

## Chairman's Corner

This year the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund set two records!

Continuing its 25th anniversary celebration with the 2019 class of Cherry scholars, WCSF awarded \$100,000 to 27 ETHS graduates at our annual Awards Dinner. The number of scholars is far greater than ever before, and the amount awarded is double the previous record set just last year. We are so very grateful for the amazing support that made these records possible. The evening was remarkable. Thanks to:

- Jake Rohde, the master of ceremonies
- Steve Hagerty, the mayor of Evanston
- Rev. Daniel Ruen, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston
- Jim McHolland, principal of Chute Middle School
- Alanna Williams, a Cherry Scholar in 2013, 2016 and 2019
- The Awards Dinner committee, who planned this spectacular evening.

I would also like to express my great appreciation to Susan Hope Engel, who produced the amazing film of Cherry scholars.

And finally, special thanks to the family, friends and community who shared the evening with the 2019 class of Cherry scholars. It was unforgettable.

Please join us for our 26th Annual Golf Outing on Monday, June 24 at the Wilmette Golf Club.

In closing, I'd like to ask you to consider donating to the Cherry Scholarship Fund. Even during challenging times, we have found ways to reach more young men and women each year. We need your help so we can continue investing in the education of our youth.

A number of Cherry award recipients have become teachers, and without the Cherry scholarship they may not have been able to fulfill their dreams. Thank you in advance for your support. Every contribution makes a difference.



Patty Cherry Reece



*Cherry Scholarship Fund class of 2019 scholars. Not pictured: Mechelle Casey, Yuli Salgado, Sarita Smith and Caitlin Strickland.*

## 2019 Scholars Honored at Award Dinner

Friends and board members of the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund gathered at Maggiano's restaurant on April 28 to honor this year's award recipients. The Fund awarded an all-time high of \$100,000 to a total of 27 scholars.

Board member and master of ceremonies Jake Rohde opened the evening by welcoming the 200 guests and congratulating the scholars and their families.

Evanston Mayor Steve Hagerty spoke, followed by Board President Robert Reece, who thanked the following foundations for their support:

- Denny and Sandy Vitantonio Cummings
- Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation
- Dr. Laurence A. Mack Fund
- Bart T. Rocca Foundation
- The Zelinski Family
- Paul and Mary Finnegan
- Seabury Foundation

- Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
  - M.J. O'Brien Foundation
- Rev. Daniel Tallon Ruen then delivered the invocation.

The keynote address was given by Jim McHolland, a lifelong Evanston resident and the current principal at Chute Middle School. Mr. McHolland began his speech by acknowledging Charles Nelson and Donald Michelin for being his mentors and he thanked George Dotson for giving him his first job.

Upon viewing a portrait of Warren Cherry during a recent visit to Lincoln School, Mr. McHolland said he was reminded that Warren was the inspiration for his own entry into the field of education. He noted the profound impact Warren Cherry had on the Evanston community and how his memory continues to inspire greatness in its youth today.

—Continued on back page



*Oliver Ruff, Pat Hughes Sr., Liz Tisdahl and Hecky Powell.*



*Greg Pearson and Vince Taylor.*



*Tim Burke.*



*MC Jake Robde.*



*Fred Hunter, Nicki Pearson and Bryant Wallace.*



*Rev. Daniel Ruen.*



*Patty Reece and Denny Cummings.*



*Sam Bodine and Anne Bodine.*



*Denise Martin, Felisha Parsons and Lori Succes.*



*Margaret Ransom.*



*Evanston Mayor Steve Hagerty.*



*Eileen Cohn, Hon. Jeanne Bernstein and Timon Bernstein Jandora.*



*Robert Reece, Pat Hughes Sr. and George Dotson.*



*Chuck Lewis and Penny Sebring.*



*Keynote speaker Jim McHolland.*



*Joe Keitel and Bill Speth.*

# Meet the 2019

**Alexandria Bolling** plans to attend either DePaul or Texas Southern University and earn a degree in education with a minor in ethnic studies. She would like to return to her community and become an educator. She was inducted into the National Honor Society and has traveled around the country with the ETHS Speech and Debate Team. She mentored through Help a Brother / Help a Sister.



*Alexandria Bolling*



*Jordan Demond Brooks*

**Jordan Demond Brooks** plans to attend Xavier University in fall 2019. He would like to become a high school history teacher, and recognizes the importance of being a black male educator. He is a member of Y.O.U. and Evanston Scholars, and would like to create a mentorship program serving people of color.

A mother of four, **Mechelle Casey** is pursuing a master's degree from Purdue University Global.



*Mechelle Casey*



*Jesse Miller Chatz*

**Jesse Miller Chatz** attends National Louis University where he is studying business management. At the same time, he holds a full-time position at the McGaw YMCA as director of external affairs. He hopes to continue develop-

ing new programs that support youth in Evanston. He has been a mentor and guardian for a young man since 2013 and served as an advisor for a variety of youth programs in Evanston.

**Jeron Dorsey** is completing his bachelor's degree in business administration and human resource management from Ashford University. He plans to enroll at Northwestern to study sports administration and would like to become director of the Fleetwood Jourdain Center.



*Jeron Dorsey*

He is passionate about mentoring youth in Evanston. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

**Harris Benjamin Harris** attends Loyola University where he is majoring in history. He plans to use his degree as an entry point for a career in special education or recreation. He is a basketball coach for FAAM and serves as the treasurer for Hillel at Loyola, where he also recruits new members and develops Jewish curricula.



*Harris Benjamin Harris*

**Briana Jonel Jenkins** is working toward her associate's degree in applied science, management and supervision at Oakton Community College. She



*Briana Jonel Jenkins*

hopes to study social work at Northeastern Illinois University and go on to a career in social work or community service. She worked as a program supervisor at Fleetwood-Jourdain and is a personal support worker helping her sister.

**Ryan Nicole Johnson** is a sophomore at DePaul University planning to study education or psychology with a minor in performance studies. She hopes to have a teaching career and help students build lifelong relationships with their teachers and peers. She works every Thursday as a teacher's assistant in St. Angela's SMILE after-school program.



*Ryan Nicole Johnson*



*Leila Lemieux-Jordan*

**Leila Lemieux-Jordan** is enrolled at Oakton Community College studying early childhood education. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in special education and hopes to help children overcome developmental challenges. She volunteers at Park School working one-on-one with differently-abled students and is a teacher's assistant at Learning Bridge EEC.

As the Youth and Young Adult Outreach Supervisor for the City of Evanston, **Jeremy McCray** touches the lives of hundreds of young people each day. He plans to return to school at Oakton Community College and hopes to learn new ways of engaging youth in the community. A natural mentor, he is also a Kingian Nonviolence trainer who volunteers as a basketball coach for FAAM.



*Jeremy McCray*



*Jasmine Medina*

**Jasmine Medina** is a freshman at the University of Illinois studying Spanish and working toward a BA in teaching foreign languages. She wants to work in the classroom

sharing her passion for the Spanish language. She is a Spanish tutor at Edison Middle School, the treasurer of Golden Apple Illini and was recently inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

**Rudy Meo** is a graduate student at Western Governors University pursuing a master's degree in business. He wants to use his degree to become a better leader and mentor for youth basketball organizations. He is the owner and director of Evanston Youth Basketball non-profits and an assistant varsity boys basketball coach at ETHS.



*Rudy Meo*

**Jose Antonio Morales-Martinez** is a freshman at Illinois State University studying environmental science and Latino studies. He hopes to work as a science instructor and improve student understanding of the environment. He volunteers with the Books & Breakfast Club at Dewey Elementary School and has helped out as a classroom assistant at the Joseph Hill Early Childhood Center.



*Jose Antonio Morales-Martinez*

**Nathan Norman** is finishing an associate's degree at Oakton Community College and will pursue a bachelor's in political science. He wants to continue working with at-risk youth in Evanston, helping find employment opportunities. He is a graduate of Leadership Evanston and a board member of the Black Male Experience Panel. He serves as a role model for hundreds of young people with whom he en-



*Nathan Norman*

# Cherry Scholars

gages every day.

**Rachel Rojas Patino** hopes to attend Purdue University in fall 2019 and study physical therapy. She hopes to work as a physical therapist or an athletic trainer. She is active on the Jah-



*Rachel Rojas Patino*



*Jennifer Rodriguez-Gomez*

bat Soccer Club as a team member and mentor for younger players. She also volunteers at St. Nicholas Parish church festivals.

**Jennifer Rodriguez-Gomez** is enrolled at the University of Illinois as an elementary education major. She hopes to become a bilingual teacher and foster cross-cultural collaborative learning. She has been actively involved in community service projects and tutoring, working as a teacher assistant in School District 65 and volunteering in a crisis nursery.

**Jaydlyn Trinity Rogers** is a freshman at Texas Southern University, majoring in English with a teaching concentration. She wants to change the way English is taught and make it more entertaining. She was recently inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success, where she works as the fundraising chair.



*Jaydlyn Trinity Rogers*



*Nikko Kelly Ross*

he also serves as a mentor, and is a coach and defensive coordinator for Evanston Junior Wildkits. He organized a community walk to save Family Focus. He has a passion for learning, especially African American history.

**Yuli Salgado** is a sophomore at the University of Illinois in Springfield majoring in elementary education and communications. She would like to teach elementary education and pursue a master's degree in bilingual education or special education. Active in the community, she is a member of the service organization Leadership for Life, the Christian Student Fellowship and the Organization of Latin American Students.

**Aurora Sanchez** plans to attend Augustana College in fall 2019 and study communication science. She hopes to become a speech pathologist and earn a graduate degree in educational speech pathology. She has worked at the ETHS Daycare Center and is committed to working in her community helping children with special needs.

**Cialy Mydel Santos** plans to attend Northwestern University and study history. After graduating she is considering teaching Spanish. She has experience in the classroom as an algebra Instructor at Carl Schurz High School in Chicago and taught English as a Second Language in Japan. She has been a member of the Knox College honor board, a Knox TRIO stu-



*Yuli Salgado*



*Aurora Sanchez*



*Cialy Mydel Santos*

dent/mentor and a reading tutor for the Carl Sandburg Literary Coalition.

**Jocelyn Segura** is a freshman at UIC where she is studying human development with a focus on early childhood education. She has begun to take child development and education classes and is excited to begin her teaching career. She helped organize a LatinX Summit at ETHS working with Northwestern and has facilitated Students Organized Against Racism conferences and weekly meetings.

**Sarita Smith** is pursuing a graduate degree at UIC while working full-time at the McGaw YMCA. She hopes to become a high school dean and use her gifts to educate and keep young people in school. She works with the Evanston Police Dept. as a restorative justice facilitator; co-chaired the adult life committee for Evanston Cradle to Career (EC2C); and is a member of the Oakton School PTA.

**Caitlin Strickland** is finishing her first year at Elon University where she is majoring in history. She plans to pursue a career in secondary education and would like to return to teach in or around Evanston. She volunteers at the South Side Community Center and is a member of the Elon University Gospel Choir. She also participates in Elon Teaching Fellows, a special program for the top 25 education majors in her class.



*Jocelyn Segura*



*Sarita Smith*



*Caitlin Strickland*

**Kathy Wideman** is pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood practice at National Louis University. She plans to focus on early childhood programs and hopes to instill a joy of learning in children at an early age. She is a senior choir director at Bethel AME; is a member of The Heirs of Joy, Vernon Clark's gospel singing ministry; and helps out at the Master Builders Food Pantry.



*Kathy Wideman*

**Alanna Kashon DuCre Williams** graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in education. She is now pursuing a master's in curriculum and instruction and would like to teach elementary and middle school students. She is the co-founder and an executive board member of Students Against Sexual Assault, and is co-president of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority. She is an active community organizer.

**Chyna Gibert Wright** is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is majoring in elementary education and minoring in psychological and brain sciences. She wants to teach elementary school students in an urban community in the Chicago area. She is actively involved in tutoring and volunteers in an early childhood center classroom for two hours each week.



*Alanna Kashon DuCre Williams*



*Chyna Gibert Wright*



2019 Cherry Scholarship Fund award dinner.



Jessica Horwitz and Sandy Vintantonio.



### Special award

Ann Stevens (at left with Jake Rohde) was given a special award for her inspiration, commitment and dedication to the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund.



Hass Adamji, Mary Daley and Susan Hope Engel.

## Awards Dinner

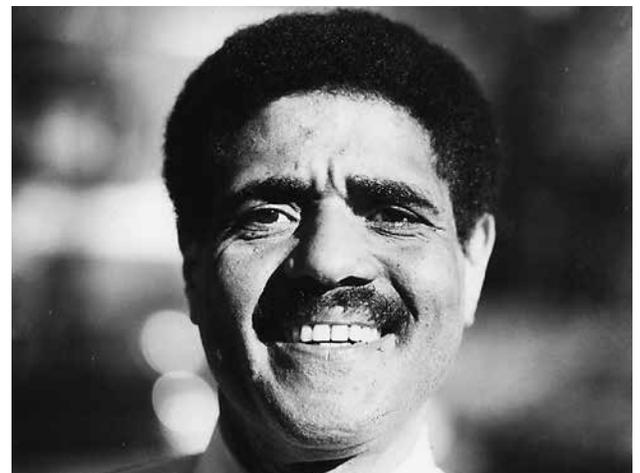
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Mr. McHolland addressed the scholars by reminding them of the power of their own story. He said that Warren Cherry demonstrated a passion to find his best self and used his own story to have a positive impact on the lives of others. Mr. McHolland challenged each of the scholars to become the best version of themselves and to inspire others as Warren Cherry had done.

Following the keynote speech, the audience was treated to a short film entitled “Cherry,” created by Susan Hope Engel. The film highlights several past and present Cherry scholarship recipients.

Past scholarship recipient Alanna Williams spoke of the impact the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund has had on her own life.

Board members Ann Stevens and Bill Speth then presented the awards to the 2019 recipients.



The mission of the Warren “Billy” Cherry Scholarship Fund, named in memory of a much-loved and respected Evanston educator, is to perpetuate his total acceptance of all people, his commitment to the highest standards of educational excellence, and his energetic dedication to enriching the children and institutions of Evanston. For more information, visit [www.cherryscholarship.com](http://www.cherryscholarship.com).

*The Cherry Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.*

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