



SMA ALUMNI FOUNDATION 2019 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2019 Legacy Scholarship. Three of these young people are descendants or relatives of SMA alumni. All were outstanding high-school students who also participated in athletics and other extracurricular activities. Through their character, each showed a clear understanding and application of the ideals of truth, duty, and honor. They are: Thomas Westbrook from Lancaster, PA; Laurel Bennett from West Point, NY; Jacob Howard from Weston, FL; and Lauren Childres from Biloxi, MS.

Thomas A. Westbrook:



Thomas A. Westbrook

I am from Lancaster, PA, and graduated from Lancaster Country Day School at the top of my class. In the fall, **I will be attending Washington University** in St. Louis as a prospective mathematics and French major.

Academics are a big focus of mine, but my passions include theatre, tennis, and community service. Playing varsity tennis shaped my character and honed my sense of discipline and honor through sportsmanship. In my summers, I work as a counselor for a Head Start-type program serving underprivileged children. My experiences with these kids helped strengthen my belief in SMA's ideals of truth, duty, and honor.

I am proud to be a representative for the values of Staunton Military Academy, as my grandfather, Donald L. Westbrook, and great-uncle, Mark L. Westbrook, are graduates of the classes of 1969 and 1970, respectively. That their legacy and their experiences at SMA can live on through my scholarship is humbling and gratifying.

Laurel Bennett:



Laurel Bennett

I'm Laurel Bennett. I currently live in West Point, New York. However, because of my dad's career in the Army, I was born in Germany and have grown up moving around the United States. Growing up, I have experienced and learned the values of Truth, Duty, and Honor, due to being surrounded by the Army and its motto being, "Duty, Honor, Country." I graduated from James I. O'Neill High School, and **I am excited to attend the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, Boulder** this Fall 2019. Throughout high school, I have participated and led in many sports, clubs, chorus groups, and other extracurriculars who have shaped me into the person I am today. I hope to continue my activities involving service, leadership, and teamwork at the University of Colorado, and I am very honored to be receiving the Staunton Military Academy Legacy Scholarship this year.

My cousins who attended the Staunton Military Academy are Anthony Shipula, from 1970-1971, David Shipula, Class of 1973, and my great-uncle John Horoshko, class of 1959. I am happy to have made them and the rest of my family proud with my acceptance for this scholarship.

Jacob Howard:



Jacob Howard

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for picking me to receive one of the SMA scholarships. It is a very humbling honor to be a recipient of the SMA scholarship for this year. My great uncle, A. Michael Lipper, is an SMA alumnus (1953), and through his character the ideas of truth, duty, and honor are exemplified. He began his leadership learning at SMA and of continued while he was a part of the Columbia University Fencing team and NROTC Program. I am grateful for my great uncle's service, as well as everything else he has done and will do in my life. **I will be attending New York University (NYU)** in the fall of 2019, where I will be studying business. After college, I hope to work in the financial industry exemplifying truth, duty, and honor the same way my great uncle has throughout his entire life.

Lauren Childres:



Lauren Childres

Lauren Childres was born and raised in Biloxi, MS, and graduated in May 2019 with High Honors from d'Iberville High School. She finished high school in the top 8%, graduating 22 out of 279.

While in high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Harrison County Junior Leadership Program and Student Council. She received a medal for attaining Mississippi Scholar status. While excelling academically, Lauren also participated and earned awards in four sports: basketball, tennis, cross country, and track. **She plans to attend Mississippi State University** in the fall and major in aerospace engineering.

She is honored to receive the SMA Legacy Scholarship. This scholarship will help her in achieving her goal to receive a bachelor's degree in engineering.