VSGA-VIP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES
2020 AWARDS TO 38 RECIPIENTS

Link to 2020 Recipient Recognition Page on VSGA.org

MIDLOTHIAN — Thirty-four high-school seniors and four graduate students in the turfgrass research program at Virginia Tech were among 38 scholars honored as the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation announced its 2020 award recipients.

The Foundation provides grants and gifts for scholarships, scientific and educational research, and other charitable purposes. This year’s grants total $83,000 and since being launched, the program has distributed nearly $2.5 million to 1,023 students. Funding for scholarships is generated primarily from the sale of the VSGA VIP Golf Card.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation as well as the members of the 2020 selection committee, I would like to congratulate each of the 38 students who have been recognized as VSGA scholarship recipients,” VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation President Michael Millen said. “This year’s applicant pool featured more than 100 submissions, and we want to thank several of our allied associations for helping promote the program.

“As you are hopefully aware, scholarship funding is generated primarily through the sale of the VSGA VIP Golf Card. To our current card holders, I say, ‘thank you.’ And to the more than 150 VSGA member courses who support the VIP program, I offer a special thanks. The past couple of months have been challenging for many clubs and the VIP program would not exist without your participation.

“To our award winners, I hope your interest in golf remains strong and that your impressive accomplishments continue.”

Virginia high school students with an interest in golf (ability not important) are eligible to apply. Students are evaluated based on academic achievement, character, community involvement and an essay on the impact of golf on the applicant’s life.

The students were to be honored at the annual VSGA Day, which was slated for May 18 at Richmond Country Club. The event, however, was canceled due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis.
2020 grants include Spencer-Wilkinson awards, which draw from a fund formed by Debbie Spencer and Mary Nell Wilkinson. Since its formation more than 20 years ago, 54 young women have received Spencer-Wilkinson scholarships. This year’s award went to Blacksburg High School’s Melissa Meng.

Other named scholarships include the 20th C. Dan Keffer Award, which goes to an individual in honor of the former VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation Committee Chairman. This year’s recipient was Centreville’s David Luo. The Red Speigle Award, named in honor of the late longtime teaching professional from the Peninsula area, was given to Virginia Beach’s Zach Deal. The David A. King Award, which the senior amateur golfer established in 2002, went to Carleton Draughn of Great Falls. The Richard Smith Award, given in remembrance of the VSGA’s longtime director of championships and supporter of junior golf, went to Michael Brennan of Leesburg.

2020 VSGA-VIP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

David Luo (Centreville/Thomas Jefferson HS for S&T) — $6,000 including the C. Dan Keffer Award

- **GPA:** 4.53. **Academic interests:** Statistics, big data, computer science. **Volunteer Activities:** AJGA Leadership Links and Junior AM programs; Advanced International Club (nonprofit) volunteer; **Extracurricular activities:** TJHS Economics Challenge Team; creator of Investment Competition Team; Machine Learning Club; Quizbowl Club; Computer Team; owner of two e-commerce websites; **Golf involvement:** TJHS varsity 9-12; 2019 team captain, Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention, VHSL 5A All-State, All-National District; AJGA Scholastic Junior All-American Team; Middle Atlantic Junior PGA Championship winner in 2018; VSGA Youth Champion in 2014. **Honors:** National AP Scholar and AP Scholar with distinction; Scholastic Art & Writing Award; National Honor Society; 1st Place, Engineering Essay Contest; Recipient, Best Science Fair Presentation Award; Member of Gifted Education Program; GLE Good Citizen Award; Outstanding Achievement Award; AP Scholar with Distinction; National AP Scholar Award. **College:** Carnegie Mellon University (golf team).

Melissa Meng (Blacksburg/Blacksburg HS) — $6,000, including the Spencer-Wilkinson Award

- **GPA:** 4.5. **Academic interests:** Neuroscience. **Volunteer Activities:** Thanksgiving Baskets (food drives); UNICEF Education Fundraising; National Honor Society. **Extracurricular activities:** Student Leadership Council; Co-host “GLE Today Show” (morning pre-class closed circuit TV show); President of Arts of Care Club; Vice President of K-Pop Club; Competitive tennis; Competitive dance; Piano. **Golf involvement:** BHS varsity 2016-19, team captain in ’19; Helped BHS win VHSL 3A championship in 2016 and 4A championship in 2017; Girls’ All-State team in 2018; Top-8 finish at 2017 VSGA Women’s Stroke Play Championship; 3rd overall individually at VHSL 4A State Championship in 2019; AJGA Leadership Links Program. **Honors:** National Honor Society; 1st Place, Engineering Essay Contest; Recipient, Best Science Fair Presentation Award; Member of Gifted Education Program; GLE Good Citizen Award; Outstanding Achievement Award; AP Scholar with Distinction; National AP Scholar Award. **College:** Harvard University (golf team).

Carleton Draughn (Great Falls/Langley HS) — $4,500, including the David A. King Award

- **GPA:** 4.14. **Academic interests:** Computer Science, Mathematics, Science. **Volunteer Activities:** Cooper Middle School Robotics Club; The First Tee of Washington, DC. **Extracurricular activities:** Robotics Club; Cyberpatriot Club; 3D Printing and Modeling Club; Piano; Guitar; Drums; Violin.
**Work experience:** Starter, Army Navy CC; Programming & 3D Modeling Intern, BrainDead Games. **Golf involvement:** Langley Varsity Golf; Championships in 2018 & 19. **Honors:** National Honor Society; 2020 National Merit Commended Scholar; AP Scholar with Distinction; Langley High School Academic Award. **College:** Purdue University.

**Zach Deal (Virginia Beach/Landstown HS) — $4,500, including the Red Speigle Award**

- **GPA:** 4.39. **Academic interests:** STEM, particularly Aerospace Engineering. **Volunteer Activities:** Storehouse Food Pantry; Calculus tutor; Standard bearer at LPGA PureSilk Championship; Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore; Beach Bags Program with Virginia Beach City Public Schools. **Extracurricular activities:** E.E. Brickell Scholar, Virginia Beach City Public Schools; Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars; Summer STEM Program, United States Naval Academy; NASA Optimus Prime Spinoff Promotion and Research Challenge; Student Advisory Board; Chess Club. **Golf involvement:** Captain, Varsity Golf Team, 2016-Present. **Honors:** President’s Award for Educational Excellence; American Citizenship Award; AP Scholar with Distinction; The President’s Volunteer Service Award; Virginian-Pilot Scholastic Team Award; Academic Letter Award; Exceptional Eagle Award; Medical Honor Society; Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society; National Honor Society (President); Spanish National Honor Society (Secretary); Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish; National Occupational Competency Testing Institute Electronics Certification; Virtual Robot Experimentation Platform Programming Certification. **College:** University of Notre Dame.

**Michael Brennan (Leesburg/Tuscarora HS) — $4,500, including the Richard Smith Award**

- **GPA:** 4.25. **Academic interests:** Engineering. **Volunteer Activities:** Annual Donation Dive for The First Tee of Washington DC. **Extracurricular activities:** Basketball, grades 9-11; Central Loudoun Basketball League. **Golf involvement:** Tuscarora High School Golf Team, grades 9-12; Active VSGA member; 2019 VSGA Junior Golfer and Golfer of the Year. **Honors:** Byron Nelson International Junior Golf Award; Tuscarora’s Integrity Award. **College:** Wake Forest University (Arnold Palmer golf scholarship).

**Avery Bowers (Mechanicsville/Maggie Walker Governor’s School) — $3,000**

- **GPA:** 4.59. **Academic interests:** American Sign Language, Political Science, Global Health, Chemistry, Photography, Computer Science. **Volunteer Activities:** Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens; St. Thomas Episcopal Church. **Extracurricular activities:** Varsity Basketball, grades 9-12 (Captain, grades 11-12); American Sign Language Club, Co-President; Model Congress; American Sign Language III Class (night class). **Work experience:** Outside Services Attendant, Willow Oaks CC. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf, grades 9-12 (Captain, 12th grade); Individual qualifier for Virginia State Golf Championship, 2017, 18, & 19); Finished T-14 Individually in 2018 2A Virginia State Golf Championship. **Honors:** Lexus of Richmond Leadership Award Scholar-Athlete; Finalist in High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling; National Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society); American Sign Language Honor Society; National French Honor Society; The Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Award for Photography; AP Scholar with Honor; National Merit Commended Scholar. **College:** University of Virginia.

**Jane Thompson (Harrisonburg/Harrisonburg HS) — $3,000**
• **GPA**: 4.38. **Academic interests**: Psychology, Kinesiology, Computer Science. **Volunteer Activities**: Basketball Clinic; Soup Kitchen; Shen Rock Trail Work; Ski Instructor; STEM Volunteer. **Extracurricular activities**: Yearbook; Debate; Key Club; Gardening Club; Varsity Basketball, Captain, 11th grade; Gear Up Mentoring Program. **Golf involvement**: Varsity Golf, Captain, grades 10-12; Valley District Player of the Year, grades 11 & 12; VHSL 5A Regional Champion, 11th grade; VHSL 5A State Top 15, grades 11 & 12. **Honors**: National Honor Society; Computer Science Honor Society; All A Honor Roll, grades 9-12; Excellence in Journalism; Governor’s STEM Academy. **College**: High Point University.

Grace Whitehead (Roanoke/Patrick Henry HS) — $3,000

• **GPA**: 4.42. **Academic interests**: Medical, Education, Communications. **Volunteer Activities**: Tutor; Homeless Assistance Team; Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner; Photographer for First Tee of Roanoke Valley. **Extracurricular activities**: Student Government Association (Freshman Class President, Sophomore Class President, Junior Class President, Senior Class Vice President & School Spirit Chair); Girls’ Varsity Tennis, Captain; Youth Leadership Committee; Historical Committee. **Golf involvement**: PGA Junior League with First Tee of Roanoke Valley; Plays recreationally. **Honors**: 1st Place, Virginia PTA Citizenship Essay Contest; 1st Place, Energy Division, RVGS Project Forum; 1st Place & Grand Award Winner, Roanoke City Science Fair; Winner, LeeAnn Whitlock Memorial Award for Innovation; 1st Chair & Section Leader, Patrick Henry Wind Symphony. **College**: James Madison University.

George Clark (South Riding/Freedom HS) — $2,000

• **GPA**: 4.45. **Academic interests**: Applied Mathematics, Finance. **Extracurricular activities**: DECA; Basketball Referee, SOLO Hoops; Golf Caddie, CaddieNow. **Golf involvement**: Varsity Golf Team, grades 9-12; All State Golfer, 2019; All Lo-Co Golfer, 2018 & 19; Region 5C Runner-Up, 2018; Team Captain, 2019; Team MVP, 2017, 18, & 19. **College**: Virginia Tech.

Brian Feinstein (McLean/Langley HS) — $2,000

• **GPA**: 4.21. **Academic interests**: Business, Kinesiology, Psychology. **Extracurricular activities**: JV Basketball, Captain; Freshman Basketball; 5th and 6th grade basketball coach. **Golf involvement**: Golf Team, Captain Junior and Senior Year; 2015 Drive Chip and Putt Finalist; First Team All-Conference, 2017, 18, & 19; First Team All-Region, 2019; First Team All-State, 2016 & 19; 4-time Team State Champions. **Honors**: National Honor Society; Spanish Honor Society (Advisory Council Member); Quill and Scroll (Journalism Honor Society). **College**: Rollins College (golf team).

Matthew Johnson (Roanoke/Northside HS) — $2,000

• **GPA**: 4.26. **Academic interests**: Aviation and Professional Flight. **Volunteer Activities**: God’s Pit Crew; Mowing; Snow Shoveling; Tree removal; Church; Kids Club Track and Soccer; Rescue Mission; Chemistry Tutor. **Extracurricular activities**: BETA Club; FCA; FBLA; DECA; Cross Country, Captain, grades 9-12; Football; Indoor and Outdoor Track; Swimming; Soccer. **Golf involvement**: Plays recreationally. **Honors**: Head Junior Marshall; Valedictorian; National Honor Society; All A's grades 9-11. **College**: Liberty University.
Michael Johnson (Roanoke/Northside HS) — $2,000

- **GPA:** 4.40. **Academic interests:** Mechanical Engineering. **Volunteer Activities:** Aletheia Springs Sessionite; Roanoke College Soccer Camp; See You at the Pole; Green Ridge Baptist Church; God's Pit Crew; Flooding Relief in West Virginia; Vikings Kids Club. **Extracurricular activities:** BETA Club; FCA; Varsity Cross Country, grades 9-12 (Co-Captain, 12th grade); Varsity Swim; JV and Varsity Soccer, grades 9-12; Indoor and Outdoor Track; Engineering at Arnold Burton - 2nd in Region Skills USA Engineering; 1st in State Skills USA; Engineering Internship at VDOT; Work experience: Chick-fil-A; Grass Cutting. **Golf involvement:** Engineering Project - Created a customizable putter head; Uncle is a Professional Golfer and Instructor. **Honors:** All A's, grades 9-11; National Honor Society; Valedictorian; Head Junior Marshall. **College:** Virginia Western Community College.

Hannah Jonely (Ashburn/Broad Run HS) — $2,000

- **GPA:** 4.34. **Academic interests:** Math, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy. **Volunteer Activities:** Reston Bible Church. **Extracurricular activities:** We’re All Human, special events coordinator. **Golf involvement:** Cart attendant at 1757 Golf Club; former member of the VSGA Junior Golf Circuit; Varsity Golf, 2016-19; Potomac District Tournament Champions; Runner-Up in 4C Regional Tournament; Qualified for Class 4 State Tournament; Individual Qualifier for Girls State Tournament, grades 9-12; Coach's Award in 2017 & 18; MVP Award in 2019. **Honors:** Academic Letter, grades 9, 10 & 11; AP Scholar with Honors Award. **College:** Auburn University.

Jack Kelly (Charlottesville/Albemarle HS) — $2,000

- **GPA:** 4.46. **Academic interests:** Has received a Naval ROTC scholarship and will study aeronautical engineering and aviation. **Volunteer Activities:** Bible Study Leader; Pitching Instructional Coach for Northside 9U All-Star Baseball Team; Mission Trip in Anchorage, Alaska; Carson Raymond Foundation; Peer Tutor. **Extracurricular activities:** BETA Club; Baseball (JV, Varsity & travel teams); Track; Albemarle High School Student Leadership Council Retreat; Beatboxer for Albemarle High School All-Male A Cappella Singing Group; City Church REACH Youth Missions Group. **Golf involvement:** Golf course assistant at Keswick GC (summer 2018); former VSGA member at Birdwood Golf Club; Albemarle HS Golf Team, 2016-present (Co-Captain, 2019); 2nd Team All Central Virginia, 2018 & 19; 2nd Team All-District, 2019; 1st Team All-Region, 2018; 1st Team All District, 2017; Birdwood Acres Golf Team, 2013-18. **Honors:** National Honor Society; English NHS; Math NHS; History NHS; Science NHS; Winner of Piedmont Regional Science Fair, Plant Sciences Division; Winner of RICOH Sustainable Development Award at Regional Science Fair; Selected to Present at Secondary School Writing Centers Association Conference; First Round Recipient of Full National Naval ROTC Scholarship. **College:** U.S. Air Force Academy.

Casey Newman (Leesburg/Heritage HS) — $2,000

- **GPA:** 4.72. **Academic interests:** Actuarial Science, Math, Physics. **Volunteer activities:** Youth Volunteer at Smart Beginnings Eastern Shore, 2017-present; Youth Volunteer at Serve Camp, summers of 2015 & 16. **Extracurricular activities:** FBLA; Work experience: Mathnasium of Leesburg, Instructor; 4 Seasons Painting Contractors, Office & Project Assistant; Babysitter. **Golf**
involvement: Member at River Creek Club; Heritage HS Varsity Golf Team, 2016-19 (Captain 2019); 4x Varsity Letterman, 2016-19; Coach's Leadership Award-Golf Team, 2017. **Honors:** National Honor Society (President); Math Honor Society (Vice President); History Honor Society; Science National Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; 4.0 Academic Letter and Honor Roll, 2016-present; College Board's AP Scholar with Distinction Award, 2019. **College:** University of Virginia.

**Sam VanDyne (Max Meadows/Fort Chiswell HS) — $2,000**

- **GPA:** 4.38. **Academic interests:** Business, Management, Law, Teaching/Coaching. **Extracurricular activities:** Future Business Leaders of America, Vice President; FCA; Senior Class Representative for SCA; Basketball, Captain; Baseball, Captain; Active Member of Fort Chiswell Church of Christ. **Golf involvement:** Golf Team, Captain; Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour. **Honors:** Honor Roll all four years; National Honor Society; Academic Excellence in Business Law and Biology; Academic Excellence in Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry; Mu Alpha Theta. **College:** Emory & Henry College.

**Maggie Wentz (Palmyra/Fluvanna County HS) — $2,000**

- **GPA:** 4.25. **Academic interests:** Kinesiology, Psychology. **Volunteer Activities:** Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School; Student Government Association; Cunningham United Methodist Church; Lake Christian Church. **Extracurricular activities:** Interact Club (President, grades 11-12); Student Government Association (Secretary, grade 12); BETA Club; JV Girls' Basketball (Captain, grade 9); Varsity Girls' Basketball (Captain, grades 11-12); Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Political Awareness Club; Varsity Girls' Lacrosse. **Golf involvement:** Cart attendant and member at Lake Monticello Golf Club; Varsity Golf Team, grades 9-12; Fluco Award, 12th grade; Most Improved Golfer, 12th grade. **Honors:** Jefferson Book Award, 11th grade; Principal's Award, 10th grade; Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Speech Competition (2nd Place), 11th grade; Coach's Award (Basketball), 9th grade. **College:** University of Virginia.

**Channing Blevins (Wytheville/George Wythe HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.2. **Academic interests:** Accounting. **Volunteer Activities:** Community Service Hours with National Honor Society. **Extracurricular activities:** Varsity Basketball, grades 9-12. **Golf involvement:** Member at Wytheville Golf Club; golf team, grades 9-12. **Honors:** National Honor Society. **College:** Radford University (golf team).

**Joseph “Nick” Brown (Blacksburg/Radford HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.13. **Academic interests:** Sports Media and Analytics. **Extracurricular activities:** American Legion Virginia Boys State Camp; Rotary Youth Leadership Awakening Camp; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; FCA Leadership and Sports Camp; Virginia High School League Student Leadership Conference; Founder & President of The Hunting and Fishing Club at Radford HS; Operates RHS athletics’ Twitter page; Head of Technology at Slusser's Chapel Church of God. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf Team, grades 9-12; Senior Captain of Varsity Golf Team; Coach of JV Golf Team; State Champions senior year. **Honors:** National Honor Society; Rotary Achiever Leadership Award; William & Mary Leadership Award; Regional Student Speaker at FCA Banquet; House of Delegates member for Boys State. **College:** Virginia Tech.
Savannah Burdsal (Virginia Beach/Ocean Lakes HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 3.92. **Academic interests:** Pre-Med. **Volunteer activities:** Social Outreach at Star of the Sea Church; Vacation Bible School; Middle School Catholic Bible School; Our Lady of the Perpetual Health Retirement home; Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives; Volunteer to sing at Weekend Masses. **Extracurricular activities:** Theatre; Forensics; Spanish Club. **Golf involvement:** Member of VSGA Junior Golf Circuit; Golf Team, 2016-19; Ranked 7th in the Region. **Honors:** Academic Letter; MVP for Forensics; Honor Roll; Spanish Honor Society; Science Honor Society; Music Honor Society; National Honor Society; Thespian Honor Society. **College:** UVa-Wise (golf team).

Cole Cathcart (Lexington/Rockbridge County HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.2. **Academic interests:** Finance, Economics, History. **Volunteer activities:** Rockbridge Project Connection. **Extracurricular activities:** Model United Nations; Student Council Association. **Golf involvement:** Member at Lexington G&CC; High School Golf Team, 2016-present; Co-Captain for 2017-18 & 19-20 Season; District and Regional Tournament Champion; State Qualifier. **Honors:** National Honor Society. **College:** Virginia Military Institute.

Ray Ellingwood (Potomac Falls/Potomac Falls HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.22. **Academic interests:** Business, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Entrepreneurship. **Extracurricular activities:** DECA; JV Baseball; Sports Analysis Club; Varsity Club Ice Hockey; Key Club; PFHS Class of 2020 Advisory Board. **Golf involvement:** Member at Trump National GC, Washington D.C.; Varsity Golf Team; Coach’s Award, grades 9 & 12. **Honors:** AP Scholar Award; Science National Honor Society; NVSHL All Academic Team; DECA Inc Award of Excellence; Academic Achievement; VHSL State Award of Excellence; DECA Inc. Award of Achievement. **College:** University of South Carolina.

Sarah James (Fairfax/Justice HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.22. **Academic interests:** Journalism, Mass Media Communications. **Volunteer activities:** Volunteer at Canterbury Elementary School. **Extracurricular activities:** Yearbook Editor; Young Hearts Club; Best Buddies Club; W.T. Woodson and Justice Swim Team. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf Team. **Honors:** Most Improved Deck Hand at Kids First Swim Schools; A/B Honor Roll; Qualified for Georgia State Science Fair. **College:** University of Maryland.

Jake Kleinschuster (Richmond/Veritas School) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 3.98. **Academic interests:** Math, Business, Science. **Volunteer activities:** Mentor at Youth Life Foundation, senior year; Community Service through school programs. **Extracurricular activities:** Travel elite soccer and basketball; Starter for HS Varsity Soccer Team (captain grades 10-12); Starter for HS Basketball Team (captain grades 11-12); Varsity Track and Field grades 9 & 11; House Head (House of Bonhoeffer, grade 11-12) - student government position incorporating mentorship, community service, and student activities; Started trashcan business at age 5, car washing business at age 10, landscaping business at age 17; Senior grounds keeper of landscaping company, ages 15-17. **Golf involvement:** Plays recreationally at Willow Oaks CC. **Honors:** Scholar Athlete Award, grades 9 & 11; Multiple Coach’s and MVP awards for Varsity
Soccer, Basketball, Track; FCA Athlete Award at Summer's Best Two Weeks Camp; I'm Third Award at Summer's Best Two Week's Camp. **College:** Virginia Military Institute.

**Michael Magnano (Richmond/The Steward School) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.14. **Academic interests:** Entrepreneurship, Chemistry, History, Literature. **Volunteer activities:** Hope Thrift Store; Rise Against Hunger; Special Olympics; Steward School Camps. **Extracurricular activities:** Founder, Steward Environmental Club; JV Basketball, grades 9-10; Varsity Basketball, 11th grade; Varsity Soccer; Classical Piano. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf, grades 9-12 (Captain, 12th grade); Division II State Champions; First Team All-State. **Honors:** Honor Roll; National Honor Society; Certificate of Completion, The Steward Entrepreneurship Program Intensive; Steward School Cultural Exchange Mission to Ecuador. **College:** Virginia Tech.

**Kaiya Mitchell (Arlington/Washington-Liberty HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.17. **Academic interests:** Business, Sports Management and Marketing; Environmental Science - Sustainability. **Volunteer activities:** 200+ hours teaching disabled students to learn to skate classes; Helped organize and run local figure skating competition; Worked backstage at local ice show; Girls Helping Girls mentoring program; TECH Girls. **Extracurricular activities:** Figure Skated for 9 years; Completed US Figure Skating Association skills testing; Medstar Capital Iceplex Spring Ice Show Soloist; Student Council/Government, Class President grades 9, 11 & 12, Class VP grade 10; Connect (peer) Mentor; Founder/President of WL Pizza Club; Girl Scout Bronze Award (Star rank equivalent for Boy Scout); Founder of Girls Helping Girls mentoring program. **Golf involvement:** Member at Army Navy CC, where she has been involved as a coach with junior golf activities and clinics; Varsity Golf Team, 2016-19; Captain of Co-ed and Girls Varsity Golf Teams, 2018 & 19; VHSL Girls Open State Championship, 2017, 18, 19; Most Valuable Player Varsity Co-Ed and Girls Teams, 2019; VHSL Award of Excellence, 2016, 17, 18, & 19; Qualified for Drive, Chip, and Putt Regional Championship 2016 & 17. **Honors:** Honor Roll all four years; AP Scholar Award; AP Scholar with Distinction Award; DECA First place in Principles of Finance district competition; Urban Land Institute: Urban Planning Project, Financial Analyst first place award, 2018; Regional Science Fair 8th & 10th grades-First and Second Place; Thomas Jefferson Middle School Global Citizen Award 2015-16; 2016 Society of Women Engineers Promising Engineer Award Baltimore-Washington Section. **College:** University of San Diego.

**Luke Mowery (Rockingham/Turner Ashby HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.14. **Academic interests:** Engineering, Physics, Chemistry. **Volunteer activities:** First Tee of Harrisonburg; County Fair; Church; Tutoring. **Extracurricular activities:** Technology Student Association, Chapter Historian & Two-Time President; Work experience: Pro Shop Attendant, Heritage Oaks GC; Lawn Mowing. **Golf involvement:** Has worked as a pro-shop attendant at Heritage Oaks GC; Golf Team, Captain Senior Year; 4 Year Letterman; Coach's Award Senior Year; 3 time Regional Qualifiers. **Honors:** National Honor Society; Technology Student Association State Leadership Award. **College:** Clemson University.

**Christopher Newsome (Newsoms/Southampton Academy) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.34. **Academic interests:** Engineering, Science/Medicine. **Volunteer activities:** Courtland Baptist Church Youth Group; National Junior Honor Society Food Drive; Relay for Life; Franklin
Children's Center. **Extracurricular activities:** BETA Club; SADD Club; JV & Varsity Basketball; Football Manager; Eagle Scout; Work experience: VA Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research Center; Mann Farms; Cypress Cove CC. **Golf involvement:** Golf Team, grades 9-12; Lowest Average Varsity Golf, grades 10-11; 3rd Place Medalist Conference Championship, grade 11; Individual Conference Champion, grade 10; Most Improved Player, grade 9. **Honors:** National Honor Society; National Technical Honor Society. **College:** Virginia Tech.

Meredith O’Connor (Luray/Page County HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.37. **Academic interests:** Psychology and Psychiatry. **Volunteer Activities:** Choices Center for Domestic Violence; Uncovering Heroes; American Cross Blood Drive; Wreaths Across America at Arlington Cemetery; Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the American Legion; Toys for Tots; United Way Youth Day of Caring; Trash to Treasure Auction for Blue Ridge Heritage Project; Angel Tree; Book for Boxes Little Free Library Project. **Extracurricular activities:** Freshman Class Treasurer; Sophomore Class Secretary; Junior Class President; Senior Class Officer at Large; Spanish Club; Family Career Community Leaders of America (President Junior Year, State Vice President of Parliamentary Law); New Horizons; Varsity Soccer; Girl Scouts; SCA (Secretary 12th grade); Scholastic Bowl. **Golf involvement:** Plays recreationally; Plays in Union Street Open (golf tournament hosted by father's high school) yearly with family. **Honors:** National Honor Society; National Technical Honor Society. **College:** Virginia Tech.

Casey Pridgen (Midlothian/Maggie Walker Governors School) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.28. **Academic interests:** Biology, Economics, Business. **Volunteer Activities:** Habitat for Humanity; Reffing Youth Basketball Games at Bon Air Baptist Church. **Extracurricular activities:** Varsity Basketball; Tennis. **Golf involvement:** Former member at Salisbury CC; HS Golf Team. **Honors:** National Honor Society; Latin Honor Society; ASL Honor Society. **College:** University of Virginia.

Nick Rakes (Evington/Rustburg HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.34. **Academic interests:** Computer Science, Cyber Security. **Volunteer Activities:** Challenged Sports Exchange. **Extracurricular activities:** Varsity Baseball (All Region Second Team); Varsity Basketball; Lynchburg Regional Governor’s STEM Academy. **Golf involvement:** Member of the VSGA Junior Golf Circuit; works at Falling River CC; 3rd in 2019 AJGA NRP Bluegrass to Gain Full Exemption with AJGA; 2019 VHSL Class 3 State and Region 3C Champion; 2018 VHSL All State Team; Medalist at 2019 TGF Players Championship; 2017 & 18 All American Cup Champion; 2018 Andrew Haley Memorial Tournament Champion - 14/15 Division; 2017, 18 & 19 All Seminole District Team, News & Advance All Area First Team; Shot career low of 64 in VHSL District match. **Honors:** National Honor Society; 2019 AJGA Scholastic Honor Roll; 2018 Fall Sports GRIT Award and Golf MVP Award. **College:** Longwood University (golf team).

Riley Spangler (Floyd/Floyd County HS) — $1,500

- **GPA:** 4.42. **Academic interests:** Human Nutrition Foods and Exercise. **Volunteer Activities:** Youth Basketball Summer Coach; Youth Golf Camp Volunteer; Various Community Activities through 4-H Teen Club; Inclusive Special Olympics. **Extracurricular activities:** Girls Basketball, grades 9-12; SkillsUSA, grades 10-12; BETA Club; Student Council Association, Treasurer in 12th
grade; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; 4-H Teen Club; Attended "Parliamentary Procedure" class at ALA Girls State; Work experience: Lifeguard, Great Oaks CC. **Golf involvement:** Golf Team, grades 9-12. **Honors:** STEM Academic Award; Spanish Honor Society; Delegate to American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State; State Champion in SkillsUSA Principles of Engineering and Technology Competition. **College:** Virginia Tech.

**Austin Vicks (Java/Chatham HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.37. **Academic interests:** Business with concentration in accounting, finance, or economics, or turf and grass management. **Extracurricular activities:** BETA Club, 2017-20; Varsity Baseball, 2019-20; Young Life of Pittsylvania County; Work experience: Grounds Keeper, Tuscarora GC; Grounds Keeper, County Line Baptist Church; Clinic Assistant, Halifax County Veterinary Center. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf, 2017-19. **Honors:** Honor Roll; Junior Marshal; Highest Academic Average in AP Language and Composition, 2018/19. **College:** Danville Community College.

**Jonathan Woods (Radford/Radford HS) — $1,500**

- **GPA:** 4.13. **Academic interests:** Business, Mathematics, Sports Management, Government, Politics. **Volunteer Activities:** Pete Dye River Course Volunteer; Young Life Work Crew. **Extracurricular activities:** Senior Class President; JV Basketball; Varsity Basketball (Captain, 2019-20); Varsity Baseball (Captain, 2019-20); Varsity Soccer; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Students vs. Cancer; Young Life. **Golf involvement:** Varsity Golf, grades 9-12 (Captain, 2019); VHSL Golf Team State Champion, 2019; 1st Team All-Region Golfer, 2017; 2nd Team All-District Golfer, 2019. **Honors:** National Honor Society; American Legion Boys State-Mayor of Maury City; Rotary Achiever Award. **College:** James Madison University.

**TURFGRASS RESEARCH AWARDS**

**Jordan Booth — $1,250:** Is currently based in Richmond while pursuing a Ph.D. Booth joined Virginia Tech in 2018, following a career in golf course maintenance, which included six years as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. His research includes three projects under a grant from the USGA. These initiatives explore the use and impact of plant growth regulators, organic matter management, and turfgrass covering strategies focused on cold tolerance of ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens in Virginia.

**Emeline Daly — $1,250:** A master’s student at Virginia Tech, Emeline’s research focuses primarily on the well-known golf course pest, annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) which primarily affects cool season turfgrass and more specifically annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. Although annual bluegrass is not a cultivated grass species and is considered a weed in most systems, it accounts for 11% of all maintained golf turf acreage. Things such as overwintering emergence, number of generations, and peaks in life stages are what Daly is focused on in her research. Such information will be helpful to golf course superintendents when making decisions on when and how to treat for ABW.

**Wendell Hutchens — $1,250:** Is a PhD student at Virginia Tech in the turf pathology program. Wendell grew up operating a landscaping business with his brother and playing competitive golf in the Roanoke Valley Junior Golf Association. These experiences led him to a career in the turf industry. He is currently
studying spring dead spot on warm-season turfgrasses. Spring dead spot is one of the most problematic diseases on bermudagrass in areas where winter dormancy occurs. Prevention of spring dead spot using aerial imagery and a variety of environmental data is the main crux of his research. He is also testing a variety of fungicides against the disease in order to prevent pathogen infection and symptom development.

**John Peppers — $1,250:** Is currently a PhD student at Virginia Tech studying turfgrass weed science. He grew up in Alabama and worked at the local golf course after his freshman year in high school in exchange for free golf. It was there that he found his passion for turfgrass management which lead him to Auburn University where he obtained a B.S in turfgrass management and an M.S in turfgrass weed science. After completing his M.S, Peppers began his PhD in turfgrass weed science at Virginia Tech. His research consists of evaluating the newly registered herbicide methiozolin, better known as PoaCure and will look at how methiozolin can potentially be used to control goosegrass and crabgrass within creeping bentgrass putting greens. Currently there are very few options to effectively and safely control warm season annual grasses such as goosegrass and crabgrass within creeping bentgrass putting greens. The goal of his research is to develop a programmatic approach to controlling annual grassy weeds in creeping bentgrass putting greens using methiozolin.

The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation has a program in place to accept gifts and memorials. Anyone interested in funding a named scholarship or contributing to the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation should contact the VSGA.

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