



All American Newsletter

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American School Holds 77th Annual Scholarship Meeting

This issue of the *All American* features 18 accomplished graduates who can add one more achievement to their already impressive resumes. They each were awarded an American School scholarship at our 77th Annual Scholarship meeting. Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$2000 and may be used to defray costs of attending an accredited college or university. In total, 1,480 graduates have earned \$823,200 in scholarships from their alma mater.

Scholarship winners are chosen by American School's Scholarship Committee, which this year included American School Trustees **John Kemp** (second from left) and **Cher Tufly** (second from right) and guest member **Michael Bugenski**, Outreach Specialist at Michigan State University and former Executive Director of North Central Association/AdvancED (center). Joining them in the picture below are American School President **Gary R. Masterton** (far left) and School Counselor **Amanda Giordano** (far right).

Information on the 2016 scholarship competition is automatically mailed to deserving 2015 graduates early next year. In the meantime, turn the page and begin reading about your classmates! Scholarship winners who provided a camera-ready photo are pictured along with their profiles.



Henry Buresh Alumni Award Winner

Tiffany Messina
Bozeman, MT

Henry Buresh Alumni Award winner Tiffany Messina recently finished her first year at Montana State University, where she plans to declare a double major in music and psychology which would combine two of her passions.

"I saw a cello when I was fourteen, and I told my mom I wanted to play one. Because of the flexibility I had with my American School curriculum, I could devote many hours to my music," said Tiffany, who has performed at local senior centers and even as far away as Colombia, where she studied this spring semester.

Tiffany enjoyed American School's Psychology course and says, "I really believe in therapy of different kinds, and I want to be able to give the same support to others. I think the best career for me would be one based upon helping people and using my music." Her other interests include volunteering at an animal shelter and taking horseback riding lessons.



R. T. Miller Founders Award Winner

Samuel Birrer
Succasunna, NJ



R.T. Miller Founders Award winner Samuel Birrer is the last of three siblings to earn American School diplomas, and he plans to further his education at Rutgers University this fall upon completion of his courses at the County College of Morris. At Rutgers he plans to study chemistry and German and one day hopes to earn a graduate degree and perhaps become a research chemist. Samuel says American School gave him the elements necessary to become successful in life.

"Being homeschooled, I became independent in my study habits relatively early and found the transition to correspondence high school with American School to be quite natural," Samuel wrote. "The self-teaching materials helped to speak my interest in the sciences, which helped guide my decision on a college major."

Nathan enjoys volunteering at church, playing soccer, playing the French horn, and reading, the latter of which serves him well in his job as a local library page.

W. L. Wright Presidents Award Winner

Peter Kohrman
Bay Minette, AL

Presidents Award winner Peter Kohrman is finding his studies at the University of South Alabama to be music to his ears. He intends to major in performance piano and has recently started taking violin lessons to enhance his musical talents.

"My goals are to voraciously learn as much about music as I can physically and mentally handle," Peter wrote. "My long-term goals and passion are to become a composer, conductor, arranger, orchestrator and concert pianist. I hope to be involved with movies, theater, ballet, opera and classical concert settings."

Peter already has an impressive resume that includes first place in the college division of the 2015 MMTA Annual Sonata Competition, but there is more to his life than music. When he is not in the classroom or concert hall, Peter enjoys learning about the stock market and taking it easy with hobbies such as fishing and fencing.

Erinne Beachler
Evanston, WY



Erinne Beachler plans to be smiling during her career as a dental hygienist. She is taking classes toward a degree in this field at Weber State University and credits American School's Planning Your Career course for pointing her in this direction. It was one of many benefits Erinne received as an American School student.

"I greatly enjoyed my time in American School and I learned a lot," Erinne wrote. "Learning the material from American School prepared me for college coursework and gave me the ability to learn at a rigorous pace. It also fostered my love of English and enabled me to participate in many different extra-curricular activities."

That love of English has compelled Erinne to also major in English at Weber State. Outside the classroom, she enjoys music, theater, video editing and volunteering with a local homeschool group.

Cori Compton
Washington, MO

Cori Compton is a student at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, where she has designs on a bright future as a three-dimensional artist. She has created pieces in pottery, metalworking, sculpture and even computer graphics and enjoys expressing herself and engaging others through her artwork.

"Though my schedule is full, my American School experience has prepared me for success," Cori wrote. "As a homeschooler I learned how to pace and self-motivate. I learned to be project-oriented, always completing the task at hand before moving on to the next goal. While I have high expectations of myself, I also know my limits and understand the importance of maintaining balance between academics, work and campus life."

That balance includes being a member of SIUE's honors program, maintaining a part-time job, and being an active member of the French Conversational Hour group and a founding member of the SIUE Juggling Club.



Casey Cruz
Miami, FL



Casey Cruz enjoys helping people, and so she is interested helping people in some of their most trying times. Although she is just beginning her studies at Keiser University, she already has a long-term goal in mind.

"My objective is to one day own my very own occupational therapeutic center where I can be my own boss and maybe help other occupational therapists get their first real job," Casey wrote. "I believe that because I am truly passionate in helping people in need, I would be a very successful occupational therapist."

When she is not working toward that goal, Casey enjoys playing sports, church youth group activities and learning piano, but her primary focus is her education which will cause her "to wake up one day and love what I do for a living. Not many people can say that."

Stephanie DeMaria
Plainfield, IL

Stephanie DeMaria hopes to become a government economist, so double-majoring in Economics and History at the University of Illinois fits right into her plans.

"I was stuck between Economics and History for so long that eventually I gave up and decided to do both," Stephanie wrote. "The University of Illinois has many research opportunities for undergraduate students, and I plan on participating at least once, but I think the most important thing is that I get good grades and put my all into my schoolwork because, after all, the point of attending a university is to learn."

Stephanie plans to learn outside the classroom as well. Her current interests include reading, baking and drawing, but she is looking forward to experiencing new things in college, including participating in student government, a sorority and attending sporting events.

Zakaria Elwalily
Avenel, NJ

Zakaria Elwalily was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and was residing in his native country during its government upheaval of 2012 and 2013, when he participated in pro-democracy demonstrations and read American School's World History textbook during a sit-in at Rabia Square. After the situation there turned violent, Zakaria and his family returned to the United States, where they have lived for the past two years.

Those experiences helped Zakaria "realize that Egypt is calculatedly weak in the fields of manufacture and technology," Zakaria wrote. "I came to a firm decision that it is my mission to help address this issue."

To do so, Zakaria plans to earn engineering and business degrees from Middlesex County College and Rutgers University. He then hopes to work in the field of power generation and become a professional engineer in his native land, but for now, his other activities include hunting and volunteering.

Clare Fitzpatrick
Lakeville, MN



Clare Fitzpatrick has logged nearly 500 hours as a volunteer helping local medical organizations and has played the piano since age 3, but she is equally passionate about learning and leading.

"As a homeschooled student I was self-taught and self-motivated as I did not have a teacher guiding my learning," Clare wrote. "When I started taking a few classes at the local high school, I quickly adjusted to the new environment and learned ways to seek the answers and the help I needed to succeed. This experience taught me how to be a leader and how to ask teachers the right questions, on my own time in order to get the help I needed."

Clare's career plans include helping people as a member of the medical field. She is taking classes at Inver Hills Community College and hopes to become a paramedic.

Joshua Frazier
Minden, LA



Joshua Frazier once feared going to college after earning his American School diploma, but a visit to Northwest Louisiana Technical College changed all that. Since then, he has thrived there as part of NWLTC's LPN program and hopes to have a career as a LPN or RN.

"Having been raised to strive at getting along with people from all types of backgrounds, beliefs and values, the classroom and clinical environment has given me a place to test and improve those skills," Joshua wrote. "I am learning how to be a friend, co-worker and part of a team. Most importantly I am learning who I am, who I want to be and now see a direction in how to get there."

When he needs a break from studying, Joshua enjoys archery and bow-making, golf and trail riding.

Daisy Guzman
Chicago, IL

Daisy Guzman is blossoming at Harold Washington College and plans to continue her growth when she enrolls at Wilbur Wright College. Her studies there and a part-time job at a law firm where she is learning about property taxes have her well-positioned to fulfill her lifelong goal of becoming a paralegal.

"As I was growing up, my parents would buy me all types of Barbie dolls, but I always preferred to play with the paper receipts," Daisy wrote. "I felt such joy to pretend I was writing important information on the receipts...I would also pretend to have an office with my toy laptop and my play phone with of course the stacks of receipts next to me along with my markers and pens."

Daisy's other interests include cooking, reading, cosmetology and volunteering at her church.



Elizabeth Hall
Harriet, AR

Elizabeth Hall accomplished one of her goals when she was accepted to McNeese State University. As a student in the nursing program, she is poised to reach future goals of becoming a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

"Choosing the medical field was never a difficult decision for me," Elizabeth wrote. "I've always been attracted to helping people and being able to do that for the rest of my life would be a dream come true."

Although she is currently busy working toward a Bachelor's degree and working at two different part-time jobs, Elizabeth doesn't plan on slowing down any time soon. She hopes to stay at McNeese State to earn a Master's degree but plans to maintain her hobbies of quilting, sewing, duck hunting, taking part in Civil War reenactments and volunteering with her community's 4-H group.

Kayla Hicks
Island Lake, IL



Kayla Hicks was once afflicted with a debilitating disease of the autonomic nervous system, but now she is a star student at the College of Lake County.

"American School gave me the chance to study on my good days and rest on my bad days," Kayla wrote. "It took many bad days and patience, but now my dysautonomia is in remission. I truly believe that I would still be internally caged by this illness if it had not been for American School."

Now freed from her illness, Kayla plans to transfer to Michigan State University in the fall and major in organic horticulture with a minor in agriculture business. She plans to enhance her time as a Spartan by joining the kickboxing club and horticulture club, the latter of which is familiar to her because of her current job as in the floral department of a local grocery store.

Erica Koch-Weser
LaGrange, IL

Erica Koch-Weser grew up just outside Chicago, currently lives in Maine, and is planning to attend Luther College in Iowa. While her personal journey has taken her across the country and back again, she is grateful her academic journey took her to American School.

"Unlike my friends at the local high school who were locked into a defined schedule, I was able to balance my American School courses to suit me," Erica wrote. "Sometimes I would study several courses at once, but often I would stress only one course at a time—immersion study one might call it."

Erica has become immersed in helping her friends as a peer counselor and may make counseling her career if she doesn't go into the "green" cosmetic business. Her other interests include playing the violin, assisting in theater productions, and participating in her local ecology club.



Joshua Maybrook
Bridgeton, NJ



Joshua Maybrook comes from a musical family but says his true interest lies in literature. He plans on pursuing a degree in English Literature from Rutgers University after he completes his studies at Cumberland County College.

"From a young age, the two greatest pleasures of my life have been reading and writing," Joshua wrote. "Whether it is poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction, is irrelevant to me. I read (and write) it all."

Joshua's talents have earned him a spot in his college's honor society, and he hopes to one day pass on his love of reading and writing to generations of college students as a university professor. His interests, however, aren't limited to the printed word. Joshua has studied violin, guitar and music theory and, when he isn't busy with music, he enjoys pottery and being a deacon in his church.

Vera Sayko
Inman, SC



Vera Sayko has always dreamed of working in the business world, and she is taking classes at Spartanburg Community College to help her reach that goal.

"I am grateful to have attended American School and will always be thankful to my teachers and counselors that helped me on the path of education," Vera wrote. "It is my belief that people can only become successful if they put a lot of hard work towards their education. I don't believe in getting anywhere in life without working hard for it. I aim to achieve my goals of working in a large company by working hard and never giving up."

Vera plans to continue to work hard when she transfers to USC Upstate to study accounting with system electives. When she needs a break from her studies, she enjoys learning new languages, drawing, hiking and volunteering at church and nursing homes.

Raziye Senlik
Chicago, IL

Raziye Senlik knew she wanted to be a doctor from the moment she enrolled in American School. After earning her high school diploma, she began working toward that goal at the University of Illinois, where she is studying integrative biology, but she is not stopping there. In fact, she is going quite far away from home this summer to continue learning.

"I will be doing a Teach and Travel program through the Federation of Balkan American Associations," Raziye wrote. "I will go to Turkey and teach English to middle school students. I will then have the opportunity to intern at a hospital in the southeast region of Turkey."

Back stateside, Raziye has served as a YMCA summer camp counselor and a member of Model United Nations and enjoys basketball, swimming, dancing and playing the guitar.

Lindsay Shaffer
Blue Ridge, VA

Lindsay Shaffer has been attending college as a dually-enrolled student since her junior year at American School. Today she is a full-time student at Virginia Western Community College, where she is enrolled in the health science specialization program.

"During the years I was dually-enrolled I took college level math as well as a college success skills class and English," Lindsay wrote. "I completed these with good grades while keeping up with high school and extracurricular activities. It was often challenging but in the long run it was and is very rewarding."

Lindsay is hoping to become an occupational therapy assistant while continuing to volunteer at several places in her community. Those include local hospitals, nursing homes, animal shelters and at her church. She also enjoys taking piano lessons and participating in a variety of outdoor activities.



Partial List of Colleges Which Admitted American School Students in 2015

One of the many benefits of earning a high school diploma from American School is that it has the ability to open doors for your future. Because we are accredited by MSA-CESS, NCPSA and Ai and recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education, our diploma is recognized at colleges all across the United States.

The following are just a few of the colleges and universities which have admitted our students this year. Please keep in mind that admission depends on many factors such as coursework, grades, ACT or SAT scores, leadership, volunteer, and extracurricular activities, and more. Early in your high school career, you should check the admission requirements of colleges which interest you so that you may plan the rest of your studies accordingly. Our school counselor, **Amanda Giordano**, is available to help with your college planning needs.

Alabama

Auburn University

Arizona

University of Arizona

California

Stanford University

Colorado

Colorado Mesa University
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado State University

Connecticut

Trinity College
Wesleyan University

Florida

Florida National University
Florida Southwestern State College
Keiser University
Polk State College
St. Petersburg College

Georgia

Clark Atlanta University
The College of Coastal Georgia
Spelman College

Illinois

College of DuPage
Columbia College Chicago
Greenville College
Illinois Institute of Art
Joliet Junior College
Lewis University
Lincoln Land Community College
Northeastern Illinois University
Rock Valley College
University of Illinois

Indiana

Indiana University Northwest
Marian University
Purdue University Calumet

Iowa

University of Iowa

Kentucky

Galen College of Nursing
Murray State University
University of Kentucky
Western Kentucky Community
and Tech College
Western Kentucky University

Maine

University of Maine

Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art
University of Maryland

Massachusetts

Empire Beauty School
Lesley University
Massachusetts College of Art & Design
School of the Museum of the Fine Arts

Michigan

Henry Ford Community College

Minnesota

University of Minnesota

Mississippi

Mississippi Gulf Coast Comm. College

Missouri

Evangel University
Missouri State University
Truman State University
University of Missouri
Webster University

Montana

Montana State University

New Jersey

Rutgers University

New York

Columbia University
Eugene Lang College
University of New York - Purchase

North Carolina

Warren Wilson College

Oregon

Linfield College

Pennsylvania

Arcadia University
East Stroudsburg University
Franklin County Career and
Tech Center
University of Pittsburgh
University of Scranton
Widener University

Rhode Island

Rhode Island School of Design

Tennessee

Chattanooga State Community College
Miller Motte Technical College
Southern Adventist University
Southwest Tennessee Community
College

Virginia

Christopher Newport University

Online

Penn Foster Community College
South University
University of the People

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