



AAAFES RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

SUPPORTING THE INTERESTS OF AAFES, ITS RETIREES AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

## Scholarships Awarded for 2018-2019

Thanks to some generous donations (*see details on page 12*), AREA has been able to increase our **2018-2019 program** to **12 scholarships** for a total of **\$40,000**. Last year AREA awarded 9 scholarships for \$29,000. **Congratulations to this year's award recipients!**



**Abram Qui**, the son of Haibo Qui and Lihua Ju, received the top AREA scholarship of **\$5000** for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. He will enter Rice University this fall seeking an Engineering degree. While attending Marin High School, Abram achieved the "Student of the Month" award, volunteered at a

Hospital and non-profit health care clinic and was a violinist in the All Region Symphony Orchestra. Abram is a national finalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program and achieved a perfect ACT score.



**Hannah Lei**, the daughter of I-Chen Chen and Michael Lei, received one of two **\$5,000** scholarships awarded. She plans to major in computer science at one of the four prestigious universities where she has been accepted. Hannah maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. She received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for three years, participated in city government through the Arlington Youth Council and played in the All Region Symphony and All State Orchestra.

*AREA scholarships award story continues on page 8.*

## Scholarships Awarded for 2018-2019 *(story continued from page 1)*



**Rohan Vemu** is the son of **Srinivas Vemu**. He was awarded the top \$3,000 scholarship. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Bioengineering.

Rohan is an Eagle Scout and was on the Honor Roll for three years. He also served as a Research Intern at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Washington. In addition to his scholastic achievements, Rohan played the violin as an All State Texas Musician.



**Audrey Wall** is the daughter of **Michael Wall** and a \$3,000 scholarship awardee. A member of the National English Honor Society, she plans to major in General Sciences at the University of North Georgia at Dahlonega. She achieved a 4.1 GPA as well as serving as Cadet Captain in her Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). Audrey's goal is to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in a military hospital.



**Megan Brett**, the daughter of **Kevin Brett**, was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. She will be a Business/Pre-Dental major at Texas A&M University. Megan is the Captain of the Varsity Golf Team, a member of Student Council and the National Honor Society. To support her dream of becoming an Orthodontist, Megan maintained a 4.7 GPA. She wants to practice in third world countries in order to bring much needed dentistry to those in need.



**Jeremy Lee** is the son of **Andrew and Vicki Lee** and recipient of a \$3,000 award. He is an Eagle Scout and member of the Mountain View College Honor Society, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He has taken five college level courses while attending High School. Jeremy plans to major in Pre-Law at one of the four prestigious Universities where he has been accepted.



Scholarships Awarded for 2018-2019 (continued from page 8)



**Elise Tyler**, the daughter of **Christopher Tyler**, is the recipient of a \$3,000 scholarship. She is a member of National Honor Society, International Thespian Society and German Honor Society. She managed the Boys Varsity and Junior Varsity Soccer Teams, tutored Middle School students and played in the school band and orchestra. Elise is Pharmacy major who plans to attend Regis University in the fall.



**Ozias Wright** is the son of **Terri Wright** and a \$3,000 scholarship winner. He is a Mechanical Engineering major and plans to attend Sul Ross State University. Ozias was on the Honor Roll throughout high school and volunteered at the Central Texas Boys and Girls Club. He was named the 2017 Offensive Most Valuable Player as a member of the football team as well as playing on the Central Texas All Star team. Ozias is certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service in Automotive Technology.



**Brooke Christoffersen**, the daughter of **Shawn Waldrop**, was awarded a \$3000 scholarship. She will attend Dallas Baptist University studying Music Education this fall. Brooke Volunteered for the National Honor Society, served in student government and achieved an Advance Placement Scholar Award. For two consecutive years, she was honored as an Outstanding Performer in the solo and ensemble contests. She aspires to be a music teacher.



**Sebastiano Porter**, the son of **Gregory Porter**, was awarded at \$3000 scholarship. He will major in Biology at Point Loma Nazarene University in the fall. Sebastiano is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. In addition to his academic achievements, he volunteers at the North Texas Food Bank and the Duncanville Recreation Center. Sebastiano aspires to attend Medical School.



## Scholarships Awarded for 2018-2019 (continued from page 9)



**Tyrell Frederick**, the son **Bettina Ciciriello-Frederick**, was awarded a \$3000 scholarship. He plans to major in History at Sacramento State University. Tyrell served in student government as well as participating in the Model United Nations.

He was awarded Certificates of Excellence and Recognition from the San Bernadino Superintendent of Schools and the California Legislature Assembly. He hopes to serve in the United States Air Force.



**Leona Walton**, the daughter of **Kristen Schmied**, was awarded a \$3000 scholarship. She will attend Florida State University as a Biology major. She graduates Summa Cum Laude and is a member of the National Honors Society. She is a volunteer and a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field Team. She attended medical classes at Florida State University during the summer and aspires to be a surgeon.



**This year the AREA Scholarship Program Evaluation Committee was again made up of volunteers taking time to apply exceptional judgement to the evaluation process. I personally thank Don Smith, Robert Ellis, John Tokar, Richard Sheff, and Mary Waldsmith. We also had Dr. Jim Skibo, an active executive from HQ AAFES, as our Scholarship Liaison Member. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort these committee members took to make the scholarship program a success!**



**Don't forget about next year.** If you know a qualifying student entering his or her first college semester in the Fall of 2017, make sure he/she reviews our Scholarship Program requirements on the AREA web site (see next page for the link).

*Note: Parents (or Grandparents) of the student being nominated must be a member of the national AREA organization (and not just a local AREA chapter member).*

Michelle Priester  
AREA Scholarship Program Director



PO Box 75138 Duncanville, TX. 75138

## *AREA Scholarship Program*

This year AREA awarded ten \$3,000 and two \$5,000 scholarships to high school graduating students for a total amount of \$40,000. As I read the bios of our awardees on pages 1 and 8 through 10, I was stuck by what smart and talented young people we are helping. This year's program beats last year's award amount of \$29,000 given to nine students. I am also proud to tell you that with the 2018-2019 awards, AREA members have given out a total of \$784,795 in Scholarship Awards since 1985 to a total of 358 students. In 1985 AREA gave a total of \$2,000 to four recipients so the program has grown significantly thanks to you.



So why the increase this year? We were blessed to receive generous donations by a number of people and Chapters. So what are **YOU** waiting for? Make a difference in some student's life and donate today! **Here's how:**

**Option #1:** Complete the donation form (see pages 26-27) and mail it together with your check to the address at the top of the document. You can also email the completed form to Pat Weaver, Membership Director, at [pitterpat6026@gmail.com](mailto:pitterpat6026@gmail.com).

**Option #2:** Donate any amount using a credit card at our web site link: <https://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association> Under the **Community Programs** section (on the right side of the web page), go to the 2nd bullet item, "**YouCaring Donations**". When you click on the link, it will connect you to the 'AREA-sponsored Internet Scholarship Donation Page' where you can use a credit card.

**We now recognize donors making large contributions to the AREA Scholarship program (see pages 26-27):**

- **For donations of \$1,000 or more**, we'll name one of our ten \$3,000 scholarships after the donor, or someone else if designated, and provide the sponsor with the student's name and address should they want to send a congratulatory note.
- **Likewise, sponsor donations of \$2,000 or more** are available for each of our two \$5,000 scholarships. Send an email to Chuck Poffenbarger at [cpoffen@earthlink.net](mailto:cpoffen@earthlink.net) for further details. We award scholarships in late March so donors desiring to participate in our Donor Recognition Program beginning April 1 will be recognized in our 2019 program.

**So how does the program work? Here's a short synopsis:**

The program is limited to graduating high school seniors. General, Personal and Student Academic criteria, as well as scholarship applications, are listed on the AREA web site (see above link). The same site sets out the specific requirements for applying for a scholarship, e.g., application period, minimum SAT and ACT scores, etc. **Applications must be sent to the scholarship committee during the designated enrollment period – January 1 through March 31 of each year.** AREA administers the program through an appointed AREA Scholarship Program Director. Committee members lay out the parameters of the program each year, which are ultimately approved by the AREA board of directors.

Michelle Priester  
AREA Scholarship Program Director

## AREA Scholarship Program

[www.aafes-com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/](http://www.aafes-com/about-exchange/retired-employees-association/)

Donate \$1,000 or more to the AREA Scholarship Program and we'll name one of our ten \$3,000 scholarships after you, or someone you designate, and let the student know, if you desire. Likewise, donate \$2,000 for each of our two \$5,000 scholarships.

To make a donation of any amount, complete the donation form in this Newsletter on pages 26-27, or go to our web site link on the AREA web site. Use the **YouCaring Donations** option (described on page 11) to use a credit card. (Note: We award scholarships in late March so donations from April on will be included in our next program.) For further details, contact Chuck Poffenbarger, AREA President at [cpoffen@earthlink.net](mailto:cpoffen@earthlink.net).

To Scholarship Donor  
From: AAFES Dependent  
*Subject: AREA Scholarship*

Thank You for your financial assistance and moral support. Your contribution gave me confidence to realize that I could get through this successfully.

A Grateful Student

### Notable Named Donations for the 2018-2019 Scholarship Year

- **Charlene Kon** on behalf of her father **Charles Kon** who retired from AAFES in 2001 after 33 years of service. His title was computer systems analyst.
- **Marilyn Iverson**, who worked for AAFES for 35 years and retired in 2006 as the Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- **Karen Forsyth**, who worked for 30 years and retired in 2003 as VP Corporate Planning & Communication.
- **AREA's North Texas Chapter** in memory of **Brenda Morgan**, who retired from AAFES in 2007 as a Supervisory Senior Business Program Specialist.
- Robert Pardue, Chief, Payroll Branch, retired in \_\_\_\_ after \_\_ years.