

## Gene & Carol Ludwig Alumni Business Scholarship 2012 Winners

### **Amy Bonilla**

Boone High School AOF 2012  
Orlando, FL  
University of Central Florida

#### **Looking back, what impact did your Academy experience have on you?**

The Academy of Finance taught me that I could succeed in the world of business as long as I gave it a try. When I first entered the Academy, I was introverted and quiet. Today I am confident. I've learned about the many branches of the corporate world, become financially literate and have realized that I must take control of my economic and personal success.

#### **Why is this scholarship meaningful to you?**

This scholarship further nurtures the love and appreciation I have developed for my academy. I struggled throughout high school and I am grateful that my perseverance is recognized and that I have been awarded the financial vehicle to drive me closer to attaining my college education. This scholarship symbolizes me stepping closer to reaching my dreams of helping others receive the wonderful opportunities that the Academy has given me.

#### **What are your plans for the next few years regarding your academics and career?**

I plan to continue pursuing my studies in business and help others in my community become financially literate.



### **Ja'Lisa Dixon**

Largo High School AOF 2008  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
University of Maryland

#### **Looking back, what impact did your Academy experience have on you?**

Joining the academy was a turning point in my life. Nearly eight years later I am still utilizing professional skills, networking contacts and leadership abilities I originally developed while in the Academy. My academy's local credit union helped me open my first bank account, an account I used to fund my study abroad experience. I have also developed curricula from assignments in the AOF that I use for volunteer teaching at a local elementary school. NAF has largely impacted my life.

#### **Why is this scholarship meaningful to you?**

This scholarship is quite significant in my life because I am struggling financially to complete my degree. This will be my last year and it has proven to be the most financially burdensome. This scholarship will allow me to focus more on finishing my degree and less on my financial circumstances. I am truly grateful to Gene and Carol Ludwig.

#### **What are your plans for the next few years regarding your academics and career?**

Since returning from my study abroad program in Barcelona, I plan to pursue graduate courses abroad. This year, I will graduate with a degree in American Studies and a minor in Entrepreneurship. My future career goals are to work as a Chief Marketing Officer for an international firm.

**Alexandra Drexler**

Sanderson High School AOF 2012  
Raleigh, NC  
George Washington University



**Looking back, what impact did your Academy experience have on you?**

The Academy provided me with experiences and mentors that have shaped me into the person I am today. Through academy opportunities, I was able to focus my passion and combine my interests in business and international relations into a viable plan for my future.

**Why is this scholarship meaningful to you?**

This scholarship is another amazing way that the Academy and NAF is facilitating the pursuit of my dreams.

**What are your plans for the next few years regarding your academics and career?**

I will be attending George Washington University in Washington D.C. I will be studying International Affairs and concentrating on the role of business in this field of study. I hope to study abroad in Germany and other areas around the world to broaden my perspective and gain career opportunities. My goal is to have a career in the Foreign Service, collaborate with people around the world and facilitate healthy business growth in developing areas.



**Ronald Dukes**

Red Bank Regional High School AOF 2008  
Little Silver, NJ  
Villanova University

**Looking back, what impact did your Academy experience have on you?**

My academy experiences both served as the catalyst for my passion in accounting and inspired me to further explore the business world. Through my Academy curriculum and the internship experience, I was able to, with the help of my Academy of Finance faculty, discover the opportunities to connect my interests to my career. My academics thoroughly prepared me for taking the next step to higher education at Villanova University's School of Business.

**Why is this scholarship meaningful to you?**

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it serves as a confirmation to the excellence of my Academy and it helps send a message to my peers, the future NAF alumni, who are making their way through the experience. The message is that you CAN turn your dreams into a career and have fun in the process through hard work.

**What are your plans for the next few years regarding your academics and career?**

Over the next year, I will be obtaining my Master's of Accountancy and passing my CPA exam. Following this year, I will begin a full time position with PricewaterhouseCooper's Internal Audit practice in their NYC office. In my time there, I will be working to learn my craft and explore the opportunities that the accounting profession can offer me in the future.

**Chantee Steele**

Lansdowne High School AOF 2008

Baltimore, MD

Drexel University

**Looking back, what impact did your Academy experience have on you?**

My academy experience allowed me to further develop an interest in accounting and enhance my learning within the field. I am forever indebted for gaining this opportunity.

**Why is this scholarship meaningful to you?**

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it is helping me further my education in a field which was fostered through my Academy.

**What are your plans for the next few years regarding your academics and career?**

I plan to graduate from Drexel University undergrad and gain my CPA (Certified Public Accountant) certification soon thereafter.

