

~ AUI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ~

**Below are the winners of the 2011 AUI Trustee Scholarship competition conducted by Scholarship & Recognition Programs. These students will each receive an award of \$3,500 per year to aid in defraying expenses at the college of their choice.**

**Elise “Ellie” Braatz**

Ellie is a senior at Albemarle High School. She is the president of the Peer Mentor/Peer Tutor Club, Secretary for the AHS chapter of the National Honor Society, and Treasurer of the Canoe Club. She is also a member of the French Club, English Honor Society, French Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and Science Honor Society. Ellie is the Project Manager of Charlottesville's FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Team 619, and she enjoys taking ballroom dancing lessons. She volunteers at the Virginia Discovery Museum and plays flute for the Instrumental Ensemble at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Ellie is planning to attend either the University of Virginia or the College of William and Mary and will pursue a degree in neuroscience. Ellie is the daughter of Jim and Lena Braatz. Jim is a Scientist at the NAASC in Charlottesville.

**Mileva Gacanich**

Mileva S. Gacanich is currently a senior at Socorro High School having completed her early schooling at Cottonwood Valley Charter School, also in Socorro. She is ranked 3rd in her class and has taken all honors courses including dual credit classes in Micro Electronic Mechanical Systems at CNM. Mileva participates in many competitions in both scholastics and sports. All State Soccer Goal Keeper Honorable Mention four years, All District Goal Keeper four years and ranked 4th in State Pole Vault are a few of Mileva's athletic accomplishments. Mileva has competed in the Science Olympiad, MESA Competitions, Sandia Labs Collegiate MEMs Design Competition, Lego Robotic Trials and Youth and Government Legislative Sessions, NM Girl State and RYLA Leadership. She is currently President of SHS National Honor Society having been a member 3 years, President of Youth and Government and member for two years, President of the Renaissance Council and member of three years. In addition to being a Juliette Girl Scout Mileva is actively involved in serving her community as a Eucharistic Minister at San Miguel Parish. Believing that charity starts at home, Mileva volunteers at the Storehouse; has managed a giving tree for disadvantaged children; helps raise money for Relay for Life and Autism Speaks, and assists where needed with other non-profit charitable organizations.

Mileva has been accepted at several colleges and plans to study bio-mechanical engineering. She is the daughter of Larry and Jeanne Gacanich. Larry is employed at the VLA Warehouse.

**Xuyi Guo**

Xuyi is a senior at Harrisonburg High School. He is currently president of the Harrisonburg High School chapter of the National Math Honor Society and served as president of the HHS Technology Student Association for two years. Xuyi is captain of both the Science Bowl and Scholastic Bowl teams and is a member of the debate team. He also writes for the school paper, “The Newsstreak”.

During summer breaks, Xuyi has attended the Virginia Summer Residential Governor's School for Math, Science, and Technology, and volunteered as a teacher's assistant at Keister Elementary School. Xuyi is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, was invited to take the United States National Chemistry Olympiad national exam, and has qualified for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad three times.

Xuyi has been accepted to Yale, Princeton, MIT, and Stanford but is currently undecided about where he will matriculate. He is the son of Dongshan Guo and Ling Xu. Dongshan is a ALMA Software Engineer in Charlottesville.

**Logan Plumley**

Logan is a senior at Pocahontas County High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Tribe Club and cooking entrée winner in the Foreign Language Festival. While completing all his core classes at Pocahontas County High School he has also earned the hours required to sit for his journeyman's license to become a certified electrician. Logan is a member of the golf team and has played in the WV State Tournament for the last three years. He is a member of the baseball team and current team captain. He has also been a member and letterman for the basketball and football teams. Logan has played guitar for fundraisers to support the local radio station and for local elementary schools to promote the arts. He has volunteered his time coaching young children at Warrior Basketball Camp, served as a standard bearer for the Professional Golf Association at the 1st Annual Greenbrier Classic, and has helped organize golf tournaments for fund raisers and Scholarships Funds.

Logan will attend Potomac State College followed by West Virginia University where he will major in Civil Engineering. Logan is the son of Thomas and Christine Plumley. Christine is Budget Manager/Associate Business Manager in Green Bank.

**Katherine “Kay” Rodriguez**

Kay is a senior at Deep Run High School in Henrico County. She is a member of the Science National Honor Society, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society) and has consistently won academic honors for Straight A Honor Roll, Perfect SOL Score Award, Henrico County PSAT Award, National Merit Commended Scholar Award, the College Board AP Scholar with distinction, Metro Richmond Science Fair (First Place – Behavioral and Social Sciences) and Virginia Junior Academy of Science (Honorable Mention – Medical Science B). Kay has participated in the VCU Medical Science Internship Program for two years.

Kay has played the violin for the past 10 years, participating in the Henrico All-County Orchestra (Concertmaster), Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra (Concertmaster), South Central Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Summer Session (Co-Concertmaster), University of Virginia Summer Chamber Music Program (Assistant Concertmaster) and the Deep Run Orchestra (President). She has performed with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra with Mark Wood as Concertmaster, with the Richmond Symphony at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and at Catholic University for the Philippine Ambassador. She has won the Godwin High School Orchestra Director’s Award, and the Deep Run Orchestra Scholar Award. She also plays the violin for the Richmond Symphony Chamber Music Cordicella Quartet, Intrecciate Duet (playing for weddings), and the St. Mary’s Church Choir Ensemble.

Kay enjoys photography and founded the Deep Run Photography Section of the Media Club and is its President. She is also a free lance photographer in her spare time. She has been accepted to William & Mary (Monroe Scholar), University of Virginia (Echols Scholar), Rice University, Cornell University, and Virginia Tech (University Honors Program, Scholar) but has not yet decided which school to attend. She has volunteered many hours at the Massey Cancer Center and hopes to follow a pre-med curriculum in Neuroscience. Kay is the daughter of Tony and Carmen Rodriguez; Tony is a Mechanical Engineer at the Charlottesville Edgemont Road facility working with the ALMA Antenna IPT Group.