



Historical Society of Topsail Island

Preserving and Educating The Topsail Area

720 Channel Blvd., Topsail Beach, NC 28445

Press Release

For Immediate Release

For information contact: Edna Smith 910.547.2486

Historical Society of Topsail Island awards scholarships

TOPSAIL BEACH NC– The Historical Society of Topsail Island presented four scholarships at the annual scholarship luncheon on April 13, 2023. Attending in addition to the scholars and their parents were Topsail High School (THS) counselors Jonathan Buchanan, Tabatha Ward, Celina McGee; Dixon High School (DHS) counselor Yulissa Balsamo, DHS Principal Curtis Ehmann, and Pender Early College (PEC) counselor Abby Robbins.

Grace Deitz is a scholarship recipient for her essay, *The Hidden History of Oystering*. She brought Raymond Howard, a Stump Sound Oysterman, who she had interviewed during her research. Grace is the daughter of David and Heidi Deitz.

Carolina Lotten, also from THS, presented her poem, *A Place Among Men*, about the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Carolina is the daughter of William and Elena Lotten.

Kelsey Rochelle, a Dixon High School Senior is a scholarship recipient for her essay, *Camp Davis: Never Forgotten*. She has a personal connection to Camp Davis, as her Pawpaw was a civilian firefighter on Camp Davis. Kelsey is the daughter of Lawrence and Krystal Rochelle.

Sidney Herring presented her painting, *The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge*. Sidney attends Pender Early College and is the daughter of Steven and Thea Herring. Her painting will be displayed in the Missiles and More Museum.

“The Historical Society of Topsail Island has awarded scholarships to students in the area for almost three decades. Pender and Onslow counties are abundant with talented and knowledgeable students, said Edna Smith, Chairman of HSTI Scholarship Committee. “We are pleased to honor these impressive students.”

For more information about the Historical Society of Topsail Island or the Missiles & More Museum visit <https://topsailhistoricalsociety.org/> <https://missilesandmoremuseum.org/> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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Photo credit: Stella Spera

Pictured l-r: Sidney Herring, Kelsey Rochelle, Carolina Lotten, and Grace Deitz.