USGIF annually awards scholarships to promising high school seniors, college undergraduates, graduates and doctoral students studying or planning to study geospatial intelligence-related field. All scholarship recipients are chosen based on their academic and professional excellence in a field related to the geospatial intelligence tradecraft. Qualified candidates are selected by the Foundation’s Scholarship Subcommittee, which is composed of USGIF member organizations.

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Patricia has worked with the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program within the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality to create layers, maps, and a geodatabase for their program. This experience has given her a love and excitement for the possibilities this field can offer for her future. Patricia’s major is water resources, and her minor is geology.

Anna Kalinowski
University of Missouri
Anna is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering with minors in computer science and mathematics. She conducts undergraduate research at the university’s center for geospatial intelligence and has interned with NGA, where she had the chance of applying her engineering skills to the area of national defense. Someday, Anna hopes to hold a position of leadership at NGA.

Briana Neuberger
Rochester Institute of Technology
Briana is currently pursuing a degree in imaging science and industrial/systems engineering at RIT. During high school, she competed in a GIS challenge with the assistance of a local community college professor. Since then, she has discovered a broader range of opportunities in this field and has been introduced to a wide array of professionals in the industry.

Tanya Petach
Harvard University
Tanya is a junior studying earth and planetary sciences and environmental engineering at Harvard University. She enjoys working with a team mapping the geology in Death Valley and Outer Mongolia. The research projects combine fieldwork with GIS representations of ground units, subsurface geology, and three-dimensional representations of Earth systems.

Alayna Bigalbal
Heritage High School, Leesburg, VA
Alayna received the William & Mary Leadership Award and the Loudoun Times Mirror Student Athlete of the year. She is attending George Mason University as an honors student and athlete. Alayna plans to pursue a career in civil engineering, and hopes to continue using GIS to create, manage, and analyze data associated with developing and managing infrastructure around the world.

Chandler Burke
St. Mark’s School of Texas, Dallas, TX
This summer, Chandler and his classmates won first place at the Nation for the TSA TEAMS Engineering Competition. Chandler interned at the University of Texas-Dallas, where he researched the effects and possible treatment for traumatic brain injuries in rats. As a trustee-distinguished scholar and National Merit finalist, Chandler attends Rice University and intends to pursue a degree in engineering or computer science.

Robert Weston Gaddis
Homestead High School, Arrowhead, UT
During Robert’s junior and senior year in high school, he enrolled in Salt Lake Community College. He graduated with an associate’s degree and several geospatial classes under his belt. Robert is attending Missouri State University where he is majoring in geospatial sciences. His career goal is to enter the intelligence field, specifically at NGA.

Jason Moeder
Boise High School, Boise, ID
Jason is attending the University of Maryland, College Park and majoring in geographic information systems. He intends to apply for an internship at NGA, as well as to contractors working closely with them. Once Jason obtains a degree in this field, he plans to join NGA and pursue a career in the GEOINT Community.

Rachel Taylor
West Springfield High School, Springfield, VA
Rachel began college at Brigham Young University where she plans to major in astrophysics with a minor in geospatial information systems. Her love for geospatial technologies began in a high school geosystems class, where it inspired her to pursue a career field in the discipline. Her interests include satellite-based geospatial technologies, education, and outdoor high-adventure activities.

Lou Werts III
Tuscarora High School, Leesburg, VA
In addition to graduating from Tuscarora High School, Louis completed schooling at the Loudoun County Academy of Science (AOE). While attending, he researched nano-satellites and gained a better understanding of systems engineering, project management, and geospatial intelligence technology. Louis plans to take this knowledge with him to the College of William and Mary and major in either math or physics.