

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Linda Backus Memorial Award

Makenzie Roberts

Makenzie Roberts will be a senior at Endicott College, in pursuit of her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. After internships in Williston, Vermont and Salem, Massachusetts, her passion to teach was confirmed. She is Class of 2017 Secretary for Student Government, and is involved with enriching students' experiences at Endicott College. As a Global Ambassador and Vice President of the Intercultural Club, Makenzie enjoys being open with new acquaintances, reaching out by listening to their stories and sharing hers. She embraces diverse cultures as a natural consequence of being part of a military family, growing up in many communities with diverse ethnicities. Makenzie's motto is: "Consideration of others is an essential part of good character." When Makenzie isn't working on homework or making new friends, you can find her at the gym on the elliptical, participating in intramural volleyball, or doing Zumba.

David S. Shiman Award

Sameera Ibrahim

Sammie Ibrahim is a graduating senior with degrees in Geography and Political Science from Little Rock, Arkansas. She has spent much of her time at UVM heavily involved with Amnesty International, a global human rights advocacy non-profit, and Students Against Sexual Violence, which advocates for more education and resources around sexual assault on campus. She has also spent much of her time working as a research assistant in the Geography Department, working on various projects related to refugee resettlement in Vermont and campus greening efforts. She would like to personally thank Dr. Pablo Bose and Dr. Ingrid Nelson, among many others, for their continued support in these endeavors over the years.

Jeffrey Brace Awards

Annalena Barrett

Annalena Barrett is a 2016 graduate of the University of Vermont. She majored in Environmental Studies and minored in Global Studies and is deeply committed to sustainability and food justice. During her time at UVM she was heavily involved with the Real Food Challenge, which works to shift university food purchasing towards a just and sustainable food economy. She also worked with Migrant Justice, a nonprofit that focuses on human rights issues in the agricultural sector and was a leader in establishing a student solidarity group on campus called "Juntos" ("together" in Spanish).

Alexis Kelly

Alexis is a sophomore at UVM majoring in Elementary Education and pursuing a dual-licensure in Special Education. Throughout her time at UVM Alexis has been involved with the campus chapter of Oxfam, an international non-profit organization dedicated to righting the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. Alexis is also involved in the UVM Outing Club, both as a leader of trips and as one of the Social Justice coordinators. Additionally, Alexis works for the Think College program at UVM, where she serves as a mentor for students who have intellectual and developmental disabilities as they strengthen their academic, social, and job-acquisition skills. Over the summer, Alexis teaches sailing on Boston Harbor.

Owen LaFarge

It is a great privilege to be receiving a Jeffrey Brace Award from United Academics! I grew up on Nantucket, MA and since my first few months at UVM have become involved in social and economic justice issues in Burlington. I first became involved in activism in a big way through supporting the CCTA bus driver's strike in 2014, and have since been involved in many social justice campaigns as well as building the International Socialist Organization at UVM. I hope to continue with this work for many years to come.

Emily Seifert-

I am senior at the University of Vermont graduating with a bachelor's degree in social work. In September, I will be pursuing my master's degree in social work in an accelerated program at Boston University, with a minor in Macro policy. I will miss volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Club of Burlington and helping the Committee of Temporary Shelters(COTS) with their fundraising events. I have been involved with the OxFam Club on campus, Mortar Board Akraia Chapter and the Honors College.

Anna Lee Tremback-

Anna Lee is a senior at the University of Vermont and is pursuing a dual degree in elementary and special education with a concentration in mathematics. She has been involved with several organizations on campus including Residential Life, the Honors College, the ALANA community, Alternative Spring Break, and Kappa Delta Pi. Anna Lee has also attended the following retreats on issues of diversity and social justice: Women of Color Leadership Retreat, Next Step Social Justice Retreat, Racial Aikido Retreat, and the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference. She hopes to continue her involvement to promote social justice in her remaining time at the University of Vermont and enhance her teaching ability for the future.

Alice Woodruff

My name is Alice Woodruff, and I am a sophomore from Waterbury, Vermont, majoring in elementary education and seeking a dual endorsement in special education. I am passionate about social justice, and I have volunteered with many organizations in the community. I have volunteered at Burlington's COTS family shelter and have participated in multiple COTS walks to raise awareness about homelessness. I was also involved with the Special Olympics Unified Sports Team at J.J. Flynn Elementary School in Burlington last spring. I plan to continue working in the community, and make social justice an integral part of my teaching curriculum.