HUNTER’S MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF BILL LAWTON AND CAROL GILLOOLY

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**A Tribute to EMT’s & Paramedics**

“I deeply believe that the job EMT’s do on a daily basis is breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Being an EMT is one of the most fast-paced and demanding jobs in the business, and they are counted on to care for patients at the most critical moments. The role requires medical expertise as well as the ability to handle large amounts of stress and pressure. On several occasions during my life I have been in an emergency situation where someone close to me has fallen ill, suddenly and unexpectedly. The quick and professional response from the EMT’s both impressed and inspired me.”

C. Duphiney

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 FINANCIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**

**Cheyenne Aponte**

Cheyenne’s desire to become an EMT originated from a very personal experience. When Cheyenne’s stepdad, who raised her from the age of three, was diagnosed with a stage IV cancer, Cheyenne was witness to numerous calls to 911 and the ambulance responses, care and transport of her dad.

Through these emotionally challenging times, Cheyenne discovered her own desire to become an EMT and care for others in need . In her personal statement Cheyenne said the following: [as an EMT] “I want to be able to show that it’s not just another person to transport. I will show compassion for each and every individual that I get the chance to meet.”

One of Cheyenne’s references wrote: “I can say with absolute certainty that Cheyenne has the dedication and compassion, yet toughness and understanding of what it takes to do the job with successful results.”

Cheyenne received her EMT Certification in May this year and her goal now is to work within an ambulance service so she can use her background and passion in psychology to grow and continue her education in EMS helping and caring for others.

**Caitlin Duphiney**

Caitlin has had a lifelong interest in all things anatomical and medical with a persistent desire for a position in the medical field. While her life took her in a different direction for a few years, at no point did her dream rescind. In 2018, Caitlyn joined the Hunter Limousine organization and has worked tirelessly in providing excellent concierge-level customer service for its clients. This position exposed Caitlin to the EMT’ and Paramedic operations of the sister company Hunter’s Ambulance and she knew instantly what her next step would be to make her dreams her new reality.

Caitlin recently received her EMT certification and is in the process of transitioning to this new role.

Caitlin has successfully balanced her family life with full time jobs and studying over the years, so she is used to working under a certain amount of pressure, and feels as a strong and capable woman she can rise to meet any challenge particularly those she will face in her new role as an EMT.

**Jake Defrancesco**

Jake’s passion for the medical field and helping others goes well beyond his achievement of his EMT certification and is evident in his pursuit of his dual medical degree at UCONN where he currently attends.

Jake is currently enrolled at UConn, majoring in Neuroscience, with a plan to pursue a MD/PhD dual degree program. Jake strongly believes in giving back to the community, in fact, throughout High School, Jake completed 300 hours of community service which has continued during his time at UCONN. As an example, Jake founded the first Doctors Without Borders Student Chapter which hosts events throughout campus giving back to our Storrs community and the global community at large.

One of Jake’s references wrote: “UConn lacked a major in neuroscience, so Jake spent the past 3 semesters, planning and creating a major in neuroscience. He was able to present his proposal

with confidence and impressed the panel to accept his individualized degree as the first of its kind at UCONN.”

Jake recently completed the EMT course and his goal after he completes College, is to work for Doctors Without Borders, a nonprofit organization that sends physicians throughout the world to places in medical crisis.

In his statement, Jake wrote: “I plan on being one of those physicians that travel throughout the world, healing and doing research.”

**Kevin Tobias**

Kevin made the decision to enter into an EMT program at New Britain EMS Academy after graduating from Southern Connecticut State University. After his very first ride-along, Kevin knew without a doubt, EMS was field he wanted to make his career out of. This shouldn’t have been a surprise though, after all both of his parents are first responders.

Kevin’s instructor wrote: “When I first met Mr. Tobias, he was a student that stuck out to me as an instructor. He was a hard-working student that was very attentive to details.”

Helping people is in Kevin’s nature and a characteristic that will serve him well as an EMT. Kevin has worked at Westfield Care & Rehab and served as a student mentor in the disability resource center at SCSU.

Kevin works for New Britain Emergency Medical Services as an EMT, and in Kevin’s own words: “My long term goals in this profession after gaining much needed experience in the health care field as an EMT is to soon become a Paramedic.”

PARAMEDIC

**Patrick Gannon**

Patrick began his career journey in EMS just over 8 years ago whereas Patrick state, “I had the opportunity with a great employer that gave me the time and opportunity to learn and enjoy this

field”. Patrick attributes the of the passing of his mother when he was just 13 years old as the biggest influence in his pursuit of a career in healthcare. “I wanted to do everything that I could do to help her but didn’t know what to do or how to do anything to help”.

Patrick has been employed by Hunter’s Ambulance working as an Emergency Medical Technician for just over 8 years. Throughout his employment, he found himself wanting to learn more, and do more, so he went to school to obtain his Paramedic. Patrick has successfully completed his precepting, and today he now serves his patients as a Paramedic.

One of Patrick’s references wrote: “In a short period of time, Patrick has gone on some pretty tough calls and handled himself professionally and focused on patient care, and really put his skills to the test, which have resulted positively. Patrick also enjoys teaching new EMTs by taking them on their clinical time”.

In his personal statement, Patrick wrote: “I didn’t understand the disease process like I do now and how it affects the human body. I wanted to be sure that one day that I could help others. In the field that I am in, I am able to do so”.

**Peter Keast**

Peter started out his career early on, at age 18, when he became an Emergency Medical Technician. He worked for a Cromwell Volunteer Fire Department and then American Medical Response, while completing his senior year of High School. After graduating High School, he studied nursing, with a focus in emergency and intensive care, while still working as an EMT.

For many, this would have been it, but not for Peter, his goal has always been to become part of the Flight Nursing Team, such as Life Star. In order to obtain that goal, Peter had to successfully complete a Paramedic programs and become licensed as an RN and Peter did just that and completed his Paramedic for Healthcare Professionals. Currently Peter works for MidState Medical Center as a Registered Nurse. In his personal statement, Peter wrote: “My career interests have always attempted to marry both pre-hospital care and acute care.” Peter plans to continue to gain experience as a working Paramedic so that he can turn his dreams into reality.

**William Rickards**

William knew he wanted a career where he was able to work directly with people and make a difference in their life early on in his own life. While in high school, William worked as a camp counselor with 7 and 8-year old children. During this time, an incident occurred where a group of the kids walked through and stirred up a hornet nest and a majority of them were stung, in fact one child had an allergic reaction. William recalls, during the incident, I was able to remain calm while directing, triaging, and treating the kids. The incident gave me a taste of what my future career was going to be.”

William started working as an Emergency Medical Technician at Hunter’s Ambulance Service, nearly 4 years ago. As he gained field experience and exposure to many types of emergency calls, William desired to obtain more education to widen his skills to be able to serve his patients at an advanced level. As a result, he enrolled in Capital Community College, where he successfully completed the Paramedic Program.

William is currently precepting with Hunter’s Ambulance Service and enjoying every second of it. William’s next goal is to fulfil his passion in teaching, by becoming an EMS Instructor so that he can teach the future EMS providers William wrote: I believe that becoming an instructor gives we the chance to share my knowledge and provide care for the community in more ways than just working the road.”

DEGREE PROGRAM

**Joshua Martowski**

Joshua is currently pursuing his RN-ASN, from Capital Community College. Ever since Joshua was in the fourth grade, he would recall his father coming home from work in his “scrubs”, Joshua would look at his father in those moments like one would look at superhero on television, a real life superhero.

Nursing runs through his families’ blood and it has deeply influenced his characteristics of caring and compassion heart.

Joshua is the president of his class of 160 students and plans to join the National Student Nurses Association at Capital. Joshua also enjoys volunteering during the Christmas holiday by going to the Meriden YMCA where he and his family give out toys to those families less fortunate and he also serves a Christmas meal to the homeless.

One of Joshua’s references wrote: He [Josh] is developing into a strong, organized, compassionate Nurse who demonstrates what we teach related to core values of communication, holistic care, critical thinking, safe and competent practice, caring and professionalism. Joshua is a remarkable young man.”

Joshua plans to continue his education and go on to become either an APRN or a CRNA.

**Marley McClure**

Marley, a resident of Meriden, is currently enrolled in Quinnipiac University, seeking her RN, while working at the Franciscan Home care and Hospice Care as Home Health and Hospice Aide.

Marley made the Dean’s list fall 2018 and Spring 2019. Marley is the secretary for her class of 2022, on the Student Nurses Association and through that role she is the secretary for the executive board meetings as well as general meetings and in charge of getting the nursing class of 2022 involved in community service.

Marley has always had a passion to help others. In her personal statement, Marley wrote: “Through the experience of working with patients, I have been able to work with nurses and understand the different aspects of nursing there is; from hospice care to wound care and simply general care, I can see myself helping others in the future as a nurse.

Marley is also involved in QTHON, a yearlong fundraising event led by Quinnipiac student, which culminates in a 10-hour dance marathon in support of Connecticut’s Children’s Medical Center.

A reference wrote: “Marley is a smart, genuine, and empathetic young woman whom will make a remarkable kind of nurse that any patient would be most fortunate to have.”