

First Scholarships Awarded!



The SMAA Foundation and Scholarship Committee announce the first four recipients of the Legacy Scholarship. They are **Kayla Jaffy, Elizabeth Meise, Chistopher Slosar and Zhaole Liang.**

Kayla Jaffy is the granddaughter of **Robert Hirshman**, who is member of the class of '53, while Elizabeth Meise is the daughter of **Michael Meise** and the niece of **John Meise**, both of whom went to SMA: Michael was a member of the class of '73 and John the class of '72. Kayla will be attending the University of Florida and Elizabeth will matriculate at Roanoke College.

Christopher Slosar and Zhaole Liang are our other 2 recipients who by this action have joined our community. They both have graduated from St. John's Northwestern Military Academy. Christopher will attend The United States Military Academy at West Point while Zhaole will go to the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The vision of the SMA Legacy Fund is to perpetuate the legacy of Staunton Military Academy, its core values of "Truth, Duty and Honor" and its heritage. In 2016 The Staunton Military Academy Legacy Scholarship Program was established as one of the precepts of the SMA Legacy Fund which provides the monies to be awarded. This fund was created to preserve and perpetuate the traditions of Truth, Duty and Honor, which every cadet who attended the former Staunton Military Academy was expected to embrace and live by. These students will perpetuate this "Motto".

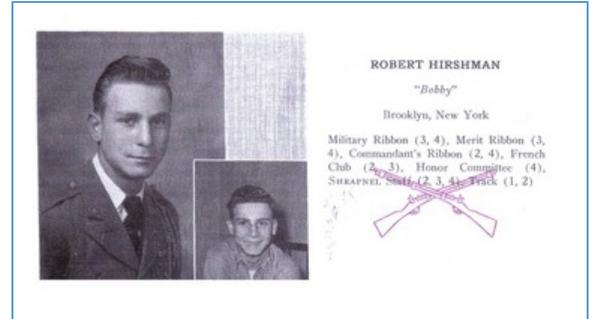
We asked the four winners to provide a picture and to write a little about themselves. Here are they are:



Kayla Jaffy of Boca Raton, Florida

My name is **Kayla Jaffy**. I grew up in Boca Raton Florida and live with my parents and two younger sisters. I graduated from West Boca Raton High School located in South Florida and now attend the University of Florida as a Business Major. I am a well-rounded young adult that always took pride in my school work and still managed to participate on the Varsity Lacrosse team all four years of high school. The reason behind my applying for the Staunton Military Academy Scholarship was because my grandfather Bob Hirshman attended Staunton Military Academy, and he thought this was a phenomenal opportunity for me. I am very excited that I not only won this award, but was part of the first generation

of many to come. My grandfather Bob often speaks of his memories at SMA, educating his family about what a day in the life was like at military school. I am proud to help my grandpa have his legacy live on.



Kalya's Grandfather Class of 1953



Cadet Zhaole Liang in Uniform

I am **Zhaole Liang**, a cadet who just graduated from St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in May. I will be pursuing my Bachelor Degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. I am planning to major in Civil Engineering and Architectural Design, majors which have unlimited potential in the future.

After an earthquake measuring 8.0 hit Sichuan, China, I noticed that the destruction of civil facilities caused the most casualties. Since then, I set up my goal to become an architectural engineer and to study earthquake-resistant construction in the future.

Once I achieve my goals, I will use my resources and knowledge to try to popularize the new types of earthquake-resistant construction processes in countries which have suffered the pain of earthquake; so that more people can live safely and comfortably.



Elizabeth Meise of Roanoke, Virginia.

Elizabeth Meise is from Roanoke, Virginia. She graduated from Northside High School as the valedictorian and member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Roanoke College this fall and plans to double major in Biology and Education.

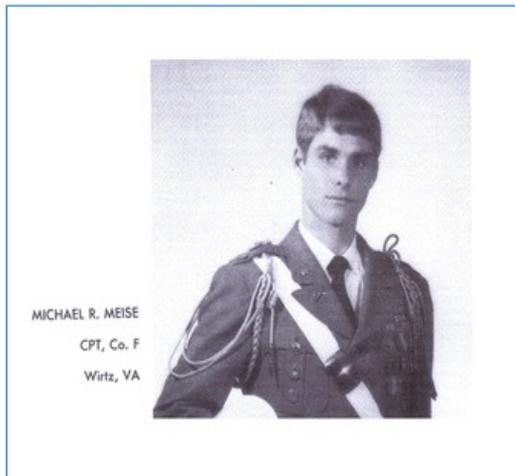
Outside of her academic life, Elizabeth participates in many community activities.

She volunteers with the region's 4-H club as a summer camp counselor and also helps at the local library. Throughout high school, she played recreational league soccer as a goalkeeper and earned herself the status of MVP.

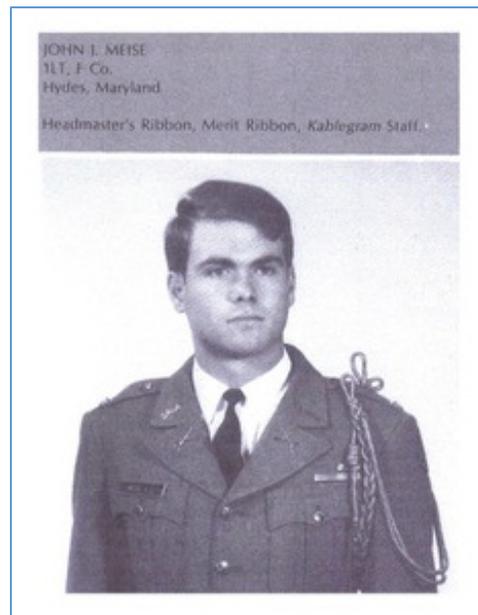
She has traveled to Germany twice in an immersive German exchange program and has hosted students in her home. Elizabeth is honored to be a recipient of the SMA Legacy Scholarship and wishes to carry on the history and beliefs of Staunton Military Academy wherever her

education may take her.

Elizabeth's father, **Michael R. Meise class of '73**, and **uncle, John Meise class of '72**, were **cadets at Staunton Military Academy**. Her father instilled in her the morals of truth, duty, and honor because of his respect for SMA.



Elizabeth's Father Class of '73



Elizabeth's Uncle Class of '72



Cadet Christopher Slosar in uniform.

My name is **Christopher Slosar**. I was born in Miami, FL in 1998 and was raised in the Florida Keys. I was home schooled during my grade school years, as my family did a lot of traveling throughout the United States with our motorhome and throughout the Bahamas on our sailboat.

I attended St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, WI for my four years of high school. I loved the school and did extremely well at St. John's, working my way up the ranks of leadership and keeping my grades up as well, being on the Dean's List with Honors for all four years.

During those four years, I won many state and national awards. I was the Commander of our school's Silver Rifle Drill Team, the Captain of the tennis team, swim team, and cross country team. I achieved the rank of Captain in my senior year and was the Salutatorian for my senior class.

I started looking at colleges and service academies in my sophomore year and also started taking ACT tests to get my score up above 30 so I would qualify for scholarships. (I ended up with a 31 ACT score.). In my junior year I applied to University of Florida, University of Miami, Northwestern University, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

I also sought nominations from my Senators and Congressman and received a nomination from one of my state's Senators to attend either West Point or Air Force Academy.

In addition, I applied for an ROTC scholarship. I was accepted to everything I applied to and was also awarded a full 4 year ROTC scholarship that would pay my entire tuition to any of the three civilian colleges.

In April, 2017, I accepted my appointment to West Point, and I am now on my way to becoming an officer in the United States Army! All my hard work has paid off, and I am now in an elite group of 1,229 men and women out of the 13,000 that applied to West Point for the Class of 2021.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Legacy Scholarship Selection Committee for selecting me as one of the four winners of the Inaugural Staunton Military Academy Legacy Scholarship Program! I truly appreciate it, and these funds will help me in pursuing and achieving my goal as a leader and an officer in the United States Army.

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Please join the selection committee in congratulating the fine young men and women as they take their next step in life's journey.