

The
Glenridge

JULY 2021
NEWS

Charitable Foundation

By Marny Stuart, Executive Director

2021 Scholarship Candidates Impress Selection Committee

This year the Glenridge Academy Scholarship Program attracted 26 applicants, of which 17 were awarded \$3,000 scholarships funded by the Academy and another four \$3,000 scholarships funded by the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund. A total of \$63,000 will help Glenridge employees and children of Glenridge employees as they prepare to embark on yet another educational endeavor this fall. For some, it will be their first classes in a college environment, while for others, it is a familiar path they are on as they continue their studies toward their educational goals.

Whether they plan to study nursing or film making, the Foundation is proud of these individuals and wish them the very best as they look to the future with enthusiasm and confidence in their career choices.

Let's meet these amazing individuals:



the week with her children. She is a first-time recipient and has been accepted into the Licensed Professional Nursing Program at

Our first recipient is **Karina Calderon**. A two-year Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in our Carroll Center, Carina works double shifts every weekend, which allows her to be home during

the Angel Technical Institute Nursing School in Bradenton, FL. Her commitment to this program began before she was informed of being a scholarship winner. Classes began on May 3 and following a rigorous year and program, Karina will take the board examination for a Licensed Practical Nurse. After achieving this goal, she plans to continue her studies to become a Registered Nurse.



Studying Interdisciplinary Entrepreneurship at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers is **Bridget Clancy**. Bridget is a familiar face to many here as she has been employed as a member of the Wait Staff in the Independent Dining Services Department for the past four years. In the fall, Bridget will be a senior at FGCU and will be completing the requirements for her minor in marketing. This summer she is especially excited to be participating in an internship program with the *Make-A-Wish* Foundation in their Bonita Springs, FL office. She is a four-time recipient of an Academy Scholarship.

continued on page 2



A recent graduate of the University of Central Florida in Orlando with a BSBA degree in Integrated Business, **Channing Egrie** plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University this fall to pursue an MBA

in Data Analytics. Following the completion of her MBA program, she would like to continue her education and earn a Juris Doctor degree. While attending the University of Central Florida, Channing was the winner of the Entrepreneurship Competition for Business through the creation of a professional presentation that utilized more than 15 best business practices. She was also on the Dean’s List several times during her years there. Channing has been a long-term Glenridge employee, having worked in the Independent Dining Services Department for the last seven years and is a four-time scholarship winner.



Sous Chef Carlos Escobar couldn’t be prouder of his daughters, Gabriella and Kayla, both 2021 Academy Scholarship winners. A repeat winner of an Academy Scholarship, **Gabriella Escobar**

earned her B.S. degree in Psychology from the University of Florida in May 2020. She is now a student at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA working toward a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She is a first-generation college graduate and hopes to dispel the profound stigma surrounding mental health and the lack of knowledge regarding mental health issues. To help her achieve her goal, she became heavily involved in teaching and conducting research. She was a research assistant for the Collective Healing for Engagement and Empowering Voices through Research group.

According to Gabriella, her experiences in both teaching and research assistant positions have been very valuable and have provided her with essential skills that will help her continue her educational journey.



A second-time recipient of an Academy Scholarship is **Kayla Escobar**. She is studying Environmental & Natural Resources at Clemson University in SC with the aspiration of someday becoming

an environmental lawyer. Her passion for the environment began in high school when she organized her first beach clean-up. Since that time, she has been involved in beach, park and campus cleanups, and reducing her own consumption and waste involving non-recyclable products. She has dedicated her time and efforts to implementing green initiatives within her sorority, Delta Zeta. She is also a member of the Solid Green Student Club, which focuses on making Clemson’s campus and community more environmentally friendly.



Our next recipient is **Trevor Franko**. He is the son of Garry Franko, our Director of Independent Dining Services. Trevor is a student in the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he

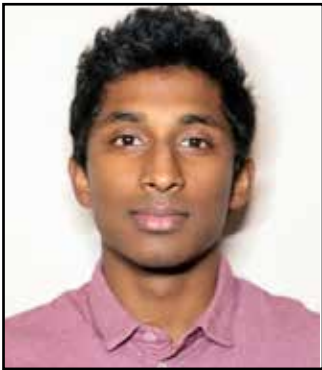
is studying business and finance. This is his second Academy Scholarship. Trevor’s goal is to someday own his own business, specifically in the area of water-related careers on the ocean. Trevor believes firmly that you must have a career that interests you, something that you will love to do every day, and something that you are very good at. That is why he would like to utilize his education and apply

it to a business that does all types of ocean related jobs, whether it be boat repair, selling fishing equipment or scuba diving gear, docking boats, etc. as long as the business is on the water.



Hard work and dedication are not new to our employee, **Helen Giannis**. Having been named to the Dean's List at the State College of Florida in Bradenton and recently earning her registered nursing certification,

Helen is not going to stop there. She is a repeat scholarship recipient and has already begun her studies toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at the State College of Florida. The letter of recommendation written by a college faculty member listed her professional development priorities as – professionalism, leadership, and evidence-based practice. She has displayed those qualities during the five years she has worked for The Glenridge in the Carroll Center.



Repeat winner, **Sachin Pavuluri**, has been awarded an Academy Scholarship all three years he has been employed by The Glenridge as a member of the Wait Staff in the Independent Dining Services Department.

After completing his undergraduate education at the University of Florida in Gainesville, he intends to go to medical school. He would also like to complete an orthopedic residency as well as a sports medicine fellowship to help him achieve his goal of becoming a physician for a professional sports team and owning his own medical practice. To help him prepare for a medical career, he has already interned for a dermatologist, shadowed a fellowship of orthopedic surgeons, and been involved in

medical research. To further prepare himself for running his own medical practice, he is pursuing an economics degree in addition to following the pre-medical pathway.



A first-time recipient of an Academy Scholarship is **Carlye Perrigo**. Carlye has been with The Glenridge for two years and is a Hostess in the Independent Dining

Services Department. She is a recent graduate of Riverview High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and Vice President of the Key Club. She also earned an internship with the office of U. S. Congressman, Vern Buchanan. It was after volunteering at Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) for a year that she knew she wanted to become a registered nurse. There she realized how impactful nurses truly are and how their love and passion for their jobs makes a difference in the world today. In the fall, Carlye plans to attend the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, to earn a B.S. degree in Nursing.



A father of four, **Jose Pineda**, works tirelessly here at The Glenridge. He is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in the Carroll Center, but many Members will recognize his photograph as

he worked countless early morning shifts at the Security Guard House during the pandemic checking individuals in and then working his full shift in the Carroll Center. According to his supervisor, from his first day of employment it was obvious that Jose had something special. He is caring, hardworking, and his attention to detail and care of our Members is top notch. Jose is

currently studying Nursing at the State College of Florida and would like to continue his education to become an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner.



Keely Quinn is one of those behind-the-scenes employees. For the past four years, she has worked in the Independent Dining Services kitchen as a Line Cook. She started her back-to-school adventure around

the same time she came to work here. Her educational goals first took her in the direction of becoming a dental hygienist. However, along the way, she realized that her interest in nursing became stronger and she was able to transfer several credit hours to the nursing program at the State College of Florida in Venice. Keely is a repeat scholarship winner, and, in the fall, she will be enrolled in Level 2 of the Associates of Science in Nursing program. She also plans to fast track the BSN program, getting some extra course work done to obtain her bachelor's degree at the same time she completes the associate's program.



Our next scholarship winner is originally from Cuba. **Isabel Rodriguez-Carmenaty** has been employed as a Registered Nurse in the Carroll Center since August 2020. She is currently enrolled as

a student at South University in Savannah, GA. where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while working towards a Master of Science in Nursing degree and working full-time for The Glenridge. Her goal is to become an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Isabel's supervisor describes her as being smart, kind and hard-working while striving to make every day better for Glenridge Members. The supervisor

also indicated that Isabel is an outstanding employee.



This is the fourth scholarship award for recipient **Anja Rmus**, a member of the Wait Staff in the Independent Dining Services Department, and daughter of Highland's Certified Nursing Assistant

(CNA) Sandra Rmus. This past May, Anja graduated from the University of Florida with two bachelor's degrees – one in Political Science and the other in International Studies. This fall, she will be continuing her studies at Columbia University, Manhattan, NY, where she will pursue a master's degree in European History, Politics, and Society. Anja would like to do research on post-conflict democratizing states and focus on human rights. She will then utilize her research to obtain her Ph.D. Her career goal is to become a professor at a university. In addition to teaching, she would like to work with the United Nations or other non-profit organizations to help provide education to young girls in worn-torn countries.



First-time scholarship winner, **Daniela Santos**, daughter of Katherine Tuduri, Human Resources Assistant, has high aspirations. After graduating from high school last year, Daniela spent her first

year in college at the University of Central Florida where she maintained a 4.0 GPA. This fall, she is transferring to Florida State University in Tallahassee where she will be studying Health Sciences. All of this is in preparation for a degree in medicine and a career in the medical field. To explore her interest in medicine, Daniela volunteered and

shadowed various medical facilities including Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH). There she could perform 8-hour shifts accompanied by a nurse, which gave her a deeper insight into how doctors manage their work and what nurses do during a typical workday. All of this has encouraged her more to pursue a career as a doctor in the medical field.

her first clinical rotation at Invo Therapy in Sarasota, where she is working alongside children with behavioral challenges and speech disorders. Additionally, through her experiences at The Glenridge, she hopes to expand her knowledge of speech pathology within the geriatric population.



Our next two recipients are not new to The Glenridge family or to the Academy Scholarship program. **Carson Taylor** has been a member of the Wait Staff in the Independent Dining

Services Department for four years. He is a repeat recipient of an Academy Scholarship. In the fall, he will be transferring from the State College of Florida with his associate degree to the University of Central Florida. He plans to continue his studies, earning a bachelor's degree in Business. His professor stated in his letter of recommendation that Carson achieved a 3.5 GPA while working two jobs and managing a demanding college schedule. The professor further stated that Carson demonstrated integrity, diligence, and a strong work ethic.



Earning her second Academy Scholarship is **Grethel Trujillo**. She joined The Glenridge in 2019 as a Registered Nurse in the Carroll Center. Grethel immigrated to the United States

from Cuba, where she was a physician. She is currently attending on-line classes at West Coast University in Dallas while working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing. After earning her BSN, she would like to continue her education and earn a Master of Science in Nursing degree, with a Specialization in Family and Geriatric Practice. According to one of her instructors, Grethel is a wonderful professional, who prides herself on lifelong learning and growth. Her Glenridge supervisor also commented in her letter of recommendation that her clinical skills as a full-time float nurse have been extremely important to the work they do every day in the Carroll Center.



Our longest employed individual earning an Academy Scholarship is **Halsey Taylor**. She has been a member of the Wait Staff in the Independent Dining Services Department for eight

years. Halsey completed her undergraduate work at the University of Central Florida. She is now pursuing a master's degree at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale-Davie, FL in Communication Sciences and Disorders. This past May, Halsey began

Whether these 17 individuals are embarking on their formal education or continuing their academic learning, everyone at The Glenridge wishes them well and we look forward to hearing their success stories. Our commitment to life-long learning is clear with the awarding of \$51,000 in Academy Scholarships this year. Add to that the scholarships awarded by the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund, and you will see that the Academy continues to enhance its own program. Please read the next article to learn about the individuals recognized through the Arts Fund.

Four Students Receive Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Scholarships

In its first year of existence, the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund has awarded four Glenridge family members with \$3,000 scholarships. To qualify for a scholarship under this program, the student must be studying a form of art. Areas of study may include Business of Art & Design, Game Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Motion Design, Photography & Imaging, Virtual Reality Development, Visual Studies, and Interior Design.



Earning her first scholarship is employee **Nadia Fianko**. Nadia is a two-year employee of the Independent Dining Services Department. She is studying Film on-line at Tallahassee Community College and plans to transfer to a four-year university

to obtain a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in either directing or production. In researching various graduate programs or reading about and learning from industry experts, she understands some of the best ways to become successful in this field is to gain experience through different internships and working as an extra on a set. According to the professor who wrote her letter of recommendation, she described Nadia as a young lady possessing the qualities of loving life, her family, and her education.



The State College of Florida is where our employee, **Ernesto Jimenez**, is studying Graphic Design. Ernesto has been employed as a Dietary Aid/Server in the Health Services area for two years. His passion for art started when he was young. He would draw

on his bedroom walls with crayons and then wash it off so that he would not get in trouble. When he got his first laptop, he installed photoshop and other design programs so that he could take his art to another level. In middle school, he signed up for art competitions and recreational art classes after school. Then in high school, he began his journey into formal art education by taking a pre-graphic design class. After he earns his degree, Ernesto would like to work for a marketing firm as a designer. This is his first scholarship through The Glenridge.



Our third Kay Pezzillo Arts Scholarship winner is **Jesus Moraga**, a two-year employee in the Independent Dining Services Department. Jesus is attending Manatee Technical College in Bradenton, where he is studying Drafting. Ultimately, he would like to become an

architect. When he was a child, he considered himself a creative individual, creating toys and decorations for his home. Someday, he would like to own his own company in which he could assist others in creating their homes, where people feel comfortable and happy with themselves and their families. Jesus has earned a perfect 4.0 GPA in his formal studies. This is his first scholarship.



Aaron Plonczynski is a first-time scholarship winner. He is the son of Christina Guimond, Director of Business Office Operations. A recent graduate of Manatee School for the Arts in Palmetto he plans to attend the State College of Florida in the fall to study Film. Aaron took his first film class when

he was a sophomore in high school. The class consisted of recording film and editing them for viewing. Although he enjoyed recording the films, his main interest was in the video editing process. According to the letter of recommendation written by Aaron's Honors Instructor, he displays enthusiasm for his work, creativity, is a joy to teach and a prized member of his class. His talent was displayed in a film he made for a class assignment, starting with the selection of whatever genre or medium he chose to the finished project. The project had to reflect an understanding of the key features discussed in class. Aaron exhibited awareness and innovation and earned an A on the project.

Congratulations to all these individuals as they continue to enhance their awareness of art and the impact it can have in our world. We are proud of each of these students and wish them the very best as they continue their educational endeavors.

Scholarship Recipient Says “Thank You”

The annual scholarship program is something the Academy and The Glenridge family looks forward to each year. Employees and children of employees vie for the Academy’s prestigious award. Selection is based on a Career Goals Essay, Professional, Civic and/or Volunteer Activities, Academic Performance, Letters of Recommendation from supervisors and instructors, and the candidate’s ability to benefit from higher education. The Selection Committee spends hours reviewing each applicant’s submission portfolio and based on a numeric calculation, the recipients are selected.

The Academy Scholarship Fund is not just Bunny Nesbit, Dean of the Academy, even though she plays an instrumental role in the program each year. It is every Glenridge Member who donates to the Fund to support its mission of “*life-long learning*.” To all those Members who support this fund, the Foundation says thank you. And so did a scholarship recipient. Here, in part, is a letter received from a grateful employee. She was unable to attend the presentation ceremony on June 14.



Helen Giannis

Dear Ms. Nesbit and Members of the Academy:

“I did not find out about my scholarship until June 15. What a wonderful surprise! What a wonderful blessing in the wake of a year overflowing with challenges and uncertainties for all. I thank the Academy from the bottom of my heart for deeming me worthy. Once again, you have entrusted me and inspired me to continue my nursing studies and pursue my Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be part of The Glenridge Carroll Center. I have ‘grown-up’ here! First, as a home health aide, then as an LPN and now as an RN pursuing my BSN. The past year has posed so many challenges for all of us, but we are enduring despite them! I thank The Glenridge Academy for helping me to endure and allowing me to help our members endure!

In closing, I wish my fellow recipients much success in their future educational endeavors! Thank you for allowing me to be amongst you!”

With appreciation and respect,
Helen Giannis

Helen’s letter says it all. Earning an Academy Scholarship is an honor. Congratulations to the 2021 recipients. We look forward to April 2022 when we announce the next competition.

Employee Earns Grant from the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund



When the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund was founded, less than a year ago, several ideas were discussed by its Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee reports to Bunny Nesbit, Dean of The Glenridge Academy Scholarship Fund, who directly oversees the Arts Fund.

Some of the ideas suggested by the Advisory Committee and paid for through grants from the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund, have already come to fruition, such as providing Paint by Number Kits to all interested members of The Glenridge family (Members, employees, and children/grandchildren of Members and employees); Painting classes for employees' children ages 7-14; trips to local museums; and a recognition dinner for all Glenridge Member artists and support personnel (Member Life, Foundation, Academy, Vendors, etc.).

Another idea generated by those involved in the Arts Fund was to support Glenridge employees who expressed an interest in pursuing their talent but may not have the financial resources to do so. The Fund has recognized its first candidate in this category, and it is our own **Lizbeth Villafranca**. Lizbeth has been with The Glenridge for nearly eight years and holds the position as a Lead Hostess in the Independent Dining Services Department.



Lizbeth's artistic drawings came to light when she would help in the Kilté Café and paint in watercolors an animal, flower, bird, or other original character on the blank side of her night deposit envelope. These envelopes would then be deposited in the night drop box and processed by accounting the next day. The drawings were so unique and beautifully done, that Vernessa Seda, the recipient of the envelopes would

display them in her office. Soon, Vernessa had a whole wall of Lizbeth's amazing drawings.

One day, the drawings caught the attention of Bunny Nesbit, who knew immediately that Lizbeth had some real talent. When engaging in conversation with Lizbeth about her artwork, she often seemed apprehensive about the quality of her work and what it could possibly mean to her in the future. Bunny had no qualms about Lizbeth's talent or the possibilities it could lead to if given the opportunity to further her education in this area. In fact, Bunny thought Lizbeth could have a very successful career as a children's book illustrator. That is why when the Arts Fund was created, Bunny recommended that Lizbeth apply for a grant to help her further her art studies.

The grant involved making financial resources available to work with two art instructors from the Adult Community Enrichment (ACE) program, Marilyn Charlotte and Bonnie Hammer. Marilyn is one of Sarasota's leading watercolor artists and has taught many classes here at The Glenridge over the years. According to Marilyn, she didn't think she could teach Lizbeth very much about art as she recognized her as having a very special innate talent. However, Marilyn suggested that Lizbeth meet with Bonnie Hammer, who could teach her about how to use a computer to create art. Funds were provided to purchase a computer, printer, and Illustrator software. Like everything else, a great deal of artwork is now generated on a computer and if you are going to enter this field, you must know how to utilize this equipment for your educational advantage. Another suggestion made by the two instructors was, if you are going to create great artwork, you must use great art supplies. You must have good paints, brushes and quality paper products in order to create quality artwork.

Members of the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Advisory Committee, the Foundation, and other Members and employees who have encouraged Lizbeth are excited to see where this may lead. The opportunity is there, and Lizbeth is grateful for the grant from the Arts Fund to pursue her talent.