

# National Catholic College Admission Association Scholarship Winners 2016

## Marin Arai



**High School:** Idyllwild School of the Arts

**Hometown:** Idyllwild, CA

### **Why did you choose Loyola Marymount University?**

I chose Loyola Marymount University because the school has an amazing philosophy and offers various study abroad programs. Also, I am interested in their Liberal Studies major which will allow me to become an elementary grade educator.

### **What is your major?**

I will be majoring in Liberal Studies (Elementary Education) and minoring in Dance.

### **What are your hobbies?**

I especially love hiking, traveling, dancing and watching movies and baseball games. I also want to try photography as well.

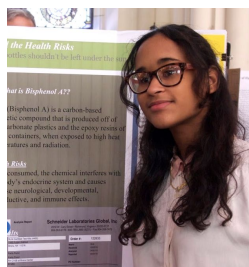
### **What is your favorite book or movie?**

I really can't choose one favorite book, but my favorite author is Truman Capote. I usually listen to many genres of music.

### **What are your future plans?**

I would love to help children learn through arts and discussion. I grew up in Japan and I came to California when I was a sophomore. I noticed that Japanese education is very different from what it was in America. In Japan, teachers tell students what is wrong and what is right, yet in America, teachers basically help students to figure out what is right and wrong. That is why American students can gain more critical thinking skills. Therefore, my biggest goal as an educator is to bring such education to Japan and to give students more clues and ways to figure out their will and needs.

## Karla Perez



**High School:** Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics

**Hometown:** Bronx, NY

### **Why did you choose Siena College?**

I chose Siena College because it has everything I looked for in a school. Along with its academic rigor, Siena College has the small environment I need for academic attention. It also has a wide range of clubs that suit my interests perfectly and will help me participate in social activities. But my campus visit ultimately helped determine whether I would attend or not. I knew Siena was the place I wanted to spend the next four years of my life after that visit.

### **What is your major?**

I am an undeclared science major. However, I am leaning towards Biological Sciences and Biochemistry. I am a pre-medical student.

### **What are your hobbies?**

Most of my free time is spent reading psychology and pre-med books, participating in science fairs, attending science cafes, and attending science research courses at the American Museum of Natural History and Lehman College. In fact, I won 1st place this year at the New York City Science and Engineering Fair in the category of biochemistry with my 2-year research project on BPA and its health risks. Aside from reading and science, I love running and going to the gym when I have time.

### **What is your favorite band or book?**

I do not have favorites! I love all that I can learn from each equally. However, if I must choose one of the literary works I've read this year, it would be *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf. As a socially conscious female, I love reading feminist texts and educating myself about gender inequalities all over the spectrum and what action must be taken to resolve them. In her speech, Woolf spoke about how female writers need a room, space of their own, and money to create "genius" works.

### **What are your future plans?**

Five years from now I plan on enrolling in medical school or working at a tech company and/or doing research to save money for medical school. I also plan on furthering my coding skills at Siena's Women in Computer Science Club and commencing my new research idea on biotechnology. After having my career all set, I plan on giving back to my community and giving back to the science community of inner-city middle schools and high schools. As a Latina, Bronx girl from a low-socioeconomic status, I was able to fulfill my curiosity and do research on my 2-year project and even end up winning first place at a city-wide fair because of my school's

science program funder, Mr.Schwartz. He has helped so many students expand their science knowledge and fulfill their curiosities with his generous donations, and I will do the same as him one day.

### **Rebecca Cassel**



**High School:** Central Bucks West High School

**Hometown:** Doylestown, PA

### **Why did you choose Gwynedd Mercy University?**

I chose Gwynedd Mercy University for its reputable and exemplary nursing program. My mom also went to Gwynedd and going to the same school my mother attended is meaningful to me. I'm proud to say I'm going to Gwynedd Mercy.

### **What is your major?**

My major is Nursing.

### **What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies include playing softball, volunteering, fishing, hunting, and being outdoors.

### **What is your favorite book or band?**

My favorite book is *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

### **What are your future plans?**

My future plans include marrying and raising a family. I also plan on continuing my education.

### **Elisa Diaz**



**High School:** Naperville Central High School

**Hometown:** Naperville, IL

**Why did you choose The Catholic University of America?**

I chose to attend CUA because of its amazing location and the amount of learning opportunities inside and outside of the campus. I felt I would be able to achieve the most if I went to CUA. I also felt like I could fit in. I believe I can find a good group of people I can call my friends because of the atmosphere at CUA. To me, I felt at home.

**What is your major?**

My intended major is Psychology.

**What are your hobbies?**

Some of my hobbies include dancing and being a part of my church group, Peer Ministry. I am also involved in a prevention program through 360 Youth Services called Operation Snowball. I also love to draw and take pictures. Art is one of my many passions.

**What is your favorite book or band?**

My favorite band at the moment is Twenty One Pilots and currently my favorite book is *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

**What are your future plans?**

My future plans include going to CUA and receiving my graduate degree afterward.

**Sarah Kerrigan**



**High School:** Notre Dame Academy

**Hometown:** Hingham, MA

**Why did you choose Providence College?**

I chose Providence College because I love the Catholic, friendly atmosphere I always experienced when I was on campus. Everyone was always very welcoming, and the students seem to love the school.

**What is your major?**

I am going to Providence undecided, but I am interested in Math, Psychology, Accounting, and Politics.

**What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies include cross country, track and field, skiing, campus ministry, spending time with family and friends, and volunteering.

**What is your favorite book or band?**

My favorite book is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

**What are your future plans?**

My future plans are to make the most of my experience at Providence College and graduate. I hope to then pursue a career in either accounting or law, but I am still very undecided.

**Nicholas Korman**

**High School:** Chesterton Academy

**Hometown:** Edina, MA

**Why did you choose the University of Dallas?**

I chose the University of Dallas for multiple reasons. First, my sister has been there for the past four years, and my visits to her were really the first exposure I had to the life at college. Secondly, every time I visited I was made to feel welcome by everyone who was there and was impressed by how happy everyone seemed. Third, I know college years are an important time to grow in my faith, and Dallas has a firmly Catholic environment where I will find the strength continue to grow closer to God. Finally, I chose Dallas because everyone who I have talked with about the school has nothing but positive things to say about the school.

**What is your major?**

I have not decided upon my major yet, but I am looking at majoring in something in the humanities department.

**What are your hobbies?**

I love to read books, write, and watch movies. Also, whenever I can I like to spend time with my friends.

**What is your favorite book or band?**

My Favorite book is *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien. It has been a favorite of mine for years, and each time I read it I get something new out of it.

**What are your future plans?**

I currently don't have many plans for the future beyond college. I hope to get a well paying job, live near my old home, and possibly start a family, but so much can change in only four years. However, I know that if I simply trust in God and try to do his will, my future will be greater than I can even imagine right now.

**Madalena Membrila**

**High School:** Lutheran High School of Orange County

**Hometown:** Orange, CA

**Why did you choose Marquette University?**

I chose Marquette because I fell in love with the city and the campus, and it has a good nursing program.

**What is your major?**

My major is Nursing.

**What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies are reading and playing musical instruments such as the cello, ukulele, and a wide range of percussion instruments.

**What is your favorite book or band?**

My favorite book is a collection of short stories by Kurt Vonnegut called "Welcome to the Monkey House."

**What are your future plans?**

My future plans are to graduate, move back to California, and get a job as a nurse there.

**David Wallace**

**High School:** McGill-Toolen Catholic High School

**Hometown:** Mobile, AL

**Why did you choose Franciscan University of Steubenville?**

I chose Franciscan because it offered me the greatest opportunity to succeed in my studies, while also being able to practice and grow in my faith. At Franciscan I will be surrounded by hundreds of other college students whose first priority is to love the Lord, and this characteristic about the college is what appealed to me the most.

**What is your major?**

I will be studying to be a mechanical engineer.

**What are your hobbies?**

My main hobby is playing sports with my family and friends. But I also love board games and watching TV and movies.

**What is your favorite book or band?**

My favorite books are the Percy Jackson series. Throughout the series, Percy gives a great example of how to lead even though he is so young.

**What are your future plans?**

After college, my plans are to get a good job and start a family. The most important thing I can do while in college is to become strong in my faith so that I can live a successful life.