



ROCK ISLAND – MILAN  
**EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

[www.rimef.org](http://www.rimef.org)



**Enhancing  
Academic  
Opportunities  
for Student Success**

Summer 2017

## 3 New Scholarships Available to Rocky Grads

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and families, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation added three new scholarships to assist our Rock Island High School seniors. These scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2017 at the *Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night* on May 10, 2017.

### Tyler John Memorial Scholarship

Dale & Angela Owen, proud graduates of RIHS Class of 1986, felt compelled to give back to their alma mater through a scholarship. These feelings were solidified as their daughter, Allison Bradley, attended and graduated from Rock in 2016. They became engaged band parents and experienced the dedication of the staff, students, and parents in helping make the music program a success. They met Tyler his freshman year and, over time, came to know him as respectful, modest, outgoing, and dedicated to the success of the team. He came to mind as the type of student they envisioned assisting through their scholarship and after Tyler's tragic passing they felt it appropriate to name their scholarship in his memory. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who has participated in the band or orchestra program at Rocky with a GPA of 3.0 or better but not in the top ten. The student must also register at a non-profit college or university. Two Tyler John Memorial Scholarships were given this year to Tyler's class - the Class of 2017.



Tyler John's mother, Felicia Williams, with scholarship winners, Tajae Stoner-Harris and Karilyn Meyer.

### Rock Island Township Scholarship

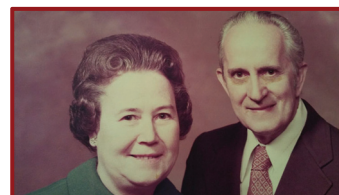


Rock Island Township is pleased to sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving Rock Island High School senior who is interested in attending an Illinois college and studying law, government and/or politics. The selected student must have exhibited leadership skills, a strong work ethic and financial need. Knowing that there are many scholarships that reward high achieving students, the Township set

a more modest academic achievement level of a 2.5 - 3.5 GPA. The Township's interest is to promote future leaders in government and to engage citizens with government at all levels. The Rock Island Township made a five-year total commitment of \$5,000 to the RIMEF. "One of the missions of Township government is to provide support for youth oriented programs and activities. This scholarship provides us an opportunity to invest in future leaders," said Alan Carmen, Rock Island Township Supervisor.

### Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship

Ray and Elva Haberthur graduated from Rock Island High School in the 1930's when there weren't many opportunities to go to college. They valued education and worked with young people through scouting and many other civic and religious organizations. Ray even volunteered for many years at Frances Willard Elementary. Their daughter, Karen Haberthur Leonard, and the family established a \$2,000 scholarship to honor them. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who intends to enter a field working directly with young people.



# Class of 2017 Awarded \$80,800 in Scholarships

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded \$73,800 in scholarships at the *Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night* held May 10, 2017. With the \$7,000 the Education Foundation presented in January, a **record \$80,800 in scholarships** was awarded to Rock Island High School graduates. Thank you to all our generous benefactors for providing these scholarship opportunities to our deserving Rocky seniors!



## ***Congratulations!***

**Charles O. Austin, Jr. Leadership Scholarship** \$1,000: *Asrielle Allen*

**Carole S. Barkan Scholarship** \$500: *Alexandria Sierens*

**Boeye Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Kylie Wymer*

**Class of 1961 Scholarship** \$500 (each): *Haley Camlin, Ndayavugwa Collette, Sui Cer Hnem, Dim Sian Huai, Miranda Meadows, Jacob Naab, Elena Santillan, Blake Schneider, Taylor Spencer, Tajae Stoner-Harris, Caitlyn Treanor, Chineu Wilson*

**Class of 1965 Scholarship** \$500: *Emma Knuckey*

**Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship** \$1,000: *Aleksander Jacobs*

**Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship** \$4,000: *Aaron Crose*

**Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship** \$2,000: *Haley Camlin*

**Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship** \$1,500: *Andrew Bushnell*

**Rick Gilliland Scholarship** \$500: *Rachel Spragg*

**Ray and Elva Habarthur Memorial Scholarship** \$2,000: *Rebecca Knuth*

**Hass Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Blake Schneider*

**The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship** \$1,000: *Omidullah Barikzay*

**Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship** \$500: *Taylor Spencer*

**Tyler John Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): *Karilyn Meyer, Tajae Stoner-Harris*

**Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship** \$3,000: *Elisabeth Hoeper*, \$2,000: *Logan Haskill*, \$1,000: *Jacob Ellis*

**Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship** \$4,000: *Grace Sigler*

**Donavin J. Keim Scholarship** \$1,000 Football: *Austin Trask*, \$1,000 Wrestling: *Jacob Israel*

**R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship** \$500: *Brady Smith*

**Marler Clark Science Scholarship** \$2,000: *Alexandra Axup*

**Herb Niemann Scholarship** \$1,200: *Joshua Teggatz*

**Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship** \$500: *Elijah Westmorland*

**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship** \$1,000: *Charlieana Salzmann*

**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship** \$1,000: *Emily Green*

**Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship** \$500 Arts: *Bannie Philips*, \$500 Education: *Caitleen Battin*

**RIMEF Scholarship (Vocational School)** \$1,000: *Caitlyn Treanor*

**RIMEF Scholarship (2 Year College/Jr. College)** \$1,000: *Nyong-Ja Kalomba*

**RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College)** \$1,000: *Zach Blumberg*

**Rock Island Township** \$1,000: *Chineu Wilson*

**Chet Schultz Scholarship** \$1,000: *Jacob Israel*

**Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000: *Jacob Tauke*, \$500: *Hunter Keim*, \$500: *Dominic Esposito*

**Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship** \$5,000: *Asrielle Allen*, \$1,000: *Paul Bilori*, \$500: *Elisabeth Hoeper*, \$500: *Kylie Wymer*

**Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship** \$1,000: *Pendo Belise*

**DW Young Memorial Scholarship** \$4,000: *Stephanie Kerno*



# Academic Achievement Award Recognition

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation honored 109 Rock Island High School students for their excellence in academics at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual *Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night* on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. The “Top Ten” students of each class were recognized for their distinguished achievement with certificates. As part of the Academic Achievement Award program, Departmental Scholarships were given to the two top senior students in each of eight academic areas including Business, Career & Technical Education, English, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. As chosen by their instructors, the students named 1<sup>st</sup> Place received \$1,200 scholarships and students named 2<sup>nd</sup> Place received \$1,000 scholarships. In addition, one Academic Excellence scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to a “Top Ten” senior. These scholarships were all made possible through funds contributed directly to the Academic Achievement Awards from our generous donors.

## Rock Island High School Departmental Awards:

Business: *Victoria Almanza* (\$1,200); *Chase Spicer* (\$1,000)  
Career & Technical Education: *Pearson Kerchner* (\$1,200); *Julia Limon* (\$1,000)  
English: *Zoe Replinger* (\$1,200), *Elaina Quilty* (\$1,000)  
Fine Arts: *Joshua Teggatz* (\$1,200), *Elijah Westmorland* (\$1,000)  
Mathematics: *Austin Trask* (\$1,200), *Annika Hong* (\$1,000)  
Science: *Alexandria Sierens* (\$1,200), *Emilie Heggen* (\$1,000)  
Social Studies: *Asrielle Allen* (\$1,200), *Camille Brune* (\$1,000)  
World Languages: *Lauren Bell* (\$1,200), *Alexandra Axup* (\$1,000)

## Academic Excellence Award:

*Griffin Evans* (\$1,000)



In January, four Seniors were recognized for going “Above & Beyond” and presented with the Thoms Family Above and Beyond Scholarship managed by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. Asrielle Allen was awarded top honors earning the \$5,000 scholarship for her project: *Girls Leading the Way*. A \$1,000 award was given to Paul Bilori for his project: *I-Serve*. Elisabeth Hoepfer and Kylie Wymer each received \$500 scholarships for completion of their projects: *Fundraising for Project Linus* (Hoepfer) and *The Recycled Library* (Wymer.)

## incubator@rihs

Year #2 of the INCubator: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class concluded with the Final Pitch Night on May 24, 2017 at the Rock Island Auditorium. The evening showcased five student teams who presented their ingenuity and new business ideas to an audience filled with investors, mentors, coaches, parents and the general public. The teams were scored and winners selected by a panel of judges from the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, Rock Island Rotary, Rock Island Renaissance, and business experts. Awards were announced for Best Pitch, Best Business Potential, and Best Business Model. A reception for all participants and attendees followed in the Rock Island High School Library.

Under the guidance of their teacher Mrs. Matson, nine teams of Rocky junior and senior entrepreneurs developed their ideas into viable businesses with the assistance of mentors and coaches. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, all teams participated in the First Pitch, a “shark tank” setting where they were questioned and evaluated by judges. Each was scored on presentation, business viability and the team’s ability to handle questions with the top five scoring teams moving on to the Final Pitch.

Thank you to the Quad Cities Chamber, Rock Island Rotary, and local business leaders who gave their time and talents to mentor and coach these budding entrepreneurs. If you are interested in coaching or mentoring our students for the 2017-2018 Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Course, please contact the Education Foundation.

## 2017 Final Pitch Award Winners:

### Best Pitch – L.E.A.D.

Team – Cornelius Aldridge, Romar Cantu, Rashawn Overton;  
Mentor – Tracey White

### Best Business Potential – MedID

Team – Shay Chaudhry, Cyan Jerome, Tony Mitchell, Lexi Schoomer; Mentor – Randy Jacobs

### Best Business Model – L.E.A.D.

## Final Pitch Presenting Teams:

**Senior Selective Services** – Klara Arrington, Makayla Parkins, Michael Dillard

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Player** – Tavian Douglas-Rogan, Madison Schlieper, Jackson Tweet, Carlos Valadez; Mentor – Amy Nelson

**Waves Technology** – Donovan Ferrel, Ian Lampert, Brandt Samuelson



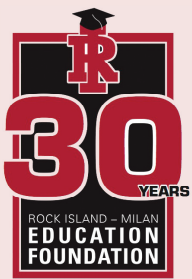
## 2017 Academic Pitch Participating Teams:

**Cultural Cooking Club** – Pendo Belise, Deja Simmons, Xavier Wright, Saul Lopez; Mentor – Heather Schladt

**Rocks to Diamonds** – Aaron Crose, Casey Comodore, Jerry Hacker, Samuel Little, Khahlil Phanhlathy; Mentor – Britta Keys

**SeekIndustries by CMPT** – P.T. Boeye, Tate Sunlin, Corey Freeman, Miguel Gutierrez

**Pass It On** – Patient Jabbah, Jeffrey Harding, Hunter Keim, Madison Parr, Shanyah Nance, Nate Shesky



The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of supporting the students, teachers, and schools of District 41 with a “Thank You” event last fall. On October 19, founding, past, and current board members along with scholarship

benefactors and invited guests gathered for cocktails & hors d’oeuvres at Jumer’s Casino & Hotel. Dessert was made by the 2016 Best Business Potential winner, **Mad Batter Cake Rounds**, from the Education Foundation sponsored INCubator: Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Course at Rock Island High School.

Newsletters, programs, newspaper articles and photographs from the RIMEF’s past 30 years were on display. Former Rocky graduate and blues legend, Ellis Kell, provided music throughout the event. A short program, which included remarks from founding board member Rose Ann Hass, Board President Don Wentler, and Superintendent Dr. Mike Oberhaus, rounded out the evening.

It was a wonderful night celebrating the growth of the RIMEF: to thank current/past board members and donors for their dedication and generous contributions over the past 30 years. Without their commitment to our mission, we would not be where we are today nor poised so strongly to help more students in the future.

Our donors are the “Rock” of this Foundation.

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was formed in 1986 to solicit and receive funds to support academic programs in the Rock Island-Milan School District. A board of directors, composed of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the foundation.

Monta Ponsetto, Executive Director

DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Jerry Jones, *President*

Pryce T. Boeye, *Vice-President*

Shellee Showalter, *Treasurer*

Dr. Mike Oberhaus, *Secretary*

Steve Andich

Barb Cady

Rose Ann Hass

Russ Kennel

Cindy Lukasik

John Phillips

Clyde Schoeck

Bob Swanson

**Contact us at: [RIMEF@rimsd41.org](mailto:RIMEF@rimsd41.org)**

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## Support Our Students, Teachers, & Schools through the RIMEF!



### Check out the new RIMEF.ORG!

We’ve launched our new site with extra information & photos!

Learn more about the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation and how we work to fulfill our mission to “Enhance Academic Opportunities for Student Success.” Supporting that mission for our students, teachers, & schools is easy through our online system with the click of a button! All our programs can benefit through your contributions or you can designate where to put your dollars!



### “Chip in” for the Foundation!

Donate through “Birdies for Charity,” and we’ll receive up to a 10% bonus on your gift! Deadline to contribute through the Birdies program is July 14.

Contact us for a Birdies pledge form at (309) 793-5900 ext. 230 - if you have a form, our Birdies number is 1255. Make a one-time flat donation through the Birdies website at: [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com). Donations will benefit all the great RIMEF programs or you can direct your donation to your favorite!



### MAJOR SAVER Purchase a Major Saver Card!

Major Saver helps provide critical funding for our P.R.I.M.E. (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) Grants. Through funds raised by the sales of the Major Saver discount cards, teachers, schools and the district are able to purchase much needed academic materials and offer programs which they would otherwise not be able to afford. The next campaign runs August 10-24. The \$15 card features offers from popular restaurants/establishments in Rock Island and surrounding areas. You can purchase a card from one of our students/schools or online at: [www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com).



### Saluting Two “Rocks”

Past President (multiple years) Brock Aunan and current President Don Wentler were recognized at the May Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Board of Directors meeting. As board members, committee members/chairs, and officers, Don & Brock continually provided leadership and clear, dedicated focus on the mission of the RIMEF. Their immeasurable hours of service made a difference for the students, teachers and schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District. We are grateful for their hard work and devotion - their presence on our board will be missed. Thank you Brock and Don!