

2008 Gates Scholarship Winners

54 outstanding students from across CT were awarded a total of \$47,500 in scholarships this year. The scholarships were presented during the July 15th CAR Board of Directors meeting.



The Raymond F. Gates, Jr. 2008 Scholarship Recipients pictured from left to right are:

Front Row: Lyndsay Dolan, Jaimie LaPine, Natalie Widulinski, Jessica DiPietro, Lauren Fox, Caitlin Kelley

Middle Row: Car President-Ken DeVecchio, Steven Cimino, Magda Rosinski, Richard Senft, Kristine Abo, Urania Michael, Courtney Cyr, David Barry, Melissa Cotton, Stefanie Felitto, Betsy Pankulis (Scholarship Committee Member)

Back Row: Bob Kimball (Scholarship Committee Member) Jessica Durkee, John Zubretsky III, Daria Kaparek, Charles "Nick" Edwards IV, Roderick MacKenzie, Craig Elman, Joseph Ballatore, Haider Attarwala, Stephanie Kearns, Jeff Bodeau (Scholarship Committee Member)

**Missing from the photograph are Scholarship Committee Members Sandra Maier Schede, Abby Krist, and Linda St. Peter*

Kristine Abo graduated from Glastonbury High and will attend Dartmouth College in the fall where she will major in Biology. She intends to continue her education and attend medical school. Her teachers refer to her as an outstanding student and an accomplished young woman. Kristine is the daughter of Richard and Patricia Abo. Richard is a REALTOR® with Collier Dow & Condon and a member of the Hartford Association.

Theresa Atallah attends the University of Connecticut where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. In 2007, Atallah became a New England Scholar and has maintained her standing on the Dean's List at UConn. She is the daughter of Nabil and Helen Attallah. Nabil is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Partners and a member of the Waterbury Board.

Haider Attarwala is a graduate of Simsbury High School and in the fall will attend Cornell University where he will major in Human Biology, Health and Society. Throughout his high school years, Haider was an honor student, AP Scholar, and a National Merit Commended Student. He was the features editor of the school newspaper, a member of the cross country ski team, and a volunteer at Hartford Hospital. He is the son of Shabbir and Nahid Attarwala. Nahid is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and a member of the Hartford Association.

Jennifer Badillo graduated in May from Suffolk University where she earned her B.A. in Advertising and Public Relations. In the fall, Jennifer will return to Suffolk University to pursue a law degree. She is a member of Alpha Xi Delta and a campus Lion Scout who works with the Admissions Department to support and represent the University Campus Tours. Jennifer is the daughter of Ernest Badillo and Christine Fairchild. Ernest is a REALTOR® with Goodfellow-Ashmore and Christine is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker. Both are members of the Newtown Board.

Loren Bakshi is a recent graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart and will attend Santa Clara University to pursue a degree in Psychology. During her high school years, Loren was a Peer Leader, Captain of the Golf Team and active volunteer. She is the daughter of Ray and Leslie Bakshi. Leslie is a REALTOR®-Associate with William Raveis and a member of the Greenwich Association.

Russell Ballard graduated in June from Ridgefield High School where he was an AP Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and received numerous awards for his academic excellence. Russell was the president of Safe Rides of Ridgefield, Captain of the RHS Mock Trials and has studied classical piano for 13 years. He will attend Georgetown University in the fall and double major in Economics and Chinese. Russell is the son of Patricia and Charles Ballard. Patricia is a REALTOR® with William Pitt Sotheby's and a member of the Ridgefield Board.

Joseph Ballatore will be entering his junior year at UConn where he is majoring in Finance. He is a commended scholar athlete who has spent time as the Assistant Coach for the Ridgefield Chapter of Special Olympics Swim Team. Joseph is the son of Frank and Toni Ballatore. Toni is a REALTOR® with Keller Williams Real Estate and a member of the Ridgefield Board.

David Barry graduated with honors from Farmington High School in June where he served on the Principals Advisory Committee, was an active member of the Student Council and member of the school orchestra and tennis team. He will attend the University of Delaware in the fall and pursue the study of Business. David is the son of Kevin and Vicki Leeds. Vicki is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Hartford Association.

Shannon Beach graduated in June from Shelton High School and in the fall will attend Boston College and would love to study abroad in Spain and continue her studies in Biology. Throughout her high school years, Shannon maintained a 4.0 GPA. She accomplished this while remaining involved in extracurricular activities and serving as Editor-in-Chief for the Argus yearbook. Shannon is the daughter of Wayne and Carol Beach. Wayne is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Heritage and a member of the Fairfield Board.

Hannah Carloni graduated from Branford High School and will attend the University of Mary Washington in the fall where she intends to major in Elementary Education. During high school, Hannah maintained high honors and was a member of the National Honor Society as well as participating in soccer, track, band and chorus. Hannah is the daughter of Hope and Phil Carloni. Phil is the Designated REALTOR® with RE/MAX Alliance and a member of the Mid-Shore Association.

Sarah Chen attends the College of the Holy Cross and is studying Economics. Sarah was on the Dean's List in the spring of 2008. For her sophomore year, Sarah plans on continuing with Economics, Mandarin Chinese and two 300-level French courses. For her junior year, Sarah hopes to study abroad. Sarah is the daughter of Danny J. Chen and Jennifer Xiao Zhou. Jennifer is a REALTOR® with Lott Realty, LLC and a member of the Eastern CT Association.

Rebecca Christiansen will be entering her junior year at Hofstra University where she will major in Mathematics. She is a member of the Hofstra University Honors College, Phi Eta Sigma College Honor Society, a member of Alpha Theta Beta Sorority and a resident assistant. Rebecca is the daughter of Carol and Terry Christiansen. Carol is REALTOR® with RE/MAX Property Consultants and a member of the Eastern CT Association.

William Travis Church graduated in June from Farmington High School and will attend UConn in the fall where he will major in Marketing. During his four years of high school, William maintained High Honors and was a member of the Lacrosse, football and swim teams as well as a member of S.A.D.D. William is the son of Shelia and William Church. Shelia is a REALTOR® with Q Real Estate and a member of the Hartford Association.

Steven J. Cimino graduated in June from Hopkins School and in the fall will attend RPI. Steven plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering and to become an automotive engineer. Throughout his high school years, Steven was named the first Malone Scholar and received the National Merit Scholar Commended Student award. He received special sports honors and awards for football, indoor and outdoor track. Steven is the son of Steven P. and Eileen Cimino. Eileen is a REALTOR® with Century 21 Access America and a member of the Mid-Shore Association.

Melissa Cotton attends Kent State University and is currently a musical theatre major pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and a BA in English. Her plans are to act and one day direct and write plays. Melissa is the daughter of Jeffrey and Allyson Cotton. Allyson is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Midd-Shore Association.

Courtney Cyr graduated in June from Manchester High School and in the fall will attend Hofstra University where she plans to pursue a career in the biological field. Throughout her high school years, Courtney was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Wellesley College Book Award in 2007, and was Student of the Month in 2006. She volunteers at a church thrift shop. Courtney is the daughter of Barry and Sheryl Cyr. Barry is the Designated REALTOR® with Condo Realty and a member of the Tri-County Board.

Salvatore D'Amico attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in Management. He received the Rensselaer Leadership Award and was on the Dean's List for the fall semester 2007. Salvatore is the son of Sal and Marlyn D'Amico. Marlyn is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Hilltop and a member of the Northern Fairfield County Association.

Jessica DiPietro is a graduate of Valley Regional High School. In the fall, she will attend Salisbury University where she will major in History and Political Science. Jessica participated in numerous musicals throughout high school. Jessica is the daughter of Carolyn and Angelo DiPietro. Carolyn is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Midd-Shore Association.

Lyndsay Dolan is a recent graduate of Daniel Hand High School where she was an honor student. She also was a four-year member of the lacrosse and field hockey teams. In 2007, Lyndsay was selected to attend the National Student Leadership Conference at the University of California. In the fall, she will attend Syracuse University. Lyndsay is the daughter of Pamela Gerrity Kadamus and M. Christopher Dolan. Pamela is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Midd-Shore Association.

Jessica Durkee is a 2008 graduate Sigma Xi from Vassar College where she has received a degree in Chemistry with a minor in Analytical Philosophy and Molecular Biology. In the fall, she will attend the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Jessica is the daughter of Margaret and Henry Durkee. Margaret is a REALTOR® with West View Properties and a member of the Waterbury Board.

Charles "Nick" Edwards, IV attends Amherst College and is majoring in Economics and Political Science. Charles participated in Habitat for Humanity and the Cancer Walkathon, "Relay for Life." Nick has been in Scouting for over 12 years and has attained the highest rank of Eagle Scout, and elected to "Order of the Arrow". Nick is the son of Charles and Christine Edwards. Christine is a REALTOR®-Associate with RE/MAX Associates and a member of the Greenwich Association.

Craig Elman graduated in June from Amity Regional High School and in December 2008 will be attending Brandeis University where he plans to study Math, Business, Economics, and International and Global Studies. During his high school years, he was a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and received an award for Outstanding Band Student. Craig is the son of Joseph and Laura Elman. Laura is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and a member of the New Haven Association.

James Fayal is a recent graduate from Stonington High School where he was the winner of the Connecticut Invention Convention and received high honors throughout his four years. James also was a member of the swim, lacrosse and tennis teams. James will spend this summer doing missionary work in Ecuador. In the fall, he will attend the University of Maryland where he will major in Business. He is the son of Anne Haal and James E. Fayal. Anne is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Coast & Country and a member of the Eastern CT Association.

Stefanie Felitto graduated from East Lyme High School where she received numerous academic awards. She was the editor of the student newspaper, member of the student senate, council, and the swim and crew teams. In the fall, she will attend the College of William & Mary and major in Political Science. Stefanie is the daughter of Roberta and Donald Felitto. Roberta is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Eastern CT Association.

Lauren Fox graduated in June from Ridgefield High School and in the fall will attend the University of Delaware where she will pursue a career in Elementary Education. Throughout her high school years, Lauren was a member of the National Honor Society and received awards in biology and chemistry. She also received the Scholar-Athlete award in the fall of 2007. Lauren is the daughter of John and Sheila Fox. Sheila is a REALTOR® with Neumann Real Estate and a member of the Ridgefield Board.

Kirsten Fuchs attends Bucknell University and is pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as an occupation in Mechanical Engineering. She was on the Dean's List in the fall of 2006 and spring/fall of 2007. She was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society in the spring of 2007 and received the President's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement. Kirsten is the daughter of Craig and Martha Fuchs. Craig is a REALTOR® with H. Pearce Real Estate and a member of the New Haven Association.

Katelyn Gould graduated in June from New Fairfield High School and in the fall will attend Clark University where she will pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology. During her high school years, Katelyn was a member of the National Honors Society and was on the Honor Roll 2004-2008. She also was in the Marching Band and Pep Band, and a Clarinet Section Leader in the Concert Band. Katelyn is the daughter of Christopher and Julie (Dail) Gould. Christopher is a REALTOR® with CT Golden Realty LLC and a member of the Northern Fairfield County Association.

Jessica Granger is a recent graduate from New Milford High School and will attend the University of Southern California-School of Cinematic Arts in the fall. Jessica received numerous honors and recognitions during high school and played a significant role in leadership and extracurricular activities. Jessica is the daughter of Irit and John Granger. Irit is a REALTOR® with William Raveis and a member of the New Milford Board.

Jeffrey Guzinski graduated in June from Westhill High School and will study Electrical Engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Throughout high school, Jeffrey maintained High Honors. He completed his Eagle Scout Award in March 2008. Jeffrey is a multi talented musician participating in Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble. Jeffrey is the son of Geri and John Guzinski. Geri is a REALTOR® with William Raveis and a member of the Stamford Board.

Hannah Horowitz attends Harvard College and is currently pursuing a program in Earth and Planetary Sciences. In 2007, Hannah was Valedictorian, National Merit Scholar, and National AP Scholar at Wethersfield High School. She received the Robert McFarland Award for Dedication to French in 2006. Hannah is the daughter of Ralph and Maureen Horowitz. Maureen is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker and a member of the Hartford Association.

Daria Kasperek graduated in June from Joseph A. Foran High School and in the fall will attend George Washington University where she will study International Relations. Daria was named in Who's Who Among America's High School Students, an Honor Guard and Captain Scholar in 2007 and was a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Daria is the daughter of George and Kathleen Kasperek. Kathleen is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the New Haven Association.

Harrison Katz graduated in June from Greenwich High School and in the fall will attend Lehigh University where his interest is in Economics. Harrison was a member of the National Honor Society. He received a Scholar/Athlete Award for Track and Field Team and received the Coach's Award for Track and Field in April 2008. Harrison was Class Vice President for two years. Harrison is the son of Stuart and Suzanne Katz. Suzanne is a REALTOR®-Associate with Sotheby's International Realty and a member of the Greenwich Association.

Stephanie Kearns is a 2008 graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In the fall, she will attend Merrimack College where she will study Civil Engineering. During her four years of high school, Stephanie maintained High Honors, was Captain of the Varsity Cross Country Team, Varsity Track, and participated in Concert Band and as a Peer Advisor. Stephanie is the daughter of Heidi and Walter Kearns. Heidi is a REALTOR® with EJ Murphy Realty and a member of the Litchfield County Board.

Caitlin Kelley graduated in June from Ledyard High School where she was an active member of the class of 2008. She participated in basketball, volleyball, student council, yearbook staff and acted as a class advisor. In 2008, Caitlin was named Ledyard High School Poet Laureate. In the fall, she will attend UConn and major in Biology. Caitlin is the daughter of Joanne and John Kelley. Joanne is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Realty Group and a member of the Eastern CT Association.

Jessica Knapp graduated in May from Sacred Heart Academy and in the fall will attend Villanova University and pursue a BSN and become a Registered Nurse. It is her hope to work with children suffering from cancer. Throughout her high school years, Jessica was on the Honor Roll. She was junior class secretary on the Student Council. She also volunteered at local campaign headquarters and volunteers at Waterbury Hospital on the Med-Surg floor. Jessica is the daughter of David and Sharon Knapp. David is a REALTOR® with Stauffer Real Estate and a member of the Valley Association.

Emma Lander graduated in June from Weston High School and is preparing to attend New York University in the fall. Emma plans to study at NYU at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development where she will major in Communications. Emma's advisor referred to her as a role model, leader, and a person with great integrity. Emma is the daughter of Laura Taras and Scott Lander. Laura is a REALTOR® with the Higgins Group and a member of the Mid-Fairfield County Association.

Jaimie LaPine attends Berklee College of Music where her Major is in Music Education. She plans to become a high school choir director while her ultimate goal is to teach at her former high school. Her training is in jazz, classical, contemporary and theater styles. Jaimie is the daughter of James and Diane LaPine. Diane is a REALTOR® with Cornerstone CT Realty and a member of the Northern Fairfield County Association.

Michelle Louie graduated in June from Brien McMahon High School and in the fall will attend Temple University as a music therapy major. She plans to become a music therapist to help people improve their lives. Throughout her high school years, Michelle received High Honors and received the senior award/Scholarship. She received the Junior Book Award from Wellesley College in May 2007. She is very active in her church where she plays in the orchestras. Michelle is the daughter of Paul and Katie Louie. Paul is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Mid-Fairfield County Association.

Christopher Lown graduated in May from St. Joseph High School and in the fall will attend Bentley College and pursue the study of Business. Throughout his high school years, Christopher was on the Honor Roll. He also participated in Future Stars Football Camp and was a volunteer at the Shelton Trails Walk and Moonan Run. Christopher is the son of James and Victoria Lown. Victoria is a REALTOR® with William Raveis and a member of the Valley Association.

Roderick "John" MacKenzie is a graduate of the Fairfield College Preparatory School where he excelled athletically in golf and skiing. Roderick was recognized for his consistent academic work. His teachers have described him as a personable, mature and determined young man. "A person who is capable of balancing a most rigorous course of study with personal, athletic and extracurricular interests." In the fall, he will attend the University of Virginia where he will study Engineering. Roderick "John" is the son of Mary and David MacKenzie. Mary is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Fairfield Board.

Zachary Martin graduated in June from RHAM High School and will attend Sacred Heart University in the fall where he will major in Accounting. During high school, Zachary participated in Track & Field, Wrestling and Basketball and was a Peer Helper and member of DECA. As a Boy Scout, Zachary undertook his Eagle Scout Project, which was to restore the exterior of the historic Gilead Hill School. Zachary is the son of Karen and Michael Martin. Karen is a REALTOR® with Century 21 CT Realty Associates and a member of the East Central Board.

Nicholas Matiasz attends Tufts University School of Engineering and intends to earn a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (B.S.E.E.) degree. Following his undergraduate education, Nicholas plans to pursue a M.S. degree in electrical engineering. He would like to perform research in the development of brain imaging technologies. Nicholas was on the Dean's List for all semesters (freshman and sophomore). He won 1st place at the Electrical Engineering Department's Speaker Contest in the fall of 2007. Nicholas is the son of Nestor and Maria Matiasz. Maria is a REALTOR® with Century 21 William Smith Realty and a member of the Hartford Association.

Urania Michael is a 2008 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School. She will attend UConn in the fall where she will major in Biology. During high school, Urania was recognized as a Super Senior, Republican American Scholar, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Scholar, was a member of the National Honor Society, volleyball and tennis teams. Urania is the daughter of Anna and Nicos Michael. Anna is a REALTOR® with Delta Real Estate and a member of the Waterbury Board.

Kelly Murphy graduated in June from Avon High School and in the fall will attend Saint Joseph's University where she will pursue a career in the law field. Throughout her high school years, Kelly was on the Honor Roll, was a Scholar Athlete, and achieved a 4 out of 5 on the AP U.S. History exam. She was a CCD religion teacher for five years. Kelly is the daughter of Thomas and Trish Murphy. Trish is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker and a member of the Hartford Association.

Lauren Penney attends the University of Connecticut where she is pursuing a major In Marketing and a minor in Communications. She was on the Dean's List for the fall and spring semesters. Lauren is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society and invited to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars 2008. Lauren volunteered at the Special Olympics Soccer Tournament and Mansfield Retirement Home. Lauren is the daughter of James and Christine Penney. Christine is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and a member of the Bridgeport Board.

Cleo Rahmy attends the University of Connecticut Storrs and is currently in a five year Master's Program for secondary English. She plans on obtaining a Master's degree and two Bachelor's degrees. Cleo was on the Dean's List at UConn for the years 2005-2007 and named 2007 New England Scholar. She was a paraprofessional substitute on the Simsbury Board of Education during the years 2006-2008. Cleo is the daughter of Barry and Tara Rahmy. Tara is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and a member of the Hartford Association.

Stephen Rinaldi graduated in June from Ridgefield High School where he was recognized for his solid academic performance and participation on the school hockey team. In the fall, Stephen will attend the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and pursue the study of business. Stephen is the son of Annmarie DelFranco and Stephen Rinaldi. Annmarie is a REALTOR® with Prudential CT Realty and is a member of the Ridgefield Board.

Magda Rosinski graduated in June from Torrington High School and in the fall will attend the University of Connecticut and pursue a degree in Psychology. During her high school years, Magda received an Academic Letter, Academic Pin, Certificate of Participation for Fairfield Model U.N., and Letter of Participation at Yale Model U.N., and UConn Model U.N. dedication and participation certificate. Magda is the daughter of Stanislaw and Malgorzata Rosinski. Malgorzata is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Realty 2000 and a member of the Litchfield County Board.

Richard J. Senft graduated in June from Lyme-Old Lyme High School and in the fall will attend Rochester Institute of Technology where he will be pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree. During his high school years, Richard received Excellence in Honors, received an Academic Letter, and received the "Best Junior in Physics" Award by the American Association of Physics Teachers. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Math Team, and was second lead programmer for F.I.R.S.T. Robotics. Richard is the son of Richard A. and Vivian (Inglima) Senft. Vivian is a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and a member of the Midd-Shore Association.

Kristin Simoncelli graduated in June from New Fairfield High School and in the fall will attend Vassar College where she will pursue a program in pre-med. During her high school years, Kristin won the Gold Medal National Latin Exam and received the International Foreign Language Award from US Achievement Academy. She was named "Shining Star" from the Board of Education for recognition of achievements in Latin Studies. Kristin was Treasurer for the National Honor Society and Captain of Varsity Tennis. She is a volunteer at Danbury Hospital. Kristin is the daughter of Anthony and Olga Simoncelli. Olga is a REALTOR® with Pandolfi Properties and a member of the Northern Fairfield County Association.

Stephanie Strano is a recent graduate of Manchester High School where she was a member of the FBLA, DECA, Marching Band and a member of basketball, track, swim and tennis teams. Stephanie was also a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall, she will attend Hofstra University and major in Biology. Stephanie is the daughter of Frank and Diane Strano. Frank is the Designated REALTOR® of Strano Realty and a member of the Tri-County Board.

Alexa Vaughan graduated in May from Chase Collegiate School. In the fall, she will attend Rutgers University and will study food science. Alexa dedicated many hours of time to her community and non-profit organizations. She also was a member of the basketball, softball, and soccer teams. Alexa is the daughter of Charles Vaughan and Brenda Mattrella. Charles is the Designated REALTOR® with Schoolhouse Realty and a member of the Waterbury Board.

Natalia Widulinski graduated in May from the Admiral Farragut Academy where she was consistently recognized for her academic excellence. She participated in the People-to-People Student Ambassador Program and in team sports. She is planning to attend Northeastern University and pursue the study of Marine Biology. Natalia is the daughter of Agnieszka Zwierz and Piotr Widulinski. Agnieszka is a REALTOR® with William Raveis Real Estate and a member of the Stamford Board.

John Zubretsky, III is attending Lynn University and is majoring in Business and Business Management. John was on the Dean's List for the years 2006-2008. He has been a volunteer for Easter Seals for over five years, is a basketball coach for 7th and 8th grade boys, and is an umpire for the Little League. John acquired his real estate license at the age of 19. John is the son of John and Ann Zubretsky. John is the Designated REALTOR® with Century 21 Access America and a member of the Hartford Association.