

NANTUCKET GOLF CLUB SCHOLAR FINALISTS 2017

MATTHEW ALLEN



Our first finalist, Mateo, whom he has come to be known, loves his bedroom, in particular his bed. He identifies as a homebody and someone whose greatest fear is public speaking. In fact when asked what he would invent to improve the lives of others, he offered a device that would make public speaking less terrifying. I think I speak for the committee when I say he has proven himself wrong throughout this process in terms of his ability to speak publicly. He impressed the committee with his passion for tennis and his presentation to his peers on the topic. A peer and academic mentor, this finalist is also a member of the Spanish club, student council, national honor society, Veritas and business club. He has an impressive record of

community service, selflessly giving of his time and talents to the Boys and Girls Club, Holidays for Heroes, St. Mary's Church and the Run for Robin. He loves his job at Flowers on Chestnut and from the glowing letter from his employer, the feeling is shared. Only second to his love of work at Flowers is his love of Beyoncé and Serena Williams, someone for whom it would be his ultimate dream to meet..

ISABELL BEAL

The next finalist is always smiling and upbeat. She notes "you make your own happiness." A deep thinker, she takes that assertion further and notes being happy can get clouded by what you think will make you happy. When talking about

college acceptances, she maintained that positivity while noting "if they don't want me, why should I want them." Her beautifully written personal essay moved the committee and is best captured in the last sentence where she wrote about her mother "I have been raised by a strong powerful woman and have become one because of it." This finalist is tenacious as well. She braved walking pneumonia and a cracked rib in order to be present for Scholar events. This makes sense as her motto is "challenge yourself, see how far you can push yourself and be happy doing it." She admires Malala for advocating education for girls against great oppression. This finalist is universally well liked as Mr. Norton wrote in his recommendation and as the committee witnessed firsthand. A field hockey all-star and captain of the team, she plays lacrosse, is a member of student council, breakfast buddies, perfect pals, and peer mentors



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K'SHA BLOISE

The next finalist moved to Nantucket thirteen years ago. She is passionate and well-read and appreciative of the education she is receiving – as evidenced by her excellent grades, letters of recommendation and participation in this process. She is described as “a delight to teach.” Family is important to her as captured in her beautifully written essays where she responded to the question Why do you try so hard in school with the answer “because I strive to make my sister always proud of me.” In one of the interviews she moved the committee when she said “I want to prove to my mother that her hard work in providing and in guiding has not been for nothing.” Faith is also important to her. She is president of the New Life Ministries Youth Group. She would love to eradicate prejudice by getting politicians to be more empathetic. This finalist identifies as a feminist, one who impressed the committee with her presentation on the topic. She is an engaging speaker and one who has amazing and inspiring pieces of advice. She told us to be the change that we want to see. This finalist has received numerous awards over her high school career for excellence. She is co-captain of the cheerleading team, a member of National Honor Society, Spanish, culinary and diversity among many other co-curricular and community service activities. One committee member ruminated if one day we wouldn't find K'sha reading Lolita in Tehran in her “Baby got Books” sweatshirt in her apartment in Paris.”



EVAN BORZILLERI

The next finalist is perhaps the only finalist in the history of the scholar program who can boast winning an award from NASA. He has taken nine Advanced Placement classes while at NHS, more than any other finalist – ever! In six he received A+s and the other three merely an A. Evan's motto of “pick something you love and never leave it” can be seen in practice with his work in programming and computers. He greatly admires Watson and Crick for their 1962 pioneering studies in the field of DNA. He has impressed his peers with his ability to attack academic rigor and to use the school's 3-D printer. He is passionate about privacy law and surveillance. He gave an impressive presentation on the Patriot Act, even if he did admonish us for keeping our passwords stored on our cellphones. He made it clear not to say “it's OK, I have nothing to hide” when it comes to government overreach. If he could change his name he would be Prometheus or Galileo. He impressed the committee when he said “turning ideas into real, working objects elicits a euphoria that washes away months of failure.” Oh and he says crossword puzzles relax him. He would like to invent something to prevent hunger and disease. If anyone can, it will be Evan. In addition to many awards, including the Harvard Book Prize and accomplishments, he is involved in volunteer service as a tutor and at the Skate Rink. His list of clubs and activities, including sailing, which he is passionate about, is impressive but he is the founder and president of the NHS technology club.

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LILIANNA HARRINGTON

The next finalist has been described as a positive person who has an encouraging effect on those around her. One of the committee members described her as someone who has energy radiating from her. She said her life slogan would be “create relationships and say yes to everything.” She has a passion for tea. She wrote in her personal essay “My mother has instilled an inner strength and drive inside of me that I cannot put into words. I think it is because of her that I crave knowledge to the degree that I do.” While she has never been out of New England, her dream is to visit her family in the Philippines. If she could invent something to improve the lives of others, she said she would invent a filter to block negative message from Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat so that people would stop comparing themselves to others. She describes herself as a laugher but one who has a red belt in Tae Kwon Do. A four year president of her class, she has received numerous awards for excellence and achievement during her high school career and was awarded the Holy Cross book prize last year. She boasts involvement in some fourteen different co-curricular activities from business club and perfect pals to Veritas and Spanish Club. She is a tutor and Nantucket Ambassador as well. Clearly she follows her motto of saying yestoeverything.



SOPHIE KUHL



A National Merit Commended student, there is one word that comes to mind when we think of our next finalist, cookies. She impressed, amused and touched the committee with her passion for this “grandmotherly” activity. You can always find her carrying around a bag of cookies as she has taken over her grandmother’s tradition of baking. She loves her grandmother’s 1963 Betty Crocker Cookbook. She is a huge fan of NPR, especially the Moth Radio Hour. She has had many driveway moments where she just had to stay in the car and hear the end of the story. She is an encyclopedia of knowledge of mythology and gods. She is an admirer of Marie Curie as she won not one but two Nobel Prizes for Physics and Chemistry, a subject this finalist is passionate about. One member of the committee noted she is the only person she has ever heard say “I truly love chemistry and can’t wait to get to college to study more and more of it.” And she loves the smell of baby powder. Another thing that jumps immediately to mind with this finalist is Girl Band, which she founded. She described it as finding the pocket with her peers when speaking about their tremendously talented and successful group. She has sailed on the Tall Ship Lynx and been on the Teen Advisory Board at the Athenaeum in addition to sport, clubs and service. She lives by the motto “head, heart and hands.” She’s also a tough quiz bowl competitor against the School Committee.

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KRISTIANA RINGER

The next finalist was born in the Netherlands and has called Seattle, Paris and Connecticut home before moving to Nantucket in tenth grade. She noted that she had never felt “home” until she came to Nantucket and loves our small island community. Her spirit of adventure and flexibility is captured in her life motto “why not” which she explains means get involved and don’t have any regrets. She is described as having amazing positivity and enthusiasm. No surprise given her extensive travel that she sees herself living and working abroad someday. This finalist would like to have a “heart to heart” with President Trump to discuss the necessity for funding the National Endowment for the Arts and National Public Radio because it is important to maintain an unbiased source for news and to fund the arts since the arts reflect our culture as well as our history. I’d love to be a fly on the wall for that conversation. In her essay she wrote “I embrace unfamiliarity since I realize if I don’t, I will lose many valuable opportunities.” A founding member of our NHS volleyball team, she was selected as captain this year. Two things about her impressive list of service and clubs and activities jump out – she is a member of the Information Technology Club where she helps residents at Saltmarsh with their computers and phones. She is also a Nantucket Film Festival participant as a Teen View program film maker and director.

DANIEL SURPRENANT

The next finalist is passionate about baseball. He greatly admires Jackie Robison as a role model as one who stepped and took the high road amidst great criticism. He stumped the committee when he knew Jackie Robinson had won the Nobel Prize, something some of us had to Google to verify. No surprise this finalist loves hearing the smack of his pitch in the catcher’s mit and the words “strike three.” This finalist was in a serious car wreck that he captured eloquently in his personal essay. It is no surprise then that if he could invent something he chose to quickly improve the self-driving car. He also readily admits to being blind as a bat. One committee member ruminated “can a kid with size thirteen W shoes, who is blind as a bat, ever succeed as a Major League Baseball star?” I think if it’s possible, he will do it. From a seventh grade English project came his life motto “a life is not important except for the impact it has on others.” This finalist has certainly positively impacted others with his involvement in baseball, breakfast buddies, Spanish Club and his youth group at St. Mary’s. Ms. Phaneuf beautifully captures this finalist when she wrote in her recommendation “he is quite simply a young man who makes the school a better place to be because of what he values and who he is.



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KD TORNOVISH

The next finalist was described by another finalist as someone who “just saying her names puts a smile on your face.” A member of the review committee said of her that her smile is contagious; she’s always positive and a natural helper. Her teacher recommendation noted “she is a young woman who palpably changes a room’s energy for the better when she enters.” This finalist is so positive, she is even upbeat about her job, which she loves and about which she penned an impressive personal essay. Her boss wrote in his letter of recommendation “you can see her happiness whenever or however you meet her.” In an interview she said “life’s too short not to get to know the people around you.” She wants to be a teachers and no one doubts that she will be an amazing one. One member of the review committee gave her the highest compliment when she said I would love my kids to have her as their teacher one day. I know her father will appreciate that she indicated in one interview that a great invention would be a humane shock collar for humans. A very talented singer, she noted that singing fits all emotions. Her motto is

be positive and be involved. She has lived that at NHS as an athlete swimming and playing lacrosse and field hockey. She is on student government as well as a member of debate club and her church youth group. She was an award winner in Distinguished Young Woman and is a founding member of the junior town ambassador program. If that isn’t enough she devotes countless hours to community service.

FERNANDO YOUNG

There is just something about Harvard that is a recurring theme with our final finalist. He is the founder and president of the Harvard Model Congress Program at NHS. He was the Harvard Book prize winner his junior year. And he is going to Harvard in the fall after being accepted early decision this past fall. He notes that criticism for him is fuel, it gives him drive. He gave an impressive presentation on teaching sailing, which included the criticism sandwich. Say something nice, give constructive feedback and then say something nice again. One review member said, he will definitely not be working in a cubicle job as he will be changing the world one sailboat at a time. His love of family and his Costa Rican heritage was evident throughout the process. He is a tico at heart. He would love to give back to the country that gave him so much. He admires Oscar Arias, a Costa Rican who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for a plan designed to put an end to the cruel wars that were devastating Central America. His friends describe this finalist as charismatic and eloquent. He was a Nantucket Project scholar and did an international study abroad program in Sorrento Italy following a college curriculum to learn Italian language and culture. As should be no surprise he also sailed on the Tallship Lynx. He has participated in many clubs and activities and amassed numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2014 DAR essay contest state winner.



