



All American Newsletter

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American School Holds 76th Annual Scholarship Meeting

The 18 individuals featured in this edition of the *All American* come from diverse backgrounds and hometowns, plan to attend different colleges and universities, and have different interests and career aspirations, but they all have one thing in common: earning an American School scholarship. Together, they add to American School's proud 76-year legacy of awarding scholarships to deserving graduates.

In total, 1,462 graduates have earned \$802,200 in scholarships since the program began in 1939. American School Trustee **John Kemp** (second from left) judged his first scholarship competition in 1974 and has been a fixture of the committee ever since. Joining him to pick this year's winners were School Consultant **Cher Tufly** (middle), like Kemp a permanent scholarship committee member, and guest member **Clay Petry** (second from right), Associate Executive Director of the National Council for Private School Accreditation. They are flanked in the photo below by American School President **Gary R. Masterton** and School Counselor **Amanda Giordano**.

Information on the 2015 scholarship competition will be sent to deserving applicants early next year. In the meantime, take a look inside and enjoy profiles of this year's scholarship recipients.



Thomas Burton
Deauville, France



Henry Buresh Alumni Award winner **Thomas Burton** is a bright star among recent American School graduates. Having earned his diploma at age 14, Thomas lists M.I.T., Georgetown, Loyola University Chicago, Boston College and Saint Louis University as universities at which he may study aerospace engineering, a field which has interested him nearly his entire life.

"From a young age, I have been fascinated by space and would gaze at starry nights for hours trying to recognize the different constellations," Thomas writes. "I am constantly in awe at what astronauts accomplish, whether it's Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon or Expedition 38 urgent International Space Station repair on Christmas Eve."

Seeing earth from outer space would give Thomas a different view of the world, though he has already experienced our planet from different vantage points. While an American School student, he lived in Cambridge, United Kingdom, where he attended every Cambridge Science Fair and became interested in how robots work. He now lives in Deauville, France, where he is taking one of Harvard's computer science courses. His other interests include playing chess, reading classic novels, playing the clarinet and piano, and participating in athletic events such as tennis, golf and rugby.



R.T. Miller Founders Award winner's profile removed per request of recipient.



Brittany Wardrip
Beaverton, Oregon



W.L. Wright Presidents Award winner **Brittany Wardrip** has designs on a bright future. She is currently majoring in computer information systems at Portland Community College, where she plans to earn her Associate's degree.

"Computers and technology has been a passion of mine since a young age, an interest I have wanted to build a career upon," Brittany writes. "Through my technical exploration also came my skill as a graphics designer in which I am entirely self-taught with experience expanding over the course of nearly a decade now. Technology has enabled me to see a side of life that is filled with excitement and limitless boundaries for potential. I have a goal and it will take years, patience and dedication to achieve, but I am prepared to face the challenges that I will encounter during my college journey."

Brittany is considering expanding her boundaries even farther by continuing her college journey at the University of Hawaii. While in the continental United States, however, she enjoys participating in local film projects with fellow college students and works two part-time jobs, the first as a self-employed graphics designer and the second as a cashier and customer service representative at a local store.

Taqwa Abuagla
Fort Washington, Maryland

Taqwa Abugala has always envisioned herself having a career in the medical field, and she is turning that dream into a reality as a student at Northern Virginia Community College, where she is working toward her Associate's Degree in Science. She then plans to apply to Johns Hopkins' School of Medicine, where she would major in neuroscience with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience. Her specific interests include neuronal bases of behavior, memory and cognition and their impact on disease and treatment.

"Despite the grueling journey I know lies ahead, I feel confident in my abilities. I credit American School for instilling this confidence in me, and I know that the strong foundation it has provided me with, I would not have received elsewhere," Taqwa writes. "Not only did the curriculum invigorate my mind and expand my knowledge, it has also taught me discipline, time management, self-motivation, and most importantly, hard work and the personal satisfaction that comes with it."

Outside of her studies, Taqwa gets satisfaction from volunteering at a nursing home and working with Project Downtown DC, a program that provides lunches for the homeless. She also enjoys reading, writing, baking, and sports such as gymnastics and soccer.



Michelle Ahn
Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey



Michelle Ahn has always loved stories from fairy tales to literary classics to movies, so it may come as no surprise that she is interested in a career that involves storytelling, specifically filmmaking. She is currently studying film and TV production at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, one of the most widely recognized film schools in the world.

"I never considered a career in storytelling until sophomore year in high school when I realized the power storytelling beheld and its influence. I believe that storytelling through contemporary media such as films is the most effective medium in delivering a message," Michelle writes, adding that she wants to tell "stories inspired by other people, stories addressing social issues, and stories that touch people's hearts, and to act as a bridge between a person and his/her message to the world."

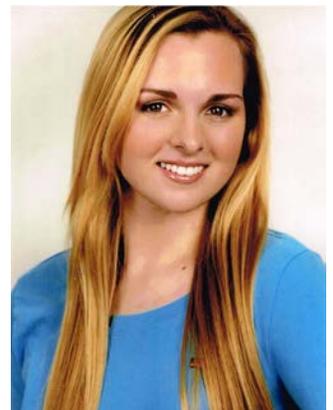
Michelle hopes to tell stories good enough that she becomes the first Asian-American female Academy Award winning director, but before she directs her first feature film, she keeps busy by playing the violin, cooking, updating a food traveling blog, becoming more acquainted with her Korean heritage, and working with The Supply, an organization that promotes education in third-world countries.

Kayleigh Briscoe
Douglas, Alabama

Kayleigh Briscoe once attended a school where athletics were considered more important than academics. As someone who loves learning, reading, researching and problem solving, she found the American School to be a much better fit.

"Few teachers and classmates comprehended that some of us held a strong desire to acquire a quality education and prepare ourselves for college instead of striving for glory on the playing field," Kayleigh writes. "Being enrolled in a nontraditional course of study gave me ample time to pursue outside interests too."

Those outside interests include spending time with the elderly, caring for animals, working at a local gym, and pleasurable activities such as singing, acting, gardening and crocheting. She'll be able to continue doing most, if not all, those activities since she is attending college close to home at Snead State College. At her previous high school, she was part of Snead's TRIO, a program which prepares first generation college students for success at the post-secondary level and allowed Kayleigh to travel for the first time, seeing places she had only read about before. Although she is undecided on a college major, Kayleigh does have an interest in becoming a dermatologist.



Alexander Gamelin
Silver Spring, Maryland



Alexander Gamelin describes himself simply as a figure skater with an Olympic dream. He and his sister Danielle are the first and only twin ice dance team in the world. They've medaled at the U.S. Sectional Championships, qualified for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships for eight consecutive seasons and, as members of Team USA, represent the United States in international competition. They are also the only two-time recipients of the Haley Rose Gans Award for Artistry and Performance.

"As a competitive figure skater, I've had the opportunity to travel internationally where I've found my love for places and cultures different from my own," Alexander writes. "I was born with a love for words, and that love evolved into a passion for linguistics and foreign languages. Learning foreign languages excites and comes easily to me."

After attending Montgomery College and perhaps transferring to the University of Maryland to study linguistics, foreign language and international studies, Alexander plans to pursue a career in international law and diplomacy and may even be interested in working with the International Skating Union or as President of the International Olympic Committee. Off the ice, Alexander enjoys ballroom and hip-hop dancing, visiting museums, and volunteering with the Ice Theatre of New York's educational outreach program.



Danielle Gamelin
Silver Spring, Maryland

Danielle Gamelin shares the Olympic dream of her brother, Alexander. They were born during an icy blizzard and have wanted to become Olympic ice dancers since they were 3 years old and watching the World Figure Skating Championships. Together they have competed around the world and at home, where Danielle teamed with Alexander to win a gold medal at the 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in spite of a fractured pelvis. Their performance inspired the New York State Senate and Assembly to formally recognize the pair with a resolution praising their dedication and work ethic.

"I will devote 30 hours a week or more to athletic training for the next eight years toward my Olympic goals," Danielle writes. "It will then be time to move on to reach other goals. I plan to earn a degree with a combined major in sports management and sports science. My aim is to help other aspiring athletes to achieve their goals."

Danielle will get started on her post-Olympic goals by attending Montgomery College and perhaps transferring to the University of Maryland, both of which are close to her training location. Off the ice, Danielle enjoys photography, hiking, poetry, marksmanship and volunteering with the Ice Theatre of New York's educational outreach program.



Afsaneh Golban
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Afsaneh Golban is a native of Iran who has lived in the United States since 1999. As a wife and mother, she never had a chance to attend high school in Iran, and without American School, she would not have had the chance to attend Montgomery College, where she is studying to become a physician's assistant or registered nurse.

"Thanks to American School for having a reasonable tuition, outstanding student service and credibility which helped me to get my diploma while I was raising my two boys," Afsaneh writes. "I worked so hard to get my high school diploma because my English wasn't as good as Americans' and I had never dealt with any high school subject before even in my native language, Farsi, but I graduated from American School with a good academic record."

After she completes her studies at Montgomery College, Afsaneh is interested in continuing her education at George Washington University, whose physician assistant program is consistently rated among the best in the nation. Outside the classroom, she enjoys exercising, spending time with her husband and children and volunteering with various groups in and around her local community.

Macie Guthrie
Saginaw, Texas

Macie Guthrie's family raised her on three rules: to love God, love your neighbor, and get the best education possible. She is grateful for the education she received at American School and now at BYU-Idaho, where she is studying biochemistry in hopes of becoming an international pediatric neurosurgeon who can bring relief to children in impoverished areas.

"American School allowed for miracles to transpire in my life and greatly aided in sculpting me into who I am today," Macie writes. "I experienced two major medical traumas throughout high school and thanks to American School I was able to stay on track and get into the university of my dreams. Both times I was appreciative for the flexibility of American School as I overcome insurmountable ailments."

Now healthy herself, Macie is helping others lead better lives. She collected humanitarian aid items for a local women's shelter, started a neighborhood garden, organized clothing and teddy bear drives, and cleaned debris after Hurricane Sandy. When she is not busy with charitable endeavors, Macie enjoys a ballet, quilting, stamp collecting and serving as youth committee chairman for the Fort Worth Numismatic Club with her fellow coin collectors.



Savannah Guyton
Paris, Kentucky



Savannah Guyton is building a solid future for herself by attending Bluegrass Community and Technical College, where she plans to work toward a degree in Construction Technology. Currently she is working part-time for a general contracting business, where she has experienced firsthand what it's like to be a project manager for a construction company. As an American School graduate, she knows what it's like to be a project manager of sorts as she worked independently toward her accredited high school diploma.

"Ask anyone who is homeschooled and I'm sure he or she will tell you that teaching yourself is not easy," writes Savannah, who endured negative feedback from friends and teachers after deciding to homeschool in 7th grade. "At times, I would work from morning till night trying to teach myself a concept and most importantly understand it. Nevertheless, the courses offered by American School and the helpful comments and advice from instructors prepared me to plan for my future and make successful decisions. In the end, homeschooling has been the best thing for me, and I am a much better person for it."

In her free time, Savannah enjoys volunteering, working on church projects, running, and kayaking.



Miriam Liske-Doorandish
Eggleston, Virginia

Miriam Liske-Doorandish is hitting all the high notes as an accomplished cellist and student at the Royal College of Music in London, England. The Virginia native's mother is a cellist and teacher, so music has always been a part of her life. As she has grown, Miriam has collaborated with musicians from all over the world and has discovered how music can bring together people from various cultures and backgrounds, including at her current school, which she chose to attend despite an offer from the prestigious University of Cambridge.

"Coming to study in the UK has been the right choice for me developmentally, and my freshman year so far has been incredibly formative and valuable," Miriam writes. "I have benefitted from the highest level teaching, a world-class musical environment, the rewards of a highly international student population and incredible opportunities for performance, research and collaborative engagement."

Miriam wishes to continue to grow as a musician and give performances all over the world, even for people who have never heard classical music before. She has already organized and participated in benefit concerts and has helped coach younger musicians. Her other interests include philosophy, renewable architecture and non-violent communication.



Maria Lugo
Downers Grove, Illinois



Maria Lugo's crowning career achievement would be as a bilingual dentist who can help make people smile. The daughter of an English-speaking mother and a Spanish-speaking father first got the idea when she had braces, and now she is sinking her teeth into classes at the College of DuPage to help her reach that goal.

"Dentists are responsible, well-respected and inspiring," Maria writes. "I could have my own dental office with my own hours and be as creative as I want in my workplace. Many people don't realize that dentistry is an art. I would be able to sculpt and craft the perfect creation for someone's mouth. Dentists hold the ability to change a person's life."

Maria knows that attending dental school could be a difficult journey at times, but once she has completed her studies, she plans on sharing her story with her patients so that they can follow through on their dreams. When she is not busy studying, Maria enjoys softball, golf, singing and playing the piano. She was also an engineering mentor for middle school students and created a visual poster for a nanotechnology presentation at Northwestern University.



Spencer Osburn
Las Vegas, Nevada

Spencer Osburn left his public high school for medical reasons during his freshman year and found American School beneficial in a number of ways. Currently he's continuing his education at BYU-Idaho, where he is studying business with an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

"My favorite American School classes were the English classes. They exposed me to works and authors that I enjoy today and developed my writing skills in a way that has really prepared me for college," Spencer writes. "Another benefit that I gained was the ability to manage my time. The free structure of American School forced me to set goals and develop study habits that have been invaluable. At BYU-Idaho, most of the freshmen around me have struggled with self-management. I feel lucky to have worked these things out."

Spencer's management skills which once allowed him to be accepted at every college to which he applied now allow him to maintain a busy schedule that includes being an Eagle Scout, performing as a violinist in the university orchestra, being the only freshman in an improvisational comedy group, and participating in an educational outreach program in Ghana. Eventually, Spencer would like to be an attorney whose focus is intellectual property rights.



Bethany Rauscher
Milton, North Carolina



Bethany Rauscher exercised her freedom of college choice to attend Liberty University, where she is studying to become a registered nurse. To that end, she is working weekends at a pediatric clinic while maintaining her regular courseload during the week and working as a student supervisor in Liberty's nursing lab, where she organizes medical simulation equipment and implements skill remediation when needed. She is also a member of two student nursing associations.

"I love nursing school and all the wonderful experiences I have had so far," Bethany writes. "Although this program has been demanding and strenuous at times, it has also been an exceptionally rewarding and enlightening experience. It has allowed me to see firsthand what several different types of nursing are like, and it has also helped me to see areas in which I need to improve before I graduate and become a real nurse."

After graduation, Bethany's dream is to do missionary nurse work in Africa after first working stateside to gain experience. Her interests outside of the medical field include babysitting, photography, painting, hiking knitting, reading, writing poetry and volunteering at toy drives with members of her honor society.

Jacob Trapp
Plainfield, Illinois



Jacob Trapp's father gave him a piece of advice as he began his college journey: "Your success results from the sums of all your actions. Try to do what's right most of the time and you will succeed in life." Jacob carried those words with him and has lived by them as he studies political science and philosophy at Temple University in Philadelphia, which is quite a different setting than his suburban Chicago hometown.

"Issues like equality are concepts that only expand with new experience, which in my opinion is the most important aspect of college life," Jacob writes. "I've never been exposed to the kind of poverty faced by those in the ghettos of northern Philadelphia, on whose border my new home now lies. The struggle for survival in areas such as this too oftentimes leads to strife, but despite their sorrows, some of these people truly have brilliant things to say."

Jacob plans to use his education to promote equality and improve the overall quality of the human condition, perhaps as a lawyer, although he is unsure what specific field of law interests him the most. When he is not studying, Jacob enjoys activities such as writing, reading and playing football.



Caroline Ware
Rockford, Illinois

Caroline Ware is on a roll at Rock Valley College, where she is pursuing an associate's degree, but her education has had some rocky moments. Health issues forced her out of public school, but fortunately American School was there to pave the way to future success in the classroom.

"American School was a life saver as it taught me self-discipline and gave me a huge sense of accomplishment," Caroline writes. "A college education is incredibly important to me, and I have a strong hunger for knowledge. I hope that through transferring to Knox College after earning my associate's degree from Rock Valley, it will serve to fully enrich my learning experience and bring me closer to my academic and career goals."

At Knox, Caroline hopes to participate in one of the college's foreign language programs. She is interested in studying abroad in Japan or in a Spanish-speaking country and one day returning there to teach English to children. Outside of her academic responsibilities, Caroline works as a bookseller and has participating in school musicals, softball and scouting activities. She also enjoys playing musical instruments, traveling, baking, cooking, reading and biking.



Gemma Zahradka
St. Paul, Minnesota



Gemma Zahradka is digging her classes at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where she plans to major in archaeology. She enjoys the multidisciplinary aspect of her field, especially how it incorporates biology, geology and art, and looks forward to one day sharing her expertise with others, either by working in public education or at a museum.

"My more science-minded friends make it seem like all those different fields that are utilized in archaeology somehow make it more diluted, but I think that they make it stronger," Gemma writes. "Really cool things can be created when scientists from vastly different backgrounds come together to collaborate, and I think archaeology is a really exciting way for that sort of collaboration to happen."

Gemma is getting a head start on her archaeological career by working in her school's archaeology lab. You might find her cataloging old fragments of pottery, washing stone tools or looking at ancient seeds under microscopes. When Gemma is not busy with artifacts, she enjoys sculpting, fiber arts, hiking, karate and reading a variety of books and blogs so that she can learn as much as possible about the world around her.

Partial List of Colleges Which Admitted American School Students in 2014

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

Snead State Community College
University of South Alabama

Arizona

Arizona State University
Chandler-Gilbert Community College
Northern Arizona University
Pima Community College

California

Mira Costa Community College
University of California-San Diego
District of Columbia
Howard University

Florida

Rollins College

Georgia

Brenau University
Brown Mackie College
Kennesaw State University
South Georgia College
Southern Polytechnic State University
University of North Georgia

Idaho

Brigham Young University-Rexburg

Illinois

Columbia College Chicago
Eastern Illinois University
Governors State University
Illinois State University
Olivet Nazarene University
Robert Morris University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Southern Illinois University
University of Illinois-Chicago
University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign
Western Illinois University

Indiana

Indiana State University
Ivy Tech Community College
University of Evansville

Kansas

Barton Community College
Kansas State University
Mid American Nazarene University
University of Kansas
Washburn University

Kentucky

Northern Kentucky University
University of Kentucky

Louisiana

Loyola University New Orleans
McNeese State University

Maine

Unity College
University of Maine

Maryland

Montgomery College

Missouri

Kansas State Art Institute
Missouri State University
Truman State University
University of Missouri

Montana

Montana State University

New Hampshire

Colby-Sawyer College
Southern New Hampshire University

New York

Paul Smith's College
SUNY Fredonia

Ohio

Cincinnati State Technical and
Community College
Kent State University
Miami University
Ohio University
Otterbein University
University of Findlay

Pennsylvania

Westminster College

South Carolina

Art Institute of Charleston
University of South Carolina

South Dakota

Western Dakota Tech

Tennessee

Belmont University
Middle Tennessee State University

Texas

El Paso Community College

Utah

Brigham Young University

Vermont

Landmark College
University of Vermont

Virginia

John Tyler Community College
Liberty University

Washington

Renton Technical College
University of Washington

Wisconsin

Lakeshore Technical College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
University of Wisconsin-Waukesha

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