

# ISABEL KELLUM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Award Recipients July 2020

## **Briana Bazile**

A third year at New York University – where has the time gone? Briana continues her studies as a Global Liberal Studies major. That interest began in a freshman course on Caribbean cultures and the effects of colonialism and tourism on island communities. Briana's interest in social and environmental justice has grown over the past year to become global.

Briana took a job at a Chipotle chain in New York for walk around money, and the restaurant was next door to the New York Rescue Mission. She noticed how much food went to waste, so after her shift she brought the leftover chips to the Mission. She also served meals at the Mission during the days.

New York University offers courses in Los Angeles as part of its global outreach. We are as pleased as Briana's parents that she can be closer to us.

Rosa Parks inspired me to find a way to get in the way, to get in trouble... good trouble, necessary trouble.

*John Lewis*

## **Tatjana Bevineau**

Tatjana is a new recipient this year but her college career is not new. She is entering her junior year at the University of San Francisco, majoring in biology with a minor in music. The next two years will be spent preparing for admission to medical school. Her desire to become a pediatrician came from joining her mother, an occupational therapist, when she worked with children.

Tatjana is a member of Camp Kesem SF, a charitable group that supports children through and beyond a parent's cancer. The group brought her through difficult years in high school and helped her not only bear with her struggles but excel. She is now a counselor at University of San Francisco sharing the gift of Camp Kesem that she received.

Tatjana has found new ways to connect with the parish in the current public health emergency. She watches the live-streamed masses with her family, and joins the Black Lives Matters protests in front of the church. She is always close to our hearts.

Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

*Malcom X*

## **Chidemma Ezeokoli**

Our prayers are with Chidemma as she starts her sophomore year at California State University, East Bay, where she is pursuing pre-medical studies. We are glad to hear that she joined the Eclectic Pulse dance team on campus for a break from studies and a renewal of her passion for dance.

Chidemma worked with Youth Employment Partnership this summer, leading a group of high school students in work for the City of Oakland. As part of that work, she mentored at-risk youth on how to make a success of a job interview. Chidemma also gave her students advice on starting early on college and future career decisions. She is confident that she can find the right studies and career that will nourish her desire to give back.

If you want to fly, you have  
to give up the things that  
weigh you down.

*Toni Morrison*

### **Christian Feraria**

Christian will be a senior, and the Scholarship Committee is pleased to have supported him through all four years of his college career. A semester abroad in Spain was cut short in March, and he managed the stress of fifteen hours travel home on short notice. We are glad to have him home safe. Christian can also attest to the difficulties of completing the semester online from a hotel room where he self-quarantined for two weeks.

Christian has worked twenty hours a week during his entire college career, balancing work and studies. He does not regret the work hours at the Aztec Tennis Club in Berkeley because it gives him the opportunity to coach underprivileged youth. We wish Christian a successful and rewarding final year at Saint Mary's College, with considerably less drama.

### **Vanneasha Soublet**

Vanneasha is back near us, starting her junior year at Diablo Valley College. She is pursuing a career as a psychiatric nurse, and has nearly completed all prerequisite courses to apply for nursing programs.

The past two years of college have been a journey of reflection and self-discovery for Vanneasha. Studies have been challenging, and she knows that success in college will come from within her. Living at home makes for a different college experience, but Vanneasha is more than grateful for the support of family and friends as she begins a new semester.

#### **COME JOIN US!**

The Committee funds up to two years of community college, and four years of college or university study. The awards to initial or returning applicants each year are funded through the generous support of the Saint Columba community.

For more information, please speak with a member of the Committee:

Tom Shaver, co-chair  
Marolyn Jackson, co-chair  
Floencia Blackburn  
Sandra Christian  
Harriett Dunbar  
Myrtle Newsome  
Rhonda Robinson  
Mona Rodrigues  
Denise Turner  
Gloria Wheeler

Your Name Here