



Tim Burkholder – SSA Foundation Scholarship Winner

Engineering his way, thanks to the SSA.

By John Dunlap, Editor – SSA Globe

Giving to others seems to run in the lifeblood of Tim Burkholder, but it was thanks to an organization that gave to him that he was able to see his college dreams fulfilled.

If everything goes the way Burkholder hopes, he will be a college graduate by the time you read this story. He will be engineering a plan to go into the field of...engineering. He also says that his future is bright in no small

Above: Leonard Burkholder, who works at Cocalico Self Storage in Denver, Pennsylvania, steered his son Tim (right) into a SSA Foundation Scholarship.

part because of the Self Storage Association's contribution to his collegiate efforts in 2010. Burkholder was one of the winners of the SSA Foundation Scholarships in 2010 and the \$2,500 he won contributed to his graduation from Messiah College near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

It also helped that his father, Leonard, who manages Cocalico Self Storage in Denver, Pennsylvania, regularly keeps up with SSA publications and spotted the information about the SSA Foundation Scholarship, thus setting into motion his son's application.

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But what makes Tim Burkholder's future not only bright but also gratifying is that he wants to use his engineering knowledge to help others.

"In college, my interests were mostly directed toward the research and development of renewable energy sources," Tim says. "I was part of an organization at Messiah College called the Collaboratory. The Collaboratory is an organization of students and teachers who serve others by applying research in engineering, business, education, health, math, and information science. The team that I was part of was working on a project to provide solar heating for water at a college in Zimbabwe. Other renewable energy projects included work with photovoltaic solar panels and the production of bio-diesel fuel."

Tim's degree is a Bachelor of Science in engineering with a concentration in mechanical engineering. He hasn't found a job yet, but is searching in Central Pennsylvania for opportunities. He also is grateful for the fact that his dad found out about the SSA Foundation Scholarship program.

"Because tuitions costs go up each year, every year has been a struggle to raise the funds for college," Tim says. "The

first couple years after high school, I attended Reading Area Community College part-time while working at a department store, but my dream was to graduate from an ABET accredited school. The scholarship I received from the SSA has helped that dream come true."

Learning from the Family Business

His father Leonard also was pleased that the SSA could provide assistance to Tim.

"I found out about the SSA Foundation Scholarship through SSA's news," he says. "We receive SSA's publications and I noticed the scholarship information in several places. When I saw it, I immediately thought that Tim should apply. Tim had taken out several school loans, and was working part-time to pay for his education, therefore money was an issue."

"I was very happy to hear that Tim was selected to receive the SSA Foundation Scholarship. He has worked very hard on his education. This scholarship has helped Tim minimize his collage loans. Thanks so much to the SSA for investing in the life of my son. I am fully convinced that Tim will faithfully use the results of this financial gift to bless many."

Leonard Burkholder and his wife Anna Mary have been co-managers of Cocalico Self Store for nearly three years. Cocalico was owned by four Burkholder cousins who asked him if he'd be interested in managing their business. Two years ago Leonard and Anna Mary became a fifth partner in the business. And son Tim has also benefitted from his dad's business.

"My Dad has taught me a lot about the self storage business," Tim adds. "In fact, I have a lot of experience there myself from filling in from time to time. Working at the Self Store part-time during the summer has been another source of income that has helped me through college. I am grateful for the opportunity to have a job where I have learned important communication, managerial, and business skills from doing customer service and bookkeeping."

So now Tim Burkholder is ready to take those skills, as well as his education in engineering, out into the world. And he remains thankful that the SSA helped ease his collegiate financial burdens.

"Winning the SSA Foundation scholarship was not only a big financial help for me, but also an encouragement. It is encouraging to know that the Foundation was set up by people who care about the welfare of students like me. Attending college has not always been easy, but it has changed my life for the better. I'm excited about finally graduating. I hope that after I graduate I will be able to do for other people what the SSA Foundation did for me." ❖



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