young. She plans to earn her undergraduate degree in Criminology from the University of New Mexico before applying to the police academy and, eventually, becoming a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

To help pay her way through for college, Krystyn has worked part time at a local funeral home for the past four years and has run her own small business since she was twelve. Krystyn hopes to “make a difference in our society and make it a safer place to live.”



### **Lorri Deavers**

Lorri Deavers wants to help your children get a step ahead in life. Both of Lorri's parents are college professors, so her love of learning comes naturally, and it led to a life-long desire to teach. “I credit my advances thus far,” said Lorri, “to my time with American School, babysitting, and teaching dance.” Working as a babysitter convinced Lorri that she wanted to teach young children. For two years, Lorri taught Irish step dancing classes at her local community center, and now teaches private classes on her own.

Lorri plans to use her American School scholarship to earn her Masters degree in Education from James Madison University. When she isn't teaching or dancing, Lorri enjoys reading classical literature.



### **Mariah Eagles**

Mariah Eagles knows the value of “book smarts,” but she also knows how important “street smarts” can be. She graduated from high school with a 4.0 grade point average while working part time jobs as a receptionist, animal caretaker, and construction worker. Mariah will be using her American School scholarship at Central Oregon Community College to become a firefighter and paramedic. The curriculum she will study includes both classroom study and practical, hands-on experience.

Mariah's extracurricular interests are equally varied, ranging from snowboarding to reading mysteries and knitting. She credits the American School for allowing her to work at her own pace. “The school has helped me complete my goal of graduating and moving on to college early,” she said.

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### **Francesca Frasier**

Francesca Frasier has never met anyone else with her first name. Early on, she became used to standing out from the crowd. Francesca plans to use her American School scholarship to attend Southwestern Oregon Community College, eventually transfer to a four-year university to earn a dual Bachelor's degree in English and History before applying to law school. Her ultimate career goal is to become a constitutional lawyer because she believes every citizen should value the U.S. Constitution.

When she isn't studying, which isn't often, Francesca runs cross country, setting several records for the SOCC team during her time there. She is active in her church and enjoys reading historical fiction. The American School's program was ideal for her, she says, because she is a very independent learner and loves to learn.



### **Brittany Hicken**

Brittany Hicken can't imagine any career besides music. She has been a harpist since she was eight years old, and has spent many hours practicing and performing. Her career goal led her to the American School. "I wanted to graduate early," said Brittany. "The [American School's] program was perfect for my needs. I did graduate early, and that also required much hard work and discipline."

Brittany will take that discipline to the Manhattan School of Music, where she will continue to hone her skills and study to teach the instrument she loves. Her interests beyond music include reading, cooking, and running. She feels that through music, she has grown and matured in many different areas.



### **Rhys Howell**

Rhys Howell doesn't plan on being "foiled" in his quest to become an Olympian. An accomplished fencer since age eleven, he is using his American School scholarship to attend classes at Holy Cross College and then move across the street to study European history at the University of Notre Dame, which has one of the best men's fencing programs in the country. Rhys has traveled all over the world because of fencing, but he always packed his American School materials alongside his equipment. Doing so helped him reach both his athletic and academic goals.

"The portability of the American School curriculum was clearly instrumental in my becoming an accomplished athlete," Rhys wrote. "It permitted me, quite literally, to experience the world in a way that would not have been possible in a traditional school setting."



### **Miriam Jackson**

Miriam Jackson is a diva. Ever since she was 12 years old, Miriam has dreamed of being an opera singer. The American School has been part of that goal all along. "American School proved foundational to my learning and aspirations," she said. "Studying by correspondence courses allowed me to live two years in Italy while I received private instruction and conservatory training."

Miriam attends the University of Utah, and has had major roles in several productions, including the lead in Englebert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, and has been invited to audition for Renata Scotto at her New York Academy. Off stage, Miriam's interests include swimming, painting, and dance.



### **Anne Krakower**

Anne Krakower's journey to Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut, began on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, where she lived for twelve years as a child. A volcanic eruption displaced Anne's family, sending them to Massachusetts, where she enrolled in a local high school before deciding to earn her diploma with the American School. Anne writes that "I liked my American School courses right from the start. I was able to work at my own pace and arrange my schedule so that I could do volunteer work."

Her love of volunteering took her to New Orleans, where she aided in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Closer to home, she has volunteered to the Amherst Survival Center. "Working at the Survival Center, I found how rewarding it is to help people deal with difficulties," Anne writes, "and I think I would like to have a career helping young people."



### **Alexandria Molson**

Alexandria Molson is attending Elgin Community College northwest of Chicago, where she plans on participating in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. She already has hands-on experience in the field through her job, which affords her the opportunity to work with rehabilitation patients on a daily basis. Alexandria writes that "I have had the privilege of working with individuals from the beginning of their rehab to the very end, and the results I see are amazing. I learn just as much from the patients, if not more, than they learn from me."

When she is not busy helping people, Alexandria enjoys traveling, playing golf and playing the piano. Not surprisingly, she also enjoys reading about medical science.



### **Mary Nadeau**

Hurricane Katrina could not stop Mary Nadeau from earning her high school diploma. She considers herself fortunate to have found the American School, which allowed her to work at her own pace and “fully absorb the lessons that those (difficult) times had to offer.” Her life experiences and American School experience have propelled her into the fields of social work and education at the University of New Orleans, where she earned a perfect 4.0 GPA in the Fall 2007 semester.

Mary writes that “I have no interest in pursuing a career that will serve only to bring me financial gain. I have seen how much discouragement and suffering there is in the world, and I want to make a difference.” When she’s not making a difference through various ministries and volunteer activities, Mary enjoys playing the piano, drawing, gardening, and spending time with friends.



### **Joshua Oliver**

Joshua Oliver has always been interested in building and inventing things. He coupled that with his aptitude in math and science and decided to study chemical engineering at Virginia Tech, with an eye on using his degree to develop cures for diseases.

Joshua writes that the American School “was an open learning environment which allowed me the freedom to follow my interests and passions,” some of which include playing electric guitar in band, writing music, lyrics and poetry, and playing lacrosse and football. A true renaissance man with diverse interests, it should come as no surprise that Joshua enjoys reading Renaissance poetry, along with historical biographies and science-fiction novels.



### **Laura Ron**

Many college students are undecided on their majors when they set foot on campus. Laura Ron is not one of them. After taking the American School’s Biology course, she was hooked, so it was natural that she study biology at Texas A&M. Laura is currently a freshman in the Honors Program, but if she has her way, she will remain in College Station seven years: three to earn her undergraduate degree and four to earn her graduate degree in veterinary medicine. She desires to become a veterinarian because “I love science, animals, solving problems and helping people.”

When she is not studying, Laura enjoys participating in numerous homeschool activities. She was in a homeschool orchestra for seven years, wrote for a homeschool teen literacy magazine for five years, took part in a homeschool drama club for three years, and was a chaperone for monthly homeschool science classes at the Houston Museum of Natural Science for two years.



### **Danae Sommers**

Danae Sommers believes that “every child should be given the chance for a good education and to be able to make a better life for himself or herself.” She plans on helping children do just that by becoming a special education teacher after she completes degrees from Blue Ridge Community College and Liberty University in her native Virginia. Danae already has had a considerable influence on children’s education through her volunteer work in the Reading, Rhyming and Readiness program and at the Harrisonburg Children’s Museum.

Outside of studying and volunteering, Danae is an accomplished singer. She sang in the Shenandoah Valley Children’s Choir for four years and gave a vocal recital shortly after she earned her American School diploma. Her other interests include hiking, sewing and photography.



### **Sarah Watts**

“Learning to learn” has been the most important part of Sarah Watts’ education. Her inherent curiosity and love of the English language should serve her well as she begins studying journalism at Gainesville State College in her native Georgia. When she is not writing or editing, Sarah enjoys reading a variety of genres, including fantasy and the classics, and said that she particularly enjoyed taking the American School’s British Literature and American Literature courses.

Besides her academic interests, Sarah earned the Congressional Award, which recognizes personal development, physical fitness and volunteerism. Her pursuit of this award gave Sarah the opportunity to learn to play bass guitar, develop a strict workout routine and become an active volunteer at a local hospital.

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