



A Soirée Paid Promotion

# *Head of the Class 2025*

There are big things in store for this year's graduating class. Join us as we celebrate some of central Arkansas' shining stars from public, private and parochial schools.

**Congratulations, class of 2025!**

We can't wait to see what you do next.



## **JAIME HERNANDEZ / GPA: 3.9**

**College attending:** Brown University

**Colleges accepted to:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock

**Honors & Achievements:** research in synthetic chemistry at the Summer Science Program, one of two overall winners at the ASMSA Arts and Humanities Research Capstone Symposium, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Regional Silver Key, National Hispanic and First-Generation Recognition from CollegeBoard, Virtual NSLI-Y scholarship

**Career goal:** I wish to engage in a career that allows me to find creative, multidisciplinary approaches to current issues, especially those affecting biological processes and biodiversity in coastal regions. While at Brown, I hope to be able to conduct research on similar topics while also cross-registering at the Rhode Island School of Design to enjoy classes that incorporate principles of art and design into solving environmental issues.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:**

I would like to thank Mr. Dan Anderson for introducing me into the world of film. Although I may not necessarily pursue an education in film, the capstone experience led me into an exploration of visual media, techniques and experimental mediums that forever changed my thinking and creative processes.

## **KELVIN ORDUNA / GPA: 3.9**

**College attending:** Yale University

**Colleges accepted to:** Vanderbilt University

**Honors & Achievements:** Coca-Cola Scholar, first place in computer science at West Central Regional Science Fair, Arkansas Seal of Biliteracy in French and Spanish, AAoC Computer Science Student of Distinction, ASMSA student ambassador

**Career goal:** I plan to study ethics, politics and economics with the goal of specializing in intellectual property law. I aim to integrate my passion for creating social equity and access to opportunity with a legal career that protects innovation and uplifts underserved communities.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:**

Corey Alderdice, ASMSA's executive director, gave me the rare opportunity to sit at real decision-making tables and trusted me to contribute meaningfully. Through conversations about strategy, campus vision and advancement, he challenged me to think institutionally — balancing student needs with long-term impact — helping me understand how to lead within the complexities of education policy, public perception and institutional change, ultimately shaping how I will approach law and public policy in the future.



## **MEERA PATEL / GPA: 4.0**

**College attending:** Johns Hopkins University

**Colleges accepted to:** University of Arkansas

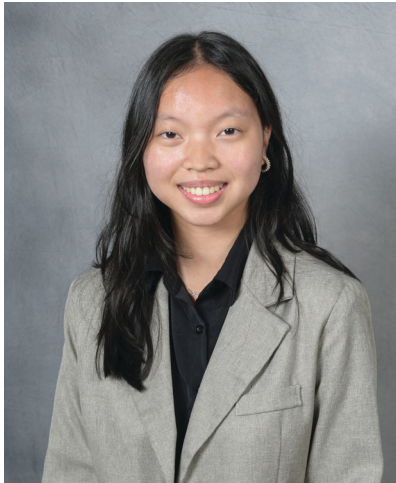
**Honors & Achievements:** awaiting publication 2025: "Human Rev1 Interacts with DHX36 to Promote G-Quadruplex DNA Replication," first place in medicine and health sciences and overall finalist at West Central Regional Science Fair, fifth place (national qualifier) at Arkansas Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Oral Presentation, University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Career goal:** In college, I plan to major in chemical and biomolecular engineering on the pre-med track. My goal is to become a surgeon, combining engineering principles with medicine to innovate surgical techniques and improve patient outcomes.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:**

Dr. Patrycja Krakowiak, my life science mentor and anatomy and physiology instructor, has influenced all aspects of my academic journey. Her unwavering support throughout my research has shaped me into a student who pushes beyond the boundaries of knowledge, and her passion for science will continue to inspire me as I pursue my academic career.





## BAO NGOC PHAM / GPA: 4.0

**College attending:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Colleges accepted to:** University of Arkansas

**Honors & Achievements:** second place in Congressional App Challenge; American Mathematics Competitions - Young Women in Mathematics awards and certificates; FBLA Introduction to Financial Math: first place in district, first place in state, 10th place in nationals; FBLA Business Calculations: first place in district, first place in state (qualified for nationals); AFLTA Japanese: first place in Culture Bowl, first place in Vocabulary Bee.

**Career goal:** I plan to major in applied mathematics and pursue a career as an actuary.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:** Elizabeth Brown Sensei has been incredibly supportive and understanding, always pushing me to be the best version of myself. Her passion for teaching made Japanese my favorite class, and I will always remember her takoyaki.

## KATHERINE QUINTANILLA / GPA: 3.94

**College attending:** University of Pennsylvania

**Colleges accepted to:** University of Arkansas, University of Central Arkansas

**Honors & Achievements:** Questbridge National College Match recipient, U.S. Senate Page, The Gates Scholarship and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship semifinalist, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Next Gen Latino Program alumni, ASMSA student ambassador

**Career goal:** I plan to attend law school after college and hope to work as a lawyer in politics in Washington, D.C.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:** Mr. Walt Levisse was such an important teacher my first year at ASMSA. He really helped me overcome my anxiety about math. His clear explanations and patience made me feel understood and capable, turning something I once feared into a subject I felt confident tackling.



## EZEKIEL SUMMERS / GPA: 4.0

**College attending:** Johns Hopkins University

**Honors & Achievements:** Questbridge National College Match recipient, Arkansas Governor's School, Right Stuff Award (Space Camp), 3A State Concert Assessment Honor Band, second place in environmental management at Arkansas State Science Fair

**Career goal:** I want to receive a Ph.D. in mycology and work for NASA. I specifically want to work for NASA as an astronaut in order to find a mushroom that can survive not only the extreme radiation of space, but also the microgravity and oxygen-deprived environment of space. I want to establish the basis of communication on another planet.

**Tell us about the teacher, coach or administrator who made a difference in your life:** Elizabeth Brown Sensei taught me the value of a different culture from my own. It drove me to learn more about the Japanese people and the culture surrounding them.