

John Durand Scholarship Program Awards Five Scholarships for 2024-2025 Academic Year

It is with both pride and pleasure that the John Durand Scholarship Program announces the five outstanding students awarded scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year. Each received a \$500 scholarship in June, 2024. As part of the application process, and in addition to a record of their academic standing, each candidate submits a personal statement that shares a little more personal information; their hopes, ambitions, motivations and experience. As you will read for yourself in their personal statements, these young folks are enthusiastic about their futures and confident they can help make a better world. We think so, too.

Congratulations to all!

The John Durand Scholarship Program was originally established in 2002 with memorial gifts and donations received by the family of John Adelard Durand after his untimely death at age 37. John Clifford Durand (John Adelard Durand's father) died in 2020. This scholarship honors them both. Each year the scholarship program makes five Scholarship Awards. Because of DHF's continued fundraising, cash donations, gifts, and bequests, the scholarship awards are now \$500 each unless otherwise determined by the DHF board.

For twenty-one years, the DHF newsletters chronicled the story of these annual scholarship awards - 87 scholarships to date, totaling nearly \$3,800 - and the letters of appreciation from the students who received them. Thanks to the generosity of loyal DHF donors across the country, the John Durand Scholarship Program will continue its positive impact on the DHF family and the community-at-large. Please encourage the students in your family or community to apply.



Ellis John Durand Sophomore, UW Stout, Menomonie. Major: Video Production

I am currently a sophomore going-on junior in college attending the University of Wisconsin, Stout. I am in the video production program where I learn how to produce high quality work of many different genres of photography and video. I plan to complete my Bachelor of Science in Video Production here at UW Stout in the coming years. So far, I have learned many things pertaining to cameras, project management, scripting, advertising, advanced equipment and more. Additionally, I am currently considering taking on an anthropology minor because I have really enjoyed my intro to anthropology general education elective. In the future I hope I will be able to study abroad for a semester or a summer. I am glad to have found this program, as I have found the intersection of technical knowledge and the creative freedom that comes with photography and videography very enjoyable. I am also happy that Stout has a lot of advanced gear that students are encouraged to use which really enables our student productions to have amazing results. During my first two semesters I personally had a very rough start to my college career, but now I have settled in and am committed to my degree.



Stuart E. Durand
Freshman, The Ohio State University, Columbus.
Major: Business and Finance

There are many words and phrases I could use to describe myself, however I believe that my actions describe me in a much better way. I had the opportunity to lead fellow students with my involvement in the Washburn High School Weekly Webcast. I love being around people and showing support in all the ways I can. I have a very strong sense of self-discipline and drive to accomplish my goals. I've been able to apply my skills through the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team, Washburn Golf Team, Pickleball club and being a teacher's aid. All throughout my academic career I have set high standards for myself. I promised myself that I would keep up with the rigorous academics and also find my passion while balancing my social life. My areas of interest lie within the business world. The concept of finance and business has always intrigued me due to the entrepreneurial nature of success. I plan to study finance or economics at The Ohio State University to set myself up for success in the future. I would like to be part of an environment where I can use my business experience to help others.



Grace Evans
Junior, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
Major: Social Work

I am currently a junior at Belmont University studying social work. I have a passion for kids and counseling. I am starting my field placement next year at a local non-profit here in Nashville. I will be working with kids in a low income neighborhood. I have played volleyball my entire life and came to Belmont to play Division 1 volleyball. With my love for sports, it has also pushed me to use athletics as an avenue for mental health. I will be working on a partnership with Belmont Athletics and the non-profit I work for to create a community in Nashville to help others. I have been on numerous mission trips that have fueled my passion to make a difference and help others. I served in a remote village in Alaska, running a sports camp. I also worked with Ukrainian refugees in Poland. I plan to use this (*scholarship*) money to help me cover rent, and help with academic expenses. Since I play volleyball, I do not have the time to get a job. The internship I have is also non-paying. My biggest mission in life is to serve God, serve those around me, and make a difference in any place I can. The people around me describe me as positive, outgoing, and a leader. I plan to stay at Belmont and finish my masters degree, and work at a non-profit counseling kids who have hard start, and be a guiding hand.



Marcus Gardzinski
Sophomore, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN.
Major: Biochemistry

My goal from middle school on has always been to become a physician. I have wanted nothing more than the ability to help others daily and be able to make a living from doing so. I have worked to accomplish this goal in many ways. The first of which involved working hard to receive good grades all through high school and now in college. Secondly, I have been working as a nursing assistant for almost three years in the same nursing home. I believe this shows my dedication to learning and improving patient care as well as my dedication to the hospital and its goals. I believe working in this position will give me an understanding of the workload and abilities that members of my team will have in the future. I also have many interests that will benefit my goal and, eventually, benefit me as a physician. I enjoy exercising, including running and weightlifting, which will help controlling stress. I also enjoy playing casual sports like golf and intramurals in college. Lastly, I enjoy playing video games which could help me connect with a younger generation as I grow older. After my first semester in college and all my experiences in the medical field, I am certain this is the path I am meant to be on. Thank you for considering me for this opportunity.



Cooper Peters
Freshman, UW Madison.
Major: Biomedical Engineering

From the moment I could wield a hot glue gun, I've been building, inventing and tinkering.

Cardboard contraptions were my way of solving problems and manifesting some creativity. Around that time I began taking piano lessons, which ignited a passion for music. This budding interest led me to explore numerous collaborative groups throughout high school, including being a founding member and leader of a WSMA State award-winning jazz group, plus marching band, and other large musical ensembles. In addition, I am a senior officer of my high school's National Honors Society chapter, working with my other officers to run the organization. These experiences with extensive collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving have inspired me to study biomedical engineering at UW Madison this fall. It's a very personal choice, since I have Type 1 Diabetes, a disease managed, in part by the medical devices I wear daily. I know the difficulties of living with a medical condition and relying on medical equipment to stay healthy. As a biomedical engineer, it is my goal to help make the lives of those with similar issues easier. This is motivation and skill set I take with me as I look for success at UW Madison College of Engineering this fall.