

Investing in the Future

SSAF awards scholarships to a record number of students.

When the SSA Foundation Scholarship honored its first class in 2010, seven students were selected for awards. In the ensuing years, the number of winners continued to grow, a testament to the generosity of self storage professionals who have donated money to the Foundation Scholarship cause.

This year the number has reached an all-time high of 19 students who are either related to self storage professionals or work in the industry themselves. The winners span the United States from coast to coast. Many are first-time winners and some—like Jarod Ariola, Brandon Wallick and Shannon Young—are repeat winners.

Scholarship awards range from \$1,250 to \$5,000. In all, a total of \$50,000 was awarded to the 2015 SSA Foundation Scholarship winners, each of whom is profiled below.



Jarrod Ariola (\$5,000): Jarrod will be returning to Kennesaw State University for his sophomore year and will be dual majoring in computer science as well as computer game design and development. He hails from Atlanta, Georgia, where his mother is the property manager for Morningstar Mini Storage. When he finishes

school, Jarrod hopes to someday create and patent games under his own name. He plays drums for a college jazz band and is learning to speak Japanese.



Chris Hulshof (\$5,000): Chris is a junior at City College of San Francisco working to finish his final prerequisite before transferring to the University of California, Berkeley, for the spring term. He is double majoring in history and English. He moved from South Florida to San Francisco to take on a managerial position with Security

Public Storage. He enjoys his work in self storage but also has an eye on teaching English abroad some day.



Vadim Simakoff (\$5,000): Vadim is a man of many interests: chess (sixth at a nationwide tournament), wrestling (won the Los Angeles Section Division II 160 lb. class) and language (fluent in Russian and English). He will be a freshman at California State University – Northridge (CSUN) with a major in computer information technology. He is from Sherman Oaks, California, and his

mother works at StorQuest Self Storage (William Warren Group). When he graduates he would like to analyze and design software.



Bryan Walker (\$5,000): Bryan has aspirations to become a hospital administrator in either insurance policies or as a CFO. He is attending University of Detroit Mercy and will be starting in the graduate masters program of health service administration. Hailing from Rochester Hills, Michigan, he works for the National

Storage facility (a Pogoda Company property) in Shelby, Michigan. Bryan loves working on cars, building computers, playing video games and outdoor sports.



D'Arra Barnes (\$2,500): D'Arra is an Atlanta, Georgia, resident attending Columbus State University this fall as a freshman with a planned major in accounting. Her connection to self storage is through her mother, who is a supervisor at Smart Stop Self Storage. D'Arra wants to become an entrepreneur and hopes to own a

family cleaning business and hair salon. She likes painting and photography.



Connor Dennison (\$2,500): Connor hails from Petaluma, California. He is an incoming freshman at San Diego State University, currently considering what to declare as his major. His connection to self storage is through his mother, who works for Novato Self Storage. He is a devotee of all sports (especially football) and his hobbies

include hiking and spending time with family and friends.



Dennis Marrero (\$2,500): Rutgers University, Newark Campus, is Dennis's destination point for his junior year. Dennis plans to major in social work with a minor in psychology. He has worked in self storage for the past couple of years and is employed with CubeSmart in Parsippany, New Jersey. He hopes to

work with the New Jersey Department of Child Protection and Permanency.



Shannon McCarthy (\$2,500): A future star in the CSI world, Shannon is a sophomore this fall at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is majoring in forensic science on both the toxicology and microbiology tracks and would like to work in a forensic crime lab after graduation.

Her stepfather is a manager with CubeSmart. Shannon hails from Ogdensburg, New Jersey.



Dixie Miller (\$2,500): A native of York, Pennsylvania, Dixie has her eyes on the prize of becoming a pediatrician. This fall she is attending Lehigh University as a freshman with a major in biological sciences (with a pre-med concentration) and minors in German and health in society. Dixie's grandmother works for CubeSmart in New

Jersey. She has many interests that fill her free time, including volleyball, hunting, watching hockey and soccer, scrapbooking and being with her family.



Tara Murphree (\$2,500): A Garland, Texas, native, Tara is a junior at the University of Texas at Dallas. She is majoring in marketing and accounting. Her love of self storage comes from being an office manager at Paul Darden Company, which manages/owns 12 facilities. She hopes to use her education to help the Paul Darden

Company become even more successful and to aide her fiancé in growing his window-cleaning business. When free, Tara loves to head to the beach, bicycle and hike.



Jennifer Polanco (\$2,500): Jennifer is hoping to become a registered nurse when she has completed her university work. Her major is nursing at Herzing University in Kenosha as she enters her junior year. A native of Grayslake, Illinois, her attachment to self storage comes through her mother, who works with CubeSmart. Jennifer

is an outdoor enthusiast who especially loves the beach and paints and decorates in her spare time.



Brandon Wallick (\$2,500): Starting his sophomore year at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania, Brandon is hoping to concentrate in exercise science. His goal is to someday open a crossfit gym and become a personal trainer. As you might imagine, crossfit is one of his favorite hobbies, but he also enjoys

basketball and hanging out with his friends. His connec-

tion to self storage is his mother, who works for Store Safe Self Storage, part of the Ventura Investment Company.



Shannon Young (\$2,500): Shannon will be returning to The University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a junior to get her degree in business economics. She hopes to attend Campbell University to study law, as she would like to become a district attorney. Her mother, Sharon Young, has worked for Morningstar Mini

Storage for nine years, while Shannon started working with Morningstar a year and a half ago.



Bibi Barase (\$1,250): Bibi believes in a nice smile, and she is smiling about attending San Diego State University as a freshman. Her major will be in biology and when she graduates from SDSU she plans to attend optometry school to attain a doctor of optometry degree. The Stockton, California, native is linked to self storage through

her father, who is a manager at Safe Keep Storage in San Ramon. Bibi likes to bake in her spare time.



Joe Bouthillette (\$1,250): Speaking of baking, Joe is all about having a future as a chef. He is a freshman at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, working on earning an associates degree in culinary arts. He hails from Wells, Maine, where his mother is a long-time manager at Wells Storage Solutions.

Before he graduates from college Joe hopes to go to France and gain more experience in the culinary world.



Alfredo Lara (\$1,250): Alfredo may look like a farmer at home in Nogales, Arizona, where he has an organic garden, but his future plans are a little different. He is a freshman at the University of Arizona with a major in biochemistry. After Alfredo attains a bachelors of science in biochemistry, he plans to attend medical school to

become a physician. Both of his parents are managers at self storage facilities, his mother at Mariposa Self Storage and father at Nogales Self Storage.



Jeremy Salazar (\$1,250): Jeremy is a junior at California State University - Los Angeles with a major in business administration. He is a site specialist for Optivest Properties, managing PSA Self Storage in Alhambra, California, and traveling to other facilities in the L.A. area to do audits on oper-

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ations. Jeremy hails from Temple City, California, and hopes to become a corporate executive for a multi-million dollar company by using both his strong work ethics and knowledge gained in the classroom.



Ashleigh Walker (\$1,250): Hailing from Seguin, Texas, Ashleigh is in her freshman year at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Her connection to self storage is through A-Lert Building/Roof Systems where her mother works and late father used to work. Ashleigh plans on getting a degree in social

work and hopes to have a career working with people as a counselor.



David Zaleski (\$1,250): A Windy City native, David is a freshman at one of Chicago's finest schools, DePaul University. David is majoring in marketing and hopes to someday work for a Fortune 500 company. His mother works for Extra Space Storage. In his leisure time he enjoys the outdoors, whether it is fishing,

hunting or exploring new grounds. ❖

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