

# Propane Industry Scholarships Help Young Adults Receive Higher Education

Since the late 1990s, the Texas Propane Gas Association has helped students pursue higher education. This year's TPGA scholarship recipients are no different from year's past: they lead, excel and thrive in academics, work and their communities.



## Meet Our TPGA Scholarship Winners



### Scotty Prater

Political science major and TPGA Scholarship recipient Scotty Prater is no stranger to the propane industry. For the last year he has worked as a propane bottle filler at Gregg LP Gas in Palestine where his grandmother Sharon Cleland is also the bookkeeper and office manager.

From 2007 to 2009, Scotty attended Slocum High School in Palestine, home of the Mustangs. He led his teammates as captain of the varsity golf and baseball teams. The Slocum High School principal called him "The Voice of Slocum ISD. He was constantly announcing pep-rallies, coronations and sporting events."

But Scotty says that his greatest extracurricular activity was his part in helping a 4-year-old leukemia patient get a bone marrow transplant and helping people beat breast cancer. Both hit close to home for him considering he lost his stepfather to leukemia his senior year of high school.

Graduating from high school in 2009, Scotty has been juggling school and work.

He attended Trinity Valley Community College before transferring to the University of North Texas this fall where he is majoring in political science with a minor in pre-law. He sees a future in politics and hopes to be the governor of Texas one day.

Scotty, we congratulate you and wish you well on your journey.

### Alexis Garcia

Ivy League bound, Alexis Garcia fits the perfect mold of the ideal TPGA Scholarship candidate. She is a well-rounded young woman and daughter of Connie Franco and Omar Garcia of family-owned and operated Mr. G Propane. Alexis' grandmother Noemi Garcia "Mrs. G" and aunt Zinnia Elizondo help run the Rio Grande Valley propane company. She also knows her way around a propane company, being Mr. G's former secretary's assistant.

Alexis is a 2010 graduate of Edinburg High School where she was involved in many extracurricular activities including FCA, National Honor Society, Mock Trial, Varsity Concert and Marching Band. Outside of school, she received several honors from her community including being named Miss Edinburg.

Alexis began her freshman year at Columbia University in New York City this fall majoring in political communications and plans to go to law school after college and pursue a career in politics.

She says, "My first couple of weeks in

college have been incredible both socially and academically. Let me tell you though, Columbia University has certainly met my every expectation for academic difficulty; I embrace the challenge."

Congratulations on your 2010 TPGA Scholarship!

### Reynaldo Diaz, Jr.

Voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his classmates, Reynaldo Diaz, Jr. is described as a role model and leader. A 2010 graduate of United South High in Laredo, Reynaldo served as president of his class for three years, was a member of National Honor Society, and was selected to serve both on the Superintendent's & Principal's Student Advisory Boards.

Reynaldo Diaz, Jr. is the son of Reynaldo Diaz, Sr., an accounts manager for AmeriGas in Laredo. Living in Laredo, Reynaldo was very active in his community, participating in neighborhood clean ups, park beautification projects, and interning for the Webb County Medical Examiner's Office.



His internship at the Medical Examiner's office helped prepare him for his studies in biology as he begins his freshman at the University of Texas at Austin this fall. Graduat-

ing in 2014, Renaldo's goal is to go on to medical school and become a forensic pathologist. He hopes to aid law enforcement in putting away criminals.

This ambitious student is not only the winner of a TPGA Scholarship, but also an AmeriGas Scholarship through the National Propane Gas Association Scholar-

ship Foundation this year.

Congratulations on your recent accomplishments!

You can help TPGA continue its tradition of providing scholarships to our industry's youth by helping in the Tour de Texas Scholarship Fundraiser. For more information on the special fundraiser, turn to page 9.

## Meet the NPGF Scholarship Winner from Texas

### Alyssa Aparicio

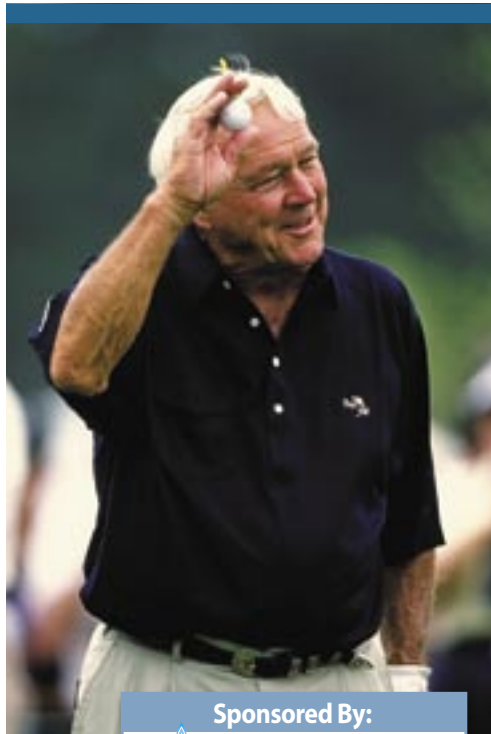
You might recognize Alyssa Aparicio's name. That is because not only is she the recipient of the 2010 NPGA at-large scholarship, The Milford and Gail Therrell Scholarship, but last year was awarded a TPGA Scholarship.

As you might remember, Alyssa's father,

Luis Aparicio, is a driver for Federal Petroleum in the Rio Grande Valley.

Alyssa is still excelling in school at Texas State University in San Marcos, where she is in the university's Honors Program. She plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science and pursue a career in archaeology.

Congratulations on your continued success!



# TAKE A SHOT AT PROSTATE CANCER

October 11, 2010

**Balcones Country Club**  
8600 Balcones Dr. Austin, TX 78750

1:00 pm.....Golf Tournament  
7:00 pm.....Dinner Reception

Golf Registration: \$150  
Reception: \$50

**Prizes Include:**

- 2 round-trip tickets on Jet Blue
- Hole-in-One travel package for each par 3
- Tournament round, buffet lunch & tee gifts
- Mulligans, raffle & ball drops
- Sponsorships available

*All proceeds benefit the Prostate Cancer Foundation.*

Sponsored By:



Take your shot... contact:  
Jackie Richards Mason (800) 325-7427  
jmason@txpropane.com

We invite you to join the battle and help save lives...  
**Join the King's Crusade**

