

MISSION REPORT 2013

ACHIEVE

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Annexstad
Family Foundation
SCHOLAR

ST. THOMAS



About the Annexstad Family

Losing parents to untimely deaths in their youth, both Al and Cathy Annexstad experienced the power of mentoring as their communities and their families rallied around them in their formative years. Al was raised by a loving single mother who deeply appreciated how caring adults in her community reached out to Al and his siblings to help guide them on the right path in life. Likewise, Cathy benefited immensely as a child from the encouragement and nurturing she received from family, friends, and neighbors following the untimely death of her mother. Indeed, Al and Cathy gained a deep, personal understanding and appreciation for how caring adults can impact a young person's life.

Sensing a special opportunity to help young people, Al and Cathy established the Annexstad Family Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to provide scholarships for deserving Little Brothers and Little Sisters who were mentored through Big Brothers Big Sisters, who have bright minds, big dreams and little means to make those dreams come true.

In 2012 the Foundation expanded upon the mission through the introduction of the *Leaders for Tomorrow* National Scholarship Program which is intensely focused upon helping build the nation's next generation of leaders.

The Annexstad family has created a lasting legacy that will significantly alter the lives of many young people.





The Annexstad Family Foundation SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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**Samantha Ross from Mississippi State University is not pictured*

flip book over for:

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Board of Directors

Al Annexstad – President/Co-Founder
Cathy Annexstad – Vice President/Co-Founder
Tom Annexstad – Vice President/Director of Development
Patti Marinovich – Secretary/Treasurer
Shane Annexstad – Director

Morgan Marinovich – Director
Mackenzi Marinovich – Director
Kaci Annexstad – Director
Julie Rethemeier – Director
Dick Sherwood – Executive Director

2013 Graduates



Mohamed Ali Amiin

University of Minnesota
B. A. Biology, Society and Environment



Cameron Cochran

University of St. Thomas
B. S. Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Electrical Engineering



Brianna Gee

Winona State University
B. S. Human Resource Management
Minor: Business Administration



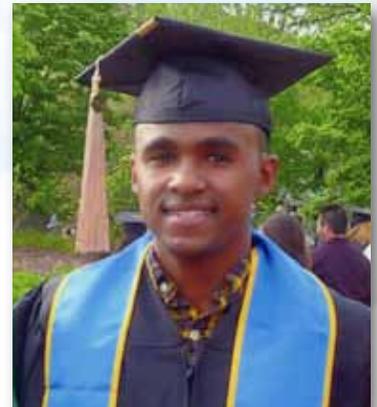
Sonya Hernandez

Winona State University
B. A. Mass Communications
Emphasis: Public Relations
Minor: Sustainability



Tierra Howard

University of Minnesota
B. S. Youth Studies



Gary Hunt

University of Notre Dame
B. S. Information Technology
Management



Nick Nelson

North Dakota State University
B. S. Marketing



Jesse Newell

Gustavus Adolphus College
B. A. Athletic Training



Christina Shelley

Indiana University Bloomington
B. A. Political Science and English
Minor: Journalism



Hayden Rodarte

Stanford University

B. A. International Relations

B. A. in Classics (Latin)

I am a graduate of Stanford University where I earned a degree in International Relations with a focus on Latin America and Classical Latin. Thanks in no small measure to the generosity and kindness of the Annexstad Family Foundation, I am the first in my family to earn a college degree.

Like many young people in this country, I was dealt a unique hand of cards. I was raised in a single parent household absent a father figure. My loving mother has struggled tirelessly every day of my life to make the best life possible for me. I do not come from a wealthy family. I did not live in an expensive home. I did not attend a private high school. Nevertheless, I am determined to succeed. With the help of my Stanford education, I will shatter the dissolving social mold that plagues the dreams of countless families. I will disprove the myth that fortune and connections are prerequisites to obtaining a superlative education and a quality life. Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad bolstered my belief, as the author Edith Wharton once said, that I alone have the privilege of creating the person I shall become.



Adam Vargas

University of Notre Dame

B. A. Psychology



Megan Welle

St. Olaf College

B. A. Philosophy

Bright Minds
Big Dreams



Past Graduates

2005

Amy Abrahamson

Gustavus Adolphus College

2006

Kelsey Feldman

Gustavus Adolphus College

2007

Amanda French

Gustavus Adolphus College

Louis Trejo

Gustavus Adolphus College

2008

Bridgette Hemmesch

University of Minnesota

Carrie Naber

Gustavus Adolphus College

Shawn Sanford

University of Notre Dame

2009

Brad Dingman

St. Cloud State University

Jacob Hemmesch

University of Minnesota

Kelly Roering

St. Cloud State University

Maureen Sullivan

University of Notre Dame

2010

Angie Foster

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Ryan Goman

St. Cloud State University

Stephany Hengel

College of Saint Benedict

Lisa Huynh

University of Notre Dame

Kady Johnson

Gustavus Adolphus College

Stephany Osuji

University of St. Thomas



2011

Courtney Bell

University of Minnesota

Serina Bellamy

University of Notre Dame

Nadvia Davis

Gustavus Adolphus College

Sherry Durrah

University of Minnesota

Zakiya Edwards

University of Minnesota

Alexander Grant

University of Minnesota

Krystal Kassahn

St. Cloud State University

Michael Kramer

Gustavus Adolphus College

Kimberly Long

University of Minnesota

Christine McDwayne

University of Notre Dame

Michelle Papadakis

St. Cloud State University

Timothy Stulken

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Melissa Swanson

St. Cloud State University

2012

Eldred Bach

University of Minnesota

Ashley Dubose

St. Catherine University

Veronica Dubose

Gustavus Adolphus College

Dionna Gary

University of Notre Dame

Oscar Gonzales

University of Notre Dame

Danielle Goodwin

Augsburg College

Leah Jacobson

Augsburg College

Paris Koehler

Southwest Minnesota State University

Michael Martin

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Tania Mathurin

University of Notre Dame

Lisa Paulson

University of Minnesota Duluth

Brendan Sjodin

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Tong Thao

Gustavus Adolphus College

Mindy Ung

Gustavus Adolphus College

Mitchell Welle

University of St. Thomas

57 Graduations Since 2005



Anthony Afful
Gustavus Adolphus College

Sierra Barger
Augsburg College

Amber Barnes
University of Notre Dame

Alex Berryman
University of St. Thomas

Skye Bonati
Crown College

Tiarra Buchanan
Minnesota State University,
Mankato

Devin Cazin
University of St. Thomas

Tasmine Clement
University of Notre Dame

Shanice Cox
University of Notre Dame

Ashley Dacy
University of Notre Dame

Shukri Diriye
Augsburg College

Jeffrey Dubose
Gustavus Adolphus College

Hope Feist
University of Notre Dame

Devon Fleck
St. John's University

Walter Franklin
University of St. Thomas

Andrew Fribush
University of Notre Dame

Donte Green
Gustavus Adolphus College

Alex Halvorson-Johnson
Gustavus Adolphus College

Ka'Necia Harpe
Spelman College

Amber Hettwer
Minnesota State University
Moorhead

Brandy Hill
University of Minnesota

Shalonda Hopkins
St. Catherine University

Roberta Howard
St. Catherine University

Gretchen Hughes
College of Saint Benedict

Jennifer Iglesias
University of Georgia

Gabriel Jacobs-Hurtubise
Augsburg College

Jamaica Johnson-Beaty
Augsburg College

Terrace Johnson
St. Cloud State University

Christina Kanz
Minnesota State University,
Mankato

Casey Knott
University of Minnesota

Lynn Koester
St. Cloud State University

Leif Lusty
University of Minnesota

Gutto Maskalo
St. Olaf College

Yolandis McCaskill
University of Notre Dame

ANNEXSTAD SCHOLARS

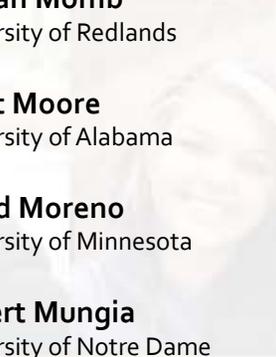




Tyler McMillan
University of Minnesota Duluth



Mariah Momb
University of Redlands



Trent Moore
University of Alabama



David Moreno
University of Minnesota



Robert Mungia
University of Notre Dame



Branden Nation
University of Minnesota Duluth



Ciara Newton
University of Minnesota



Jade Orlikowski
Winona State University



Eduardo Oronia
University of Notre Dame



Robert Ortega
University of Colorado Boulder



Kayla Othoudt
University of Minnesota



Mary Beth Papadakis
Minnesota State University,
Mankato



Jessica Parnow
University of Minnesota Duluth



Leon Perry
Southwest Minnesota
State University



Chelsey Peterson
Winona State University



Jenny Polinder
Minnesota State University,
Mankato



Juan Rangel
University of Notre Dame



Hayley Roger
University of Minnesota Duluth



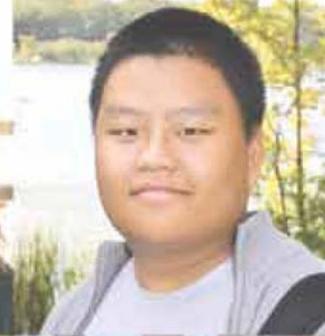
Andrez Rush
St. Catherine University



**Sienna
Santiago-Wiechmann**
St. Cloud State University



Lorin Schwieger
Minnesota State University,
Mankato



Travon Sellers
Minnesota State University,
Mankato



Jasmine Shortt
Spelman College



Kim Smith
University of Notre Dame



Lindsey Teigen
Concordia College



Roger Ung
Augsburg College



Isaac Wenzel
Winona State University

Chavonn Williams
Carleton College

Shanique Williams
Minnesota State University,
Mankato

Brittany Wilson
University of Georgia

Mao Xiong
University of Minnesota

Zang Xiong
Bethel University

Lee Yang
Augsburg College



Marcel Zeh
Morehouse College

Matt Zepeda
University of Notre Dame

on track to graduate

The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Big Brothers Big Sisters



It is our heartfelt desire to fulfill the educational dreams of deserving Littles through the opportunity to earn a college degree as free from debt as possible. Through conversations with our Annexstad scholars, we have been inspired by their determination to overcome the challenges and struggles they face, which often place an unfair burden upon their young lives. We have long believed that higher education can be a great equalizer in life by providing a path to opportunity. We feel truly blessed to work with such supportive college and university partners, Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies, and a talented, committed group of scholarship students who will one day make a big difference in this world!

Al and Cathy Annexstad



Big Brothers Big Sisters Scholarship Program

College and University Partners

Auburn University	North Dakota State University
Augsburg College	Saint John's University
Bemidji State University	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Bethel University	Southwest Minnesota State University
Boston College	Spelman College
Carleton College	Stanford University
Clark Atlanta University	St. Catherine University
College of Saint Benedict	St. Cloud State University
College of St. Scholastica	St. Olaf College
Concordia College	University of Alabama
Crown College	University of California, Berkeley
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Colorado Boulder
Gustavus Adolphus College	University of Georgia
Hamline University	University of Minnesota
Hampton University	University of Minnesota, Crookston
Harvard University	University of Minnesota Duluth
Indiana University Bloomington	University of Minnesota, Morris
Loyola Marymount University	University of Notre Dame
Luther College	University of Redlands
Minnesota State University, Mankato	University of St. Thomas
Minnesota State University Moorhead	University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
Mississippi State University	University of Wisconsin–Madison
Morehouse College	University of Wisconsin–Whitewater
New York University	Valdosta State University
	Winona State University



Ella Turner

Communications

I'm so blessed to be part of this scholarship program. I love this campus. It feels like home. I want to work in the entertainment industry and pair what I'm learning with the skills I already have.



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY



Crystal Trevino

Social Work

I hope to become a social worker and an immigration lawyer. By receiving this scholarship, my dreams can come true! The Annexstad family believes in me. They are the hope and inspiration I need to succeed.

**AUGSBURG
COLLEGE**

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

*Campus is amazing and
full of wonderful people.
This scholarship is a huge
blessing! There is no way I
would be able to afford
to attend school
without it.*



Tyler Barthel
Youth Ministry/Psychology

*My Big Sister Deirdre
taught me about core
values and staying true
to who you are, but most
importantly, she instilled
the notion that education
matters. Now, I holistically
strive to achieve such
notions in order to one
day live out my dreams
of being a lawyer
and/or judge.*

Hailey Coller

Business/Spanish



Elizabeth Spaulding

Art, Philosophy



I want to live life to the fullest and not waste anything. I want to feel like I've done something of purpose. This scholarship means education and opportunity. It is the only way I can be at Gustavus.

GUSTAVUS 
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

MSU Moorhead is a good fit for me. I wouldn't be able to go to college, or pursue this major, without the scholarship. Being at college is helping me become more confident.



Kianna Hillier
Art





Adam Al-Hammad

Business Marketing

This scholarship has given me the motivation to succeed. Since the Annexstads have made an investment in me, I know I need to pay them back by making something of myself.

NDSU

Samm Nelsonson

Social Work

This scholarship means everything to me! I want to be a social worker. I have the ability and smarts to make something of my life and this scholarship is affording me the opportunity.



NDSU

Duncan Swanson

Mechanical Engineering



I want to create change in the world and this scholarship is allowing me to do that. I'm also going to graduate from college debt free. Thank you!

NDSU

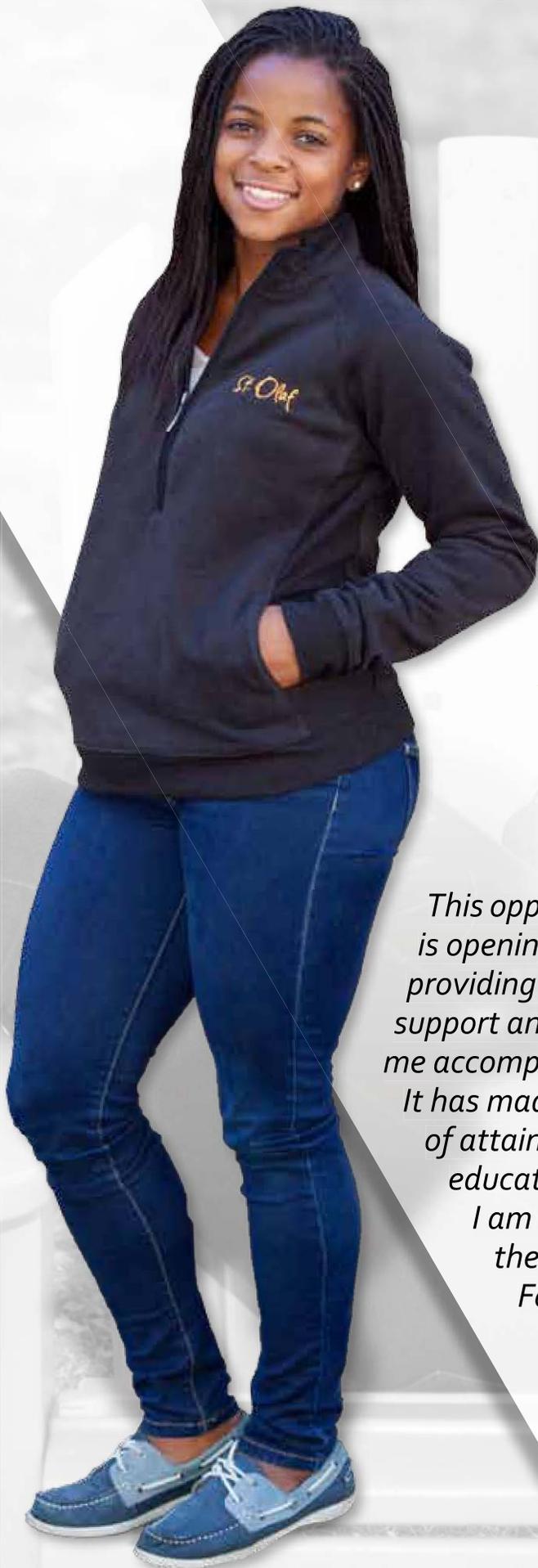
I want to become an athletic trainer in the NFL. This scholarship means the world to me. It will help me achieve my dreams.

Terrence Ellis

Nutrition

 Saint John's
UNIVERSITY





Physics

Mariah Dubose

This opportunity is opening doors, providing so much support and helping me accomplish my goals. It has made my dream of attaining a college education come true. I am so thankful for the Annexstad Family Foundation, a blessing that I hope to be able to return someday.



Courtney Britton

English

This scholarship is my world. It is allowing me to attend my dream school. Once I was accepted, I had to figure out how to pay for a Spelman College education. Then I learned I had received the Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. It was truly a blessing!



Spelman College

A Choice to Change the World



Nathaniel Trainer-Sample

Undecided

My Big Brother Matt was a great role model for me. We went to a lot of sporting events together. I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship. It's hard to imagine being in college if it weren't for this scholarship.



My grandma always pushed me. She believed in me and told me I can go further in life. I want to be a nurse and help others. I truly appreciate the opportunity this scholarship has afforded me. This program is so special and unique.

Nursing
Tiffany Hill





UNIVERSITY OF
Redlands

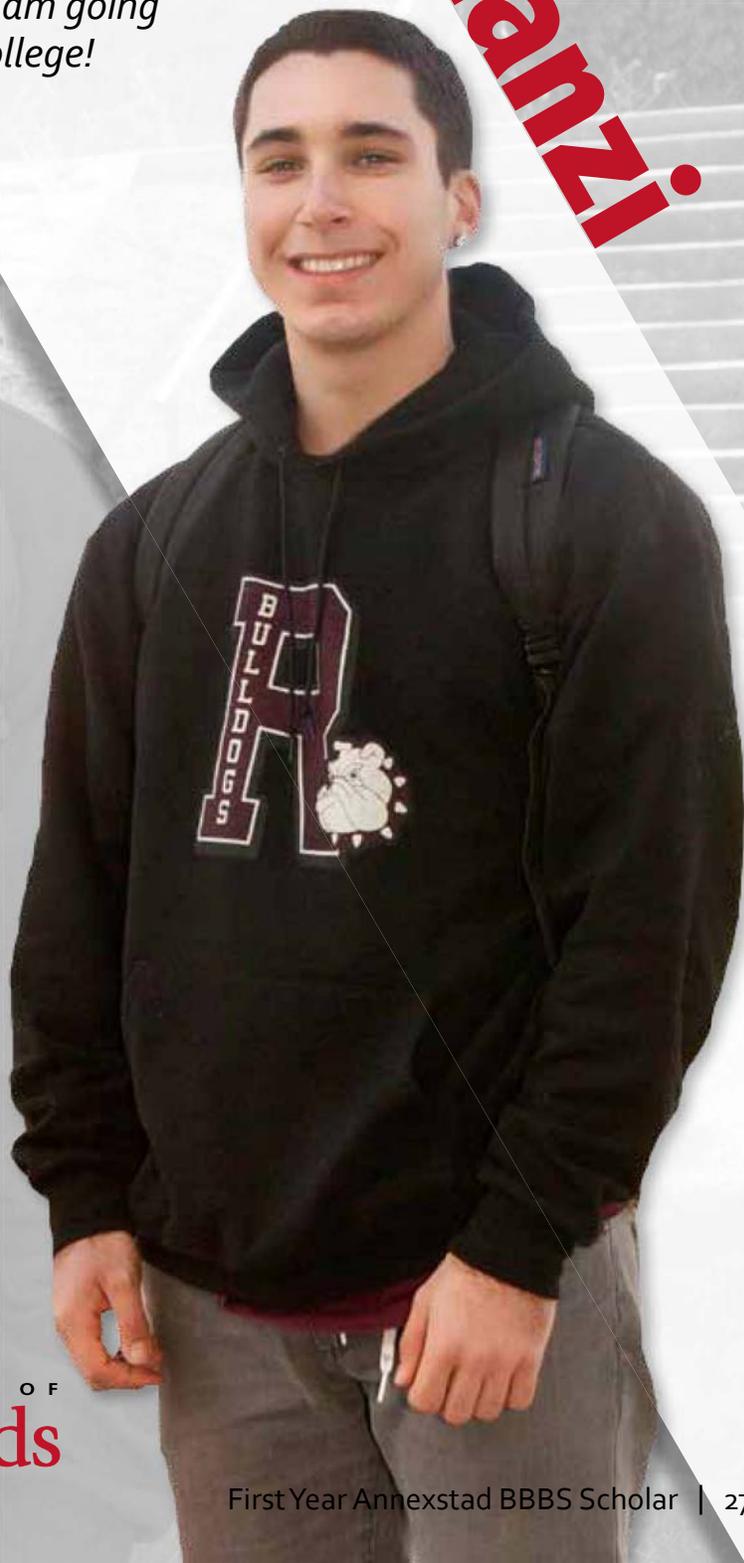
The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship is giving me the opportunity to gain new experiences through my education, which will allow me to go further in life. The University of Redlands is a perfect fit for me. I am hoping to find a great career, not just a job.



Elena Arellan
International Relations

*I was so crazy-super
excited when I found out
I received the scholarship!
My Big Brother helped
instill in me the idea of
getting good grades. I
started doing better in
school because I didn't
want to let him down.
Now I am going
to college!*

Paul Manzi
Pre-Med



UNIVERSITY OF
Redlands



Pre-Pharmacy

Kenzi Coborn

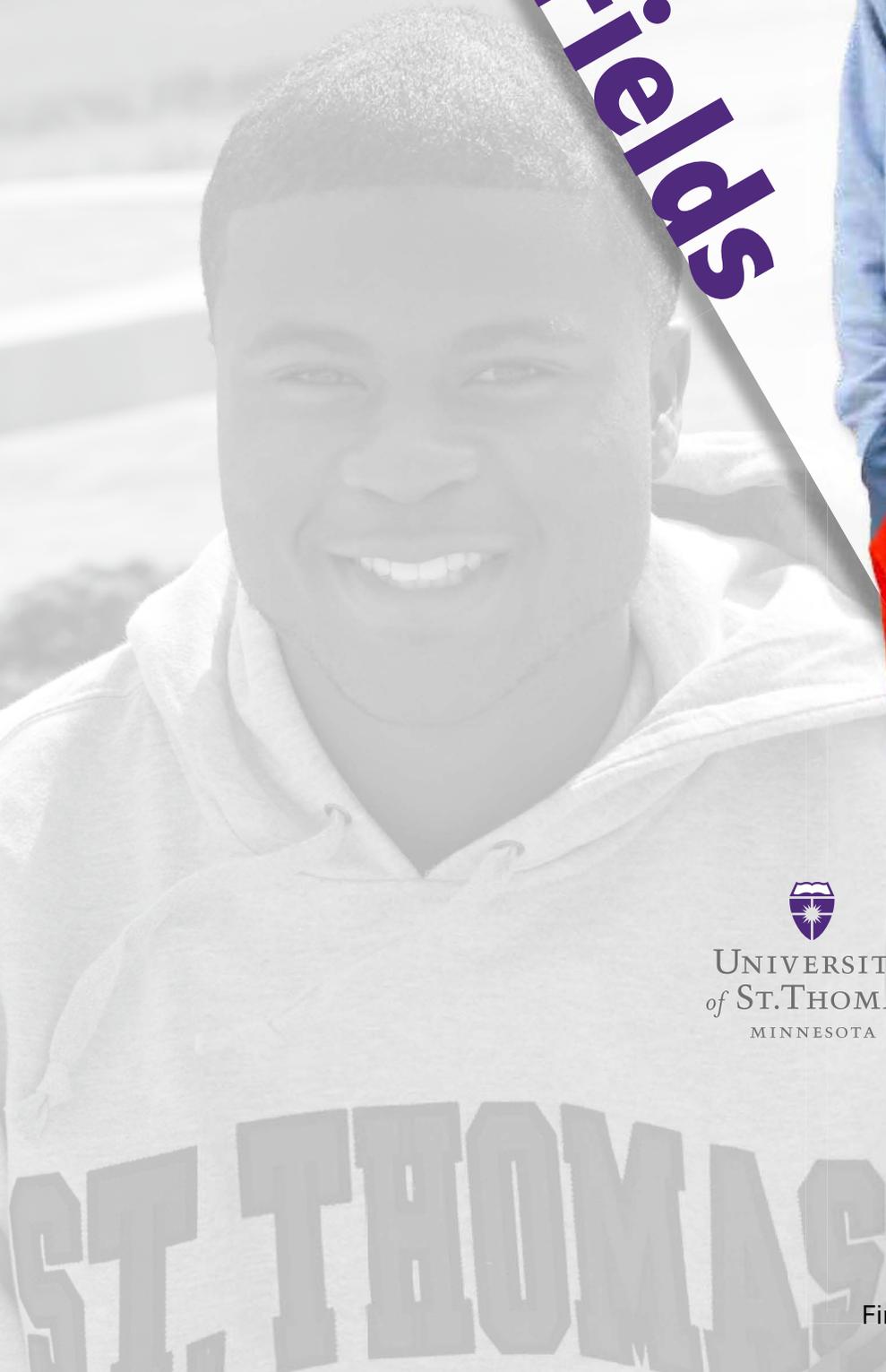


UNIVERSITY
of ST. THOMAS
MINNESOTA

I want to develop my business of donating JOY Blankets to local hospitals. I'm so thrilled the Annexstad Family Foundation made an investment in the person I am going to become. I hope to do the same for others one day.

Marketing **Shaye Fields**

The scholarship opened my eyes. I have an opportunity most kids don't have. I know I will become a better person because of this opportunity.



UNIVERSITY
of ST. THOMAS
MINNESOTA



UNIVERSITY
of ST. THOMAS
MINNESOTA



Carissima Franklin

Elementary Education

Thank you so much for investing in my education. The Annexstad Family Foundation scholarship made it possible for me to attend the University of St. Thomas. Some day I want to give back by helping underprivileged kids.

My dream is to have a financially stable home. It is crazy to think about how much this scholarship is helping me achieve my goals. It motivates me to stay on track.

Max O'Brien

Athletic Training



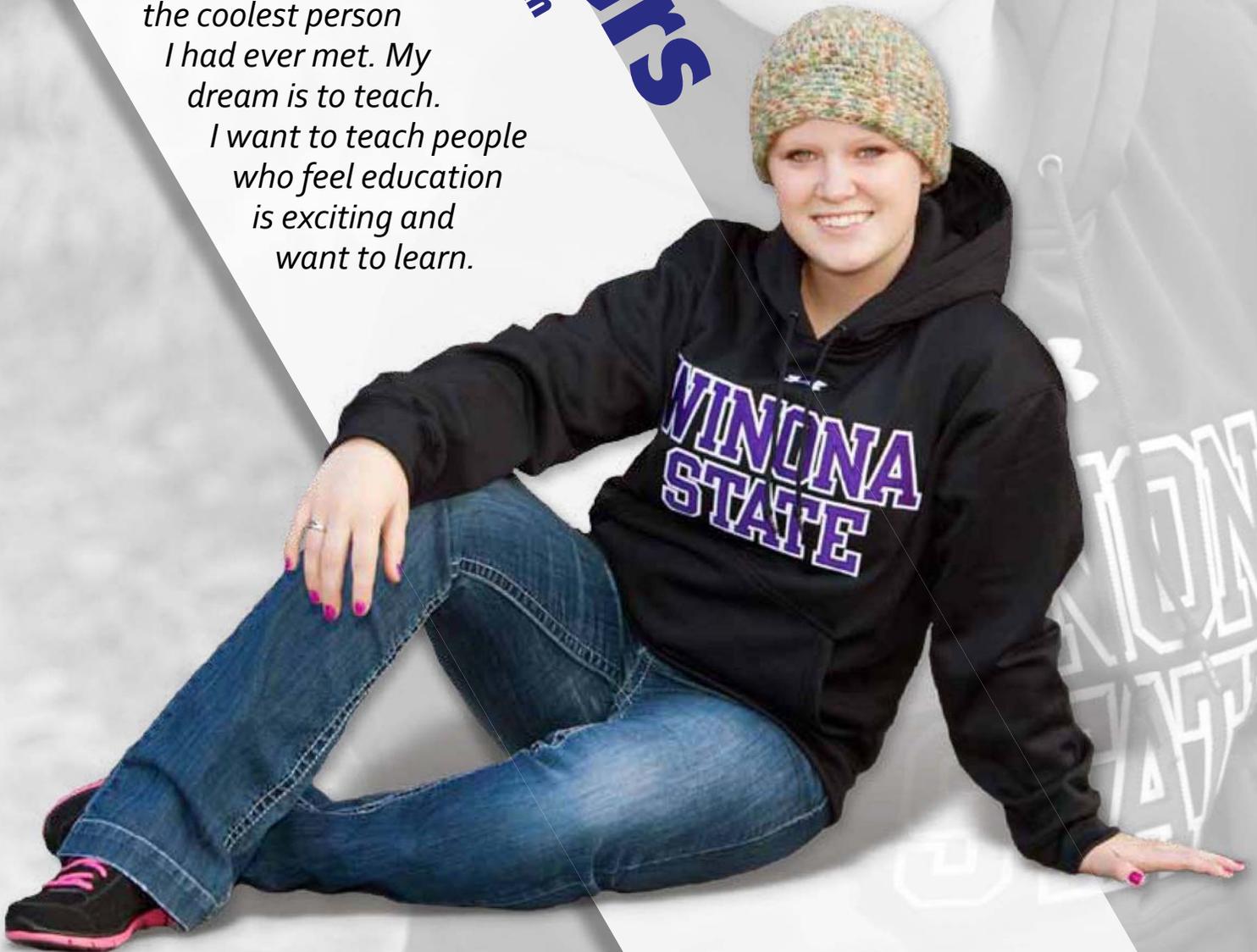
WINONA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Desiree Peters

Elementary Education/Secondary Math

WINONA
STATE UNIVERSITY

*My Big Sister Liane
was my idol! She was
the coolest person
I had ever met. My
dream is to teach.
I want to teach people
who feel education
is exciting and
want to learn.*





The Keeter family—Tim, Carmen, Ella, Gabe & Noah

In spite of her struggles, sadness, and pain, Ella grew into a wonderful young woman. She excelled in school, chose her friends wisely, stayed out of trouble, and was a blessing to everyone she met!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Annexstad,

February 25, 2013

I hope that it is ok to write to you and I don't mean to impose, but I just wanted to tell you how much your family has blessed us recently. One of your scholarship recipients (Ella Turner) is my niece. My husband, Tim, and I are not only Ella's Uncle and Aunt, but also her legal guardians. While I am certain that you are aware of Ella's story, I thought that I would take a moment to tell you a little more.

When Ella's mom and my sister, Carol, learned that she had cancer, the first thing that she said was "I don't want to leave my kids". I can still hear her voice as if it were yesterday! Her children were her first concern and although she planned to fight for her life, she wisely began to plan for their future without her. Ella has an older brother and sister who were both in college at the time and Ella was just eight years old. Ella's dad left my sister and the children when Ella was about five years old. He was an alcoholic and didn't see much of Ella. She loved her dad and missed him very much.

After her diagnosis, my sister asked us to consider taking care of Ella when the time came. There was no consideration necessary, as our answer was an immediate "yes". The road for Carol was a rough one with lots of chemo and radiation and "yes". The road for Carol was a rough one with lots of chemo and radiation and "yes". The road for Carol was a rough one with lots of chemo and radiation and "yes". Ella watched her mom as she struggled and as she lost her hair and sickness. She eventually watched her mom die. When my sister passed away (after a short four month battle), Ella came to live with us. She had to leave not only the only home she knew, but also her church, her friends, her grandmother, and her school. We took her from Georgia and moved her to Alabama where she went from being the youngest in her family to the oldest in ours.

Ella's first year with us was full of challenges (new school, new friends, new family, new house rules). She missed her mom and her home and everything about it. We took her back to Georgia as often as we could and made sure that she was able to see her brother and sister when they came home from college. We were on the road a lot, but it was worth every mile to bring some joy to that little girl! While Ella struggled on the inside, she was not one to show it on the outside. She remained strong and didn't want to let us in. She cried a lot at night when she thought we couldn't hear. I cannot even count the number of hours we spent on our knees crying out to the Lord for His healing and comfort for her.

To spite her struggles, sadness, and pain, Ella grew into a wonderful young woman. She excelled in school, chose her friends wisely, stayed out of trouble, and was a blessing to everyone she met! She is a little bottle of sunshine and an extremely bubbly girl, proving that great things do come in small packages! She is a joy to be around and a privilege to know. I am absolutely certain that my sister would be so very proud of the young woman that her little girl has become.

I'm sure you are wondering exactly why I am writing to you, so here it goes.... At the time of Carol's death, Tim and I had a four year old boy and a one year old boy and found ourselves (all of a sudden) with a little girl. Ella's dad signed away all of his rights

to Ella and did not contest our guardianship of her. Within a month or so after my sister's death, he moved to Ohio and we didn't hear much from him, until he almost died about a year ago due to cirrhosis of the liver. Before Ella moved in, Tim and I had started saving for our oldest son's college fund, but we knew that Ella, obviously, would go to college first, so we switched that money over to her name and began saving more aggressively. We knew that no matter what, we would take care of Ella and our boys and provide for her as my sister had asked. We knew that the Lord would provide for all of our needs and all of her needs. As of today (ten years after my sister's death), He continues to bless us and He has now provided for Ella through you and our foundation.

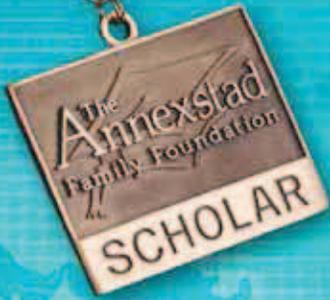
Ella worked very hard on scholarship applications and funded her entire first year of college with outside scholarships. As she began the process, I told her to share her story of triumph with others. She said that she did not want to "use her mom's death" to get money. I simply encouraged her to tell her story and she did. She deeply touched each and every one of those scholarship panels and she touched many other people through scholarship interviews and acceptance speeches. Again, my sister would have been proud of her little girl! We were so thankful for the financial burden lifted from our shoulders for that first year and we knew that God had already blessed us immensely and although the next year wouldn't be as easy, we knew that it would work out.

Then, we found out about you and the scholarship that you had provided and that you had chosen Ella to receive it. I must have cried for at least a couple of days! I am still crying even now as I write to you. You will honestly never know what a blessing that letter to say thank you. Thank you for your generosity, thank you for your kindness, thank you for your gift not only to Ella, but to our family. You are truly a blessing. Thank you also, for the time that you spent with her on campus. She really enjoyed meeting you and enjoyed the time spent with you. She also loved the exam care package that you sent. She sent us a picture of it and the letter attached. Again, your generosity warms my heart and again, you will never know what a blessing you are!

If you are ever in Huntsville, please let us know. We would love to meet you and thank you in person. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Carmen W. Keeter
Carmen Keeter



The Annexstad

Family Foundation
Leaders for Tomorrow
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

MISSION REPORT
2013



While the Foundation remains committed to our scholarship program for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the *Leaders for Tomorrow* national scholarship has a more far-reaching mission. Whereas the underlying focus in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program has been to help build productive citizens from the ranks of former Littles, in our national scholarship we have raised the bar. Partnering with a select group of America's most distinguished colleges and universities, the *Leaders for Tomorrow* scholarship program is intensely focused upon helping build the nation's next generation of *leaders*.

Indeed, some of America's most influential leaders have come from very humble and challenging beginnings. With a great measure of moral character, grit, and intelligence...with some help from others who saw their potential, and perhaps with a little luck, America has produced some extraordinary leaders who have made a huge difference in our country and the world. Sprinkled among the legions of our citizens are many such future leaders. The Annexstad Family Foundation is deeply grateful that these great colleges and universities have pledged to work with us to identify, educate, and nurture a special group of talented young people into tomorrow's leaders.

America has a lot of problems today...a lot of huge challenges that are going to require sustained thinking and energy and action in order for us to preserve a future for our grandkids and beyond...a lot of big problems that cannot be solved by politicians alone.

To keep America on top we need leaders in our free enterprise system who fully understand the emerging global economy and what America must do to compete and win. We need bold entrepreneurs, gifted scientists and engineers, the best financial minds and computer experts, visionary educators...people whose success will one day be measured not merely in personal terms, but in terms of how they have contributed to improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens.

In a word, America's future demands leadership.

*Al Annexstad
Founder*



The
Annexstad
Family Foundation
Leaders for Tomorrow
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE ANNEXSTAD FAMILY FOUNDATION
LEADERS FOR TOMORROW
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

BOSTON COLLEGE

DUKE UNIVERSITY

EMORY UNIVERSITY

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

SPELMAN COLLEGE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

YALE UNIVERSITY



LOU BARRY

UNDECIDED

BOSTON COLLEGE

After persevering through hardships while growing up in Harlem, I feel mentally prepared for any obstacle I could face in the future. Harlem's tough environment gave me a sense of strength and resiliency. I wish to one day give back to society and my country by going back to where it all started: the Harlem Children's Zone, a program dedicated to providing kids with the opportunity to receive a quality education.



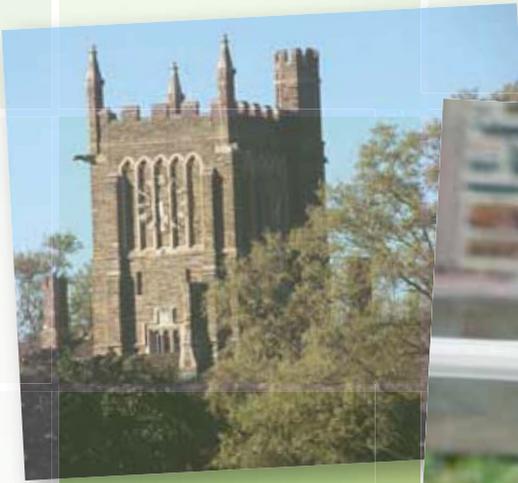
EDITH FUNES

HISTORY

The hardships I faced growing up motivated me to perform to the best of my abilities throughout my academic career. I am double majoring in history and government, and minoring in Spanish. My goal is to earn a law degree and work in Congress.

I have had people who encouraged and believed in me. Someday, I want to provide that same support to underrepresented students who aspire to succeed and continue their education by creating a nonprofit program that will guide, counsel, and help them achieve their dreams.

BOSTON COLLEGE

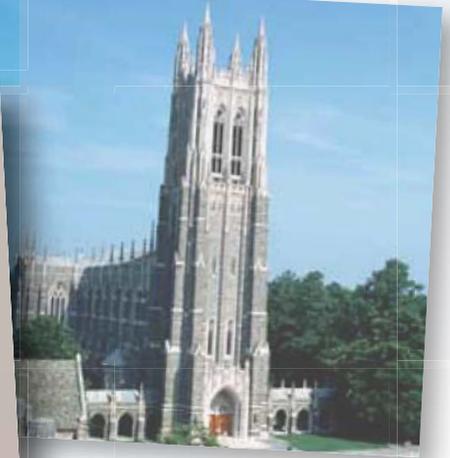


AMY CHENG

ECONOMICS / PHILOSOPHY



Living with multiple families in both the East and the West has given me different perspectives and a wider horizon when looking at the world. My dream is to give back to this world that has shaped me into the person I am today. This scholarship is a gift that provides me with the opportunity to receive higher education, which is the foundation for my vision.



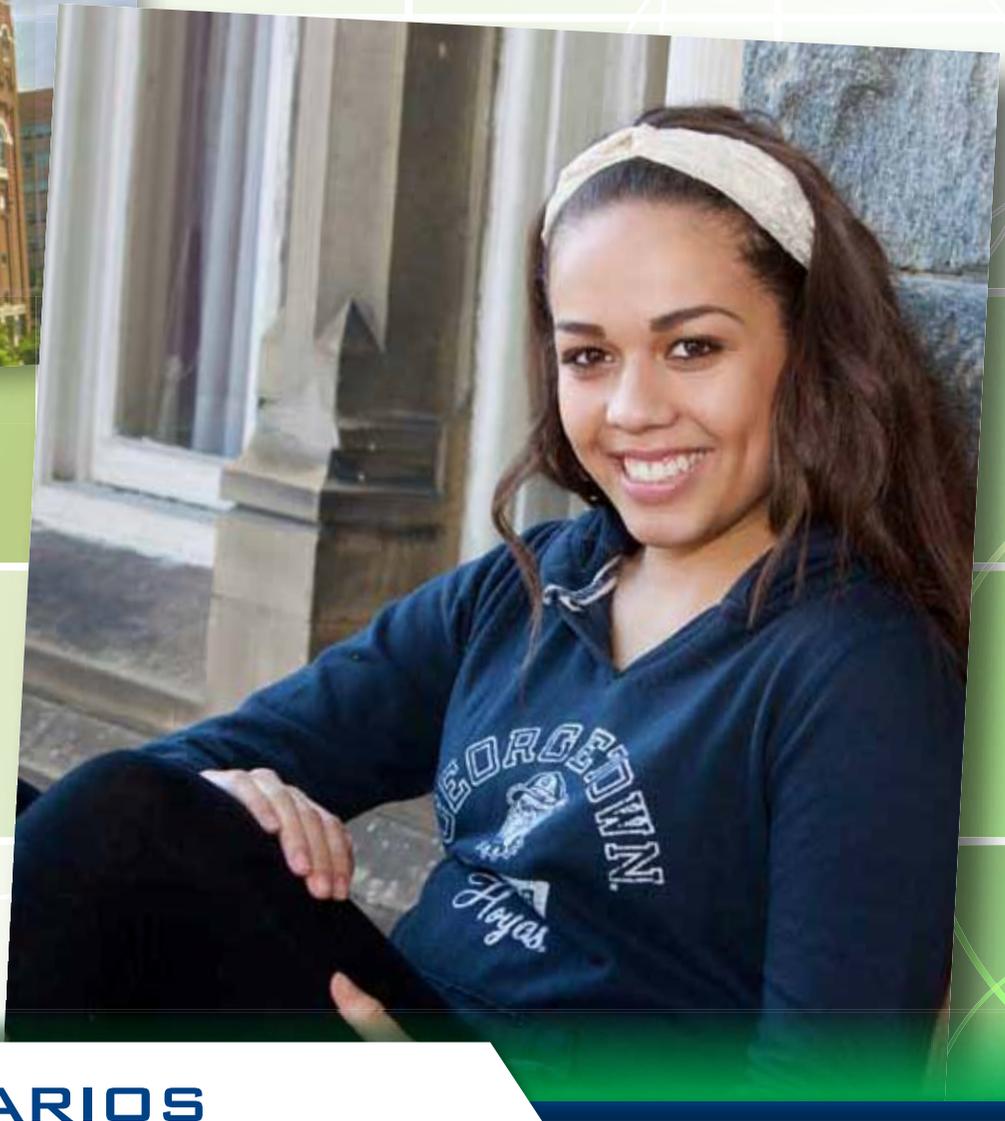
LAURA ARGUETA

UNDECIDED

Not only has this scholarship lessened the economic burden on my parents, it has assured me that hard work eventually reaps fruits of success. I hope to take advantage of the wonderful educational opportunities offered to me, so as to humbly fulfill the expectations of being identified as a “Leader for Tomorrow.” As the first person in my family to attend college, I realize the value of higher education. More so, as a native Spanish speaker, I can relate to the journey to reach English fluency. These experiences have shown me that I can pave a different path for myself, one that defies society’s negative stereotypes.

I am grateful for being selected as a scholarship recipient. Although undecided in regards to what I will major in, I am leaning towards public policy/humanities majors that will enable me to interact with people on a larger scale. Ultimately, I hope to pursue a career through which I can give back.

Duke
UNIVERSITY



KAREN LARIOS

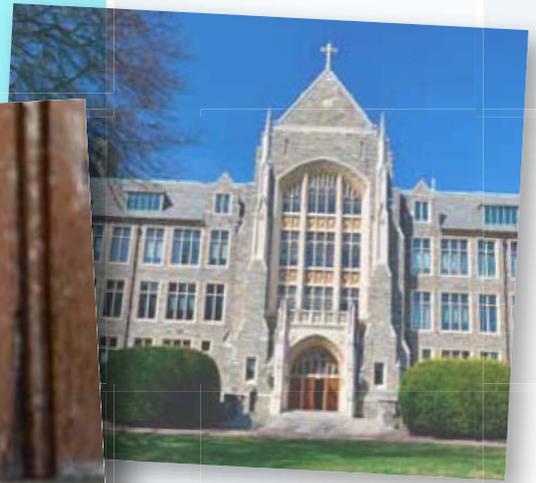
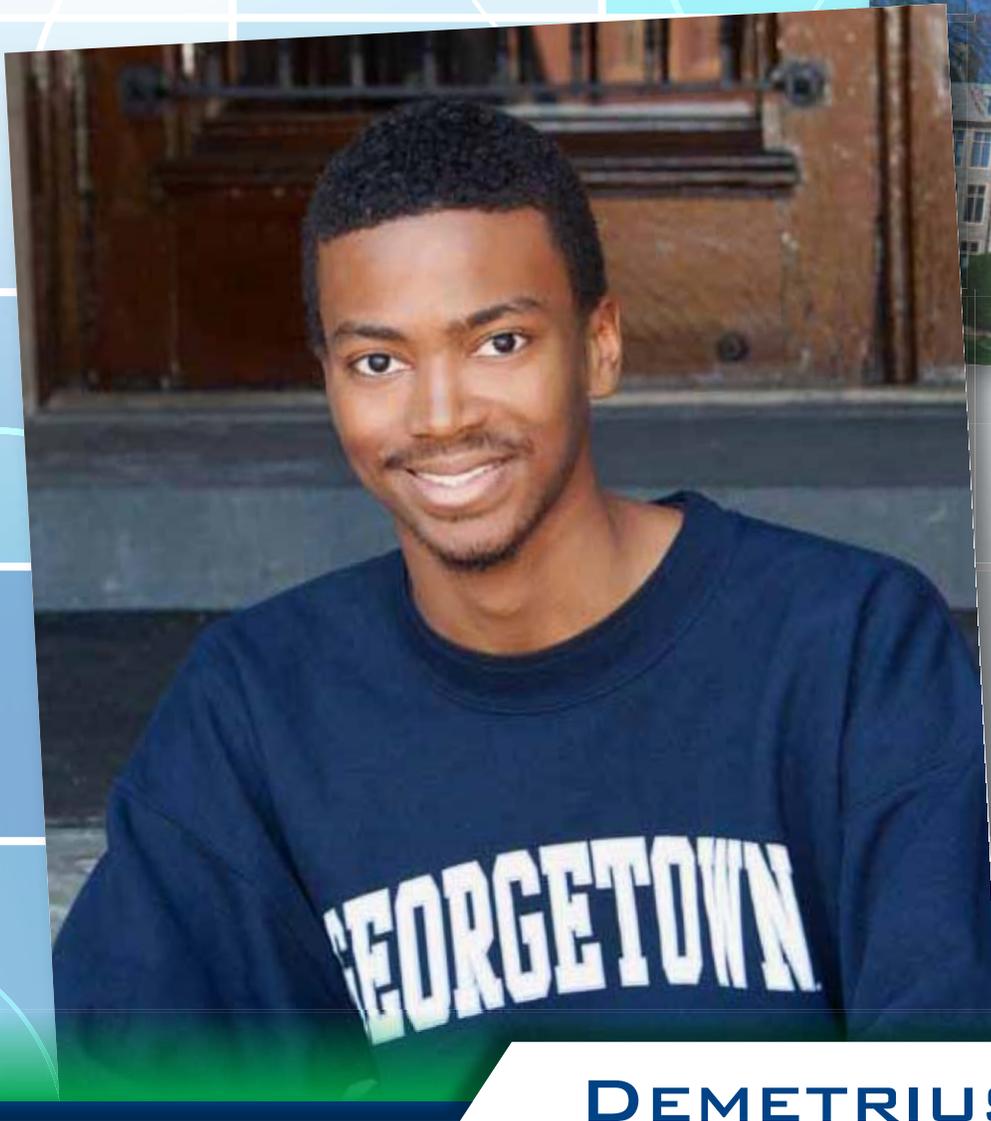
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Contrary to how it may seem, being a first generation Latina college student with no parents has been a blessing. If not for the hardships in my life, I would not be the person that I am today. Through all the adversity, I became a strong, kind, hardworking human being. Life has taught me to never give up on my dreams because, with determination, nothing is impossible.

I hope that my education helps me grow as student, person, and future professional. Furthermore, I aspire to be a role model for others, especially for kids who have grown up in disadvantaged communities. As a future business woman, I plan to advocate for poor communities and higher education.



DEMETRIUS COOPER

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Inspiration and action are the two most important factors in creating change. Political economy isn't necessarily a major that evokes inspiration and action but, for me, it is the first step in rebuilding and leading my city of Detroit back to prosperity. I want to be influential in the world and inspire others to follow their dreams.



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

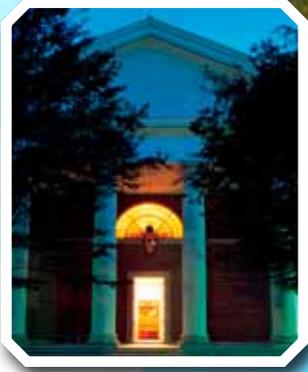


MELISSA BRUSCHI

CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING



You can either let hardships define you and hold you back, or you can let them propel you to newer and greater heights. Being blessed with the Annexstad Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship has allowed me to soar to such heights. I plan on using my chemical and biomolecular engineering degree to find a breakthrough in tissue regeneration and pharmaceuticals that will treat brain diseases and medical issues.



Spelman College is grateful to the Annexstad Family Foundation for establishing the *Leaders for Tomorrow* Scholarship which provides critical resources to support our students, many who are high achievers and future leaders with great need. This investment supports our overarching strategic goal to ensure that no student is prevented from completing her education due to financial challenges. We sincerely appreciate the Foundation's commitment to Spelman women—women who change the world.

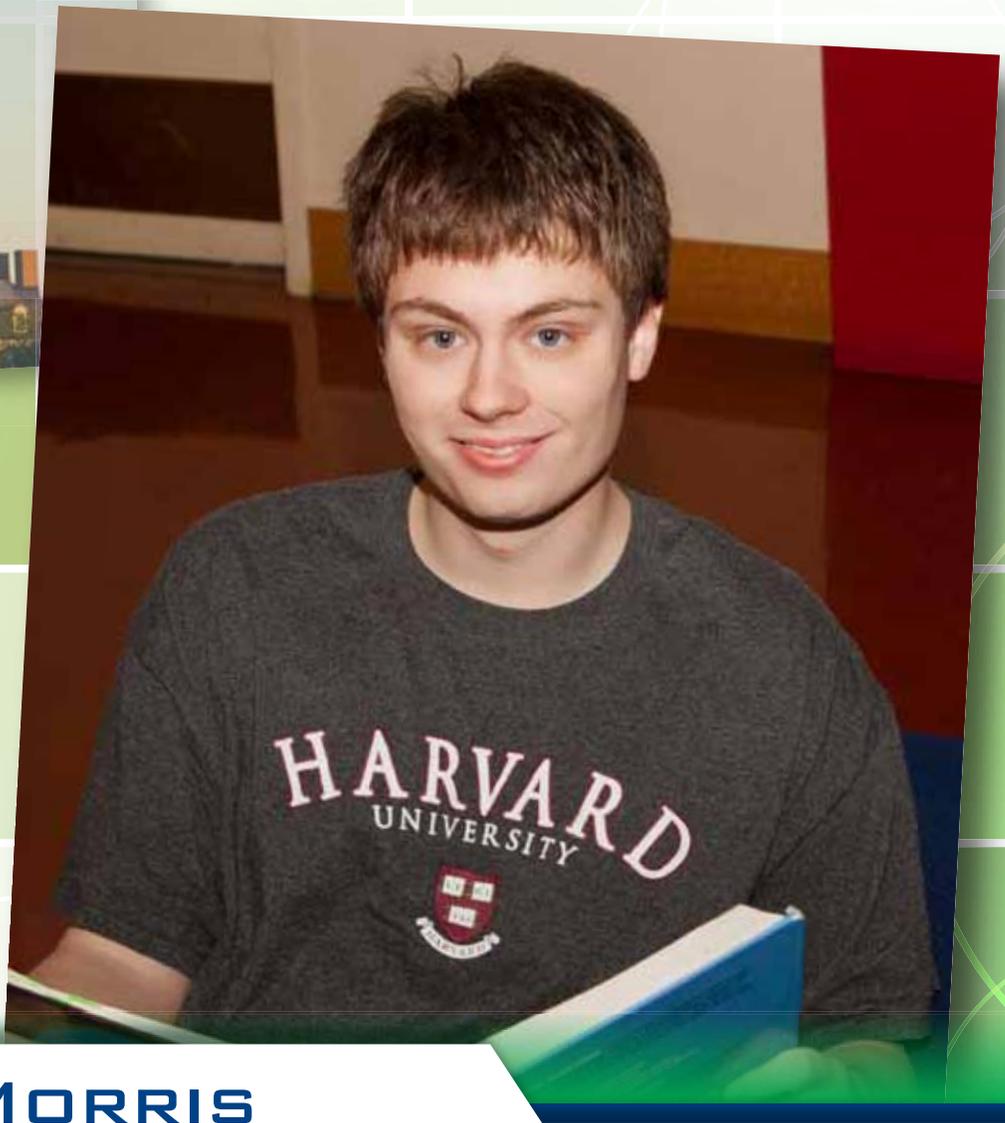


BEVERLY DANIEL TATUM, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
SPELMAN COLLEGE



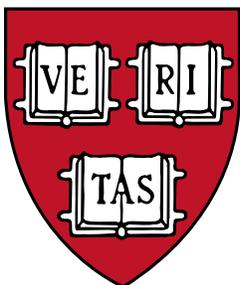


Photo courtesy of Harvard University News Office.



TAYLOR MORRIS

UNDECIDED



After months of unemployment, my mother took a job as a long-haul truck driver during my senior year of high school. A single mom, she has to leave her family for weeks at a time and even sublet our house to pay bills and rent. She is miserable doing a job she never wanted and living with tenants to support our family. I am fortunate to go to a school where I can pursue my interests and my future plans aren't dictated by finances right now. Through the opportunity she has given me, I hope to give something back to her. Namely, I want to help prevent my mom from having to work a job that leaves her unfulfilled and disconnected from her family.

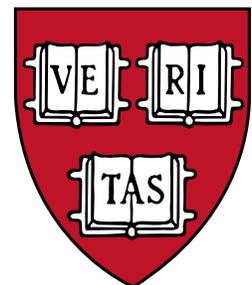


Photo courtesy of Harvard University News Office.

DAVID BOONE

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

When diagnosed with a rare muscle disorder at eight years old, I was afraid. Afraid of death; afraid of never seeing my dreams realized. By age 10 I had developed serious mental health issues and was going down a destructive path. But, in my time of need someone was there. Through every difficult time someone was there to help me on my journey. Faith helped me follow a path that led to Harvard. I dream of being able to support my family and changing my community. I come from a community where failure is acceptable. In many instances, failure is the standard. I want to change that expectation by being a constant reminder of what is possible.





MORGAN WITTY
CIVIC ENGINEERING



Quote not available for Morgan Witty.



MAX HUNTINGTON

CHEMISTRY

This scholarship will define my path going forward and separate me from my past. I hope to change the world someday and make it a better place. Based on the obstacles I've overcome, I have the ability to change lives and help others succeed. I intend to use the gifts, values, and understanding I have developed in my life, along with my drive for excellence and determination, to benefit the world. My appreciation for science, combined with my stubborn belief in myself, will make an impact worthy of history.



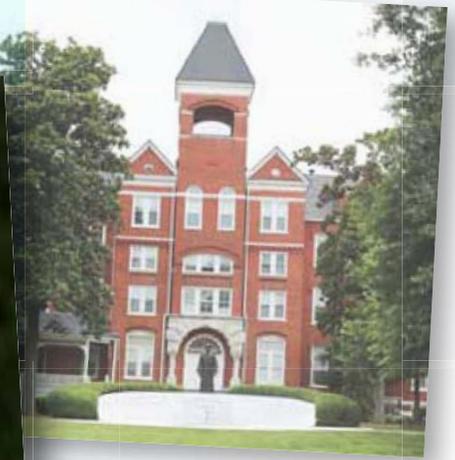


EVAN PHILLIPS

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING



I have learned that character is everything and I am proud to have a strong one. I've learned that a man is not judged by how he acts while he's on top, but how he acts when he's down and out. Despite the challenges I will face, I won't let my dream of becoming a CEO be deferred or denied. There is nothing my Lord and I cannot do. I will look back only when I have reached my goal and I'm ready to pull someone else up with me.



BRANDON HALL

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

Through many difficulties I learned that in every obstacle and form of oppression lays an opportunity to rise. This nugget of wisdom guides me as I venture on in hopes of becoming an architectural engineer. I hope to design innovative and structurally sound buildings. I also hope to restore facilities for organizations like the Boys and Girls Club. If Americans focus on strengthening our communities, then slowly but surely our nation will grow stronger.





KAYLA FARMUREWA

JOURNALISM



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Thanks to the Annexstad Family Foundation *Leaders for Tomorrow* Scholarship, I can focus all my energy on school rather than worrying about finances. After completing my undergraduate education, I hope to attend business school and start my own business. The Annexstad Family Foundation has given me the resources to pursue my goals and dreams. I hope to one day give the same opportunity to students just like me.



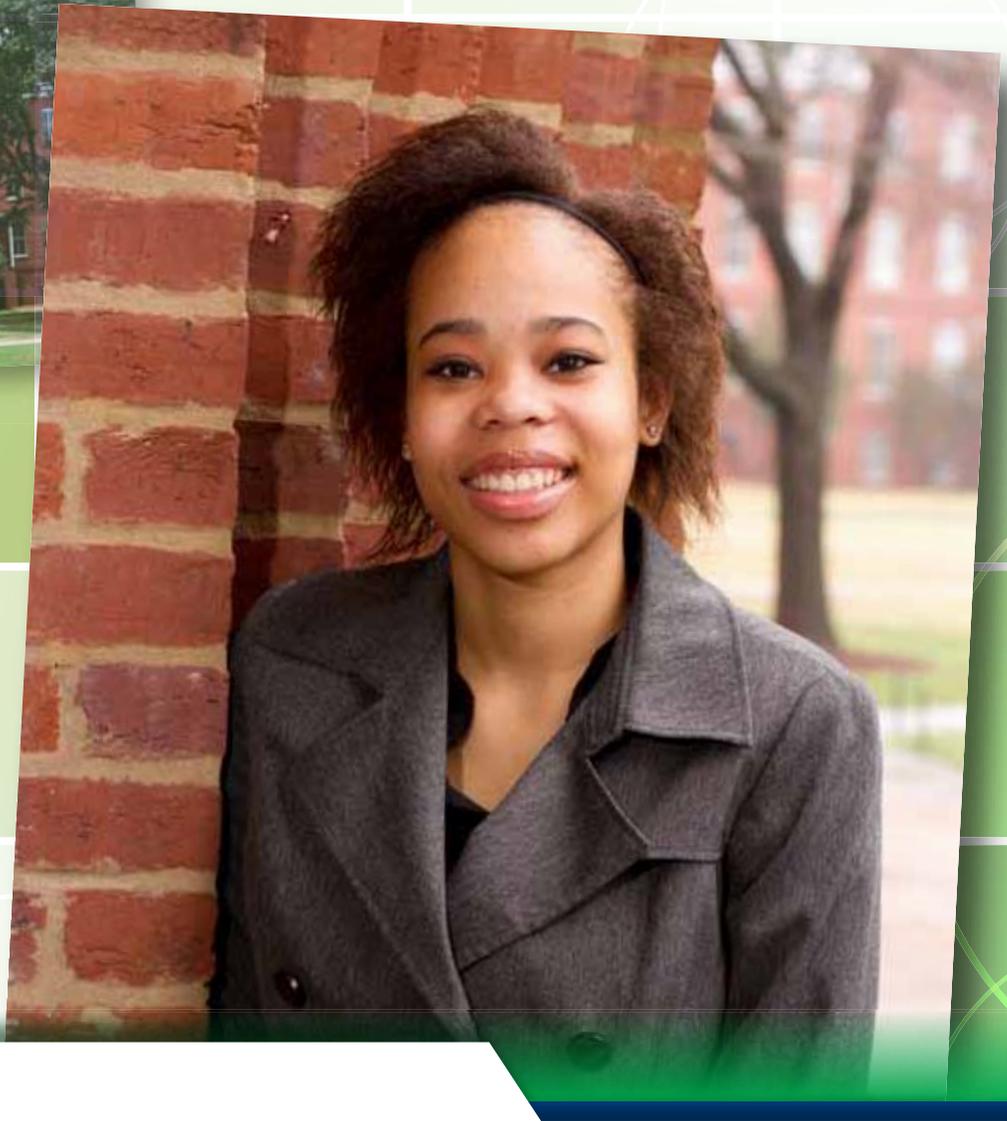
HAZIM ABDULLAH-SMITH

SOCIAL POLICY / FRENCH

I could not be more pleased with the Annexstad Family Foundation's mission and generosity. My life struggles make me realize that attending an elite university is a privilege. I'm motivated to make the most of my time at Northwestern and grow personally, philosophically, and spiritually. In the future, I imagine myself working for or starting a non-profit organization or policy think tank, as these fields provide ways to give back to society and help others overcome the systemic obstacles to thriving communities.



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY



NIA KING

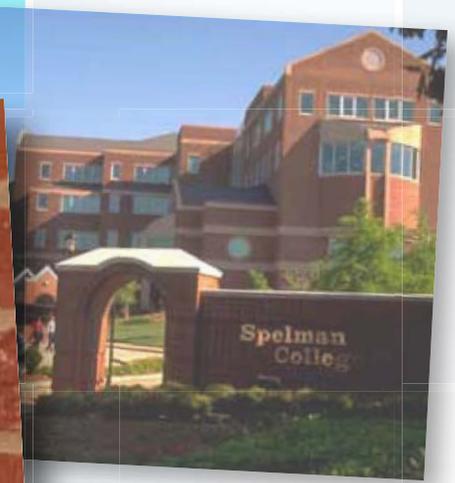
PHYSICS / PRE MED



Spelman College

A Choice to Change the World

I have experienced many obstacles in my short life, but I am appreciative because they shaped me into the young woman I am today. If not for having seven younger brothers and sisters and no income, I would not have many of the attributes I have today. It is the hardships that have made me so determined to succeed. My dreams for the future are to go to medical school and pursue a career as a clinical surgeon and medical researcher.



ATAESIA MICKENS

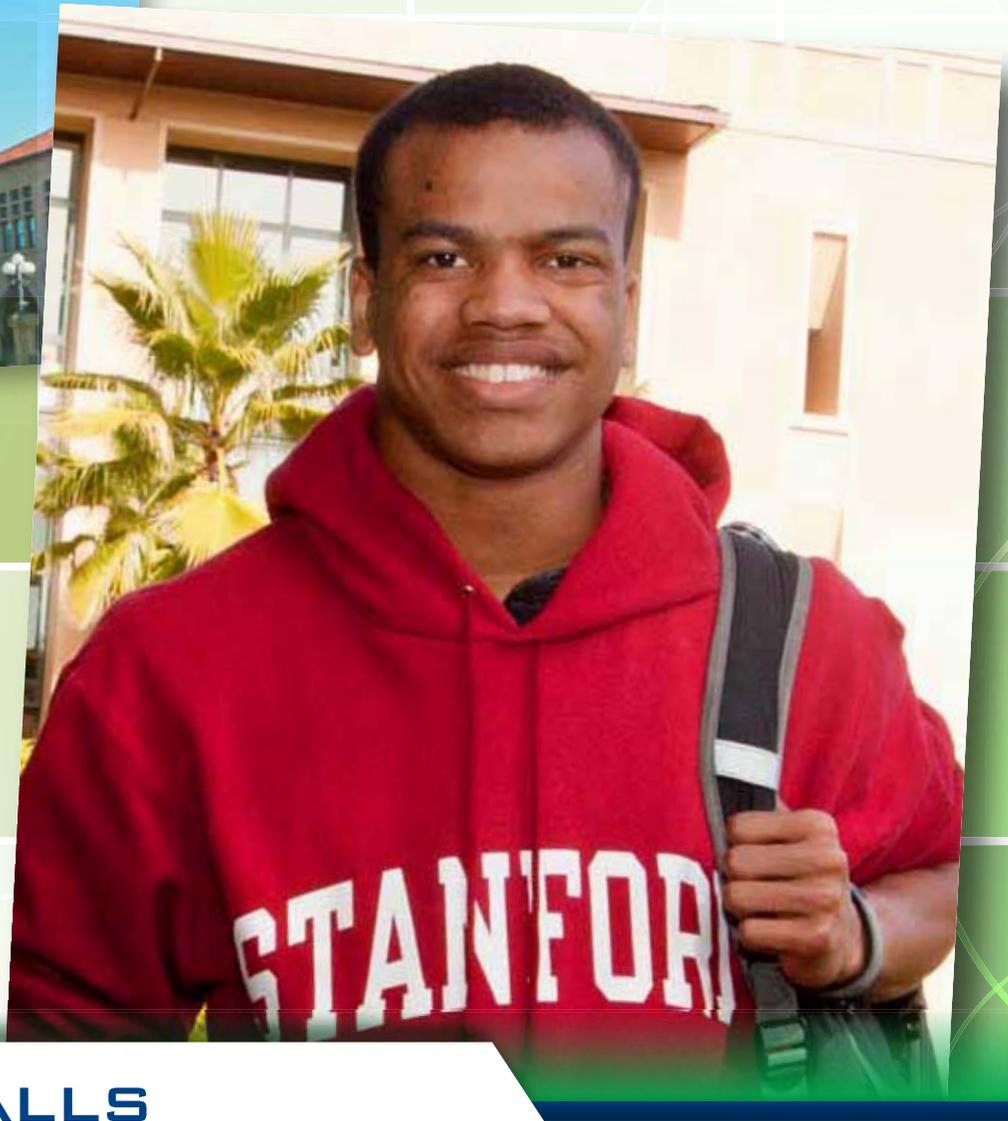
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Overcoming my hardships involved determination, motivation, and support. Throughout my life, I was determined to find a way out of my situation. I was motivated by the successes of those similar to me, whether they possess racial similarities or socioeconomic similarities. I had people and opportunities that exposed me to a world otherwise not afforded to me. As a result, I do not see the validity in excuses. Many people who have been in my past shoes give excuses as to why they aren't in my shoes now. I don't necessarily want to say, "If I can do it, so can you," but, with a vast world of opportunities and support, there is no excuse for a lack of success.



Spelman College

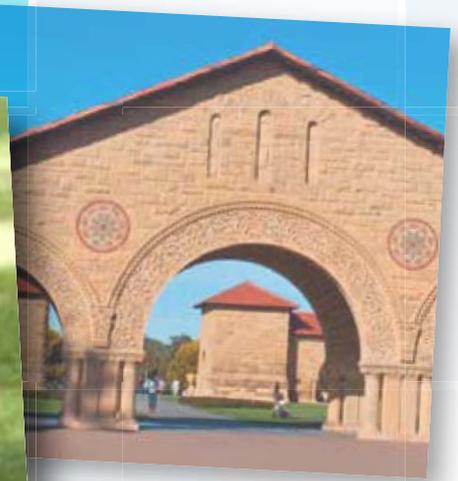
A Choice to Change the World



ERIC SMALLS
COMPUTER SCIENCE

Stanford University

Adversity is like a slingshot. It will pull & stretch you to your limits, but if you hold on you will be propelled to heights far greater than you ever imagined.



JOELLÉ WILLIAMS

SOCIOLOGY

As a former foster youth, I look to the future with hope because my current education will allow me to thrive. I never permit my past to hinder me. Education has always been a beacon of light guiding me toward success. I ultimately hope to inspire other foster children and show them that they too can succeed!

Stanford University

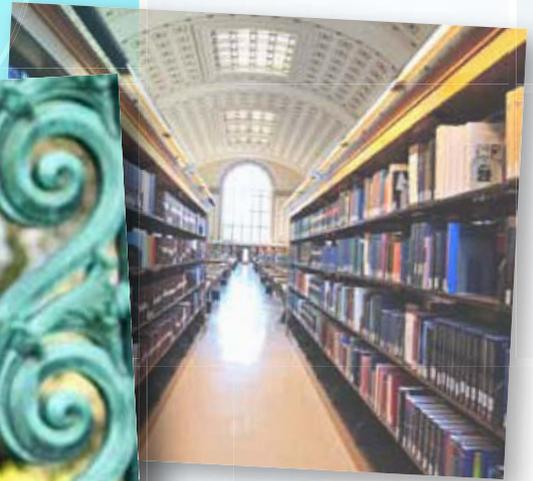
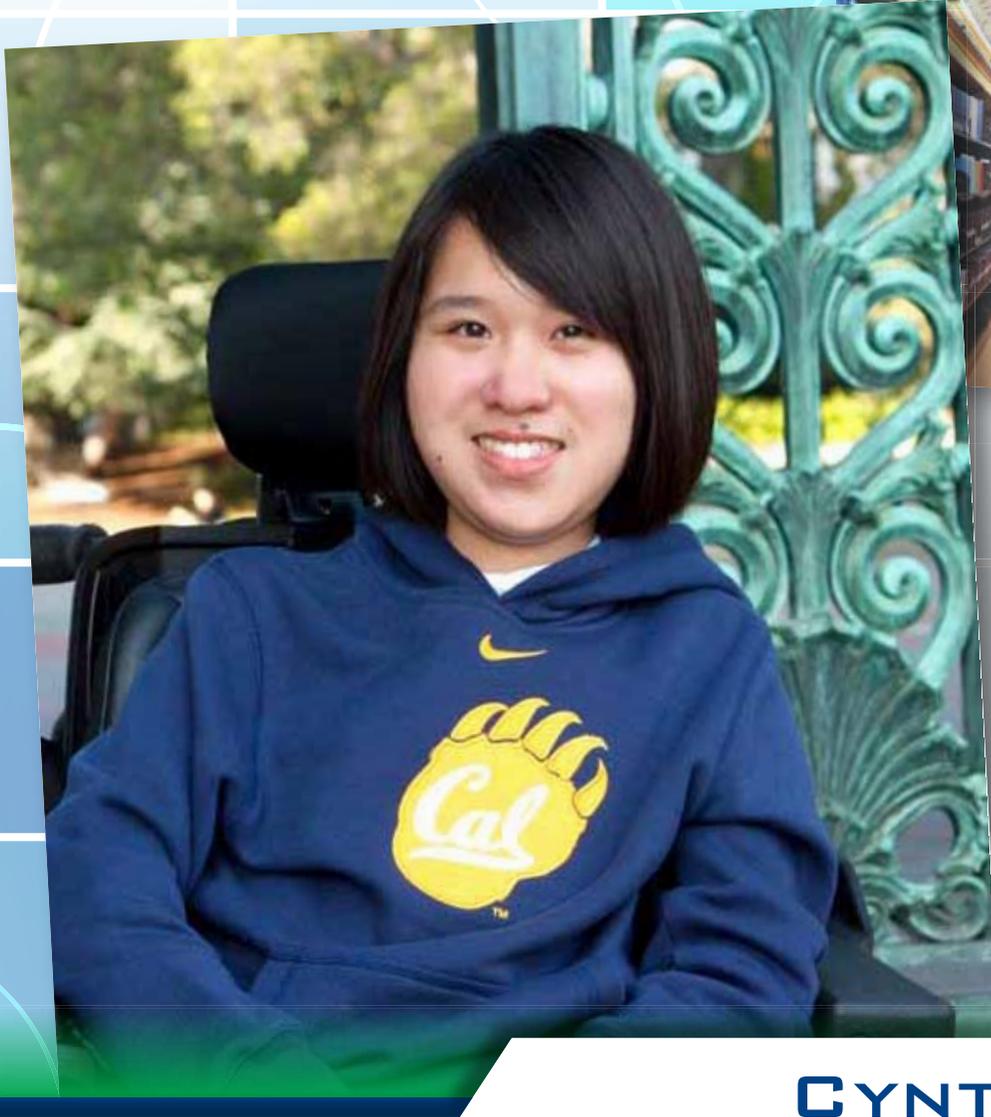


BRITANY LEWIS

PUBLIC HEALTH



The challenge of coming from a low income family with very little support ultimately made me a better person. Everyone has to go through something in order to grow. The obstacles I faced helped me grow into the hardworking individual I am today. My dream is to go to graduate school and obtain my masters in maternal and child health. I plan on using my knowledge to ensure that parents and children all over the world, specifically in low income areas, are living a healthy life from the time they are born until they reach adulthood.

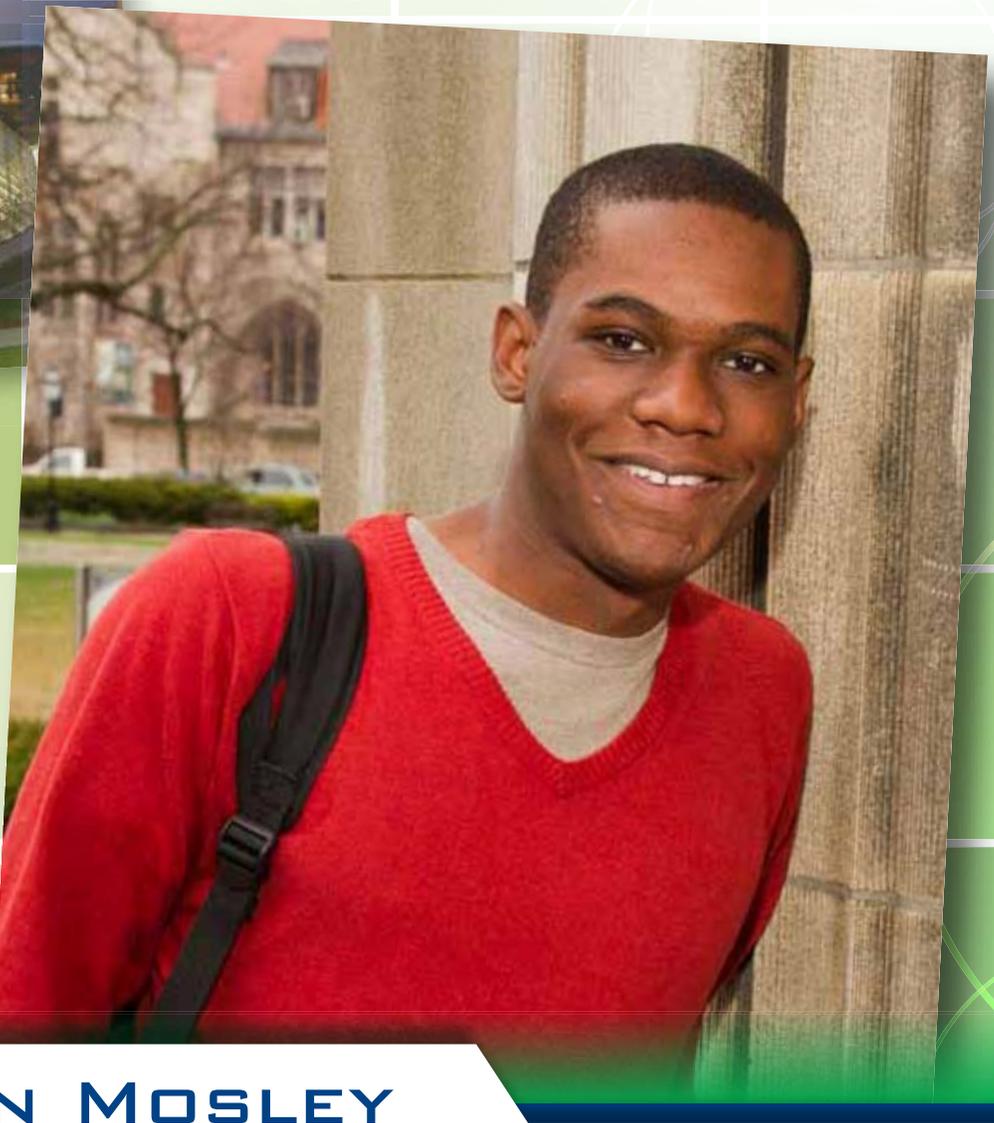
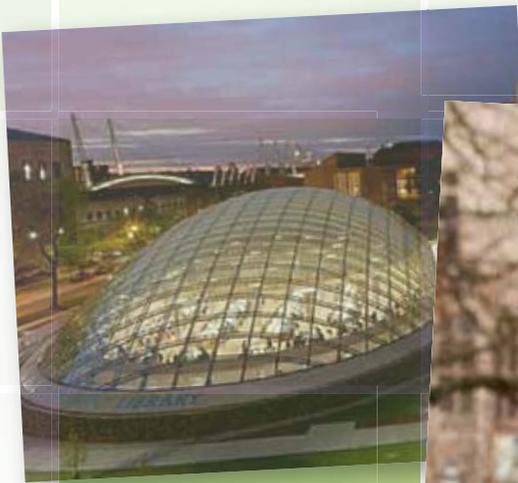


CYNTHIA CHEN

UNDECIDED

I used to wish I was born without a disability. Without the physical challenges and three-hundred-pound wheelchair life would be so much easier! However, with time, I realized that my hardships pushed me to become a stronger person. Without these experiences, I wouldn't be who I am today.





DA'SHAWN MOSLEY

ENGLISH



The hardships I endured throughout my upbringing gave me a huge appreciation for the opportunities that life presented me in terms of my education and my future. I hope to further my career by continuing to write, publish, and teach creative writing, as well as fiercely advocate for the arts. I hope to inspire others to appreciate the wonders of art and take up the life of an artist—and, in doing so, become empathetic inhabitants of this world.



Photo not available for Shauna.

SHAUNA MOORE

FRENCH / JAPANESE

Growing up was a painful process. My happiness seemed to be desiccated by struggle and pilfered by obstacles. But as I grew, I learned to recognize pain as a powerful catalyst for opportunity and empathy. As I strive toward multilingualism, I hope to immerse myself in new and old cultures, and give all of myself—physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually—to the pursuit of social and interactive empathy. I want to render the word “service” obsolete by making the well-being of others not the grudging effort of a superior, but the unstated goal of an equal. I hope to help stimulate intellectual growth and cross-cultural solidarity uninhibited by social petitions, as others have done for my sake.





ASHLEY WILKERSON

MATH / MATH EDUCATION



The University of Georgia®

Through my faith in God I know that everything will ultimately be okay whether there is hardship or not. He has taken care of me this long and I have no reason to believe he won't take care of me for the rest of my life. As I continue my education, my dream career remains the same. I want to teach. Teaching is an area of bliss for me. Guiding others, helping others, and loving others are all things that I can't wait to do as an educator. I will be a teacher who helps children grow and shape themselves into better students, people, and citizens.



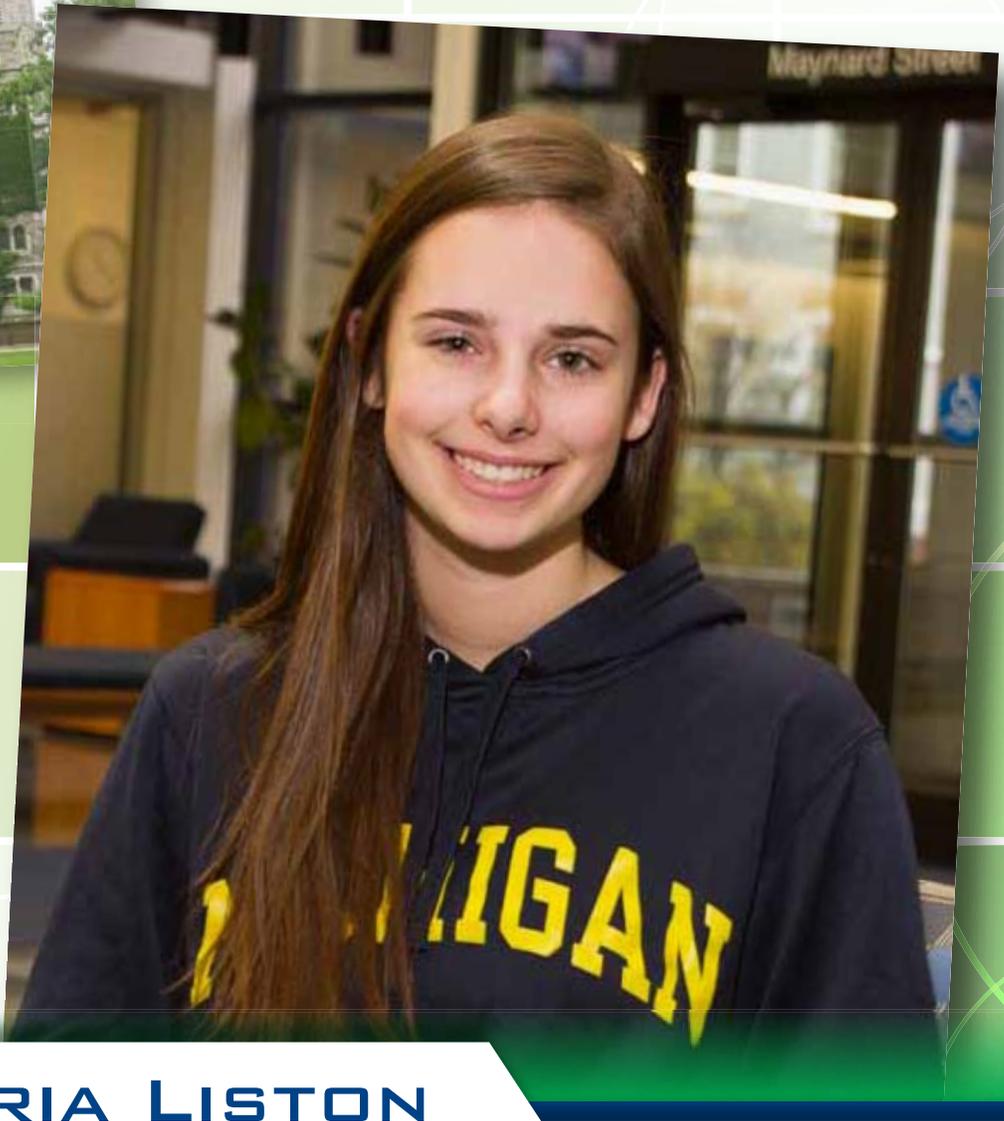
WILLIAM BROWN

AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING

My ultimate dream is to graduate from college and start my own manufacturing plant. My engineering degree from UGA will help tremendously, as will my work experience in industrial settings. I want to bring money and non-service based jobs into my rural county.



The University of Georgia®



ALEXANDRIA LISTON

UNDECIDED



Persevering through many life obstacles I have learned that the only future and decisions I can control are my own. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to prove myself here at the University of Michigan with the help of this incredible scholarship, which was created by truly giving people!



GAGE BELKO

ARCHITECTURE

Life's troubles don't have to define you and the Annexstad family has given me a chance to prove that. I could not thank them enough for their generosity. They have truly inspired me to do good in the world.



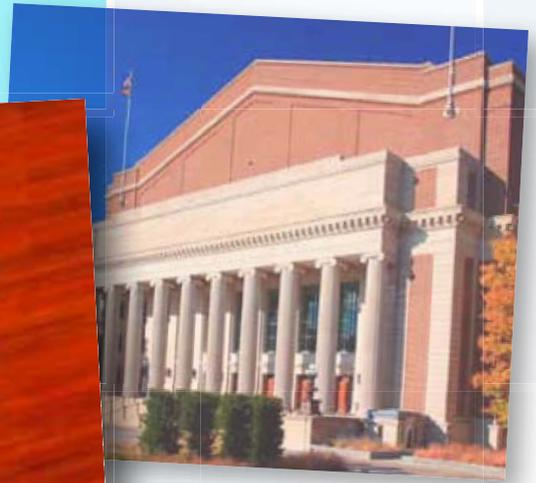


CAVONTE JOHNSON

BIO MEDICAL ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

When you overcome something that has weighed you down your whole life, you feel like the sky is the limit. I overcame obstacles because I felt I had to prove people wrong. There is always incentive to be successful. As long as motivation exists in your mind and heart, nothing can stop you from overcoming hardships. Once done studying engineering, my life will be solely about giving back to my community. I have been a basketball coach in Edina for four years. I am determined to instill a positive view of African-Americans in a neighborhood where diversity is limited. I won't be a professional engineer until I engineer the best me I can be. That type of engineering is a life-long process and my country will be at the root of every decision I make going forward.

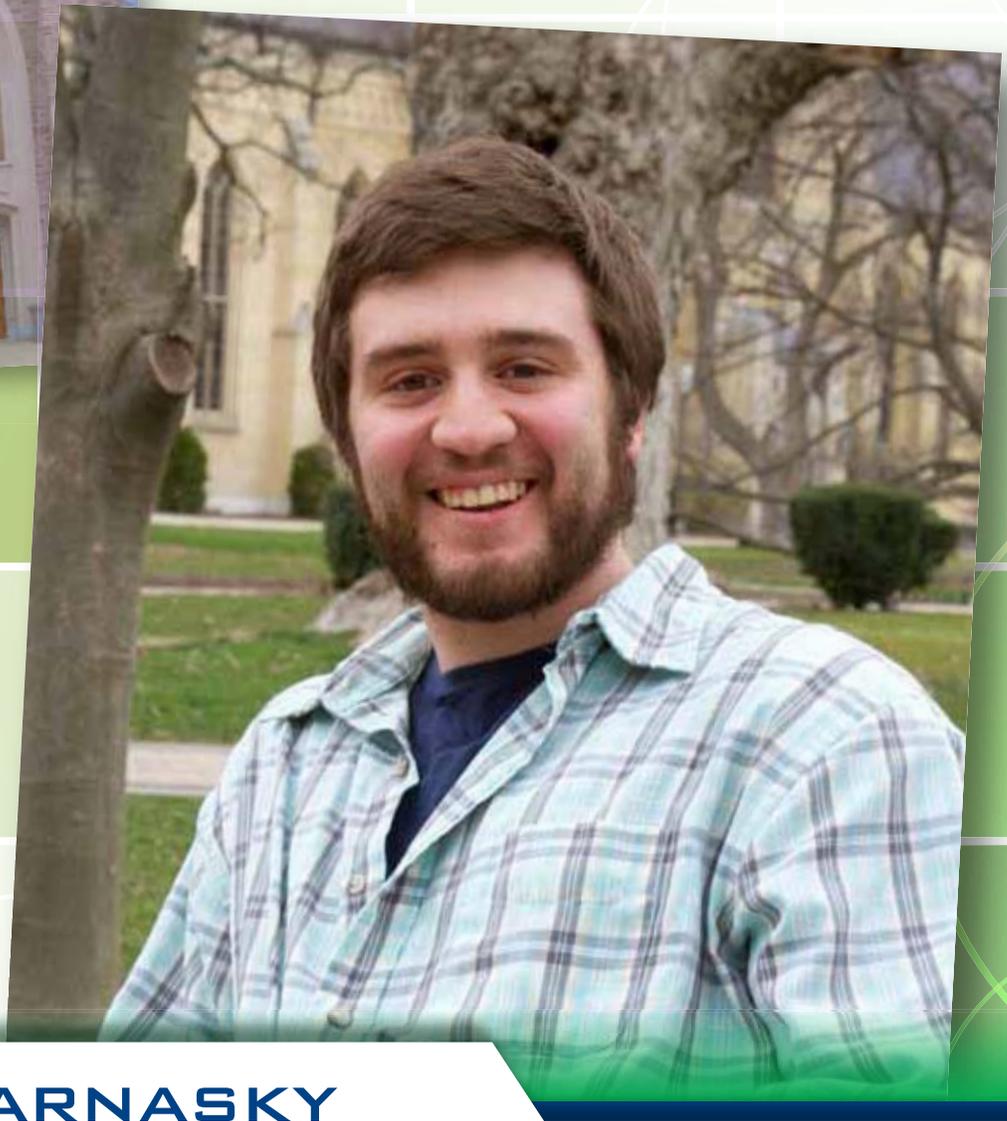


MEGAN JACOT

NURSING

I have overcome many obstacles in my life but they have made me a more determined, strong, humble person. My dreams for the future include becoming a family nurse practitioner and giving back to society and country by providing health care to all, especially those of low income or minority status. I also hope to one day mentor future nurses. I want to encourage them to reach their full potential and teach them how to have a positive impact on society.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



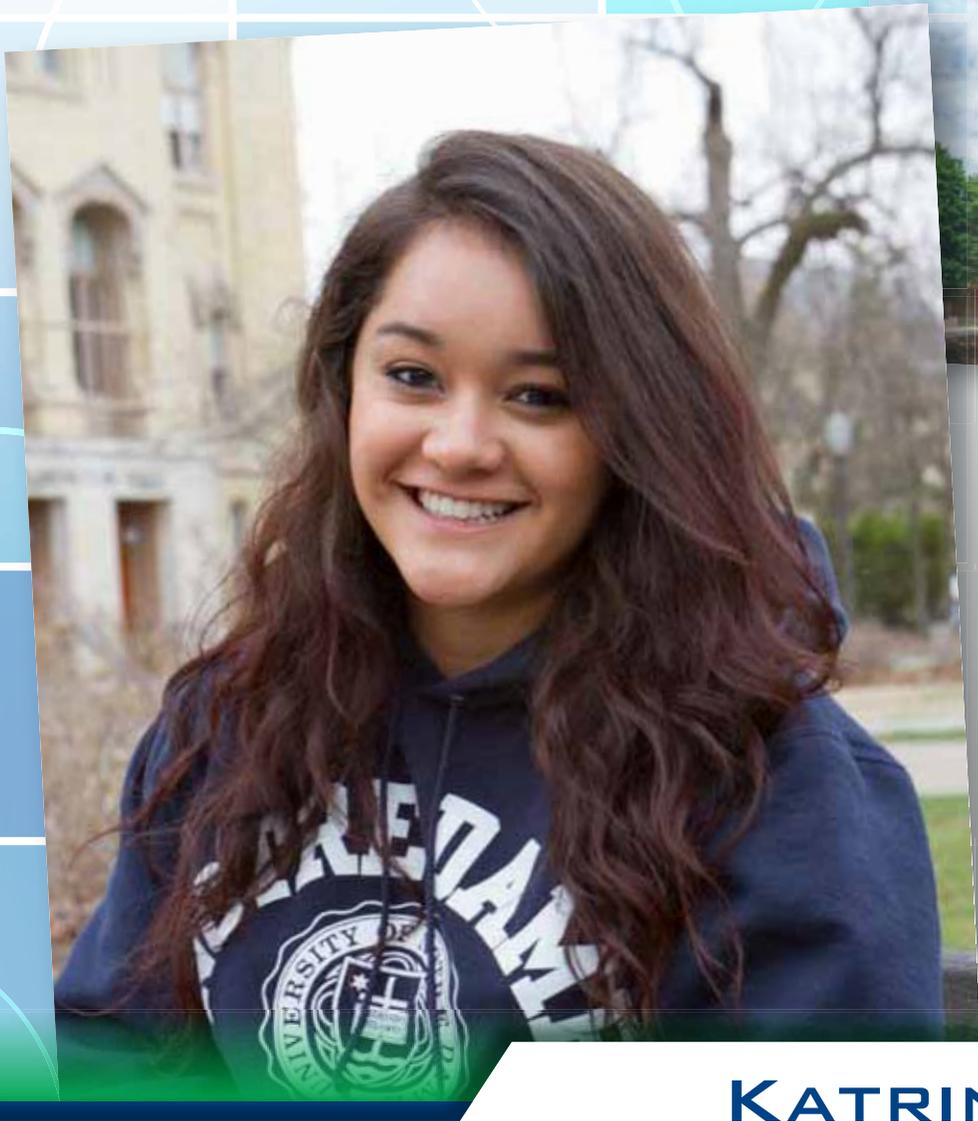
AARON TARNASKY

APPLIED MATHEMATICS



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

My father passed away when I was three. Growing up without him shaped my perspective on life and how I should plan my future. Nothing in life can be taken for granted. We have to make the most of the gifts and talents we have been given. As such, I have decided to focus on math, science, and helping people through a career in medicine. I hope to one day attend a great medical school and help make advancements in either the neuroscience or orthopedics field. My education means the world to me. I am so blessed and thankful to use it to give back one day!



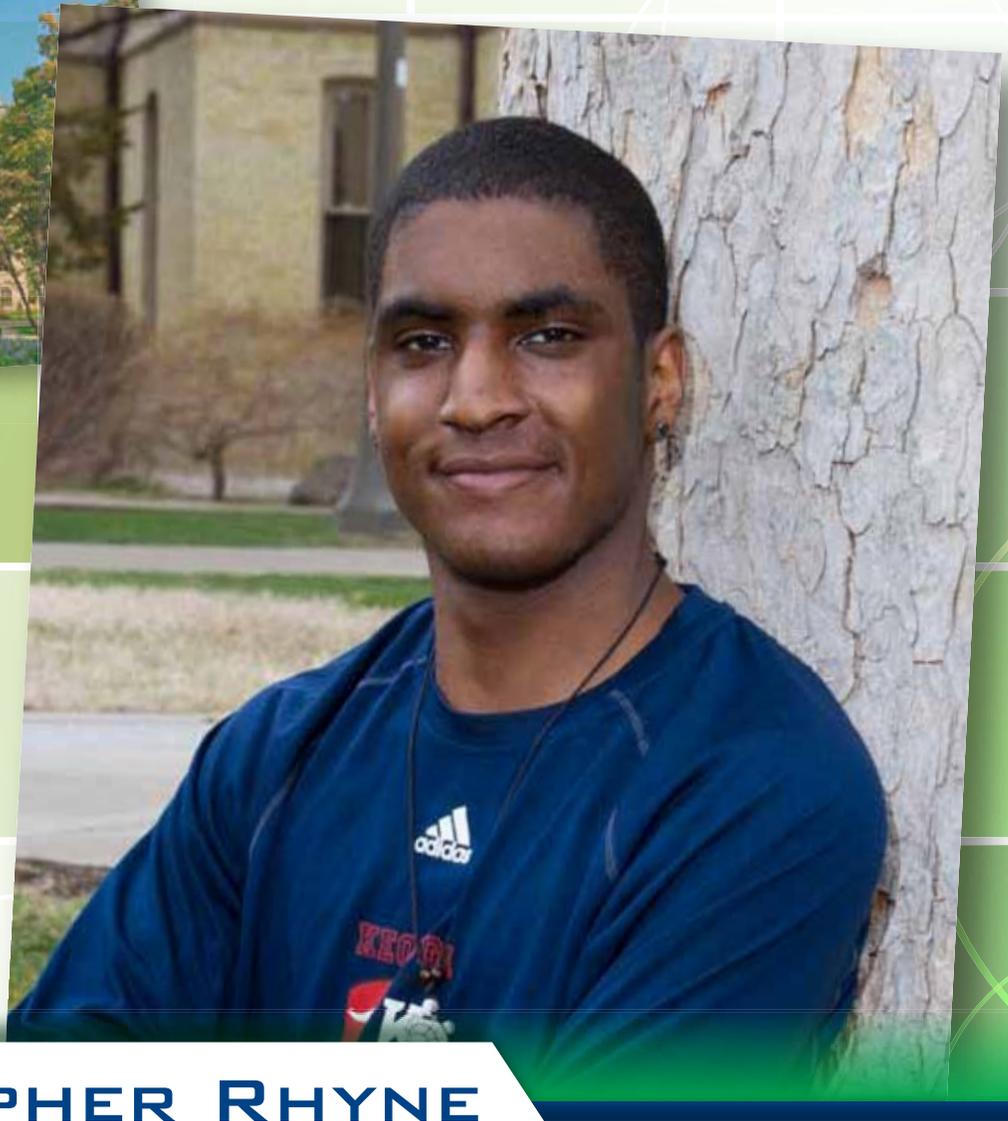
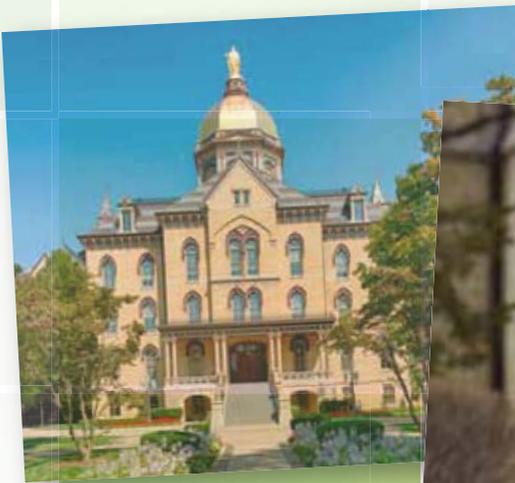
KATRINA LINDEN

ENGLISH / LATINO STUDIES

My father's illness gave me inspiration and a reason to look for the positive aspects in life. I've learned to appreciate the way the sun shines brighter some days and how to make the very best of every situation.

I am interested in English and Latino studies. I hope to work with low-income, minority communities such as my own. I want to help address education deficiencies and various other disadvantages these communities face.





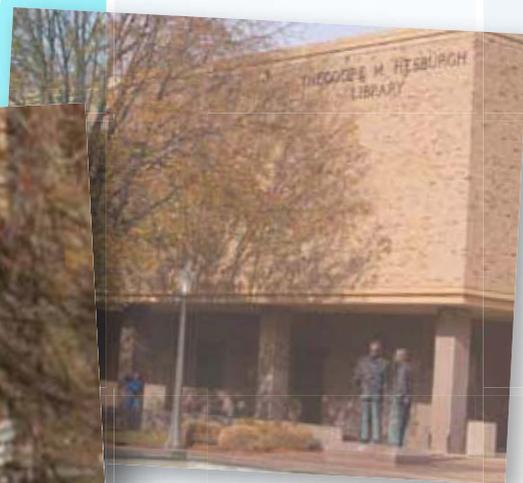
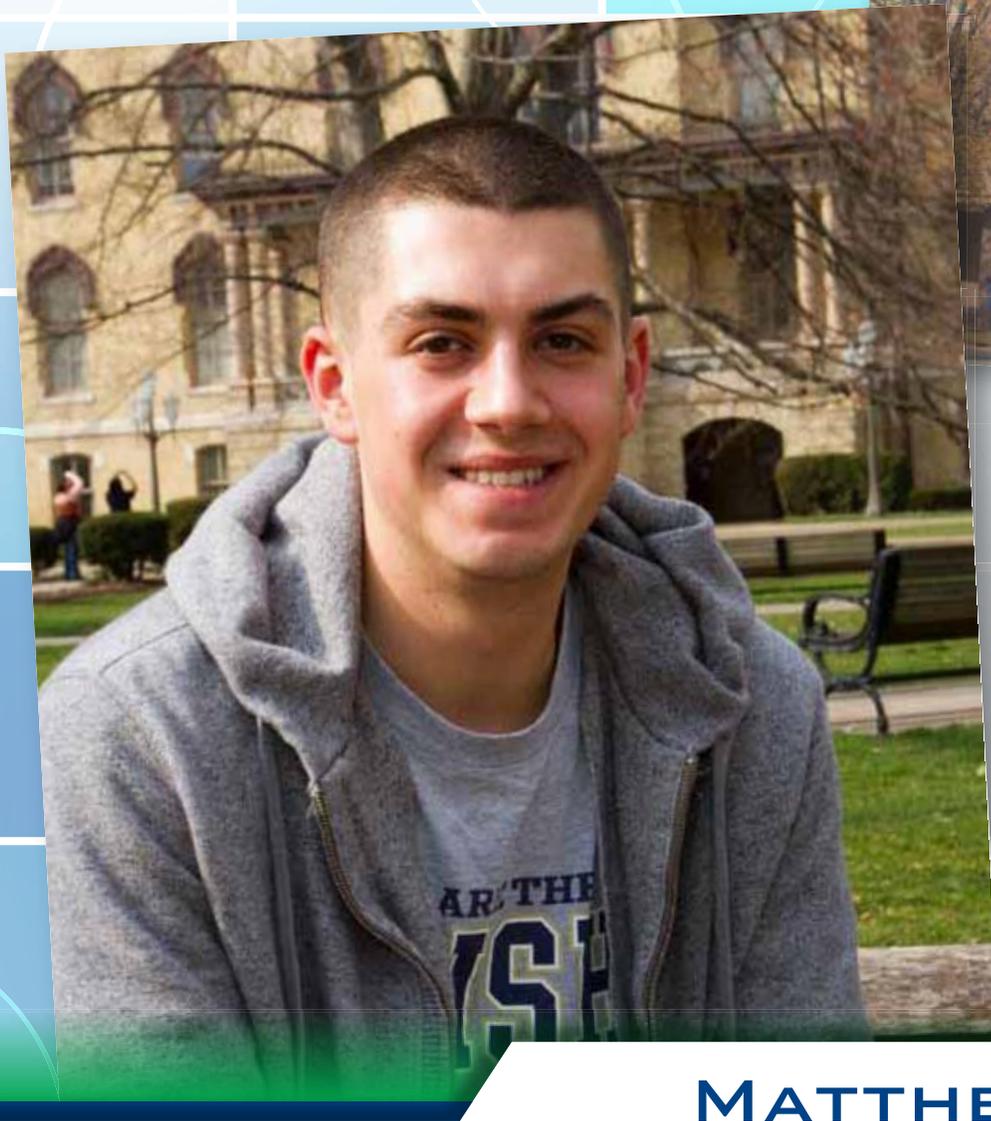
CHRISTOPHER RHYNE

PSYCHOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

The obstacles I've overcome have allowed me to look at life in a unique way. For me, life isn't always about what you conquer or accomplish. It's about the lives you touch and change along the way. My dream is to learn psychology and Chinese, and do counter-terrorism work with the government. I hope to be an example to others that you can do anything you put your mind to.



MATTHEW MILLER

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

My faith in God deeply impacted my life. It carried me through the tough times and helped me see the good in all people. When you work hard and do good, good things will come your way. Receiving the Annexstad Family Foundation scholarship has been a tremendous blessing and I'll do my best to pay it forward! I hope to attend medical school and become a reconstructive surgeon for children born with deformities and soldiers wounded in the war. If I can ease the burden of some, much like the Annexstad Family Foundation has done for me, I have been successful in life.



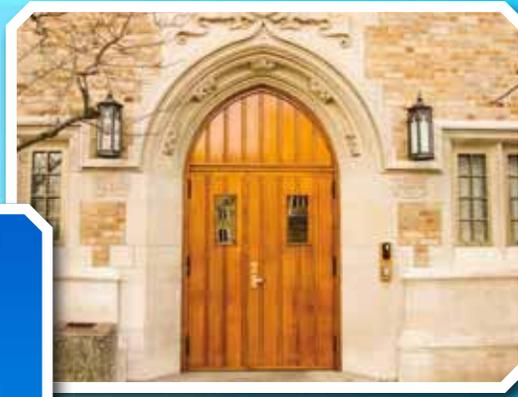


JASMINE MOXLEY

SCIENCE PRE-PROF / PSYCHOLOGY / SPANISH

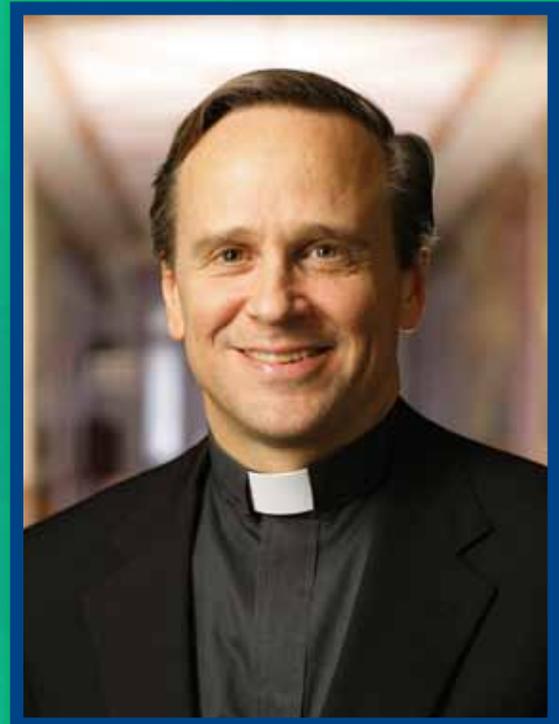


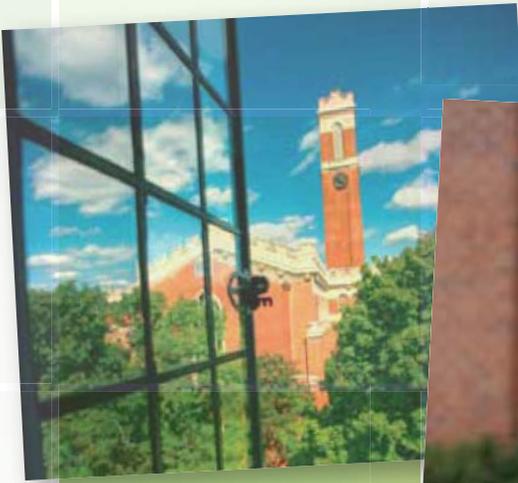
The hardships I overcame gave me a humble perspective on life. Simply put, I learned the achievements that make a person most proud are the ones that take effort, struggle, and perseverance. I'm putting everything I have into my education, and I'm encouraged to keep working hard toward my aspiration of becoming a successful, female neurosurgeon. The path to this career is a rough, long stretch, but my inspiration and determination will keep me standing solidly on my feet. Once I reach my goals, I hope to provide children in all corners of the world with the best medical attention I can offer.



Given the encouragement to pursue dreams and the resources to discover and develop talents, every young person has the potential to excel in his or her pursuits. By offering scholarships for post-secondary education, the Annexstad Family Foundation provides hope and confidence to deserving students. At the University of Notre Dame, we are proud to be affiliated with an organization that shares our commitment to being a source for good, particularly to educating our world's future leaders.

**REV. JOHN I. JENKINS,
C.S.C., PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**





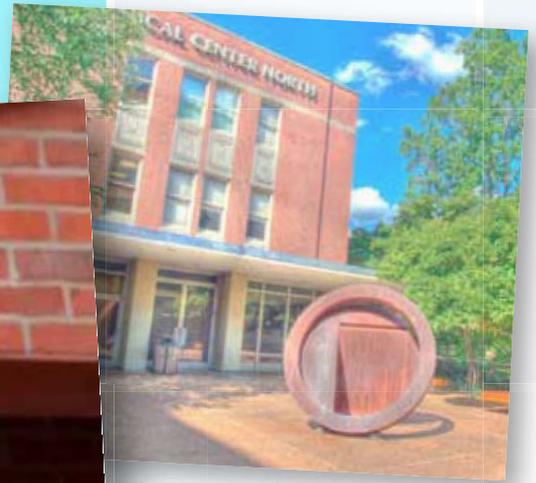
NATHANIAL EDWARDS

BIOLOGY



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

The hardest thing in my life was my dad dying of lung cancer in 2007. But, his death motivated me to become a doctor. It instilled in me a genuine desire to help those in need. That's why I'm going to Vanderbilt to study pre-med. People always ask me if I am doing it for the money, and my answer is always an immediate and honest 'no.' I want to be a doctor to improve the lives of those who need help.



ZACK BROWN

NEURO SCIENCE

The hardships I faced in my life shaped who I am today and who I will be tomorrow. They became the fuel on my road to success. Every speed bump refueled my drive and reminded me that I cannot stop here; there is more to come. When times get hard I look to the Bible: Jeremiah 29:11. With my studies in medicine, I hope that this path will lead me to my dream of becoming a doctor and eventually do non-profit work in third world countries.



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY



ELYSE LOPEZ

BIOLOGY



Over the past few years, community service has kept me grounded. Whether tutoring a child or simply working behind the scenes, helping others gives me a sense of purpose and real joy. I've always loved the sciences. I want to become a doctor and spend the rest of my life helping others. My hopes for the future, including attending medical school and helping others, depend on getting an education. I am thankful for the help I have received and I hope to one day return the favor.

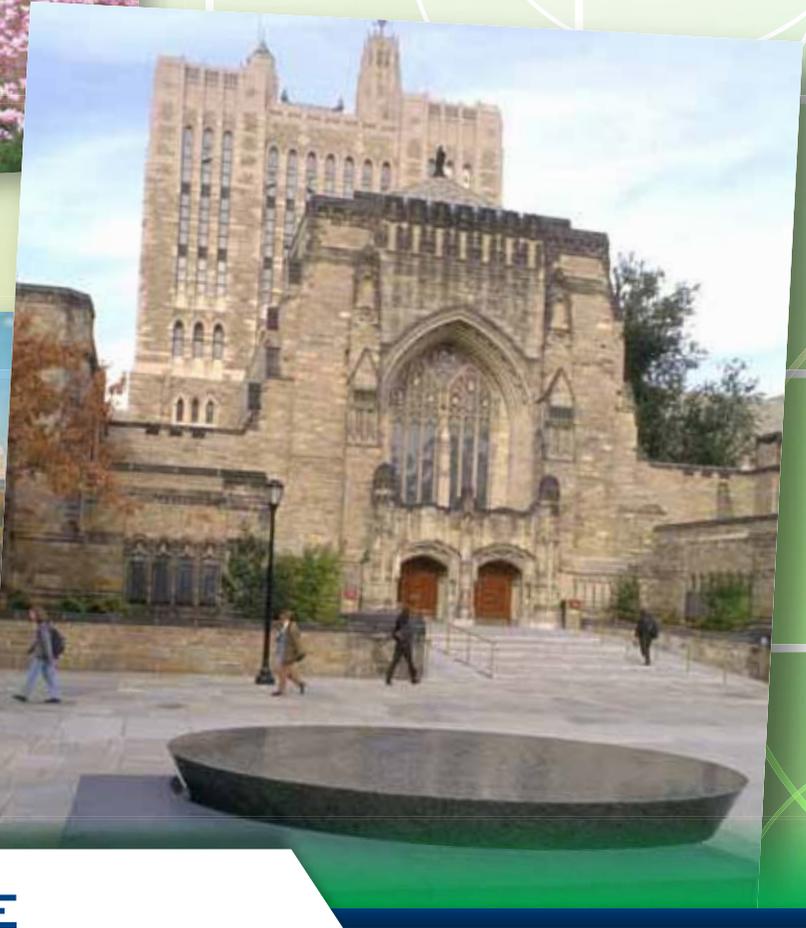
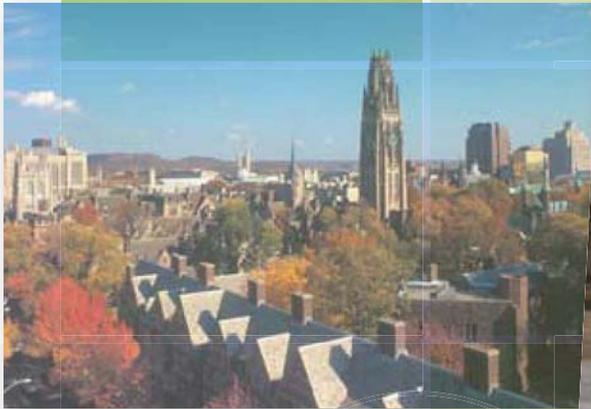
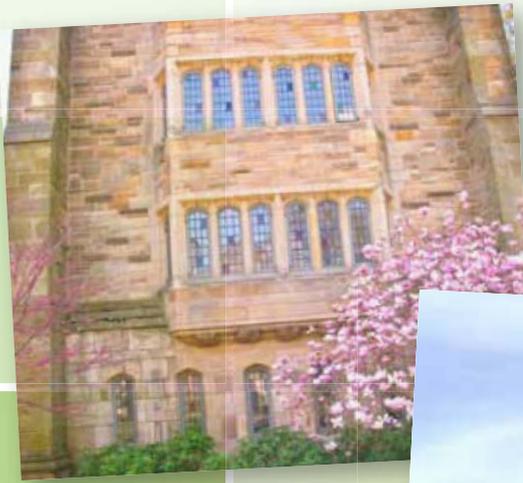


ADRIANA UNGERLEIDER

GLOBAL HEALTH

Being raised by a young, single mother who went on to earn her college diploma helped me realize that I can achieve any goal I set my mind to and I must be grateful for every opportunity. Every day, I strive to be better and challenge myself in new ways, both academically and personally. Over the next few years, I hope to travel and gain a better understanding of health and human rights. My dream is to work in the global health field as an epidemiologist and research the underlying causes of infectious disease, malnutrition, and other widespread health issues.





HELDER TOSTE

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AND ART HISTORY

Photo not available for Helder.

Yale

The Annexstad Leaders for Tomorrow scholarship means not only the ability to attend the school of my dreams, but it's a testament to the fact that hard work pays off and that, through perseverance, anything is possible.

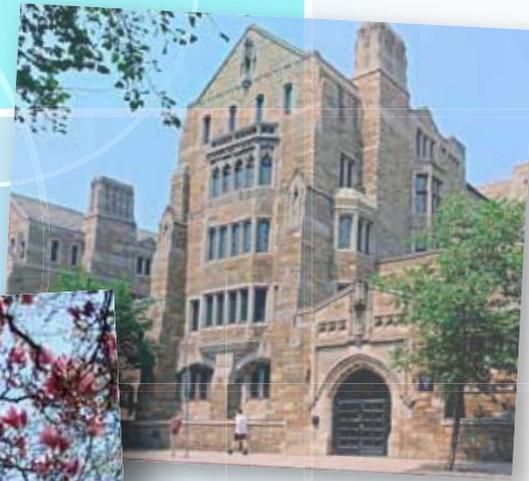
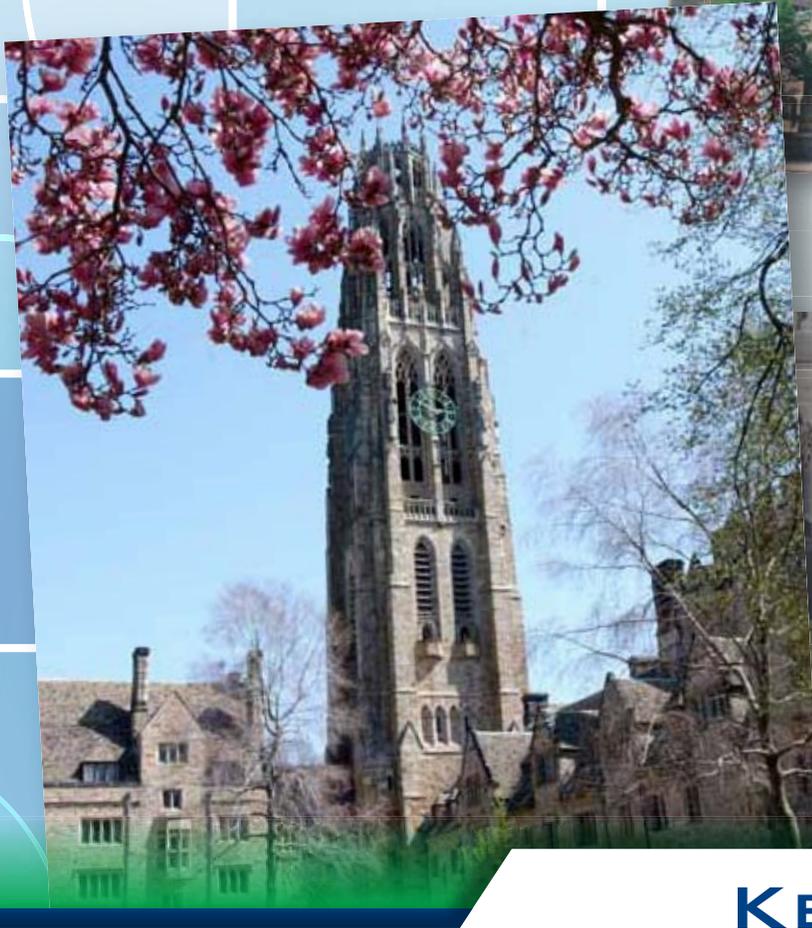


Photo not available for Kevin.

KEVIN OLIVARES
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

To me, the Annexstad Leaders for Tomorrow scholarship is a blessing. It is funding my education and also providing an opportunity to become a leader to help others.

Yale



