



SKY SOLDIERS FOUNDATION

www.skysoldiersfoundation.org

(Formerly 173d Airborne Brigade Association Foundation)



2020 Scholarship Recipients - In their own words (continued)

James Hentig, Jr.: (continued)

Upon graduating, I would like to complete a post-doctoral fellowship at the center for neuroscience and regenerative medicine/NIH researching therapeutic options explicitly for United States service members who have suffered from traumatic brain injuries as well as developing possible therapeutics that protect or reduce the injury when taken preemptively in future warfighters.

Additionally, here is a short 3minute clip of me explaining my research in laymen's terms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrPcViiMCBQ&feature=youtu.be>

William Holland: I will be attending Purdue University for Materials Engineering; in fact, I am enrolled in the Early Start summer session. I am a student in the Honors College and will be joining the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) learning community this fall.

Kyle R. Hooley: Kyle recently concluded his service this past June and will enter the Master's of Engineering Management program at Purdue University this fall. Kyle will focus on Industrial and Systems Engineering and is scheduled to graduate in Fall of 2021. While assigned to the 173rd IBCT(A) he served in Able Company and HHC, 2/503rd.

JoAnna LaFratta: I am attending the Louisiana State University Master of Social work program. Upon completion of my degree, I would like to work as a school social worker in the military community. It is important for me to work with a community that I know so well and means so much to me.

Maggie LaFratta: My educational goal is for me to become a chiropractor for Veterans Affairs by gaining my doctorate of chiropractic. I have spent 5 years immersing myself in the healthcare field to come to this point, because I have always had a passion for science and helping others but never knew where I would fit. During this time, I have shadowed physicians, dentists, physical therapists, optometrists, and even a veterinarian to ensure I wanted to work with humans. After shadowing a chiropractor, I found out that this was the perfect career field for me due to the hands-on and holistic measures taken to treat patients. In 2015, I began my bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences, and in 2017 I declared a second degree in Clinical Psychology. Both of these degrees have allowed me to understand how the body and mind work together, and give me full understanding of how to care for people in many aspects. To further my understanding of hard sciences, I began a research position in December 2016 through May 2018 studying the functions of upstream innate immune systems and its impact on asthma. This ensured my desire to attend a chiropractic school that involved large amounts of research and evidence based study. This led me to National University of Health Sciences, which also has an internship with the VA hospital in Pinellas Park, FL, giving me the opportunity to achieve my goal more than any other school. I will be finishing my final semester at the University of Central Florida this fall and in January 2021 I begin my doctorate of chiropractic at National University of Health Sciences.



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Ysaris Urbina Rojas: I was honored and humbled by the scholarship award from the Sky Soldier Foundation. I am currently in my 3rd year attending Troy University in Dothan, Alabama. I will hopefully complete my Bachelor in Biological Science Fall of 2021. I hope to continue my studies by attending Lecom University located in Brenton, FL. My dream is to complete a doctor's degree in Pharmacology. This scholarship will help me pay for the next semester and more than that it has motivated me to continue because other people believe in me as well. Thank you to all the board members and active members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association.

Abigail Whitman: I am Abigail Whitman, daughter of SGM Robert Whitman. I have lived my whole life while being associated with the army. When my dad joined the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 2016 my family moved to Italy. This was my first time ever leaving the United States, and I fell in love with exploring the world. This move gave me so many opportunities to travel and to learn about cultures and history that I would not have experienced if I had never left the United States. More than that, the Army had given me the opportunity to stay in Europe. Thanks to a partial GI Bill, the AER scholarship, other academic scholarships, and now this wonderful scholarship from the Sky Soldiers Foundation I have been able to pursue an undergraduate degree in London. It is such an amazing opportunity. I have had history classes taught at the British Museum and even a British politics course taught by an MP at Westminster Palace. I am currently in my third year studying political science and international relations, and I am on track to enter a master's program. By this time next summer, I will be in an internship position and working on my dissertation. Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am to my father, to the US army, and to the 173rd Airborne Brigade for giving me the opportunity to make my educational dreams a reality.

Ashley Wood: My educational goal has not wavered since I was a little girl. I have always dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, and hopefully I can turn that dream into reality. I have worked hard throughout my years of school and mastered maintaining excellent grades while being a student athlete. I have the opportunity to play Division 1 softball at Winthrop University while also earning a degree in biology. After I graduate, I plan on attending veterinary school. I am very passionate about my career path.

Why should I/we donate to the Sky Soldiers Foundation Scholarship Fund?

These members of the Sky Soldier community and others like them are the reason.

For information on how to donate, how to establish a designated endowment, or how to become more involved in the Scholarship Fund visit: www.skysoldiersfoundation.org/Scholarship-Fund or write via email to scholarship@skysoldiersfoundation.org