



Army & Air Force Exchange Service  
P.O. Box 660202  
Dallas, TX 75266-0202  
(214) 312-2011

JUN 09 2010

To: Friends and Supporters of the AREA Scholarship Program

One of the best aspects of leading a military command like the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is the number of opportunities I have to meet associates around the world while taking the exchange benefit to the military families we serve. Whether in the deserts of Iraq, Afghan mountains, or the coastline near an environmental disaster, strong bonds form between our team members as they carry out the day-to-day mission of supporting Soldiers, Airmen, retirees and their families.

As a result, the word "family" tends to carry a deeper meaning for AAFES associates. While for most "family" means brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, etc., within AAFES "family" also includes co-workers, managers, and associates who may not have even met but are deployed around the world with common purpose. As the AAFES "family" continues to grow, our bonds are strengthened even as we continue to add new members.

Finding qualified applicants to join our family is important to AAFES' future, and the AAFES Retired Employees Association (AREA) is making that goal more attainable by supporting the education needs of our associates' children through the AREA Scholarship Program. This program, by encouraging academic excellence, is molding and shaping our associates' children to be best they can be.

Since 1985, 238 young scholars have benefited from your generosity. By rewarding their accomplishments and potential, AREA and vis-à-vis AAFES not only positively impacts the next generation of future leaders, but also shows our associates that loyalty truly begins with AAFES.

College years are some of the most challenging for young adults. Those years are also the most rewarding, memorable and formative times in a young scholar's life. Without the support of organizations like AREA, many of young "family" members would have been denied academic careers. Your continuing generosity in support of these AREA endowments will go a long way toward supporting the "family's" higher education needs.

On behalf of the more than 43,000 AAFES associates we have the pleasure of leading; I congratulate each winner of AREA's 2010 scholarships. Each of you represents the best hopes of your parents, AREA and AAFES. We – the collective AAFES Family - wish all of you continued success in your academic careers and in the years beyond.

While taking care of the "Best Customers in the World" is at the heart of the AAFES mission, taking care of AAFES families is just as important. Thank you!

BRUCE A. CASELLA  
MG, U.S. Army  
Commander

FRANCIS L. HENDRICKS  
Brig Gen, USAF  
Deputy Commander

MIKE HOWARD  
Chief Operating Officer

# **AAFES Retired Employees Association (AREA) 2010 Scholarship Program**

**T**his year AREA awarded scholarships totaling \$47,000. Although the Board initially approved twelve scholarship awards earlier in the year, it was obvious during the evaluation process that there were more than twelve deserving applicants. The Scholarship Committee asked the board to approve five additional awards. The board unanimously endorsed the proposal. We were able to award scholarships to seventeen of the twenty-six qualified applicants. I am proud to tell you that awards totaling \$435,795 have been made to 237 deserving students since the AREA scholarship program began in 1985. A brief recap of awardees' accomplishments and aspirations is shown on the next five pages.

This was another banner year for the AREA Scholarship Program. With fifty-six applications received and twenty-six of those meeting AREA criteria, 2010 was one of the highest participation rate campaigns since the program began. Having said that, I would be remiss if I failed to mention how funds have been and continue to be made available for this outstanding "AAFES Employee-Oriented" program. The program garners support from both industry partners and from many within our own ranks who choose to recognize loved ones with a donation to the AREA Scholarship fund. Industry support and individual donations are key factors to the program's past and future success.

Here's a brief description of how the program worked this year. First, all applicants were screened to assure minimum requirements were met. After meeting the "AAFES Employee, Son or Daughter" and minimum academic criteria, each application was given a unique number to track it as it moved through the process. The files were then sent to seven scholarship committee members for review. Each member scored and ranked the files against five criteria: Academic honors and achievement, School Activities, Outside of School Activities, Letters of Recommendation and an essay themed on "...Why I deserve this scholarship..." All scores were aggregated and an award roster finalized. After that, the roster and committee recommendation were forwarded to Chuck Poffenbarger, AREA President. Chuck in turn sent the packet to AREA BOD members for consideration. BOD members reviewed the recommendations and by vote approved the twelve basic and four additional awards. Chuck then sent scholarship notification letters to each recipient.

Applicant academic standing was exceptional again this year. All applicants, including those not meeting AREA's minimum scholarship requirements, should be proud knowing they reflect great credit on themselves and the families that support them. Obvious I was impressed with the high quality of each applicant but more importantly, committee members were equally impressed. This year the evaluation committee was again made up of volunteers taking time to apply exceptional judgment to the evaluation process. I personally thank Jim Sawyer, Duane Walsh, Vivian Skalsky, Richard Sheff, Darryl Richards, Don Smith and Mat Dromey for an outstanding effort again this year.

And finally, don't forget about next year. If you know a qualifying student entering his or her first college semester in 2010, make sure they review our Scholarship Program at [www.aafes.com/area](http://www.aafes.com/area)

**!!! AREA loves to award scholarships to deserving students !!!**

Regards,



Thomas Gallagher

## **2010 AREA SCHOLARS**

### **\$5,000 Scholarship Awards**

*Page 13*

Paul Gabrys  
Elissa Mason

### **\$3000 Scholarship Awards**

*Page 14*

Jonathan Bright  
Leslie Crain  
Tarah Dykeman  
Laura Eckhardt

*Page 15*

Brandon Hautt  
Andrew Hendricks  
Kristine Gardner

*Page 16*

Sydney Libby  
Melanie Palsky  
Calvin Foo Pham  
Vanessa Whatley

### **\$1500 Scholarship Awards**

*Page 17*

Kristen Landry  
Robert McDonald  
Sofia Sanchez  
Austin Todd



**PAUL GABRYS**

\$5,000 Marilyn Iverson  
Scholarship Award

**Parents:**  
Bruce & Theresa Gabrys

**High School:**  
Chugiak HS  
Chugiak, AK.

**Career Interest:**  
Chemical Engineering &  
Music Performance

**Paul Gabrys:** Son of Bruce and Theresa Gabrys, Paul is the recipient of the 2010 Marilyn Iverson Memorial award. This \$5,000 endowment is given to the top AREA scholarship recipient for outstanding academic achievement and community involvement.

This fall Paul enters college seeking a degree in Chemical Engineering and another in Music Performance. During his high school career Paul distinguished himself in many areas. He was Salutatorian of his senior class, was honored with both national and state awards as a member of the Drama, Debate and Forensics team and distinguished himself as a member of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp by attaining the rank of Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class. He also received recognition for his musical abilities: he attained Principal Oboe Chair in his high school band.

In addition these accomplishments Paul found time to mentor younger students as a volunteer mathematics tutor and actively participated in fund raising for the American Cancer Society.

**Top scholars  
receive \$5,000 each**

**ELISSA MASON**

\$5,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**  
Michael & Chizu Mason

**High School:**  
Kadena HS  
Kadena AB, Okinawa.

**Career Interest:**  
Physics/Exercise Science



**Elissa Mason:** Elissa is the daughter of Michael and Chizu Mason. Having been awarded a \$5,000 AREA Scholarship, Elissa enters college this fall seeking a degree in Physics/Exercise Science. She is listed on her high school High Honor Roll, is a member of the National Honor Society and has been recognized by her HS for excellence in mathematics, physics and U.S. and World History. Elissa was the Captain of her high school varsity tennis team and a member of her high school Jazz Band.

Elissa actively supports the Kadena AFB community by frequently volunteering in local activities. She has devoted time supporting the Special Olympics, worked as a Haiti relief fund volunteer and worked as a volunteer at the Okinawa 10K Marathon.

**238 Scholarships Awarded Thru 2010**

The purpose of this program is to provide freshman year college scholarships to high school graduating students who (a) are related to active, retired or deceased AAFES employees and assigned military personnel, or (b) work for AAFES themselves. This program is consistent with the AREA objective of community involvement.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>YEAR AMT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2010/11	17	\$47,000.00	\$435,795.00
2009/10	18	\$42,500.00	\$388,795.00
2008/09	22	\$46,500.00	\$346,295.00
2007/08	19	\$47,000.00	\$299,795.00
2006/07	12	\$31,000.00	\$252,795.00
2005/06	13	\$31,000.00	\$221,795.00
2004/05	12	\$25,000.00	\$190,795.00
2003/04	7	\$15,000.00	\$165,765.00
2002/03	7	\$15,000.00	\$150,795.00
2001/02	7	\$15,395.00	\$135,795.00
2000/01	7	\$15,000.00	\$120,000.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>YEAR AMT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1997/98	7	\$11,500.00	\$75,400.00
1996/97	6	\$10,000.00	\$63,900.00
1995/96	4	\$7,000.00	\$53,900.00
1994/95	5	\$7,000.00	\$46,900.00
1993/94	7	\$5,500.00	\$39,900.00
1992/93	7	\$5,500.00	\$34,400.00
1991/92	8	\$6,000.00	\$28,900.00
1990/91	7	\$5,500.00	\$22,900.00
1989/90	7	\$4,200.00	\$17,400.00
1988/89	7	\$4,200.00	\$13,200.00
1986/87	6	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
1985	4	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

**JONATHAN BRIGHT**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

Jonathan &amp; Margareta Bright

**High School:**Lake Woods HS  
Sumpter, SC.**Career Interest:**

Computer Engineering

**Jonathan Bright:** Jonathan received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. He is the son of Jonathan and Margareta Bright.

This fall Jonathan enters college as Computer Engineering major. While in high school, Jonathan was recognized with several awards including the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Apple Award and the University of South Carolina Sumter Scholar Award.

Jonathan is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. He is also a member of the varsity basketball and baseball teams but still finds time to tutor other students while taking advanced college level courses in Calculus and English.

**TARAH DYKEMAN**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

Thomas &amp; Heike Dykeman

**High School:**Mansfield HS  
Mansfield, TX.**Career Interest:**

Elementary Education

**Tarah Dykeman:** Tarah enters college this fall seeking a degree in Elementary Education. The daughter of Thomas and Heike Dykeman, she received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award.

During her HS career, Tarah received Certificates of Academic Excellence in Honors World History, French, Literature, Humanities and Geometry. She is a member of the National Honor Society of High School Scholars and listed on her high school honor roll.

Tarah is a member of the French Club, tutors second grade students and volunteers at the local Library. When previously stationed in Wiesbaden, she helped with various USO activities.

**LESLIE CRAIN**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

David &amp; Mirian Crain

**High School:**Viera HS  
Viera, FL.**Career Interest:**Education, with emphasis  
on Spanish

**Leslie Crain:** Leslie received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. As she embarks on her college career this fall, Leslie intends to use that award to pursue a career in Education with emphasis on Spanish.

Leslie, the daughter of David and Mirian Crain, has been recognized with the CHSAA Academic All-Star Award, Outstanding Spanish Student Award and given the Theatre Award for best Supporting Actress in her high school production.

Leslie was a member of the high school soccer team, a varsity cheerleader and a member of her high school "Knowledge Bowl" team. In her spare time Leslie has a part time job, volunteers at the local library and sings with her church choir.

**LAURA ECKHARDT**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

Gary &amp; Mary Eckhardt

**High School:**Star Mill HS  
Fayetteville, GA.**Career Interest:**

Saxophone Performance



**Laura M. Eckhardt:** As Laura enters college this fall she will be seeking a degree in Saxophone Performance.

Laura, the daughter of Gary and Mary Eckhardt, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She was the Salutatorian of her senior class and a member of U.S Army All-American Marching band. During her high school career Laura garnered honors as a Georgia Governor's Honors Program Participant for Music and a Georgia All-State Band Member. Laura is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the German National Honor Society.

Laura volunteers as a mathematics tutor, works as a volunteer in a local thrift store that supports a battered women's shelter.



**BRANDON HAUTT**  
 \$3,000 Scholarship Award  
**Parents:**  
 Billy & Lori Hault  
**High School:**  
 Flower Mound HS  
 Flower Mound, KY.  
**Career Interest:**  
 Chemical Engineering

**Brandon Hault:** Brandon, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Billy and Lori Hault. As Brandon enters college this fall, he will be pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Brandon is a member of the National Honor Society, is an AP Scholar of Distinction, is a "National Merit Scholar Commended" recipient and has been recognized for Academic Excellence in US History and English.

Brandon is a member of his HS Band and volunteers as a mathematics tutor. Additionally, Brandon is active in the community.

He is a Salvation Army volunteer; he is a "Big Heart" volunteer at his church and is an active volunteer with the "Kids Eat Free" program.



**ANDREW HENDRICKS**  
 \$3,000 Scholarship Award  
**Parents:**  
 Francis & Connie Hendricks  
**High School:**  
 Thomas Jefferson HS for  
 Science and Technology  
 Alexandria, VA.  
**Career Interest:**  
 Mathematics

**Andrew Hendricks:** Andrew, the recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Francis and Connie Hendricks. He enters college this fall seeking a degree in Mathematics.

Andrew is a member of the National Honor Society and has been recognized as a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar. In his junior year Andrew ranked first in the nation on the level four/AP National Spanish Exam.

Andrew was the drum major for high school State Champion Marching Band and garnered several music related awards during his high school career. Andrew volunteered in the Toy-For-Tots campaign and found time to volunteer as a teacher assistant preparing minority students for entrance to Thomas Jefferson high school for Science and Technology.



**KRISTINE GARDNER**  
 \$3,000 Scholarship Award  
**Parents:**  
 Clifton & Karen Gardner  
**High School:**  
 Smithville HS  
 Smithville, VA.  
**Career Interest:**  
 Biology

**Kristine Michele Gardner:** Kristine enters college this fall in pursuit of a Biology degree. The recipient of a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award, she is the daughter of Clifton and Karen Gardner.

She is a member the National Honor Society of High School Scholars and a member of the Beta Club Honor Society at her high school. Kristine has been recognized with an academic award and medal for maintaining a 3.6 GPA and has been recognized as a first place winner in a regional personal finance competition. In addition to her academic achievements, Kristine finds time to volunteer at a local convalescent center and as a teacher's aide. Kristine, a budding poet, has published two poems on the "A Celebration of Poets" website.

A side note from Tom Gallagher, Area Scholarship Committee Director, about Kristine Michele Gardner:

*Having been notified of her \$3,000 award, Kristine contacted me with the following news. Subsequent to making application to AREA, Kristine found that she had been awarded a full board/tuition scholarship and would like to accept only \$1,000 of the AREA award to be used for a new laptop computer, and cede the remaining \$2,000 back to AREA in support of scholarships for other AAFES family members.*

*I applaud Kristine's unselfish approach: it is not only admirable but it demonstrates in a very real way what "AAFES family member" means.*

*Thanks Kristine!!!*

**SYDNEY LIBBY**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

Brian & Helen Libby

**High School:**

James Martin HS  
Arlington, TX.

**Career Interest:**

**Sydney Michelle Libby:** Sydney, the daughter of Brian and Helen Libby, received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine as she begins her college career this fall.

Sydney is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the National Technical Honor Society and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. She is an active member of her high school band: a violinist in the orchestra.

As a member of the JV and Varsity golf team Sydney took first place in two separate tournaments. Sydney also found time to give back to her community by volunteering as an aide to international students and actively participating in many church-sponsored activities such as canned food drives and mission activities.

**MELANIE PALSKY**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**

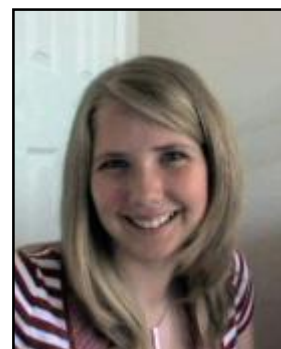
Steve & Carolyn Palsky

**High School:**

South Grand Prairie HS  
Grand Prairie, TX.

**Career Interest:**

Genealogy/Family History



**Melanie Palsky:** Melanie is the daughter of Steve and Carolyn Palsky. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Melanie enters college this fall seeking a degree in Genealogy/Family History.

Melanie is a recipient of an AP Scholar Award and a Great Texas Scholar Nominee. She was also a Lone Star Regional Robotics winner, a Robotics World Champion participant and a member of her high school robotics team.

Melanie participated in the State Advancement for Choir Solo/Ensemble event in Austin and as a sophomore was accepted into her high school Show Choir (a rare selection). Melanie is a member of her church choir and is the director of its youth choir.

**CALVIN FOO PHAM**

\$3,000 Scholarship Award

**Parent: Quang Pham****High School:**

Texas Academy of Mathematics  
and Science, Denton, TX.

**Career Interest:**

Civil Engineering/Aviation Management

**Calvin Foo Pham:** Calvin received a \$3,000 AREA scholarship award. He is the son of Quang Pham, an AAFES Headquarters associate. Calvin will enter college this fall as a Civil Engineering/Aviation Management major.

In high school, Calvin was twice recognized as an All-Region Band member. He received the Junior Pacesetter Award and placed first in the Desk and Derrick Essay Contest.

Early on Calvin set himself apart in the world of music. While in middle school he was recognized as The Outstanding Soloist in a school district Solo and Ensemble Contest, and in high school he garnered the Most Outstanding Freshmen of the Year for Wind Ensemble.

In spite of a full schedule Calvin found time to volunteer with Special Olympics.

**VANESSA WHATLEY**

\$3,000 Scholarship award

**Parent:**

Monika Whatley

**High School:**

Wiesbaden HS  
Wiesbaden, Germany

**Career Interest:**

Business/Psychology



**Vanessa Whatley:** Vanessa is the daughter of Monika Whatley. Having been awarded a \$3,000 AREA Scholarship, Vanessa enters college this fall seeking a degree in Business/Psychology.

During her high school career, Vanessa was a National Achievement Scholarship Program Finalist, garnered Certificates of Academic Excellence in both Math Analysis and Chemistry and was a QuestBridge College Conference participant at Stanford University. She was also a National Honor Society member, sat as president of the Future Business Leaders of America Club and served as a Student Council Representative of her high school. Vanessa tutored fellow students in Algebra, German, French, Geometry and Chemistry. Vanessa was also an accomplished athlete: she ran varsity track and field, played varsity volleyball and was a member of the varsity basketball squad at her high school. In her spare time she coached youth soccer and taught Sunday school classes at her church.



**KRISTEN LANDRY**  
\$1,500 Scholarship award

**Parents:**  
John & Anne Landry

**High School:**  
James Martin HS  
Arlington, TX.

**Career Interest:**  
Kinesiology

**Kristen Anne Landry:** Kristen received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. She intends to use that award to pursue a career in Kinesiology.

Kristen, the daughter of John and Anne Landry, is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the National Technical Honor Society and a member of the National Spanish Honor Society. Kristen was an active member of the Spanish and Psychology clubs.

Active outside of school, Kristen participated in competitive soccer, volunteered in Food Pantry and other feeding programs and was active in numerous church activities, i.e., Eucharistic Minister, Religion Class teacher and CORE Leadership member.



**ROBERT MCDONALD**  
\$1,500 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**  
Robert & Carole McDonald

**High School:**  
Mansfield HS  
Mansfield, TX.

**Career Interest:**  
Aerospace Engineering

**Robert J. McDonald III:** Robert, recipient of a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award, is the son of Robert J McDonald Jr. and Carole D. McDonald. He enters college this fall as an Aerospace Engineering major.

During his time in high school, Robert was a member the National Honor Society and a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. As a four-year member of his high school marching band, Robert was selected as its wind section captain and low reed section leader.

Robert is a member of TSA, the Technology Student Association, and is active in PLTW, Project Lead The Way. Robert works part time and is active in youth ministries at his church.



**SOFIA SANCHEZ**  
\$1,500 Scholarship award

**Parents:**  
Jose & Valerie Sanchez

**High School:**  
Duncanville HS  
Duncanville, TX.

**Career Interest:**  
Biology (Pre-Med)

**Sofia S. Sanchez:** Sofia is the daughter of Jose and Valerie Sanchez. Having been awarded a \$1,500 AREA Scholarship, Sofia enters college this fall seeking a degree in Biology (Pre-Med).

Sofia is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the National Spanish Honor Society, designated an AP Scholar and has been recognized as a "High School Scholar."

She is a member of varsity softball team, played basketball and ran track during her high school career. In her spare time Sofia enjoys playing the piano and volunteers at a local Food Bank.



**AUSTIN TODD**  
\$1,500 Scholarship Award

**Parents:**  
Clyde Todd & Kelly Bradley

**High School:**  
Jesuit College Prep  
Dallas, TX.

**Career Interest:**  
Biology (Pre-Dental)

**Austin Todd:** Austin received a \$1,500 AREA scholarship award. He is the son of Clyde Todd and Kelly Bradley.

Austin will enter college this fall seeking a degree in Biology (Pre-Dental). While in high school, Austin was a member of the National Honor Society, listed on his high school Honor Roll and, before graduating, had already been accepted to UTSA Honors College. Austin was a member of his high school Medical Society, worked on the school newspaper and was an active member of his high school Investment Club.

In his spare time, Austin volunteers at a local Low Birth Weight Center and, as a member of a local gun club, enjoys skeet shooting.