

REACTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS By: Margaret Wallace

Scholarship applications hit an all-time record. "Thirteen relatives of our members applied," said Anita Benitas Gardella, Scholarship Chair. Applicants filled the spectrum from high school seniors, community college students, and graduates seeking their teaching credential.



One of the four scholarships went to **Alina Clarke**, the daughter of **Kris Clarke**. **Alina** graduated from CSU Chico magna cum laude majoring in Social Studies. She will begin her teaching credential classes in June with the hopes to teach history in middle or high school. The biggest influences for **Alina** were her mother and her seventh-grade social studies teacher. Public education and unions are in her blood. "I have been going to union rallies since I was 5 years old," said **Alina**.

Killoran Jenkins, great nephew of **Karol Merwin Morphey**, currently attends Everett Community College majoring in IT. His goal is to transfer to Central Washington University focusing on IT management, an interest linked back to his high school experience. Even though Killoran did not receive a scholarship last year, he reapplied and was awarded one this year. "I did it in memory of my Aunt Alicia, who passed away this year. She always encouraged me to apply and to never give up," said **Killoran**.



Susan McClure's niece, **Hope Branham**, heads to Bryn Mahr College in August planning to focus on a double major in Fine Arts and History. "I look forward to voting in a swing state when I move to Pennsylvania," said **Hope**. This dual major is an obvious choice considering her love of history since middle school and her impressive artistic talent in a variety of mediums including oil paint, watercolor, colored pencil, graphite, ink, and more unconventionally, toilet paper and liquid latex. When you visit the Laguna Art-A-Fair you just might run into her working there as a ticket salesperson in the summer.

It is hard to imagine that **Rose Luna-Nunez's** daughter, **Olivia Nunez**, is all grown up now winning one of REACTA's scholarships. Olivia is currently attending California State University Fullerton. She plans to apply to the animation program at CSUF. "As a child I was fascinated by animated films. My favorite is Gravity Falls," said **Olivia**. Artistic expression is in her blood. She dedicated the last 14 years to playing mariachi music in a mariachi band. She also enjoys teaching guitar and vihuela to young students in the Hemet and Perris public schools, helping them to connect to their parents and grandparents.

