



From left to right (Brooke Reed, Caeli Benyacko, Elena Barrera, Ethan Holland, Alexis Van Horn, Larron Burden, Taylor Meeks, Tyler Wankowski, Maggie Taylor)

The St. Augustine/Ketterlinus High School Alumni Association presented nine scholarships this past May to the following high character and distinguished 2020 St. Augustine High School (SAHS) graduating seniors at the SAHS Senior Awards Ceremony that was held by SAHS online:

**Vernon A. Davis Scholarship (\$400 scholarship) – Brooke Jaqueline Reed**

Brooke was academically in the top 12% of her class as well as a member of the athletic leadership council for St. Johns County, National Honor Society, varsity basketball team (team captain), varsity lacrosse team (team captain), and a varsity football team manager/trainer. Brooke is an award winner from “In the Game” magazine “Top Girl’s Lacrosse Player of Northeast Florida”. Outside activities included volunteering for the Police Athletic League, Share the Feast Thanksgiving/Easter Meal Bags for families, and various community support functions at Trinity Episcopal Parish. Brooke plans to attend University of West Florida.

**Vernon A. Davis Scholarship (\$400 scholarship) – Caeli Lynn Benyacko**

Caeli was academically in the top 1% of her class as well as a member of the National Honor Society, AICE Advisory Board, Interact Club, and National Junior Horticultural Association. Caeli is the valedictorian for the SAHS Class of 2020. Outside activities included being the Eastern director for the National Junior Horticulture Association, provided math tutoring services for students in need, served as president of the St. Johns County 4H Horticulture Club, and volunteered for beach cleanup duties at Vilano Beach. Caeli plans to attend University of Florida to study astrophysics, microbiology and mathematics.

**Vernon A. Davis Scholarship (\$400 scholarship) – Elena Carmen Barrera**

Elena was academically in the top 1% of her class as well as a member of the National Honor Society, Interact Club, SJCCA Visual Arts, and varsity tennis team. Elena is an honorable mention awards winner in St. Johns County History Fair and Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards. Outside activities included piano accompanist at St. Anastasia Catholic Church and R.B. Hunt Elementary School at Christmas time, participated in functions involving feeding the homeless, and in various beach cleanups. Elena plans to attend University of Florida to study journalism with a focus on medical field studies.

**Chris Way Vocational Scholarship (\$1,000 scholarship) – Ethan Ward Holland**

Ethan played for the varsity lacrosse team (team captain) and participated in the SAHS fishing team his senior year. Ethan has completed over 1,000 hours in diesel mechanics technical training and has received certifications from FCTC for completion of diesel engine, gasoline engine, electrical, and brakes. Outside activities included volunteer work St. Augustine Little League and working as a diesel mechanic for Southern Pavement Markings. Ethan plans to attend First Coast Technical College to continue his studies in the diesel mechanics program.

**SAHS Academy Scholarship (\$500 scholarship) – Alexis Christon Van Horn**

Alexis was academically in the top 1% of her class as well as a member of the National Honor Society, SJCCA Chorus president, SJCCA Musical Theatre, senior class vice president, Key Club vice president, SWARM Club co-founder for school spirit, SJCAA Marching/Concert Band, and Student Principal Advisory Council. Alexis was a American Youth Character Award winner, AICE Diploma recipient with merit, and honor roll for 4 years. Outside activities included volunteer work Anastasia Baptist Church, math tutoring for students, community clean-up projects, and Special Olympics volunteer work. Alexis plans to attend University of Florida to study environmental engineering.

**SAHS Guidance Department Scholarship (\$500 scholarship) – Larron Burden**

Larron was voted the most improved student by the SAHS Guidance Department. Larron fell in love in sports when was young and was an active member of the varsity basketball team, varsity football team and varsity track & field team. Larron plans to attend Daytona State College to continue his dreams and studies.

**Terrell G. Davis Scholarship (\$1,000 scholarship) – Taylor Elizabeth Meeks**

Taylor was academically in the top 32% of her class as well as a member of the National Honor Society, Link Crew, Teaching Academy, varsity football team trainer, varsity weightlifting team, SJCCA Dance team, and varsity flag football team. Taylor was recognized as the Youth Volunteer of the Year for St. Johns County. Outside school activities included volunteer work Church on the Rock, other various community organizations, and Teaching Academy internship work. Taylor plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to study criminal justice.

**Carol A. Melton Scholarship (\$1,000 scholarship) –Tyler Richard Wankowski**

Tyler was academically in the top 2% of his class as well as member of the National Honor Society, senior class president, president International Thespians Society, secretary Interact Club, president SJCCA Chorus Council, vice president Key Club, Superintendent Student Advisory Committee, sound designer/technical director/stage manager/lead actor SJCCA Musical Theatre, and stage manager SJCCA Dance. Tyler was a recipient of American Youth Character Award and four-year honor roll. Outside activities included work in the Summer Musical Theatre Camp for Ancient City Baptist Church and meal packing for Rise Against Hunger. Tyler plans to attend University of Florida to pursue a career in musical theatre, production management, engineering or education administration.

**L. Curtis Westbrook, Jr. Scholarship (\$1,000 scholarship) – Maggie Sue Taylor**

Maggie was academically in the top 10% of her class as well as a member of the Art Club – SJCC for the Arts. Maggie was awarded an academic letter for maintaining 4.0 GPA for all four years in high school as well as part of the SAHS Aerospace Academy. Her artwork was recognized by the Northeast Florida Art Education Association. Outside activities included volunteer work as a teacher's assistant, painting, surfing, working the concession stands at football games. Maggie plans to attend St. Johns River State College to finish AA degree and then transfer to Florida State University to study interior design.

The SA/KHS Alumni Association awarded over \$17,000 in scholarships this past May to current and past SAHS scholarship recipients. Since 1998 the SA/KHS Alumni Association has awarded over \$129,000 in scholarships to help SAHS students attending college and vocational schools.

The scholarships awarded this past May are currently funded by Ms. Carol Melton (Carol A. Melton Scholarship), Ms. Cynthia Bird (L. Curtis Westbrook, Jr. Scholarship), the Davis Family/Davis & Davis-Certified Public Accountants, PA (Terrell G. Davis Scholarship), the Davis Family/friends of Vernon (Vernon A. Davis Scholarship), Chris Way and various local businesses (Chris Way Vocational Scholarship) and the funding received from the annual St. Augustine/Ketterlinus High School Hall of Fame Dinner/Induction Ceremony, donations and membership.

The board hopes to have 2020 The St. Augustine/Ketterlinus High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Dinner in the early Spring of 2021 assuming health conditions permit the public activity to take place. For more information about our nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, scholarship programs, Hall of Fame Inductees and the Hall of Fame Dinner/Induction Ceremony, please go to our website at [www.mysahs.com](http://www.mysahs.com) or call 904-819-1799.



On the left (Darby N Lowder); On the right (Sierra I Popp)

The St. Augustine/Ketterlinus High School Alumni Association recently renewed two \$1,000 scholarships to St. Augustine High School (SAHS) graduates currently attending Flagler College.

Darby N. Lowder (SAHS 2018) was awarded the Penny Willis-Wools Scholarship (subject to renewal) for a second year totaling \$1,000. Ms. Lowder is currently majoring in criminology and minoring in international studies at Flagler College.

The Penny Willis-Wools scholarship is endowed to Flagler College in memory of Penny Willis-Wools, who passed away February 6, 2013. This scholarship was established in July 2015 by her mother Mary Willis and Penny's SAHS classmate, Susan Ponder-Stansel. Penny was a graduate with honors of Flagler College, Class of 1978, and a SAHS graduate of 1975.

Sierra I Popp (SAHS 2017) was awarded the Jonah Ash Scholarship (subject to renewal) for a third year totaling \$1,000. Ms. Popp is currently majoring in hospitality and tourism with a minor in international studies at Flagler College.

The Jonah Ash Scholarship at Flagler College was established by the St. Augustine High School Alumni Association and the Ash family. Mr. Jonah Ash was a 1992 graduate of SAHS and earned a degree in business administration from Flagler College. He was a founding board member of the Alumni Association and also served as the organization's treasurer. This scholarship is awarded to SAHS graduates attending Flagler College who most represent Mr. Ash's determination and courage.

Both of these scholarships are offered to any current or past SAHS graduate who is attending or is about to attend Flagler College pursuing any area of college study. Anyone interested in honoring Penny or Jonah may contribute to the SA/KHS Alumni Association by sending a check to 17 Pacific Street, Suite A, St. Augustine, FL 32084. For additional information, call 904-819-1799.