Supporting Thousand Islands area students for nearly 20 years

Established in 2002, the Thousand Islands Foundation works with donors to help expand scholarship opportunities and maximize success for Thousand Islands area students and graduates. The Foundation is now a permanent component fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. Scholarships provided by the Foundation’s endowment assist local families in easing the financial burden of higher education.

An all-volunteer Advisory Board representing the communities of the Thousand Islands leads the Foundation. Since 2002 the Thousand Islands Foundation has awarded nearly $590,000 in scholarships to 331 students. The Northern New York Community Foundation stewards this charitable fund. To extend the effort, make secure online gifts at nnycf.org, or by mail to 131 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601, Attention: Thousand Islands Foundation.

“Without the generous support of the Thousand Islands Foundation, funding my college education would be much more difficult. To people like me, help from people like you makes all the difference.”

— Thousand Islands Foundation scholarship recipient

Scholarships boost confidence

Student: Award means ‘other people believe in me’

Lily Connerton is a 2019 recipient of the Thousand Islands Foundation’s Margaret Maser Scholarship. We recently caught up with her and asked her how a global health pandemic has impacted her college experience and what the support from the Foundation has meant to her.

My circumstances graduating from high school were somewhat unique, as I made the decision to graduate in only three years from Thousand Islands High School rather than four, an option that was possible due to my enrollment in accelerated classes. I am confident that early graduation was the right choice for me, although a challenging one, and love that it has enabled me to broaden my educational experiences at a younger age.

Receiving the Margaret Maser Scholarship, alongside other local scholarships, meant so much to me. Having people invest in my education, especially at a time when I was often nervous if I was making the right decision, made me feel confident that I could excel in achieving a higher level of education, as it demonstrated to me that there were other people who believed in me. In addition, coming from a family of six, the generosity of donors created financial stability allowing me to attend college and pursue my passions with less anxiety about the cost.

I went on from high school to attend SUNY Geneseo, where I am about to enter my sophomore year. My first year was an exciting time filled with great experiences and achievement. I enrolled as a biology major my first semester, making the dean’s list and getting involved in numerous activities and organizations on campus, and while I was nervous being a year younger than other freshmen, I had no trouble fitting in and making campus my home. I recently applied and was accepted to the selective neuroscience program at Geneseo, a field I have been interested in since high school, and am excited to continue to move forward with my education.

Of course, not everything has been easy. As often goes with life, circumstances constantly change. Halfway through the spring semester, along with millions of other college students across America, my time on campus was cut short, and I finished classes from my childhood bedroom through a laptop due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If someone had told me a year ago I would be streaming my lectures from home and taking finals online I wouldn’t have believed it, but it quickly became reality.

By focusing on the future and reminding myself these circumstances are temporary, I was able to remain motivated and finished my semester strong. I am excited to return to campus this fall, although certain safety measures will be enforced.

Having completed high school, my advice to any high school senior is to use high school as a period of self-exploration and growth. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes and use your time there as an opportunity to discover your passions, whatever they may be.
Generosity strengthens our future

A caring community is a giving community. Since 2002, the Thousand Islands River and Lake Ontario school communities of Alexandria Bay, LaFargeville, Lyme, and Thousand Islands have been generous in providing financial aid to many worthy high school graduates through the Thousand Islands Foundation. It is now a permanent fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation and, through this partnership that began in 2014, young people continue to receive financial assistance to help with their higher educational aspirations thanks to many generous local donors.

Many people have contributed to this very important effort, starting with a sizable donation from Howard and Mary Lou Lechler (Cives Steel Corp., Gouverneur). Others established scholarships in memory of loved ones as a lasting gift to deserving students. Beyond that, hundreds of individuals have participated in our annual fundraiser by purchasing dinner tickets from the Clipper Inn or generously making cash donations to the Foundation.

In this 19-year period, more than 300 students have been rewarded for their outstanding high school academic, athletic and extracurricular achievements. I have asked several past recipients to write a short essay describing their academic experience or at the college graduate level. I found their thoughts interesting regarding the effect that the current pandemic is having on their personal and academic life.

Each member of the board of directors commits to a three-year term of service. We are deeply honored to guide the Foundation’s mission and believe the old adage: “It takes a whole village to raise a child.” With your support, we hope to continue our efforts to help high school graduates “bridge” the gap from high school to college to careers as our “lighthouses guide the way.”

— Mike Brennan, Board Chairman

THOUSAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION / BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2002</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$23,500 to 15 students</td>
<td>$17,000 to 9 students</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>$32,000 to 25 students</td>
<td>$589,454 awarded to 331 students in 4 school districts</td>
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<tr>
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IMPACT

Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation has helped more than 300 students achieve their educational aspirations thanks to contributions from over 200 donors.

Located within the Northern New York Philanthropy Center
131 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601
315-782-7110 • info@nnycf.org
Connect with us online
NNCF.ORG

WWW.NNYCF.ORG
Sincere appreciation for all who give

The Thousand Islands Foundation and the Northern New York Community Foundation thank all donors whose gifts strengthen the quality of life in our communities and expand educational opportunities for students in the Alexandria, LaFargeville, Lyme and Thousand Islands school districts. We hope you consider renewing your support in the year ahead. Because of your generosity, 331 students have been awarded scholarships since 2002. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The following donors made gifts of general support as a “Friend of the Thousand Islands Foundation:”

American Legion Colon Couch Post 821
Angel Rock Cottages
Sarah H. Baldwin
Michael Bashaw
Gary L. & Bonnie S. Bird
Hope V. Blasingame
Gerald & Michelle Bouchard
Jill A. Brabant
Melody & Kenneth Brabant
Cary & Janet Brick
Sharon & Allen Briggs
Janet M. Burrows
Jeff & Alle* Burt
Robert & Sara Calhoun
Chris A. Carlisle
Carthage Savings & Loan Association
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Cerow Agency
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Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent
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Clayton Volunteer Fire Department
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Delinda Fuller
Lily B. Gonet
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Dr. Stephen & Michelle Grybowski
Steven & Carla Haas
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Travis & Michelle Hoover
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Cheryl Howard
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Sylvia C. Hungerford
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Innovative Physical Therapy Solutions
Michele & Timothy Jeican
Keith Fest
Dale Kenyon
George & Patti Kittle
Dianne Kring, Kring’s 1000 Islands Produce & Nursery
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Greg & Karen Lago
Binita & Brian Lantier
Kenneth & Caroline Larson
Cristina Latanzi
Nancy R. Lawrence
Mary Lou Lechler
William Liang & Jennifer Guo
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Stephen & Robin Martin
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Brenda Patch
Michael L. & Suzanne L. Pavlot
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Paulette A. Roux
Joan D. Rueckt
Sign Man Charters
Eileen & Harry Slate
John & Mary Ellen Slattery
Heidi Smith
Stewart’s Shops
Sally & Marc Switzer
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The Scoop
Dan & Lauran Throop
Leslie & Paul Timerman
TRUST
Weichert Realtors — TI Realty
Dennis G. Weller
Edith D. White
Terry & Maria White
Winged Bull Studio
Ronald & Pamela Youngs
Mary Zovistosk

In Memory of
Given by
Nancy Kennedy Bond
Karen Lago
Susan J. Magee
Kenneth J. Eysaman II
Kenneth J. Eysaman III
David E. Flink
Kurt A. Bruce
Howard E. Lechler
Bannister family
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Elizabeth M. Diaz
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James Mason
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Rande Richardson
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Judy S. Corbett
Kathryn L. Farkas
Karen & Dave Goetz
Teresa (Terry) Ierlan
Susan A. Kenyon
CI & Keith Kittle
Kathleen & Russ Marceau
Cynthia M. Maser
Gail Moschelle
Peter & Joyce (Littlefield) Papin
Michael E. Maser
Harry & Patti Bazinet
Heather L. Behan
Thomas & Cynthia Bresney
Susan A. Carmichael
Carolina Panthers
Joseph Costello
Susie & Brian Coughlin
Goretti & Antonio Cunha Jr.
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Jon & Tracy Dario
Don Davey / Disciplined Equity Management
Marla & David Dean
Jim & Alice Dickson
Audrey D. Dominy
Duxbury Dragons Football & Cheerleading
Edison Properties / Coworkers of Greg Maser
Joseph Fair
Mimi & Peter Ganz
Karen & Dave Goetz
Lauren F. Goldberg
Moshe & Abbie Greenberg
Janet A. & George F. Hoaglin Jr.
Rita A. Hornburg
Hurd Performance
Teresa (Terry) Ierlan
Albert & Janice Interrante
Jill H. Johnson
CI & Keith Kittle
KP Law P.C.
Pamela S. Kubik
Kevin & Sally Lempa
Lowell Housing Authority
Cynthia M. Maser
Gary & Bettyanne May
Members of Crossfit Southie
Nick Alonso
Christopher Baretta
Tory Belliveau
Daniela Bitto
Meredith Bloomquist
Michelle Boutet & Brendan Caslin
Haley Byrnes
Katelyn & Eli Clevel
Colby Colarossi
Phil Dudley
Ted Duffy
Brian Frawley
Christopher & Amy Gosier
Aaron Kraus
Dave Lovely
Richard “Toby” Maguire
Shane McWeeny
Christina Morris
Michael Quigley
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Sun City Carolina Lakes Community Duplicate Bridge Club
The Szczesny family
Scott, Katie, Kyle & Sam
Jason M. Thornton & family
Ann White
Joe & Margo Yarashas
Greg & Nan Zipadelli
Anne & Tony Zvoron
Gary Rowl
Taylor & Mary Reed
Mary Lou Nunn Rusho
Peter Rossmsasser
Elizabeth Streets
Diane F. Morinigo
David R. Waldoff
Community Bank N.A.
Watertown Savings Bank

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Alexandria Central School District

Samuel ‘Sam’ Felicia

Sam is a Class of 2020 Alexandria Central Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. Sam attends the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., and plans to transfer to the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, for a degree in chemical engineering. Sam participates in intramural sports and marching band. His passions are Japanese language and culture and math and science.

Grace Goerger

Grace is a Class of 2020 Alexandria Central Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. She attends St. John Fisher College, Rochester, where she studies nursing. She aspires to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. While a senior at Alexandria, she played softball, was active in the school choir, attended Camp Guggenheim and taught Sunday school.

Taydan Jeffers

Taydan is a Class of 2020 Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center Scholarship recipient, a $1,500 award. She attends Jefferson Community College, Watertown, where she studies early childhood education. She plans to pursue a career as an elementary school teacher. Taydan enjoys photography, dance and soccer.

LaFargeville Central School District

Madison Briggs

Madison is a Class of 2020 LaFargeville Central Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. She attends Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Fla., where she studies exercise science. Madison plans to continue her education to become a physical therapist. While attending Florida Gulf Coast University, she plans to participate in club sports and join a STEM service group.

Trenton Barnes

Trenton is a Class of 2020 LaFargeville Central Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. He attends Clarkson University, Potsdam, where he studies mechanical engineering. Trenton plans to play club hockey and participate on Clarkson’s Student Projects for Engineering Experience and Design team.

Lyme Central School District

Kimberleigh DaSilva

Kimberleigh is a Class of 2020 Lyme Central Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. She attends Framingham State University, Framingham, Mass., where she studies food and nutrition. She plans to pursue a career as a private chef. While attending Framingham State, Kimberleigh plans to participate in club sports, hospitality and tourism, and a food science club.

LaFargeville Central School District

Mikayla Cipullo

Mikayla is a Class of 2020 Margaret Maser Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. Mikayla shares fond memories of Margaret Maser, librarian at Thousand Islands High School as told to her by her father who remembers Mrs. Maser while he was a Thousand Islands High student. Mikayla attends SUNY Cortland, where she studies business and economics. While at Cortland, Mikayla plans to play on the women’s ice hockey team and participate in Spanish Club.

Gabriel Clement

Gabe is a Class of 2020 Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center Scholarship recipient, a $1,500 award. Gabe attends SUNY Brockport where he studies adolescent education and mathematics.

Macey Cooper

Macey is the Class of 2020 Lechler Award recipient, the Thousand Islands Foundation’s top scholarship of $5,000. Macey attends Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., where studies chemical engineering. Macey aspires to work in the pharmaceutical industry and specialize in cancer research. While at Clemson, she plans to participate in the Panhellenic Sorority, the LEAD Forward program, Engineers Without Borders, and intramural sports.

Kaitlyn Garnsey

Kaitlyn is a Class of 2020 Hazel Northrup Hyde Family Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. She attends Le Moyne College, Syracuse, where she studies nursing. Kaitlyn plans to become a Registered Nurse and aspires to eventually work as a surgical nurse. Kaitlyn is “looking forward to exploring Le Moyne’s vast commitment to volunteering” and “being part of a new community.”

David McDonough

David is a Class of 2020 Ruth and Bob Phillips Scholarship recipient, a $2,000 award. David attends SUNY Plattsburgh, where he studies adolescent education, chemistry and earth science. David “would like to be as good a chemistry teacher as Ed Oliver.” While at Plattsburgh, David plans to participate in track and field, perform with a choral group and play volleyball, continuing the activities he most enjoyed during high school.

Alyssa Nugara

Alyssa is a Class of 2020 Ruth and Bob Phillips Scholarship recipient, a $2,000 award. She attends Jefferson Community College, Watertown, where she studies

He plans to continue playing soccer while at Brockport. He also enjoys dance, playing drums and jazz music. He plans to become a high school math teacher and eventually coach soccer.
Autumn 2020

Colby Stewart

Colby is a Class of 2020 Thousand Islands Foundation Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. Colby attends Jefferson Community College, Watertown, where he studies business. His latest hobby is learning how to “day trade.” He hopes to truly experience college life and activities but said that with COVID-19, he “hopes everyone will stay healthy.”

Kerrigan Wiley

Kerrigan is a Class of 2020 Betty Streets Scholarship recipient, a $1,000 award. She attends Keuka College, Keuka Park, where she studies early childhood education. While at Keuka, she plans to participate in volleyball, Outdoor Adventure Club and the college’s Feminist Club.

Renzi Youngs

Renzi is a Class of 2020 Clayton Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship recipient, a $2,500 award. She attends SUNY Potsdam, where she studies early childhood education. She plans to become an elementary school teacher. While at Thousand Islands, Renzi was active in soccer and hockey and volunteered with SADD and for the Clayton Fire Department.

THOUSAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION / AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Individual donors and families have established the following named scholarships:
- Clayton Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship
- Grindstone Island Mary Lou Rusho Memorial Scholarship
- Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center Scholarship

Hazel Northrup Hyde
Family Scholarship
Lechler Award Scholarship
Margaret Maser Scholarship
Ruth & Robert Phillips Scholarship
Elizabeth “Betty” Streets Scholarship

THE LECHLER AWARD SCHOLARSHIP / ABOUT

Howard and Mary Lou Lechler established the Lechler Foundation to provide scholarships for students pursuing higher education. Howard was born in Chicago, Ill., and fell in love with Northern New York when the U.S. Navy assigned him to attend St. Lawrence University in Canton. He later graduated from Clarkson University and was fortunate to receive financial support during his school years. Because of his experience, Howard made it his mission to always give back. Howard and Mary Lou helped establish the Thousand Islands Foundation in 2002, contributing a gift to endow the effort that remains at work nearly 20 years later. Today, the Lechler Award, is presented as a scholarship of up to $5,000 to a top graduating senior.

THOUSAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION / HOW TO GIVE

An enduring impact with flexible giving options

The Northern New York Community Foundation welcomes gifts of any amount in support of the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund, which became a Community Foundation component fund in 2014 after serving the region for more than a decade. The Community Foundation stewards this philanthropic resource that will have a lifetime impact on students and graduates of Alexandria, LaFargeville, Lyme, and Thousand Islands Central schools. There is no better option to give where you live to support our future generation.

CREATE A NAMED SCHOLARSHIP

The Northern New York Community Foundation offers options to create a new named scholarship, which provides a legacy in perpetuity. By investing in scholarships, your gift has immediate impact on students seeking post-secondary education. Keeping your investment local ensures the most direct impact on your community. Contact the Community Foundation to discuss this and other ways to support the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund, 315-782-7110, or info@nnycf.org.

LEGACY PLANNING

A part of your legacy may include a charitable gift to the Thousand Islands Foundation. The Community Foundation provides a wide range of donor options to make giving efficient, simple and rewarding. Loyal residents and supporters of the region have the ability to maximize generosity and give where they live forever.

BEQUESTS — You may plan a gift as a provision in your will, naming the Northern New York Community Foundation for the benefit of the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund. You may instead give a specific dollar amount or a percent of your estate.

RETIREMENT PLANS — This option allows you to truly maximize your meaningful gift. You can avoid taxes on retirement plan distributions by naming the Northern New York Community Foundation as the beneficiary and designate the contribution to the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund as your charitable fund of choice.

LIFE INSURANCE — List the Northern New York Community Foundation as the beneficiary and designate the contribution to the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund. It is an efficient option that maximizes the value of your charitable gift and also allows you to receive a tax deduction.

Other legacy planning options include charitable gift annuities (CGAs), charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) and more. To discuss legacy planning or other charitable giving interests with the Northern New York Community Foundation, contact Executive Director Rande Richardson or Assistant Director Max DelSignore at 315-782-7110 or rande@nnycf.org or max@nnycf.org.

GIVING OPTIONS

CHECK — Mail gifts via check to: Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Designate the Thousand Islands Foundation Fund with your gift.

ONLINE — Giving online is a quick, secure, and efficient way to make a gift to the Community Foundation. Visit nnycf.org and click the “Donate” button. You may specify your gift to the “Thousand Islands Foundation” Fund.

STOCK, IRA OR INSURANCE TRANSFER — Consider a contribution through a transfer of stock, IRA, or life insurance. Contact the Community Foundation to learn more. 315-782-7110. The Community Foundation can also work with donors to allocate IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), which can be used to make tax-free charitable gifts. Ask the Foundation how to take advantage of this opportunity.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY — The Northern New York Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Consult your tax professional to learn more.
### Thousand Islands Foundation / Scholarship Recipients

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
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<td>Grace Goerger</td>
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NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

WWW.NNYCF.ORG
THOUSAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION / SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2006
Alexandria
Nicole Balk

LaFargeville
Alicia Dewey
Monica Waldroff

Lyme
Laura Davis
Amanda Rickett

2005
Alexandria
Joshua Johnston
Alyssa Tidd

LaFargeville
Alicia Dewey
Luther Kemp
Kimberly Kernehan
Ottileo Kuter-Arnebeck

Lyme
Bryan Guarino

2004
Alexandria
Megan Dingman
Matthew Satterley

LaFargeville
Alicia Dewey
KYLEIGH GISKA

2003
Alexandria
Jessica Munna

LaFargeville
Alicia Dewey
Kristen Flood

Lyme
Briana Fulmer

2002
Alexandria
Heidi Sourwine

LaFargeville
Heather Bristol
Alicia Dewey

Lyme
Bethany Hills

2001
Alexandria
Delton Bullock
Jeffery Derouin
Marcus Megan
Jordan Sourwine
Corey Walts

Lyme
Lucas Weston

2000
Alexandria
Stephen Freeman
Aaron Londraville
Heather Miller
Nicholas Vaphiades

LaFargeville
Laura McFadden
Heather Williams

Lyme
Logan Okun

2009
Alexandria
Devon Bullock
Jeffery Derouin
Marcus Megan
Jordan Sourwine
Corey Walts

Lyme
Lucas Weston

2008
Alexandria
Zach Avenengo
Nicole Gonio
Chelsea Honeywell
Amanda Vargo

LaFargeville
Tiffany Robinson
Sarah Wilson

Lyme
Meredith Borden

2007
Alexandria
Stephanie Freeman
Aaron Londraville
Heather Miller
Nicholas Vaphiades

LaFargeville
Laura McFadden
Heather Williams

Lyme
Logan Okun

2006
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Zach Avenengo
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Bryan Guarino

2004
Alexandria
Megan Dingman
Matthew Satterley

LaFargeville
Alicia Dewey
KYLEIGH GISKA
THOUSAND ISLANDS FOUNDATION SCHOLARS
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ashley Howard, Class of 2014

Clayton native and Thousand Islands High School 2014 graduate Ashley Howard is now a third-year dental student at Midwestern University’s College of Dental Medicine in Downers Grove, Ill. The program is dedicated to the education of dentists who will demonstrate comprehensive oral health care and develop into competent and confident clinicians. Ashley graduated from Elon University, earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2018. While attending Elon University she minored in neuroscience, conducted research related to memory and worked two jobs. Her core values include personal development, impact, empowerment, commitment to clients, healing, diversity and excellence. Her strong sense of personal and professional values is essential to her success within the health care industry. Outside of work Ashley enjoys traveling, finding new favorite restaurants, and spending time with family and friends on the St. Lawrence River whenever possible.

Dr. Adrienne Mingle, Class of 2002

Cape Vincent native Dr. Adrienne Mingle, DPT, completed the doctoral program in physical therapy at Utica College and was awarded a degree in May 2010 during the college’s 61st commencement. Dr. Mingle graduated with honors from Thousand Islands High School in 2002 and was among the first class of Thousand Islands Foundation scholarship recipients. She became interested in a physical therapy career during her rehabilitation from an injury in high school and, in her senior year, she participated in the Thousand Islands School-to-Work Internship program at a physical therapy center in Watertown. Her experiences led her to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Utica College. She is now employed as an outpatient rehabilitation therapist in New Hartford. Dr. Mingle’s advice to prospective and current students is to “work hard, stay focused on accomplishing goals and maintain a balance between academics and leisure activities.”

YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS HELP US TO BUILD A BRIGHT FUTURE WHILE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!