

THE

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American School Awards Eighteen Annual Scholarships



Scholarship Committee members (from left) Cher Tufly, Dr. John Kemp, Becky Densmore-Stoll.

The American School held its 73rd annual American School Scholarship Committee Meeting in June 2011 during which it awarded \$21,000 in scholarships: three scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each and fifteen scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each. Each year, American School graduates who have earned at least a 3.0 grade point average and have taken college preparatory level courses are notified that they have qualified for the scholarship review process. During this year's scholarship review process, approximately 700 students qualified for consideration. The Scholarship Committee carefully and thoughtfully reviews scholarship applications which include personal essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts and test data. In their personal essays, graduates are encouraged to discuss themselves and their college plans. Each essay is as unique as each American School graduate. In their essays, students discuss their academic and career goals, their personal backgrounds and philosophies,

their unique accomplishments, awards and special skills, and highlights of their schooling and extra-curricular activities.

The 2011 Scholarship Committee consisted of Dr. John S. Kemp, Chairman Emeritus, Illinois State Committee Commission on Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Cher Tufly, Educational Consultant, American School; and guest member Becky Densmore-Stoll, Associate Director of AdvancEd Illinois. Scholarship Meeting participants included American School President Gary Masterton, Trustee and American School President Emeritus William Hunding, and Guidance Counselor Janet Howe.

President Masterton welcomed Members of the Corporation, Trustees and Scholarship Committee members and guests at a luncheon immediately following the Scholarship Committee Meeting. In his address, President Masterton commended the Scholarship Committee for their care and consideration of each scholarship application during their review process. This year's awardees impressed the Committee with their diverse interests, achievements and dedication to academic excellence. He acknowledged the dedication of Janet Howe who coordinates the scholarship review process and Marie Johnson who handles the initial application procedure. President Masterton thanked the Scholarship Committee for their dedication, and he applauded the entire American School faculty and staff for their support and fine effort throughout the year to each and every American School student.

-Eve Tselepatiotis

The following students were awarded the \$2,000 American School Scholarships



Ethan Cannon Green

Ethan Cannon Green received the \$2,000 Founders Award. Ethan attends Washington University in St. Louis. He plans to double major in computer science/engineering and entrepreneurship/business.

While in high school, Ethan set out to create a volumetric display that required problem solving, determination and hard work. Ethan stated, "After ten months of working on a single problem, I stood in astonishment, looking at my solution. It worked on the very first try." He has won several awards including the grand prize in the 2009 Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair and was a Finalist in the 2009 Intel Science and Engineering Fair. While at the ISEF, "I learned about the intersection of my two passions, technology and business." As an engineer, he wants to invent new things, and as entrepreneur, he wants to market his inventions as viable products. Ethan believes that with the right education, he can develop a successful technology company. "Turning a concept into a reality is difficult; making it applicable in the real world, marketing it, and finally selling is even harder."

In addition to his academic studies, Ethan works part-time as a student teaching assistant at his university's Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering. Among his many achievements, he has received the Congressional Award Gold Medal and is an Eagle Scout. He is active in community service and also enjoys computer coding, tennis and racquetball, and reading science fiction and nonfiction in physical sciences and astronomy.

-Eve Tselepatiotis

The American School currently offers seven online courses: Calculus, Earth Science, Economics, English 4, Geometry, Pre-Algebra and World Geography. More interesting online courses will be available in early 2012. Check the American School website for updates: www.americanschool.org or email: americanschoolonline@americanschool.org



Joni Lynn Jarvis

Joni Lynn Jarvis is the recipient of the \$2,000 Presidents Award. She is currently enrolled at East Central College where she is studying to earn an Associates of Arts degree in teaching. She plans to continue her

studies at Central Methodist University to earn a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. Her ultimate goal is to be a first grade teacher at a local school stating, "I love children and feel that I can positively impact their lives."

She feels strongly about her academics and states, "I take my education very seriously and strive to do my best at all times." She adds, "last semester was my first semester at ECC. I finished the semester with a 4.0 grade point average, an achievement that earned me a place on the Presidents Academic Honors List."

Joni developed her interest in teaching while tutoring an elementary student during her sophomore year in high school. She presently works part-time teaching a class for two-year-olds. She states, "Though my job is quite tiring, I love being surrounded by my little curious two-year-olds." In addition to her studies, Joni enjoys volunteer work at their church and other organizations, reading, playing soccer, cooking and spending time with family and friends.

-Jeanette Griffin



Russell Lane Stricklen

Russell Lane Stricklen was awarded the \$2,000 Alumni Award. Russell's interests cover a wide spectrum that ranges from the sciences to dance. "From a very early age, I told people that I would be a scientist when I grew up,"

Russell stated. Enrolled with a dual major of botany and dance at the University of Kansas, Russell plans to pursue academic research, explore internships in his field and earn a Ph.D. He hopes teaching is in his future and adds, "I find that teaching others and watching them develop expertise in their area of interest is extremely rewarding."

Although he was a self-proclaimed “bookworm” as a child, at 14 Russell started training in Taekwon Do. Russell has earned a second-degree black belt and became an Assistant Instructor. With his dedication and hard work to this initially challenging new interest, “I learned two life-changing things about myself: that I thrive on physical challenges as well as mental ones, and that I have a thirst for teaching.”

His interest in dance began when he was encouraged to help out his little sister’s ballet troupe. Although initially reluctant, Russell soon learned that dance was harder than it looked stating, “I was a black belt by then, and thought I knew about dedication, discipline and practice. I soon realized that dancers take those virtues, not just to another level, but to another dimension entirely.” He has been invited to summer dance intensives at Joffrey Ballet and Kansas City Ballet. Russell enjoys acting in theater and choreographing combat scenes, and especially reading science fiction and nonfiction in science and technology.

-Eve Tselepatiotis

The following students were awarded the American School \$1,000 Scholarships



Humaira Binte Abdul Awal

Humaira Binte Abdul Awal plans to attend Rutgers University to study English and economics.

Humaira was born in New Jersey and brought up in New York, but made a big move to Dhaka, Bangladesh, as a fourth

grader. She adapted well to the move, and Bangladesh made a huge impression on her when she saw people who “in their dirt-poor conditions led such extraordinary lives. I came to develop an appreciation for things which I had until then always taken for granted.” She developed a drive that “hadn’t existed before. I wanted to make a difference, or at least be a part of the process, that would ultimately lead to a change.”

After enrolling in the American School, she studied English and economics. “I realized that the best way to help the poor people of this country was through future studies on these two subjects.” Humaira believes that first, the “cause of the suffering is the huge gap between

the rich and poor, and secondly, the ignorance of the outside world to the plight here (in Bangladesh),” so she has decided on a double major. “I hope to find the root cause of poverty and ways to eradicate it.”

For hobbies, Humaira reads about international events in newspapers, reads Dickens and Dickinson, writes, plays tennis and bakes.

-Karen Brobst



Amanda Nichole Beltzer

Amanda Nichole Beltzer plans to continue her education by attending Excelsior College to study nursing. Amanda has a great desire to help those in need, especially the underserved and disadvantaged in her community. Amanda has always been homeschooled and has supplemented her American School education by earning college credits from FEMA’s emergency response exams as well as gaining college credit through several CLEP exams.

During her time as a high school student, Amanda volunteered over 600 hours for a variety of worthy organizations, including her church’s childcare services, a local food pantry, an assisted living facility and at Florida Hospital of East Orlando. She desires to continue helping her community through nursing. “Nursing has always been my passion, ever since I was a young child inspired by the stirring stories of Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton.”

Amanda loves to read and write. She especially enjoys writing poetry. The photography course at the American School has inspired Amanda to explore and study this art form in more detail. She dreams of “publishing my own book of poetry, which I will illustrate with photographs of my own creation.” Her favorite books include *Jane Eyre* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She also sings in her church choir and enjoys jogging.

-Annette Sullivan



Eleena Burns

Eleena Burns attends Brigham Young University-Idaho, where she will major in interior design. With her American School courses, Eleena has also been taking college classes, some by satellite through her high

school. These college classes, she says, have opened her world to many exciting new subjects (sociology, for example). She says that attending college has also allowed her to gain in self-knowledge and to “grow into the person that I want to be.” The benefit of a college education is not only financial, but “to make the world a better place by first becoming a better *you*.”

Coming from a large family of six children, Eleena says she has been influenced in her “journey to knowledge” by high-achieving older siblings, now college graduates. Her grandparents, too, have been a big influence. She learned about design from watching interior design programs on cable television. She also learned as much as she could in high school about design, with the long-term goal to work in residential design and “to turn houses into homes.”

Eleena enjoys reading (especially fiction), crocheting, singing, and playing board games. She credits her family with being her “greatest influence” and “the best examples” in her life.

-Karen Brobst



Leah Danielle Hall

Leah Hall is planning on using her award to attend either Arizona State University or the University of Arizona. She cites that commitment to strong academic programs as her reason for these choices. Leah is interested in law and

medicine. She states, “These two universities also have law schools that specialize in indigenous peoples’ law and policies. Their reputations and the programs that they offer make me confident that they are the best options for my education career goals.” In addition, she is also interested in a medical education.

Leah’s passion is to have the opportunity to assist the disadvantaged members of society. She completed two internships doing volunteer work in Qaxazo, Mexico last summer. She states, “My experiences working with impoverished people made me realize how much I want to use my education and career to continue this work. My Native American Heritage is important to me, and I would like to work to support Native American people as well as the indigenous populations of other countries,” she adds. “I hope to have the opportunity to combine my interests with my desire to work toward societal change.”

Leah does volunteer work with the Salvation Army and the local animal shelter, enjoys traveling, reading classical literature and historical books and hiking.

-Jeanette Griffin



Jonathan Edward Hollingsworth

Jonathan Hollingsworth is currently attending Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg, Virginia where he has earned an A average. He intends to specialize in psychology and stated,

“Helping people is what is most important to me, so I’ve been considering a career in the field of counseling.”

Upon completion of his associate’s degree, Jonathan plans to take a year off to pursue philanthropic causes and volunteer opportunities before transferring to Liberty University to complete his bachelor’s degree. “My philosophy is that people are more important than anything else on Earth,” Jonathan noted. In addition, he plans to further develop his website: chooseyourmissiontrip.org which aims to provide an inexpensive program that places volunteers in developing countries across the world.

Among his many activities, Jonathan has been a swimming instructor and deck manager, and for two years has been a youth leader and mentor in his church’s high school youth program. “The work is highly rewarding, as I am able to invest in the lives of my students by teaching them life skills.” Among his hobbies, he lists playing guitar, working out, and reading philosophy, spiritual living and classic literature.

-Dennis Peters



Kilean Scott Lucas

Kilean Lucas is attending Montana State University and feels it has the “atmosphere that is well rounded for my interests and studies.” He has always had a strong interest in science and science fiction and these interests have led to his

fascination with new and theoretical technologies.

Kilean is specializing in the study of chemical engineering and hopes “to further the research and study of nanotechnology so that one day we can improve our health and lives.” Kilean hopes to continue with his education with graduate studies in the field and work towards a Ph.D, stating, “While many might see this as a daunting road, I see it as an adventure of discovery.”

Among Kilean’s diverse reading interests, he lists books that focus on theoretical research and other scientific processes, reference books, mid-twentieth century science fiction, myths, legends, true adventures and westerns. “While reading engages my intellect, I also like to be physically active.” Kilean added, “I feel that being well rounded and energetic will aid in my endeavors of work and life, and all its uncertainties.” He enjoys being physically active and enjoys hiking, playing ice hockey, rock climbing, fly fishing, skiing, mountain biking, and whitewater rafting.

-Eve Tselepatiotis



Galen Lane Maret

Galen L. Maret has been homeschooled since kindergarten. He says, “I thrived academically in this fashion, maintaining good grades and finishing high school in a timely manner.”

From there, he has gone on to complete one year of college at Georgia Highlands College, where he made the Dean’s list in his first semester with a 4.0 GPA.

Galen plans on finishing one more year at Georgia Highlands College before transferring to Kennesaw State University. His plan is to major in mathematics and to minor in military science. He is a cadet Captain in the

Civil Air Patrol, and has held leadership roles in both his squadron and larger Civil Air Patrol activities. He has also earned the Mitchell and Earhart awards, as well as a commander’s commendation and two squadron cadet of the year awards. His goal is to become a career officer in the United States Air Force.

In addition to his academic accomplishments, Galen has also been active in his community. Along with his father and brother, he maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail. He enjoys reading military history, technical books, science fiction and includes among his hobbies model building and bass guitar.

-Dennis Peters



Brianna A. Metter

Brianna Metter is in the pre-vet program at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado, where she plans to specialize in cellular and molecular biology. She then plans to continue her veterinary training at Colorado State University in Fort

Collins, Colorado.

While Brianna loves animals, it was not simply a love of animals that led to her decision to become a veterinarian. “I became interested in animal science at a very young age because that was my father’s passion as well.” Witnessing a calf’s birth was a pivotal moment for Brianna at the tender age of five. It was then that she decided she wanted to work with animals.

Brianna’s goal led her to work at a veterinary clinic so she could get some experience. Although she mainly did cleaning jobs, later she was also trained as a veterinary technician. Brianna says of her training, “I learned how to give fluids, draw blood, flush wounds, run blood work, and many other things that would help me in the future. Even after all that I have seen, I have not changed my mind about working with animals.”

Brianna also enjoys spending time with her friends and family, listening to music, playing with her Wii, and reading fantasy, horror, and romance novels.

-Carole King



Jonathan L. Mosesman

Jonathan L. Mosesman has had an interest in music dating back to pre-elementary school days when he watched his older brothers and cousins playing piano and trumpet. Since starting piano lessons in first grade, he has learned to

play six instruments. This has led to his participation in many school band and piano competitions.

The award winning young musician has also participated in Cameron University jazz ensembles and as a non-compensated volunteer in a large church music program of 1800 people. As Jonathan says, "I love donating my playing time for functions that mean something to me and others."

As Jonathan has said about his work ethic, "I've always set high standards for myself. He has earned numerous band awards, including the All-OMEA Honor Band, January 2008 (10th grade). Jonathan has also earned many academic awards like the National Honor Roll (2006/2007).

Jonathan states, "Music is my life", and he will be studying music at the University of Oklahoma so he can "turn my passion for music into a career. I am excited about the opportunities to study composition and today's music technology also." Other than music, his hobbies include paint ball and cooking. He's worked doing office filing and he likes to read The Bible, fiction and history.

-John Skaro



Patrick A. Murphy

Patrick A. Murphy's interest in Civil Engineering can be traced back to his childhood. "Ever since I was little," he says, "I have enjoyed learning and discovering patterns, whether theoretical or physical in the world around me." As a

boy he would spend hours building things and figuring out how to make some design work.

Patrick is currently attending Montana State University in Bozeman where he is planning to major in Civil Engineering. He attributes a lot of his success to

American School's Comprehensive program which has taught him self-motivation, good study habits and how to strive to meet his academic goals. Patrick would like to use his knowledge to help people and the environment while enjoying his work.

Patrick is currently employed as a product demonstrator at Costco. He loves reading science fiction, other fiction and physics books. His hobbies also include biking, playing guitar and martial arts, which has studied for eight years.

Patrick likes to think of the world around him as "one big puzzle. There are pieces already discovered and other pieces that remain undiscovered. Finding out what those undiscovered pieces are and how best to put them to use is what I hope to accomplish in the future with my degree."

-John Skaro

Wendy Nicole Nace



Wendy Nace is in her second quarter toward achieving her Associate of Applied Science degree at Spokane Community College in Washington. She is specializing in Architectural Technology and planning to become a licensed architect. "I

would be proud to design a building that is both efficient and beautiful," Wendy explains. Her ultimate goal is to design a hospital.

Wendy discovered architecture during a trip to a bookstore with her cousins. Feeling bored and rambling down the clearance aisle, as she waited for her cousins to finish shopping, Wendy happened upon a book about modern architecture. She was no longer bored, but rather inspired. Reviewing this book, Wendy realized, "I had to build something like that someday." Wendy had begun summer 2010 with no plan for her future and ended it enrolled in a trial course at SCC's architectural program. "I haven't looked back since," Wendy says, "I LOVE IT!" Wendy is now one of just 25 students in the challenging Architectural Technology Program.

She enjoys helping other students with difficult topics. Wendy likes reading "allegories, especially, and things I can learn from." Wendy also enjoys swimming, snowboarding, drawing, and sewing.

-Nicole Nigh



Sarah Kathleen Peyton

Sarah K. Peyton is an excellent example of a dedicated student. Because American School students must study independently in a disciplined manner, Sarah has met the challenges through fortitude, determination and

high motivation. “Through hard work and dedication while completing my American School high school diploma, I maintained an overall “A” average. I was very devoted to maintaining high grades.”

Sarah plans on enrolling in Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She will be studying her favorite subject biology. Sarah adds, “While in middle school and high school, I was always intrigued by science and I excelled at it.” She is interested in helping others through sports medicine, nursing, or as an x-ray technician.

Sarah has many extracurricular interests, including swimming, jogging, art, music and dance. Also, she will soon earn her black belt in Taekwondo. Even though she prides herself in her athleticism, Sarah also enjoys exercising her mind by reading about science, fiction, and through art and drawing.

Sarah emphasizes family above everything else and is determined to make a better life for her family. She is the new mother of a baby daughter. “I am a very determined and tenacious young woman who wants to succeed in life and provide well for my family.”

-Sarah Hunter



Ebrahim Mohamed Siala

Ebrahim Mohamed Siala is a student at Linn-Benton Community College where he is studying psychology. “I plan on earning a degree in psychology with a minor in communications. I love seeing people happy so I thought,

‘Why not help people be happy?’ ” He is currently taking his core classes and will intertwine his program with courses in his major.

When Ebrahim was an American School student,

he had a very positive experience. “The tools granted to me from American School are priceless. I never really appreciated them until my entrance to college,” he noted and added, “Thank you for your kind feedback on the returned exams.” Ebrahim feels this educational foundation helped to get him on the way to what he hopes will be a fulfilling and bright career.

Ebrahim works in the Learning Center Computer Lab of his college where he provides assistance to other students with their computer needs. “I’ve realized that life isn’t about leading but rather being [led] in times of need and in return offering my expertise in other’s times of need as well.” He enjoys reading the lives of great historical figures as well as self help books. In addition to reading, Ebrahim enjoys drawing, writing poetry and meeting new people.

-Eve Tselepatiotis



Andrew Jameson Smith

Andrew J. Smith attends Idaho State University where he is studying physics and engineering, with a minor in music.

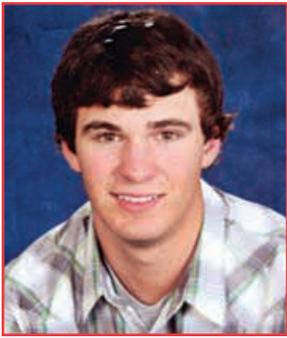
Andrew fondly recalls that his high school experience “was never something that

took place from nine to four on Monday through Friday.” Rather, he continues that it “was something that took place virtually all the time.” Andrew added that high school “was a series of daily interactions with friends and family members ranging in age from six months to 92 years.” Public school peers often asked him if it was boring being around old people. To this question, Andrew’s response was, among other things, that the “old people helped me learn firsthand about having your best buddy die next to you in a foxhole during World War II.”

Andrew is formally trained in acoustic and electric guitar. He is also self-taught in keyboards and bass. Andrew composes and records his music and plans to submit his CD to a record label for consideration.

Andrew likes to read science fiction, fantasy, and literature. His considerable work experience includes teaching guitar and working at a local graphics print shop. He plans a career as a performing musician and guitar teacher.

-Luke Zeheralis



Victor Raymond Ugalde

Victor Ugalde is currently pursuing a degree in Agriculture Economics and Agriculture Business at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He chose NMSU for its excellent agriculture program, and

having completed one semester, he plans to finish his education there.

Victor grew up on his family’s ranch in rural Nevada. The Nine Mile Ranch was established in 1907 by his Basque great grandparents, and is used to raise Angus cattle and alfalfa hay. Victor plans to return to Nevada to manage the ranch and eventually become the fourth

generation owner. He feels “it necessary to have a college education to compete in the complex changing world of agriculture. Ranchers and farmers are facing the challenges of climate change, energy shortages and ever-changing technology.”

A highly motivated student whose home is 75 miles away from the nearest high school, Victor credits the American School with allowing him to live and work at the family ranch while earning his high school diploma. He trains and shoes horses, and builds fences. In his spare time, he competes in team roping and calf roping for the NMSU rodeo team which is currently in first place in the Grand Canyon Rodeo Region. He likes basketball, and reading history and westerns.

-Kimball Wright

In addition to the outstanding alumni who are profiled in this issue of the *All American*, we know that there are many more American School students and graduates who are doing outstanding things. If you are an American School graduate, please contact our newly formed alumni group, Alumni Circle: alumni@americanschool.org. If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue of the *All American*, contact us at the postal or e-mail address provided below.

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