



Justin Sheftel
Memorial Fund

2023 Justin Sheftel Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients



MEGHAN EDINGER

I want to thank the Sheftel family, the Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund, and scholarship committee for this generous award. This award truly means so much to me. Justin was an extraordinary person, and I am honored that the committee believed I exemplified that.

I will be attending West Chester University for secondary English education. While at West Chester I plan on expanding my credentials with multiple teacher organizations such as SPSEA and Kappa Delta Pi which is the national honors teacher's sorority. I also hope to continue my passion for music at WCU by joining one of their many music clubs. After my time at West Chester, I hope to come back to William Allen and teach as well as coach a new generation of Canaries. I plan to honor Justin and his memory in everything I do. And I thank the Sheftel family from the bottom of my heart.



MICHAEL DWORNICKI

I would like to begin by thanking the Sheftel family and the scholarship committee for awarding me this scholarship. I am honored that all involved saw a bit of Justin in me and have allowed me to be a part of his extraordinary legacy. I hope that I am able to continue living my life through the values that Justin represented and continue blazing my own trail. Justin's story is one that stuck with me long after I applied for the scholarship and I can only wish to carry a bit of him with me throughout my life.

I will be attending Lehigh University to obtain a Bachelor's of Science in Integrated Business and Engineering with a major in Bioengineering. I hope to be able to enter the pharmaceutical industry to bring about new innovations in medicine. I can only aspire that my post-graduate work will honor the legacy of Justin Sheftel.



ANDREW HILL

I would like to first say thank you to the Sheftel family and scholarship committee for providing me with this opportunity. I am honored that they saw me as someone who embodied some of Justin's moral fiber and selfless qualities.

I am currently attending the University of Pittsburgh to study environmental science. I am a member of multiple sustainability clubs and volunteer organizations on campus. I plan to continue at Pitt by doing graduate research surrounding climate change and declining biodiversity. Ultimately, I would like to use my education and abilities to give back to the environment and my community.

Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund Mission Statement

To celebrate Justin by providing athletic and educational opportunities for underserved youth in the greater Lehigh Valley.

The Scholarship program started in 2006 one year after Justin died. As of 2024 we have awarded \$264,500 in scholarships. We now support the Parkland School and Allentown School Districts, awarding scholarships to graduating seniors. We are very proud of our scholarship recipients and their accomplishments. They participate when they can in the tournament, either as a player, volunteer or captain of a team.

Past Scholarship Recipients



DARLIN SANTANA (2022) is continuing his college career at LCCC studying exercise science and playing baseball. He is also a Captain for the Flying Canaries team and has played in the tournament for 3 years.

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In 20 years, I expect to be working in my specialty. I see myself working with athletes from all levels and other people as well training them for their respective sports.

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“

By the year 2043, I hope to have a career that brings me happiness, pride, and intellectually challenges me. To be prioritizing personal growth and a strong advocate for my self-worth. My family and friends are loved and cared for. Finally, I hope to have traveled the world.

”

LUCIA RUIMY (2022) has completed her first year at the Pennsylvania State University in pursuit of an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering with a minor in environmental engineering. Over the summer, she was a captain for the 19th Justin Sheftel Memorial Softball Tournament for the Strikers.



ANGELA DERGHAM (2021) is a junior sociology major and public health minor with an ethics certification from Moravian University. She had also just recently been accepted into the EMT program and hopes to get her state and national certification in May 2024. She has a lot of very exciting opportunities to come!

“

I would like to be in a comfortable place, financially, physically, and mentally. I hope I can become a great advocate for the community, specifically in the law and public health aspect.

”

“

In 20 years I hope to be in the television industry working in production management and line producing while collaborating with and raising funds for local non profit organizations outside of work!

”

KYLEIGH DUFF (2021) is a junior at Emerson College where she is the General Manager of the largest student run production company Emerson Independent Video, President of Alpha Epsilon Phi - Beta Alpha Chapter, Fundraising Chair and Co-Founder of Emerson's Team Awareness Combatting Overdose Chapter, and Presenters Coordinator for the EVVY Awards.



GRACE EDINGER (2021) is currently a junior at Penn State studying biotechnology. She still plays some soccer, but has become very involved on the Penn State Club Ski Team where she is a THON fundraising chair.

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20 years seems really far away for a 21 year old!

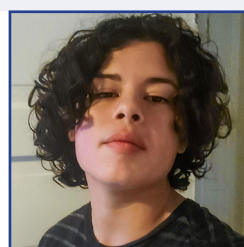
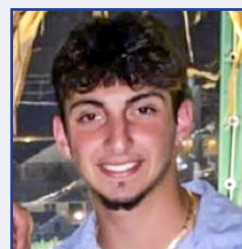
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In 20 years I will be living in the Lehigh Valley, where I was born and raised. My plan is to contribute and giveback to the community I love.

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NOAH MOREEF (2020) is on track to graduate with honors in the spring 2024 semester. He has accepted a position post-grad at Air Products & Chemicals where he will be doing a 3 year rotation in the finance department. He is very excited for the opportunity and to have been lucky enough to find a job back home immediately after graduation!



DONOVAN ARAGON (2022) is studying at Kutztown University to obtain a bachelor's in biology. He hopes to take med school prerequisites to further his education and become a doctor.



CARRIE SPANGLER (2020) recently completed a summer internship at Corteva Agriscience!

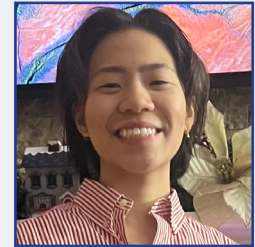


GEORGE JENKINS (2019) is working as a staff accountant in the Financial Accounting Advisory Service practice for Ernst & Young Philadelphia and he completed his Master of Accountancy from the University of Scranton in December 2023.

In twenty years, I hope to be living my best life; lucky enough to be married to a beautiful wife and blessed with a family never forgetting where I came from and the lessons learned along the way.

In 20 years I would love to buy a house so my family can live comfortably.

JENNIFER WU HUNG (2019) continues to virtually attend PACE University pursuing a major in biology and a minor in Spanish. She is currently working as a UPS Helper delivering packages until the next semester begins. Her parents finally came over to the US joining Jennifer and her sister, after almost a decade.



EDWIN CHALAS CUEVAS (2019) graduated from Northwestern last spring! He started his first job, moved to a better apartment, and is getting acclimated to living in Chicago.

I can't even plan five years ahead, but honestly in 20 years I'd like to be settled down somewhere with some sort of chosen family and a job that feels invigorating.

I am leaning towards the specialty of radiology as of now, so I envision myself practicing that specialty in 20 years at an institution where I could continue assisting with clinical research while also caring for patients.

RJ CORBA (2018) works at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he assisted in closing one clinical device trial to accrual in the summer and opening two new device trials in the fall. He applied to medical school this summer and was accepted to a USMD program this fall; he will enroll to begin in the fall of 2024!



SOPHIA COLARUSSO (2018) graduated with her Masters degree in education in May 2023 and accepted a job in Seoul, South Korea. She is currently teaching second grade in an international STEM school and enjoying her first year teaching and living abroad.

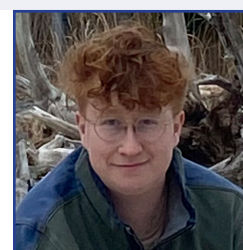
I'm not sure where in the world I plan to be in 20 years but I hope I am still teaching and surrounded by amazing students, friends and family!

In 2043, I would like to be enjoying my career as a CRNA and enjoying my life with my family!

OLIVIA SCHANTZ (2017) is still working as a registered nurse in the Trauma Neuro ICU at Lehigh Valley Hospital!



NICK GISOLFI (2009) has earned a Ph.D in Robotics from the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University.



SYDNEY HIBSHMAN (2011) has been lucky to be reminded of the safety and warmth of friends and family. She underwent a minor surgery and had a successful recovery in part due to the outpouring of support and care she received from her community who banded around to take care of her. She stood beside one of her best friends as she married her best friend.



MIKE JENKINS (2017) works at EY in the assurance practice. In his free time, he has completed two Ironman 70.3 races at Happy Valley and Atlantic City. He is currently training for a full Ironman. He also helps run a Young Adult Group at St. Joseph the Worker Church.

"In 20 years, I hope to be blessed with a family and to have my wife and kids also participating in the Justin Sheftel tournament. The tournament and foundation has had an incredible impact in the past 20 years that I can only imagine it continuing to grow, spreading important messages, helping the community, and most importantly honoring Justin and his legacy."

"

In 2043 I hope to be living a happy life and still teaching and coaching with a family!"

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KRISTIN KRAUSE (2016) is teaching 4th grade at Kernsville Elementary School and is coaching the Parkland High School Girls Volleyball team. This year they won their 10th straight district championship!



ALEX CLEWELL (2016) completed his Master's Degree in Computer Science from Georgia Tech and went to Atlanta for the graduation ceremony in May. He got engaged in October and he and his fiancée are getting married this June! They also recently purchased a new house and are expecting to move in January 2024.

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I'm hoping to still be working in the software development field in 20 years. I want to do a lot of traveling and hopefully have a dog to hike with! I also am trying to visit all 30 MLB stadiums so hopefully I'll have a few more of those checked off my list!"

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In twenty years from now, I would love to still be involved in education, but in a different capacity serving a more specific population of students. I plan to own a home by then and to have a family with lots of kids to fill it!"

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CAITLIN CARLSON (2015) lives in Fairfax, Virginia where she is enjoying her fourth year teaching fifth grade. She and her husband celebrated their first wedding anniversary this year and are looking forward to enjoying many more together!



JIMMY HAHN (2014) moved into a new role in education, now as an administrator at the Tamaqua Area School District. He also became an uncle and godfather!

"

In 20 years, I expect to be working in education and caring for children. Just at that time, mostly my own instead of everyone else's!"

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In 20 years I would like to be able to continue to share life with the family and friends I have been blessed with, and to continue to give to the community that I am thankful to be a part of."

"

PAUL TAJIRI (2013) and his wife welcomed their second daughter to the world in 2023 and he began a new job as a software architect.



JAKE SPEIGEL (2020) is studying physics at James Madison University.



JESUS ALVARADO SALINAS (2015) is recently engaged, is a new dog dad, and is in his second year as a medical school student.



CALLIE KRAJCIR (2013) is still living in the Lehigh Valley, and has been traveling a good amount to places like Florida and Tennessee. She also runs a business as a Registered Dietitian specializing in interstitial cystitis.

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In 20 years, I hope to have helped thousands of people living with interstitial cystitis to get relief. Another dream of mine is to open a dog and cat rescue!

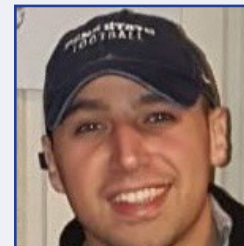
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In 20 years I hope to be a dad to healthy children and a continued loving husband/son/brother/friend. Advancement in my career where I can influence young aspiring civil engineers and their careers, as well as continue to spread awareness on climate change and water quality. Finally, I hope to continue helping others less fortunate than I through donating and volunteering.

”

RYAN RIZZETTO (2012) lives in Philadelphia (Northern Liberties) with his wife. They got married in September 2022 at Olde Homestead Golf Course.



BEN BREINER (2011) moved back to the Lehigh Valley from Manhattan and got engaged back in August!

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20 years from now I hope to have a happy, healthy family. As long as I have that I won't be too concerned with the small things.

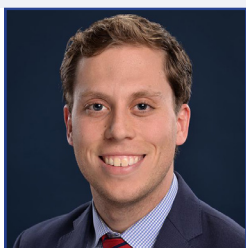
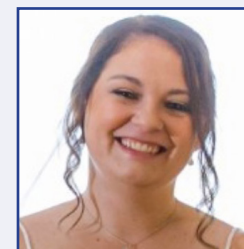
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Oh man, that is crazy to think about! I imagine in 20 years from now my husband and I will be starting to send our grown kids off to college and using our free time to travel the country and have a house full of pugs. I also hope to be having a successful career in the audit/advisory field.

”

MELISSA LAWSON (2010) and her husband, Frank, bought their first home together in Downingtown, PA. They are also expecting their first baby (a girl!) in 2024. Melissa continues to work for PNC as a risk and control advisor.



DAVID STRAUSS (2010) and his wife, Christina, moved to California this year. He's focusing on his fellowship in minimally invasive urologic oncology at the University of Southern California.

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In 20 years, I hope to have a family and have a practice focusing on prostate/bladder/kidney cancer care.

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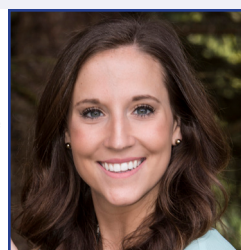
I hope to be healthy and happy in twenty years, surrounded by the people I love! I also hope to have completed a marathon and backpacked through certain parts of the world!

”

MICHAELEENA COSGROVE (2009) and her husband just bought a house this past summer in the west end of Allentown.



PAIGE MUTH (2014) is an oncology registered nurse at Penn State Health.



LIZZY ANDREW (2012) got engaged in January 2023 and is planning a wedding for October 2024! She works at Vanguard as a Product Manager leading a behavioral change design team responsible for redesigning client experiences in a way that improves investment outcomes. She will be graduating from UPENN in May of 2024 with her Master's in Behavioral and Decision Science.



KIMBERLY SHEMANSKI (2006) got married to her husband Shawn in October and finished her thoracic surgery fellowship at UVA in July. After graduation, they will be moving back to the Philadelphia area where she will be starting a new job at Virtua Health.



20 years closer to retirement and enjoying some free time :-)



In 20 years I'll be 56 years old and, if things go well, I'll hopefully be starting an early retirement and living in the Caribbean.



NICK HOMA (2006) is the Director of Program Management at Allucent, Inc, a pharmaceutical development consulting firm, living in Durham, NC. He has had a lot of opportunities to travel and SCUBA dive, and has been able to have some close up encounters with sharks.



EMILY STANKOSKI (2008) continues to live in Philadelphia. She is working at Shriners Hospital for Children as a PA.



KALE SWEENEY (2008) is currently living in Fishtown, Philadelphia living with his wife, Lauren (they were married in Philly in July 2021). He is working as a Senior Project Manager for Maximus (based out of Herndon, VA).

BOBBY TORPHY (2007) his wife, and two daughters (Olivia-2.5 years old and Harper-1 year old) moved from Denver, CO to New York City where he is currently a Surgical Oncology Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering.



BRIDGET HORN (2007) and her family live in West Chester, PA. Her 1 year old daughter, Aubrey, is an absolute joy. Bridget is a CPA and is the Manager of Close and Consolidations at the Chemours Company.



Some pictures from our past tournaments....



Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund believes strongly in continuing to honor Justin, by recognizing his values; Family, Friendship, Teamwork and Service.