

# STUDENT STORIES

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2020

## MEET OUR NEW 2020 SCHOLARS

Inside this issue of *Student Stories*, you will meet our 12 impressive new scholars. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, scholar selection presented a challenge this year, but the Brazos Education Foundation used technology to find a great group of students. Through Zoom, we interviewed finalists from 12 McLennan County high schools. **Turn to page 2** to learn more about our recipients and to **page 4** to learn how you can help.

## JOIN US FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL EDUCATION 4 EVERYONE GOLF TOURNAMENT



The BEF will host its 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Education 4 Everyone" Golf Tournament on Oct. 19 at Ridgewood Country Club. Golf won't be the only thing on the docket. Participants can also look forward to lunch and dinner as well as some fun and unusual activities. The best part is knowing that

100 percent of donations from the tournament go directly to providing help for county students. The Foundation's administrative expenses are generously underwritten by Brazos Higher Education Service Corporation, Inc. "There has never been a time that a successful tournament has

been more critical to our current and future scholars. We continue to believe that education is the key to a better future," said David Horner, director of development. For information on the golf tournament, contact David at (254) 744-2396.

**11TH ANNUAL  
EDUCATION 4 EVERYONE  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**OCTOBER 19, 2020**

**RIDGEWOOD  
COUNTRY CLUB**

**LUNCH: 11:30**

**GOLF: 1:00**

**AWARDS CEREMONY  
FOLLOWING  
TOURNAMENT**

## OUR 2020 SCHOLARS: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



Moody High School graduate **Alisha Frost** had an active high school career. She served as cheer captain, played varsity tennis and softball, and participated in debate and mock trial. A first-generation scholar, Alisha is attending Tarleton State University, where she plans to major in education. "I want to influence young minds," she said.



First-generation scholar **Christian Ramos** graduated from Waco High. He attends Texas A&M and major in mechanical engineering. He was on the state-qualifying mock trial team and served as secretary of NHS. "Education has fostered my growth, both personally and professionally, allowing me to properly assess and resolve real-world situations," he said.



University High School Salutatorian **Ivette Padron** earned her associate's degree from MCC while still in high school. She plans to major in communications and sociology at the University of North Texas. A Terry Scholar, Ivette was president of NHS and volunteered in University's well-regarded Tax Preparation Program for Waco residents. "It makes me happy to see that I am able to help my community by using my knowledge," she said.



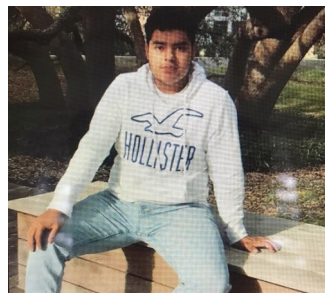
Gholson High School graduate **Karson Goates** has shown livestock for 10 years and hopes for a career in agriculture, specifically goat breeding. "I want to provide less fortunate kids with high quality and affordable show goats," he said. During high school, Karson served as a volunteer firefighter. Pursuing a business degree through MCC's University Center, he plans to also obtain a welding certificate from TSTC.



Valedictorian **Jennifer Aleman** graduated from Valley Mills High School and is studying biology at MCC with the goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. While in high school Jennifer participated in NHS, UIL, cross country and track. "This award will make my first few years less stressful and encourage me to continue my path to my desired career. It will give me the hope and motivation that I need to continue to believe I can do this," she said.



**Melany Olivares** plans to become one of our Healthcare Heroes. The future nurse attends the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. A graduate of Harmony Science Academy, Melany served a president of student government, was captain of the First Robotics Challenge, cheer captain and worked for Magnolia Market. "I had to begin working at the age of fourteen to help make ends meet within my family," she said.



First generation scholar **Elias Guadarrama** dreams of being a civil engineer and earned his associate's degree at MCC while still in high school. The La Vega graduate participated in band, student council, soccer, cross country, Math UIL and NHS. "Getting this scholarship will help me obtain the career I wish for and not only help me but my family who greatly needs financial help," he said.



Connally graduate **MyrTasia Gowan** is pursuing a degree in biology at UT Austin. In high school, she was All-State in volleyball, gold medalist in UIL Spelling and VASE art club and a member of Key Club, debate, FCA and student council. She hopes to become a physical therapist. "Wanting this scholarship does not derive from my compulsion to obtain money, but from my hunger for knowledge," she said.

## OUR 2020 SCHOLARS: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



**Alfaro Guadalupe's** determination made him the first Mart High School graduate to earn an associate's degree while still in high school. "I believe that I can do anything I set my mind to," he said. Alfaro served as president of student council and NHS. He placed first in UIL math and accounting. He is attending the University of Texas at Arlington and majoring in accounting.



McGregor graduate **Natalie Aviles** participated in varsity cheer, band, National Honor Society, Interact Club, PALS, tennis and was the student council president. The current Miss McGregor attends Temple College to study nursing. "I hope to become a missionary and travel to Third World countries to help premature children," she said.



Salutatorian **Maddison Ives** graduated from Rapoport Academy's Meyer High School and earned her associate's degree from MCC, where she worked in the math lab. She attends Baylor University, where she is majoring in mechanical engineering. "I would like to thank the Brazos Education Foundation for giving Waco seniors the chance to receive such an amazing scholarship," she said.



West High School graduate **Taylor Mynar** attends Tarleton State University and is majoring in animal science and business. During high school, she volunteered at two therapeutic riding centers and worked at Fox Run Ranch. "Horses have taught me patience, leadership, how to trust, how to be kind and how to have courage," she said.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES

A number of scholars became Brazos Education Foundation Alumni in the last year, and we will miss seeing them at our scholar workshops. But we know they will do great things in life. Currently, we provide scholarships to 47 students attending 17 colleges and universities in Texas. To learn more about all our scholar alumni, visit [brazosfoundation.org/scholars/meet-our-graduates](http://brazosfoundation.org/scholars/meet-our-graduates).

**Brett Ramsey,**  
Texas A&M University,  
Bachelor's Degree in  
Aerospace Engineering,  
Minor in Chemistry

**Stefanie Jimenez,**  
Baylor University,  
Bachelor of Science in  
Nursing

**Melissa Rodriguez,**  
Texas Tech University,  
Bachelor of Science in  
Nursing

**Cyerra Gage,**  
St. Edwards University  
Bachelor's Degree in Social  
Work, Minor in Women's  
Studies

**Alicia Martinez,**  
Baylor University,  
Bachelor's Degree in Social  
Work

**Sylvia Conatser,**  
Baylor University,  
Bachelor of Arts Degree,  
University Scholar

**Safiq Sindha,**  
University of Texas at Austin,  
Bachelor's Degree in  
Mechanical Engineering,  
Minor in Business/Design  
Strategies

**Robert Kelly,**  
Tarleton State University  
Bachelor's Degree in  
Agribusiness Management

**Edgar Oliveres,**  
Texas State Technical  
College,  
Associate's Degree in  
Robotics and Industrial  
Automation

**Daniel Roush,**  
Texas State Technical  
College,  
Associate's Degree in  
Electrical Lineworker  
Technology



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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**F**or more than a decade, the **Brazos Education Foundation** has helped students reach their educational goals by awarding renewable scholarships and providing support and training to qualifying graduating seniors attending selected high schools in McLennan County, Texas. The Foundation's mission relies on donations from friends like you. Your monetary donations will go towards:

- **Renewable Scholarships:** 2020 Scholars receive \$2,500 in scholarship funds for every year they are enrolled in college and maintain a satisfactory GPA to help pay for tuition, textbooks and supplies.
- **Success 4 College Workshops:** The Foundation conducts workshops for Scholars to provide information

and "tips" to prepare for the next phase of their college experience.

- **Emergency Funds 4 You:** Scholars can receive financial assistance in case of an emergency that might prevent them from pursuing their education.
- **Care Packages:** We want our scholars to know we are thinking about them, especially at finals. We send each scholar a gift card and some treats at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

You can support the BEF in other ways. We need volunteers to review and score scholarship applications and interview scholarship finalists. We also would love for you to share information about the BEF with your friends and family, to subscribe to our online newsletter and to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

There, you will learn more about the Foundation and its scholars. You can even help the Foundation when you shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You can even use Prime. Just visit [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select the Foundation as the charity you want to help.

Since our founding we have assisted more than 100 students attend colleges and universities within Texas. You can find our scholars in engineering programs, business schools, nursing schools, trade programs, community colleges and more. Our scholar alumni work in Fortune 500 companies, pursue graduate study, teach in local schools and serve our nation as military officers.

Visit our website at [brazosfoundation.org](http://brazosfoundation.org) to learn more.