

Giving Back to Our Industry Through Education

The 2011 SSA Foundation Scholarship winners are a diverse group of students

By John Dunlap – Editor, SSA Globe

It has become one of the most well-received and appreciated new programs from the Self Storage Association. When last year's inaugural group of SSA Foundation Scholarship winners were announced, few people realized how much the financial aid would mean to the students. But enough people understood the value of the program to make for a stellar group of applicants for the 2011 awards. In fact, over 40 candidates sent in applications—20 or more pages of information, including transcripts, financial need forms, letters of recommendation, and personal profiles.

In the end, nine very deserving individuals were chosen. They

hail from well-known communities like Dallas, Texas; Bozeman, Montana; Gainesville, Florida; and Virginia Beach, Virginia; as well as not-so-well-known locales like Fish Creek, Wisconsin; Eagle, Michigan; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Stickney, Illinois; and Dighton, Massachusetts. Some of the winners are attending major universities like the University of Florida, DePaul University and Marquette University while others are earning their degrees at smaller colleges.

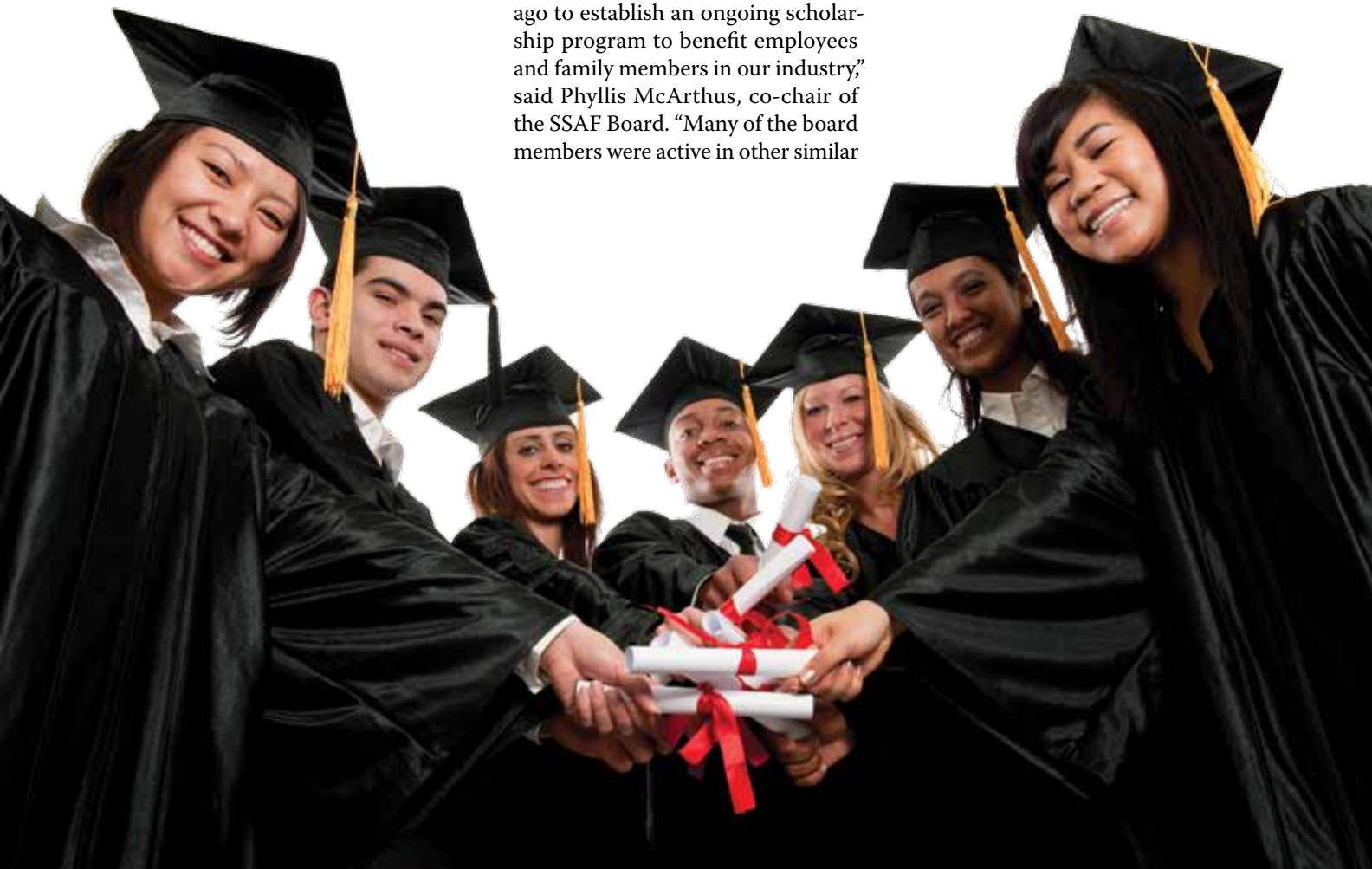
All of them have dreams, and those dreams are being aided by the SSA and generous donations from within the self storage industry.

“The Self Storage Association Foundation board had a vision two years ago to establish an ongoing scholarship program to benefit employees and family members in our industry,” said Phyllis McArthus, co-chair of the SSFA Board. “Many of the board members were active in other similar

programs and gave the project the needed impetus to move forward. It is important to note that this scholarship program is geared to a broader group of people: needs-based rather than just scholastic, technical schools along with four-year degree schools. It is especially rewarding to help someone in true need to further their education.”

Jefferson Shreve, a member of the SSFA selection committee, had the unenviable task of narrowing down the list to the final nine recipients. He was taken by the nature of the program and also hopes that more people in the self storage industry will recognize that giving back to

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those in self storage, especially a new generation of students, is a deed with its own rewards.

“We received more applications from deserving students than we had scholarship funds to award,” Shreve said. “But qualified applicants will also be welcomed to apply in future years.”

“Certainly, more people in our industry who are capable of helping us grow and fund the SSAF Scholarship need to know about this program,” Shreve added. “The SSAF Scholarship is deserving of broader support from those of us who have enjoyed success in the self storage business, and who wish to ‘give back’ in the form of scholarship support to promising students affiliated with our industry.”

And the Winners Are...

So who were the deserving winners? They are Josh Caltrider (\$5,000 award), Sascha Smith (\$2,500), Molly Grenchik (\$2,500), MacKenzie Roberts (\$2,500), Megan Schinderle (\$2,500), Sandra Braxton (\$1,250), Lindsay Williams (\$1,250), Esther Fragoso (\$1,250), and Ryan Bettencourt (\$1,250).

What follows is a brief look at each winner. In the months to come, each 2011 SSA Foundation Scholarship winner will receive his or her own separate feature story, just as was the case for the Class of 2010. Each story comes with its own inspirations, whether it is hardships overcome, a love of self storage or dreams and aspirations for the future.

Josh Caltrider: Josh was born in Dallas, Texas and grew up in Argyle, Texas. He is the DFW operations manager for Albert Moving and Storage. He also is a senior at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, majoring in financial consulting. His hobbies include golf, fishing, traveling, and rowing crew.

Sascha Smith: Sascha’s father and mother own Four Corners Self Storage in Bozeman, Montana and for the past six years she and her family have lived on the grounds of the facility. She is attending Pacific University, and plans to major in exercise science in the hopes of becoming an occupational therapist.

Molly Grenchik: Molly’s father and uncle own and operate Rocky Ridge Orchards and Self Storage, a self storage and cherry orchard business located in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. This fall she will begin her first year at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, studying clinical laboratory science. In her free time she loves to play soccer, volleyball, and basketball as well as read, paint, and spend time with friends and family.

MacKenzie Roberts: MacKenzie graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s in health science from the University of Florida and just began her doctor of physical therapy program at the University of Florida. Her dad is a property manager of a Metro Self Storage in Lakeland, Florida. She enjoys playing and coaching volleyball, watching Gator football and volleyball, participating in multiple intramural sports on campus, and spending time with her family.

Megan Schinderle: Megan is a strong and determined woman, having battled Treacher Collins syndrome, a condition that affects the bone formation in the face. In spite of numerous surgeries at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, she has pressed on and now is attending college at DePaul University. She is studying psychology, with hopes of becoming a counselor or therapist. Her parents and grandparents own Eagle Exit Storage in Eagle, Michigan.

Sandra Braxton: Sandra was born and raised on the Eastern Shore

of Virginia and currently resides in Virginia Beach, where she is a self storage manager for AAAA Self Storage. She is attending J. Sargeant Community College in Richmond, Virginia. This is her first year as a culinary arts major with an anticipated graduation date of December 2013. She enjoys cooking, traveling and swimming.

Lindsay Williams: Lindsay is the assistant manager of Rivergate Self Storage in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a property managed by Westport Properties, Inc. Lindsay will be a student this fall at Trevecca Nazarene University, where she will be pursuing a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy.

Esther Fragoso: Esther is from Chicago where she is the property manager at the Belmont-Cragin location of Lock Up Self Storage Centers. She is in her senior year at DeVry University - Chicago, working toward a bachelor of science degree in business administration management. She plans to continue working in the self storage business.

Ryan Bettencourt: Ryan recently graduated from Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School and will be attending Western New England University in the fall as a freshman majoring in pre-pharmacy. Outside of the classroom he enjoys playing and watching sports, in particular baseball and football, where he was captain of both squads during his senior year. He also is a big Boston Red Sox fan.

Congratulations to all the award winners and bear in mind that not only are these students benefitting from the scholarship money, but from self storage, as well.

As William Kenney, the co-chair of the SSA Foundation board put it, “I think I speak for all on the Foundation board who are really glad that we are doing this and feel it is a great program for everyone—donors, storage operators, and recipients.” ❖



The Self Storage Association Foundation (SSAF), the 501(c)(3) arm of the national Self Storage Association (SSA), commenced a scholarship program beginning with the fall semester, 2010. The SSAF Scholarship Program provides financial aid toward college or trade school tuition in the form of grants to employees or relatives of employees of self storage companies or vendor companies that serve the industry. Eligible companies must be members of the Self Storage Association. The SSAF board of governors thanks the generous SSA members who have already made the program a tremendous success with more than \$375,000 contributed.

**NAMED GIFT
\$50,000**

Ed & Craig Olson, A-American Storage Management Co., Inc.

**PLATINUM
\$25,000 – \$49,999**

Ben Eisler, Baco Realty
William F. Kenney, All American Self Storage
Phyllis McArthur, Morningstar Mini Storage
Ken Nitzberg & Kelly Gallacher, Devon Self Storage
Edmund C. Olson Family Foundation
Edward & Jeanette Roach, SKS Management, LLC

**GOLD
\$10,000 – \$24,999**

Foy R. Cooley, Access Self Storage
Peter Cowie & Robert McIntosh, Southern Self Storage
Nancy Gunning & Joseph Wolinsky,
Chesapeake Resources, Inc.
Albert R. Heyward III, The Heyward Companies
Michael Lackland, Lackland Self Storage
K. Blair Nagel, Metro Self Storage
Patrick Reilly, Urban Self Storage
Bridget Schalk, Pegasus Group

**SILVER
\$5,000 – \$9,999**

William F. Bohannon Jr., AMSMC-Storage Solutions
Robert Francis, The Heron Group, Inc.
The Geiler & Bromiley Families, SoCal Self Storage, LLC
William Hobin, The William Warren Group, Inc.
Michael McGuire, Stor-All New Orleans
Lawrence Nora, U-Stor-It Group
Michael A. Nunez, A+ Mini Storage
Thomas & Carlyn Paterson Family Trust
Jefferson Shreve, Storage Express
Marc Smith, Shaders Brothers
Aaron Swerdlin, Holliday Fenoglio & Fowler, LP
Richard & Shawn Tanner, Extra Space Storage

**BRONZE
\$2,500 – \$4,999**

Robert & Toni Bader, Bader Company
Anthony Marquez, Castor Valley Hayward Storage LLC
John H. Gilliland, Investment Real Estate
Dave Gordon
David K. Harder, Security Self Storage
Michael Haugh, Absolute Storage Management
Barry Hoeven, Westport Properties, inc
Carol & Thomas Krendl, Skilcheck
Robert & Rosemary Schoff,
National Self Storage Management Inc
Tracy & Diane Taylor,
Watson and Taylor Management Company

**PARTNER
\$1,000 – \$2,499**

Mike & Janice Burnam, Storage Mart
Brian Caster, A-1 Self Storage
James O. Davies, Belgravia Capital
Gary DeBode, Manhattan Mini Storage
Hardy Good, Minico Inc.
Glenn Hunter, DOMICO
Mike Mikkelson, Liberty Investment Properties
Maurice & Lori Pogoda, Pogoda Companies
Michael Riva, MSR Holdings, LLC
Tom & Deborah Smith, Incorporated Investments, Inc.
Steve Wilson, Hide-Away Storage

**FRIEND
\$100 – \$999**

Mitchell Danzis, Storage Station & Danvest LLC
Golden State Storage, Ojai Oil Company
Norman & Constance Kotoch, Security Self Storage Ltd
Brenda Scarborough, Accountable Management
Don Temple, Don Temple Storage
George S. Watson, Watson and Taylor