

# NANTUCKET GOLF CLUB SCHOLAR FINALISTS 2019

## BECK BARSANTI

Our first finalist is a poised young man and a gifted thespian, an aspiring poet, author and orator, and the proud younger brother of Rourke. He often touched the committee with his tender comments about his brother and his family. A self-described helper and leader, he shared these qualities are a byproduct of how he has been raised by his parents. He holds himself to a very high standard, offering that having a brother with Autism has helped shape who he is and how he views the



world. He sees his brother's challenges as mere opportunities. All of this supports his life motto, which is "I am your shield." He noted that some of the best advice he has ever received was from his dad who has a way of taking away the gravity of a situation and giving perspective. He shared his dad says "take a step back. You're doing fine. None of this will matter in a year." He admires the work of John Steinbeck because he was one of the first to write about the disenfranchised. This finalist referred to himself as "the alien" from the Lighthouse School when he came to NHS. He realized he needed to find his voice in high school and found it he did. He's an athlete on both the cross country and swim teams. He was a selected representative to The Nantucket Project. He won the local Poetry Out Loud Competition and went on to participate in regionals. He attended both the Bard College and Chaplain College Young Writers Conferences. He is a member of The National Honor Society, Veritas, Drama Club and the Musicals.

## EMMETT CLARKE

The next finalist is a proud of his Irish heritage. He shared his grandfather in Ireland taught him to always be true to yourself as it will always make you happy. He admires Nelson Mandela because he is everyman and therefore relatable and approachable. He said a slogan for his life would be although he admitted he didn't like stealing that from see the immigration system overhauled as he observed But personally when it came to politics he won me first thing he would do if president for a day would be Secretary Betsy DeVos (I'm guessing I wasn't alone gave a speech about gun control and the student Congressmen Bill Keating and Representative Dylan passionate about housing on Nantucket. If he could would create a cow that doesn't create methane gas – Erisman and the impact of AP Environmental Science. reminded him daily his junior year to just be himself, confidence. He takes great pride in being a Whaler and as a member of our sports teams – soccer and hockey ten years he believes he will remember all of the boat founding member of the Chinese Club and the sports breakfast buddy and a member of The National Honor



"just keep swimming," Dory. He would like to it is a broken system. over when he shared the to fire Education in that admiration). He perspective alongside Fernandes. He is also invent something he a shout out to Ms. He noted Mr. Panchy which helped build his representing Nantucket respectively. In five to trips for sports. He is a editor for Veritas. He is a Society.

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## HENRY DUPONT

I would be remiss not to begin the introduction of the next finalist without noting he is the co-editor of Veritas – of which he is very proud. One reviewer noted he is the Woodward to his co-editors Bernstein without all the Watergate stuff. He loves Veritas because “it is the only program in school that is unsupervised, which gave him a lot of freedom and taught him invaluable lessons.” He is a self-described food enthusiast who enjoys his newly found love of skipping rocks while listening to audio book and taking in the beauty that is Nantucket. One of his favorite quotes comes from Winston



Churchill who said “never have a battle of wits with an unarmed opponent.” One reviewer noted this finalist is dapper, always nicely dressed with a great sense of confidence. He amused the committee when he shared that he came from the Lighthouse school and “survived the social crucible that is middle school.” He added knitting probably didn’t help in this transition. He said the most important thing he has learned in high school is that reading is a catalyst for everything and that reading and writing go hand in hand. Speaking of high school, he credits fellow finalist Jenn Lamb for getting him through it. He is passionate about immigration and the plight of refugees. He is downright apoplectic about people who deny climate change and do not believe in science. He credits his mother for pushing him to go outside his comfort zone. He is a member of the swim/dive and soccer teams, National Honor Society and student council. He is a student tutor and musician who lives by the slogan keep thriving and stay positive.

## JENNA GENTNER

The next finalist is an interesting young woman. Driven, a word used by a fellow finalist to describe her, and motivated to succeed, she has always valued her education. She said she learned from her dad to make the best of every situation and his “lady at the dump story.” She amused the faculty in her presentation when she shared she came to Kindergarten with her bag lunch a foot shorter than her peers and she will graduate still a foot shorter than them. This finalist noted she found her people in the theater. Unable to play sports, she discovered a family and friendships in the theater. Multi-talented she plays the flute, the ukulele and the guitar in addition to taking signing lessons. She is passionate about Mariah Mitchell and the volunteer work she has done there for many years. She has received numerous awards and honors, including being named to the principals list 12 times. She is a Girl Scout and a member of Danceworks Nantucket. Involved in drama club and the musical, she has performed at White Heron. She is a member of student council and Veritas. She is considering a major in political science because she would like to change the world. They say attitude is everything, this finalist will go far as her motto is “happiness is the goal of life; it’s reflected in others.” Reflecting on her high school years, she says she will remember hallway decorations always falling down, making Spanish videos and Joey Osley’s amazing imitation of Dr. Buckey. Oh, and in her spare time she is teaching herself sign language.



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## OWEN HUDSON

It seems appropriate to note the next finalist as Bernstein to Henry Dupont's Woodward. He is the co-editor of Veritas. He enjoys it because everyone has a voice, although he shared not everyone has the ability to express it like he." This finalist was born at home and shares the same midwife as another finalist. He is can be seen in contradictions – sometimes timid and shy but outgoing and the life of the party with friends. He is described by peers as genuine and warm hearted. It stands to reason that if he could invent something it would be a machine that would solve the confusion between intentions and actions or indifference. He shared he feels being misunderstood is awful. He loves hip hop and rap and can drop a beat and freestyle. He says he likes to boogie and is good at it. Señora Hickson is forever grateful to him for turning her on to LoFi Hip Hop Radio. Another reviewer noted that it has been amazing to see him come out of his shell through the process. He describes himself as a persistent procrastinator, which makes his life slogan of "get off your rear and go do something" most appropriate. He credits his mother for teaching him not to think about how other people are thinking of you. He is inspired by Mandarin Chinese, which he has been studying since 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He traveled to China and recalls his bewilderment as he haggled with a chisel salesman at the Great Wall and of eating five squid on a stick. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the soccer team, philosophy club and an avid graphic designer, having done designs for Veritas, the annual Island Cup and Junior Prom



## JENNIFER LAMB

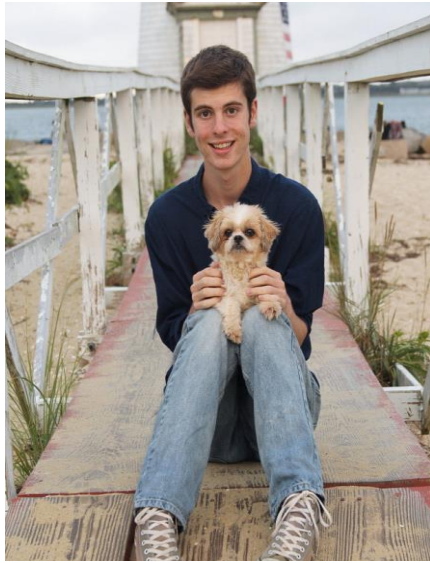


The next finalist is a twin and someone who has a very close relationship with her family. She amused the committee with her reflections as someone who has always been an overachiever. She tried to walk before she was ready and had the bruises to prove it. She was in love with the idea of going to school but felt a huge disappointment after the first day of Kindergarten when she found herself still illiterate. She feels she "peaked" at age six when she self-identified as an academic and was inducted into the "I can read club." Her parents have taught her to be successful but to first be a good person. Her life slogan is "honesty above all else." She is passionate about environmental studies, the prevention of climate change and global health issues. If she were president for a day she would declare a national emergency regarding climate change. Her School to Career placement has shined a light on the absurd cost of prescription medicines and a system that favors profit over care. She will always remember being chased by iguanas during her trip to the Galápagos and Canobie Lake Park with the softball girls. Her teachers have taught her not to define herself as just one thing. She says her greatest weakness is enough is

never enough – she is extremely passionate about her education and work ethic. She is on the Whaler softball and swim teams, a travel softball team and a travel swim team, a class officer, a student council representative and Vice President of the National Honor Society. She is a tutor and a breakfast buddy.



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**MATTHEW NESSELRODT**

The next finalist is an upbeat and always positive, and an extremely active student at NHS and in the community. He is philosophical, founder and president of the NHS club and the founder of the meditation club. He impressed the committee when he said he feels lucky and privileged in life – bad things happen to everyone, you don't have to dwell on them. He is fond of his uncle whom he describes as Buddha-like and someone who taught him the difference between intelligence and education. He always wants to be involved and find ways for others to be involved. He is an aspiring film maker and perhaps the only finalist I have known to have his own YouTube Channel. He loves cross country because its outdoors and he enjoys nature. He likes pump up music and dancing with his dog (don't judge there might be others of us who share this). He enjoys watching basketball and used to play but turned his energy to the theater and having a role in the musical. He says he will miss Ms. Phaneuf because she is a "nerd like him for literature." He has enjoyed her journalism class because it has fed his penchant for being inquisitive. He is grateful he has "cracked the code of the community" and appreciative for the care and outreach here on Nantucket. He lives by the slogan "be kind and take it as you go." He is part of Whaler Media/Teen View and a volunteer at NCTV. He is president of the debate club and a member of the Accidentals & Naturals. He is a bassist in the band, a member of tea club and a contributing writer for Veritas. He was the only male member of the volleyball team."

## **STEPHANIE RYDER**

The next finalist is a thankful for her second family of coaches, teachers and friends gained at NHS. After "bombing her first AP bio test" she and her friends studied together, Face-Timed together and overcame adversity. Her life slogan is work hard, play hard. This manifests itself in her multiple surgeries, including on her should this year. Always optimistic, she noted she is now ambidextrous as a result. It stands to reason if she could invent something to help others she would create adaptive tools for people who don't have the use of certain limbs. She feels a special bond with her father since he blew out his ACL and she her shoulder at the same time. She credits her dad for giving her the most important advice when he said "just keep going and do the little things you can." She is a Mariah Mitchell enthusiast and has spent numerous hours volunteering there. She believes strongly in environmental issues such as banning chemicals used in sunscreen and single use plastics. She greatly admires Doctors without Borders and the work they do. She is a member of the swim and dive team and the soccer team. She is a certified lifeguard and scuba diver and loves to surf. She has been a perfect pal and a breakfast buddy in addition to being a member of Student Action for Empowerment Education and Live to Love to live. She is a member of National Honor Society and attended the National Student Leadership Conference.



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## MARTA SARAIVIA

The next finalist is a well-rounded top scholar. She was born in El Salvador. When she came to the US in middle school, she did not speak any English. Now she is one of only three students taking a Cape Cod Community College dual enrollment course in college English. Every year since 9<sup>th</sup> grade she has written a letter to herself. She enjoys art and is the only finalist I have ever known who creates Snapchat filters. She describes herself as just a regular kid with aspirations. She has many goals she would like to accomplish. She said the most important advice she has ever received is “listening is a gift.” Her life’s motto would be “love life for it will love you back.” She is passionate about immigration because she feels it is hard to see families torn apart and she feels innocent people have a right to be here and not be labeled criminals. It should come as no surprise she plans to study international affairs with hopes to become an ambassador. She would also like to start an organization to help children. She indicated joining clubs and sports has been a second family for her. An athlete, she is a member of the cross country JV basketball and tennis teams. She is a member of the Interact Club and the NHA Mentorship

program. She sings with the Accidental and Naturals. She is in diversity club and is a breakfast buddy. She is a regular participant in beach cleanups around Nantucket. This finalist has received numerous awards and recognitions for her academic and athletic undertakings.

## ANNA STEADMAN

Our final finalist was also born at home on Nantucket to the same midwife as Owen Hudson. She is a self-described goof ball with pure, wholesome energy. She amused the committee when she offered she never hesitates to offer a helping hand or her opinion. Her life slogan would be “if I didn’t say hi to you in the hallway, it’s only because I thought I already did.” The best advice she has ever received she credits to her grandmother who said “it’s important to be yourself and not change. Never yield to pressure to change.” She noted her strength is also her weakness – she loves to talk. Class president, she impressed the committee when she revealed she has been working to get Michelle Obama to be this year’s graduation speaker. In an interview she shared with pride she has the ability to take a hit to which Mr. Cozort smiled and said he has seen her deliver a few too. A realist she noted “everything happens for a reason. You’re not going to be the best at everything. She greatly admires the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who started a revolution for current student activism regarding gun control. If she could invent something to improve people’s lives she would create a means for teleportation for travel and transportation – but it would have to be cheap. She said she will miss all the “weirdness” of boat rides with teammates. She plays soccer, basketball and softball. She is a member of the drama club, Chinese Club (traveling to China), student council and spirit club of which she is president. She is the features editor for Veritas.



