

# Scholarship Essays

*Congratulations to our three winning students, Emily Kimbrough daughter of member Brian Kimbrough, Carrie Dinelli daughter of F. Dan Dinelli, CGCS and Aaron Altman, son of Don Altman. Each year the Midwest awards daughters and sons, granddaughters and grandsons of members that are in or heading off to college. The scholarships are funded by contributions from the John Buck Outing, raffles from our monthly meetings and our operating budget. Thank you for supporting these events and your membership within the Midwest. The following are the essays from our 2011 winners:*



*Emily Kimbrough with Mom and Dad at the Family Night Picnic is congratulated by the Midwest Family as one of our 2011 scholarship recipients.*

## **Emily Kimbrough**

As I enter my freshman year of college at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, in Terre Haute, Indiana, exciting transitions are approaching. The changes that I am most looking forward to are working with animals in a new environment, living on a beautiful campus and expanding my education in the field of veterinary medicine. I currently work with animals, so living in a rural area will be a new way of learning about their care and medicine.

Working at Portage Park Animal Hospital in Chicago has given me great experience in veterinary medicine. I work with small animals such as cats, dogs, and rabbits. Attending school in a rural area compared to the city, I will have the opportunity to work with large animals that live on the campus, like horses and alpacas. This additional experience of large breed wild animals will assist in my plans to be a veterinarian. Along with the stables at Saint Mary's, I am

looking forward to living on the beautiful Indiana campus.

The Saint Mary-of-the-Woods campus has been a part of my life since before I could walk. I have always dreamed of attending school there, and now I will get to experience it firsthand. Another change I am looking forward to is my chance to learn intensely about my major in biology.

Attending college away from Chicago will allow me to be dedicated to expanding my intellectual capacities. Learning about the field of biology and veterinary medicine is a goal of mine and Saint Mary's can provide the education. I need to succeed in the field of work I have chosen.

Change is a major part of attending a college away from home, and I am looking forward to the challenges I face in the coming year. Attaining a wider work experience, living on a spacious campus and studying biology will be a wonderful experience.

## **Carrie Dinelli**

To go or not to go? This is the question my body asks my mind everyday. Half a decade ago, I stepped onto my first dive team, which generously escorted me to a division one diving squad. My biggest flaw in this sport is the mental capacity to allow my body to take over and do the dives I am capable of competing. Everyday I am faced with the exhausting obstacle of, "am I going to go for my dives?" What levelheaded person wants to jump five meters in the air, flip several times, throw in some twists, avoid smashing into the board, and enter rock-hard water without making a splash? The decisions I make everyday on whether or not to go for my dives and face my fears, are some of the hardest. They impact the rest of the day, week, month, and life. These decisions have, and will continue to enhance who I am. Having the mental control I am developing through diving will help me determine difficult decisions in the future. Standing at the end of the 16-foot board, the weight of my decision sits heavy on my shoulders. Option one: allow

the fear to spread through my body and step back down the ladder. Option two: push through the negativity with steady steps and fly through the air, like I can. To succeed I must chose option two – today and tomorrow.

**Aaron Altman**

Was sacrificing my luxurious and relaxing summer in order to support myself as well as take classes in a different city the right decision? These questions streamed though my mind as I made the decision to remain at The University of Illinois, in Urbana - Champaign for the summer of 2011. If I did decide to travel down this path, I would be faced with many challenges. I would need to find and secure a job in order to support myself as well as pay my rent. In addition, I would be giving up my previously acquired summer job at home as well as free summer living and dining. Setting these challenges aside, I considered the many opportunities and growing experiences that could result as a product of my decision. I would be able to build a foundation for my dental school aspiration by shadowing and volunteering for local dentists. I would be able to take a difficult class over the summer rather than during the regular semester thus minimizing my focus on only one subject. Also, and most importantly, I would be given the opportunity to grow as an individual and gain a new sense of independence rather than simply relying on my parents. Not yet knowing the outcome, I still feel that I made the right decision. I am ready to face new challenges and experiences to better shape myself and further my future. **-OC**

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