

# 2016 Scholarship RECIPIENTS

**BLAKE SMITH**

Acton School of Business

**STEVE BURRINGTON**

Baylor University

**DANA D. DRAWSAND**

Dallas Baptist University  
*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**AMELIA KERSHNER**

Dallas Baptist University  
*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**LARA LEWIS**

Dallas Baptist University  
*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**LOGAN BOATRIGHT**

Houston Baptist University  
*The Stewart Morris Scholarship*

**KEYANA CARR**

Lamar University  
*The Ben Rogers Scholarship*

**JR GIBBENS**

Rice University  
*The TBHF Chairman's Scholarship*

**SAMANTHA J. LEWIS**

Rice University  
*The Douglas L. Fosbee Scholarship*

**HAMID BOUAICHA**

Sam Houston State University  
*The SWBC Foundation Scholarship*

**SALLIE BAXTER**

Southern Methodist University  
*The Robert H. Dedman Scholarship*

**SHERRIE ANN JOHNSON**

Southern Methodist University  
*The Signor Family Scholarship*

**RYAN M. WEMPE**

St. Mary's University  
*The Carlos e<sup>3</sup> Malu Alvarez Scholarship*

**CHARLES COLLINS ANDERSON IV**

St. Mary's University  
*The William E. "Bill" Greebey Scholarship*

**SEAN STRATER**

St. Mary's University  
*The Harvey E. Najim Scholarship*

**HANNAH LEE MAHAFFEY**

St. Philip's College  
*The Whataburger Scholarship*

**CHRISTOPHER BYBEE**

Texas A&M University

**MATTHEW MATUSZAK**

Texas Christian University

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**WILLIE SYKES**

Texas Southern University

**JAMISON L. DRISKILL**

Texas State University

**MICHAEL KMETZ**

Texas Tech University

*The Silver & Black Give Back Scholarship*

**ERIC EDMUND HERNANDEZ**

Texas Tech University —

Free Market Institute

*The McLane Company*

*Reading Program Scholarship*

**NICKLAUS PETRO**

Trinity University

*The Doug & Martha Hawthorne Family*

*Fund Scholarship*

**SADIE FOSSITT**

University of Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**JOHN NDERITU**

University of Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**JOSHUA RYAN MONTEMAYOR**

University of Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**AMANDA MOYA**

University of Houston

**RAMIL RODRIGUEZ**

University of the Incarnate Word

*The H-E-B Scholarship*

**LUIS SALAZAR**

University of North Texas

**TIMOTHY CARREON**

University of Texas at Austin

*The Mike A. Myers Scholarship*

**DARIA ZHUKOVA**

University of Texas at Arlington

*The Kelcy Warren Graduate*

*Fellowship for Engineering*

**KIRAN DEVAPRASAD**

University of Texas at Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**BRIAN HARRIS**

University of Texas at Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**KAMIAR KORDI**

University of Texas at Dallas

*The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

**SHAHIL SHARMA**

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**LUKE PETE SCAMARDO III**

University of Texas at San Antonio



### **BLAKE SMITH**

*Acton School of Business*

Originally from Dallas, Blake received his B.A. degree in political science from the University of Georgia in 2005. From 2007-2013, he was the director of Akola Project, a social enterprise focused on providing income and educational opportunities to disadvantaged women in the rural villages of Uganda. Blake is currently the founder and CEO of Muir Group, a hospitality company that develops and operates high-end luxury camp sites. Blake currently resides in Austin with his wife Sarah.



### **STEVE BURRINGTON**

*Baylor University*

Steve is the president and founder of Texas Hearing Clinics, LLC. He and his wife, Jasmine, started the company with the intention of changing the way those with hearing loss are cared for. He is currently in pursuit of his executive master's degree in business administration with a specialization in health care management at Baylor University. Steve loves the state of Texas and has a passion for entrepreneurship.



### **DANA D. DRAWSAND**

*Dallas Baptist University / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Dana Drawsand earned her B.S. degree in accounting from Grambling State University. She is currently pursuing an M.B.A. in entrepreneurship from Dallas Baptist University. While Dana has worked in public accounting and in large corporations, her passion lies in working with small businesses. Currently, she is the controller at Unlocking DOORS Inc., a non-profit organization, whose mission is to reduce recidivism. Upon graduation, Dana plans to open her own accounting and consulting firm.



### **AMELIA KERSHNER**

*Dallas Baptist University / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Amelia has worn many hats throughout her 20-year career in the beauty industry: strategic business owner, leader and manager, trainer, mentor and student. Coupled with her vast practical experience and formal business education, she is pursuing her MBA at Dallas Baptist University. Amelia is eager to put her dual concentrations in finance and marketing to work as she continues to make her mark in the business world and give back to her community.



### **LARA LEWIS**

*Dallas Baptist University / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Lara Lewis is a digital marketing strategist at GuideStone Financial Resources. Lewis joined GuideStone in 2012 as a web developer after completing her bachelor's degree in computer science from Hardin-Simmons University. Her passion for engaging people through digital media has led her into the marketing department. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in business administration with a focus in marketing at Dallas Baptist University. She and her husband, Derek, live in Carrollton, Texas with their goldendoodles.



### **LOGAN BOATRIGHT**

*Houston Baptist University / The Stewart Morris Scholarship*

Logan Boatright is pursuing an M.B.A. at Houston Baptist University with a concentration in finance; he currently holds a B.S. degree in political science with a business minor from Texas A&M University. Logan has worked for Swagelok Southeast Texas as a technical advisor for seven years, and is also a board member for the ISA Texas Channel Section. Upon graduation, Logan plans to further his career with his company and eventually run his own business.



### **KEYANA CARR**

*Lamar University / The Ben Rogers Scholarship*

Keyana Carr is a community relations assistant at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. She graduated from Lamar University in May 2016 with a bachelor's degree in business administration: management and general business. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity in which she has held multiple positions. Keyana is currently working on a master's degree of business administration with a service marketing and management concentration at Lamar University.



### **JR GIBBENS**

*Rice University / The TBHF Chairman's Scholarship*

After the Air Force Academy, JR flew F-16s and earned a master's degree in operations research from Southern Methodist University. JR served in a selective unit responsible for the development and employment of, unmanned aircraft systems. After directing missions in support of high-risk operations, JR leveraged his UAS integration and operational experience to co-found Trumbull Unmanned. JR is entering his second year at Rice and spent the summer in investment banking at Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co.



### **SAMANTHA J. LEWIS**

*Rice University / The Douglas L. Fosbee Scholarship*

As a fourth-generation entrepreneur and through six years of running her two companies, Samantha has found her true passion building businesses. Her future goals are simple: add value everywhere she can, learn something new every day, enjoy her career and build businesses. Texas is the perfect place for Samantha to accomplish these goals. She loves the warm weather, the bluebonnets, the culture, and most importantly, SEC football.



### **HAMID BOUAICHA**

*Sam Houston State University / The SWBC Foundation Scholarship*

Hamid Bouaicha, a computer engineer, is an M.B.A. candidate at Sam Houston State University with a focus in management, entrepreneurship and finance. After earning a "DEUG" degree in mathematics and physics and a "MAITRISE" degree in computer engineering from Morocco at age 22, he moved to Texas in 1999 and started working in different industries, mainly within the information technology sector. Hamid earned his US citizenship in 2010. After graduation, he plans to start a small business in the health and fitness industry.



**SALLIE BAXTER**

*Southern Methodist University / The Robert H. Dedman Scholarship*

Sallie was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. She attended Highland Park High School before going to Vanderbilt University where she majored in economics and organizational development. After college, Sallie spent three years living in Beijing, China, where she gained experience in international business. She moved back to Dallas in 2013 and began her M.B.A. at Cox School of Business in 2015 with hopes of going into consulting. Sallie currently works for Credera in Dallas doing technology consulting.



**SHERRIE ANN JOHNSON**

*Southern Methodist University / The Signor Family Scholarship*

Sherrie received her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and worked in software development following her undergraduate career. She then launched a fitness training facility in Charlottesville, Virginia before moving to Park City, Utah as a strength and conditioning coach for the US Women's Alpine Ski Team. Her next role for a sport technology startup serendipitously brought together key elements of her background. Sherrie recently spent her MBA internship in San Francisco in product management for Salesforce.



**RYAN M. WEMPE**

*St. Mary's University / The Carlos & Malu Alvarez Scholarship*

A 2005 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Ryan spent a decade as an army intelligence officer. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq before returning to his San Antonio birthplace in 2015 to pursue an M.B.A. Ryan volunteers with multiple defense-related, non-profit organizations, and aspires to apply his team-building and leadership skills in the private sector. Ryan and his wife are expecting a child this fall.



**CHARLES COLLINS ANDERSON IV**

*St. Mary's University / The William E. "Bill" Greehey Scholarship*

Chase Anderson graduated from Texas Christian University with a degree in supply chain management. He then moved to Mendoza, Argentina to work as an ERP specialist for a petroleum logistics firm before returning home to San Antonio to work for J.P. Morgan in their private bank. In 2015, Chase decided to pursue his dream of becoming an entrepreneur. This decision led him to enroll in the Greehey MBA program at St. Mary's University and begin working as an HVAC installer. Chase plans to purchase a commercial HVAC company within the next five years and grow his business into one of the largest mechanical contractors in the state.



**SEAN STRATER**

*St. Mary's University / The Harvey E. Najim Scholarship*

Sean Strater was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He will graduate from St. Mary's University with his MBA in December. Sean has worked for SA Technologies, Ericsson, Sirius Computer Solutions, Nexus and USAA. His background includes roles as a business analyst and process engineer. Sean started his own company, Strater Consulting Group, in October 2015 and has had a very promising first year. His company specializes in CRM management and data analytics.



### **HANNAH LEE MAHAFFEY**

*St. Philip's College / The Whataburger Scholarship*

Hannah graduated with an A.A.S. degree in web and mobile development in May 2016, and is currently working on her A.S. degree in computer science at St. Philip's College. She plans to transfer to University of Texas at San Antonio and pursue her Ph.D. in computer science eventually. Her dream job is to be a software engineer for Google or start her own company. She is a highly motivated and dedicated student as well as a life-long learner.



### **CHRISTOPHER BYBEE**

*Texas A&M University*

Christopher Bybee is a senior business honors and finance major from Texas A&M University. Since his senior year of high school, Christopher has been a part of three small startups in the food, apparel and app development industries. He spent this past summer working for an oil and gas investment bank, Simmons & Company International in Houston. Long term, Christopher plans on continuing to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors with the goal of working in venture capital.



### **MATTHEW MATUSZAK**

*Texas Christian University*

Matthew Matuszak is a senior at Texas Christian University. He is passionate about ideas that encourage cultural and creative cohesion through connection to the modern environment. His first venture, in high school, was a car detailing business that attained moderate success. Matthew's latest venture is a location-sharing social network called Roote. Roote is a dynamic social map that transforms how people connect through technology. In his free time, Matthew reads, writes and practices martial arts.



### **WILLIE SYKES**

*Texas Southern University*

Willie Sykes is a proud, six-year veteran of the United States Navy where he served as non-commissioned officer. In the midst of a rigorous training program in preparation for deployment, Willie became the first in his family to attend college and earned a degree in business administration. He is now a candidate for a master's degree in business administration at Texas Southern University. Willie is the proud owner of Empowerment Investment Group, and a managing partner at Texas First Landscaping Services.



### **JAMISON L. DRISKILL**

*Texas State University*

Jamison Driskill, a sixth-generation Texan, graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. degree in theater. After an exciting career as an actor, director and teacher in New York City and Los Angeles, he returned to Texas to pursue an M.B.A. Inspired by personal experience, Jamison intends to use his knowledge to ensure that both his parents' generation and his children's generation will be secure and comfortable in their later years.



### **MICHAEL KMETZ**

*Texas Tech University / The Silver & Black Give Back Scholarship*

After completing internships with Bell Helicopter, the U.S. Congress and ConocoPhillips, Michael will graduate with a B.B.A. degree in energy commerce and a Spanish minor from Texas Tech University in May 2017. Michael launched his first business venture in middle school using eBay. Michael enjoys blending his comedic, voice impression and musical talents with business to benefit local charities. Michael plans to work in the energy industry, earn his M.B.A., and eventually host a talk show.



### **ERIC EDMUND HERNANDEZ**

*Texas Tech University—Free Market Institute / The McLane Company Reading Program Scholarship*

Originally from El Paso, Texas, Eric has worked full-time to support his efforts to earn a college degree. In 2012, he started his own business, Render Enterprises, LLC, a full service professional land acquisition company. He is an active member of the Permian Basin Landmen's Association and a registered landman with the American Association of Professional Landmen. He plans to continue working to build Render Enterprises, LLC on a part-time basis while pursuing a B.B.A. in energy commerce from the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration.



### **NICKLAUS PETRO**

*Trinity University / The Doug & Martha Hawthorne Family Fund Scholarship*

Nick Petro was born and raised in Midland, Texas, and graduated from Texas State University in 2015 with a B.S. degree in health care administration. Nick has since been accepted into the master's of health care administration program at Trinity University and has been nominated by his peers as class president. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, playing sports and hiking. Nick will carry out his 2017 residency with the Methodist Healthcare System in San Antonio.



### **SADIE FOSSITT**

*University of Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Sadie Fossitt is pursuing an M.S. degree in cybersecurity at the Satish & Yasmin Gupta College of Business at the University of Dallas. She also holds a B.A. in government from The University of Texas at Austin. Currently, Sadie is a legal assistant at the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Texas. Upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in the cybersecurity industry, providing strategic and technical security solutions for public and private entities.



### **JOHN NDERITU**

*University of Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

John Nderitu is currently pursuing a master's degree in information and technology management at the University of Dallas, scheduled to graduate in fall 2017. His career over the last 10 years has been in human resources technology, specifically human capital analytics and leveraging technology to drive organizational success. He is currently working as a senior HR information analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. John has served in similar roles at MetLife, Bank of America and American Homes. When he is not analyzing data to tell a story, John enjoys traveling and spending time with family.



### **JOSHUA RYAN MONTEMAYOR**

*University of Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Born and raised in McAllen, Texas, Joshua attributes any accomplishment and success to the amazing example his parents set throughout his life. Spending the last seven years in operational management roles in Dallas, he is currently employed with Blue Apron, a startup company that has furthered his interest in entrepreneurship ventures.



### **AMANDA MOYA**

*University of Houston*

Amanda's parents have worked very hard their whole lives, which inspired her to work as hard as they have. Being a straight A student throughout her educational career, she knew she could be whatever she wanted. Amanda chose to teach children that education is the most important tool for a successful life. She will graduate in May 2017 with two bachelor's degrees in marketing and entrepreneurship and begin to grow her tutoring business.



### **RAMIL RODRIGUEZ**

*University of the Incarnate Word / The H-E-B Scholarship*

Ramil Rodriguez will graduate in the spring of 2017 earning a B.B.A. in marketing with a concentration in communication arts. Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Ramil focuses on the well-being of local communities and small businesses. Currently, he is working at the San Antonio Entrepreneur Center to establish "Social Stash," a digital marketing solutions company. Ramil also volunteers for several city-wide organizations and hopes to utilize channels, like social media, in a way that brings communities together.



### **LUIS SALAZAR**

*University of North Texas*

Luis Salazar is a student of the University of North Texas majoring in operations and supply chain management. As a resident of Texas for 22 years, he shares a natural interest toward the state and its potential for small businesses. His previous positions have included cell phone sales, used car sales, home sales and purchasing and procurement of labor for home construction. The last of these jobs motivated him to one day own his own business.



### **TIMOTHY CARREON**

*University of Texas at Austin / The Mike A. Myers Scholarship*

Tim Carreon is a second-year student in the full-time M.B.A. program at the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin. He currently serves as the class president and is the co-founder of the Social Impact Internship Fund at McCombs, which raises donations to fund fellowships for M.B.A. students pursuing summer internships in low-paying government, non-profit and social impact companies.



### **DARIA ZHUKOVA**

*University of Texas at Arlington / The Keley Warren Graduate Fellowship for Engineering*

Daria would describe herself as enthusiastic and inquisitive. A Russo-American hailing from Fort Worth, she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. While Daria's formal education is more scientifically-focused, she aims to go into business for herself, and head her own biotechnology company. Daria is fluent in English, Russian and Spanish, and enjoys traveling in her free time.



### **KIRAN DEVAPRASAD**

*University of Texas at Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Kiran is an Executive MBA graduate from The University of Texas at Dallas Jindal School of Management. A lifelong entrepreneur, he most recently founded TraceIT, Inc., a SaaS, mobile, remote and offsite workforce management platform. Other ventures include Portable Climate Control, Inc. where he designs and builds portable air conditioners for light aircraft, boats and RVs, and an automotive collision repair and restoration center. Kiran is honored to represent UT Dallas as a 2016 scholarship recipient.



### **BRIAN HARRIS**

*University of Texas at Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Brian Harris graduated from The University of Texas at Dallas with a bachelor's of science degree in business administration in May 2016. He continued into the master of science in innovation and entrepreneurship Program at UT Dallas. In April 2016, he founded Local Harvest, LLC, a commercial mushroom farm providing gourmet mushrooms to the Dallas chef market. Brian is a proud father and husband living in Frisco, Texas where he enjoys travel, fly fishing and outdoor activities.



### **KAMIAR KORDI**

*University of Texas at Dallas / The Mitchell Family Foundation Scholarship*

Kamiar Kordi, The University of Texas at Dallas master of science in finance student and Dallas native, graduated with honors with bachelor of science in finance degrees in economics and political science from Texas A&M University. Kamiar started the first human rights charter at Texas A&M, and served as the vice president of the Diversity Association. He is currently president of UTD's Energy Association and serving as lead adviser to Texas A&M's microfinance fund. Kamiar is the founder/president of Policentric, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that uses social data and data analytics for enhanced civic engagement.



### **SHAHIL SHARMA**

*University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Shahil Sharma is a small business owner with a primary focus on the automotive sector and secondary involvement in grocery stores and IT projects. He has three years of experience in the automotive business, and more than 10 years of experience in small scale business operation and management. Sharma was brought up with a diverse international background, earned his M.B.A., and is currently completing his Ph.D. with a concentration in finance. He currently lives in Edinburg, Texas with his wife and son.



### **LUKE PETE SCAMARDO III**

*University of Texas at San Antonio*

Luke Scamardo III, CFP® is the founder and president of Scamardo Financial, LLC, a registered investment advisory firm proudly serving the central Texas area. Luke earned a B.A. in economics from The University of Texas at Austin and is currently pursuing his M.B.A. at The University of Texas at San Antonio. He is a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society and is an honored husband and father to three wonderful children.