

MAGCS AWARDS SCHOLARS

The MAGCS Scholarship Committee is pleased to award three individual scholarships, each in the amount of \$2000 to children of our members. Each year the scholarship committee improves upon the selection process for awarding scholarships. In 2007, the applications were set into two groups, those entering college and those already in college. Because of the life experience difference, the committee felt it is was more appropriate to judge the applications in this manner. Each application was judged upon academic achievement, extra curricular activities and community involvement, application format and a brief essay answer. The only difference in applications was the essay question that was asked of each group. The scholarship committee wishes to thank each applicant and encourages more to apply in the coming years.

The scholarship committee is always searching for new ways to raise funds for our next scholars. As a reminder, you are now able to donate any Green Partner Points as well as save/send all blue seed tags for the MAGCS Scholarship fund. In addition, Geneva Golf Club will host an outing in July of 2008 where all of the proceeds will go to fund MAGCS scholars. If you are interested in helping with this event or sponsoring it, please contact MAGCS.

The Scholars and Their Essays **George Minnis Memorial Scholarship**

Winner: **Brianne Smith** is attending Cornell University where she will complete a M.S. in Environmental Engineering this fall. Brianne hopes to work for an environmental consulting firm and eventually work toward a Phd.

Daughter of Jeff Smith

Describe the most challenging obstacle you have had to overcome; discuss its impact, and tell what you have learned from the experience?

This past semester at Cornell was a major obstacle for me. I took two courses towards my Bachelor's degree and five courses towards my Masters degree, I was the AguaClara project's design team leader, I was a teaching assistant for a graduate school stipend, and I took the Fundamentals of Engineering exam. All of this was done during my last chance to spend time with my friends, to play badminton, and to debate.



MAGCS Scholarship Chair, Dave Braasch (left) awards the Ferreri daughters, Brittany and Bridget at the Family Night Picnic in July. MAGCS member and happy father Don learns each won \$2000.

Overall, I simply did not have time to do everything I needed and wanted to do. So I had to figure out what I valued most and give that priority in my life. I found that the way to get by on little sleep and little time for oneself is caffeine of course, but more importantly, to be happy. I surrounded myself by people that I loved and I did what I loved. I spent hours working on the AguaClara project and it regenerated me. It showed me why my work is important and why I needed to keep going – so that I could help people and help the world. Everything I was doing was important, I needed my classes to finish my degrees on time, I needed to be a teaching assistant to

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receive my stipend, and I needed to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam for my future career. This realization and the support of my friends helped me to succeed. I would even say that it turned out to be my favorite semester at Cornell.

John Buck Memorial Scholarship

Winner: **Bridget Ferreri**

Bridget is a senior at Lewis University studying Elementary and Special Education. She plans to graduate in 2008. She wishes to teach fourth and fifth grade upon completion of school.

Daughter of Don Ferreri

Describe the most challenging obstacle you have had to overcome; discuss its impact, and tell what you have learned from the experience?

The most challenging obstacle I had to overcome in my life thus far was the open-heart surgery I had two and a half years ago. During a routine physical I had the summer before my freshman year in college; my physician heard a heart murmur. After numerous tests, I was told that I had a hole in my heart, which they believe had been there since birth. My surgeon told me the only option I had to fix the hole was open-heart surgery and I should not wait too long before I had the surgery. I was told the recovery time would be about six weeks so I had to decide if I would start college in August and have the surgery over my winter break or have the surgery immediately and put off entering college until January. After weighing the options, I decided to have the surgery over winter break. I am very fortunate to have a loving and supportive family who has a deep faith in God and because of this, I remembered an experience I had two and a half years earlier with my grandfather's death. I remember witnessing his total trust in God. He knew that he was going to die, yet he trusted in God and when I learned I needed my surgery, I realized I had to do the same. This was something that was bigger than me and I could not do it by myself. When I decided to trust God, I felt like a weight had been lifted off me. Everything went smoothly considering they actually found three holes in my heart. Through this experience I have learned how short life can be, treasure every moment, how wonderful family and friends are and how a deep faith and trust in God can make even the most fearful situations calm.

MAGCS Scholarship

Winner: **Brittany Ferreri**

After graduating this spring from Waubonsie Valley High School, Brittany is a freshman at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee as of this fall. Her major is undecided at present.

Daughter of Don Ferreri

Who do you feel has served as the strongest role model in this century and why?

The person I feel has served, as the strongest role model in the past century, is Pope John Paul II. He was athletic in his youth. He was a gifted actor and singer, participated in poetry readings and literary discussions; all of which he used in becoming the most traveled pope in history who used the media and technology to his advantage. He published five books along with many church documents. He was also fluent in eight languages. After the Germans invaded Poland, he escaped deportation and imprisonment by taking a job as a stonecutter in a quarry. He studied in an underground seminary in Krakow. He was ordained a priest in 1946. In the early years of his priesthood, he served as a chaplain to university students. As Pope, his love for youth continued, as he established World Youth Days. With two masters degrees and two doctorates, education was important to him. In 1962, as Archbishop of Krakow he opposed Communism and Communists. He did this in a way that did not provoke forces inside or outside of the country to react brutally. He was an enemy of Communism, a champion of human rights, a powerful preacher and a sophisticated intellectual. John Paul II successfully encouraged dialogue with the Jews and with the representatives of other religions and in 1994 Time Magazine voted him Man of the Year. They said "he generates electricity unmatched by anyone else on earth." I admire his spirit of obedience to God and his total confidence in the Holy Mother. Pope John Paul II said what he thought was right and wrong from conviction. He was a man of integrity and prayer. People admired him even if they didn't agree with him; that is why I believe Pope John Paul II is a great role model. **-OC**

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