

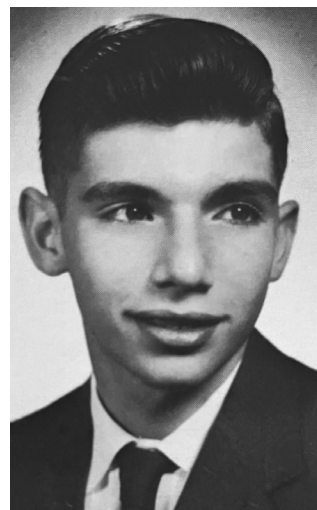
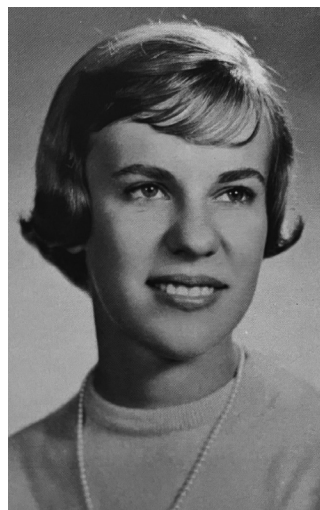
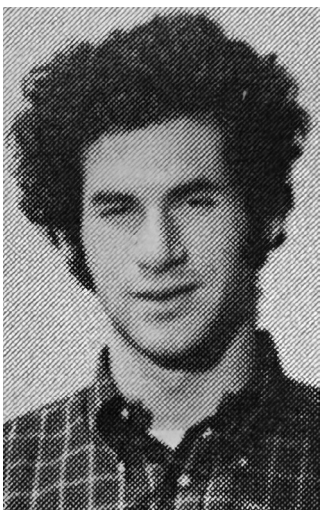


# The 13th Corner

Engaging alumni in preserving the Brighton legacy of educational excellence

2023

2023 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Famers represent stellar achievements in medicine, science, architecture, dentistry, entrepreneurship, public policy, art



2023 honorees as BHS seniors: *David Lipman, Carol Case Syracuse, Murray Rosenthal*; 2021 honoree *Heather Miller Podesta*.

In 2023, the **Brighton Schools Alumni Association** (BSAA) continues to honor **Brighton High School** (BHS) graduates who have made important contributions to a variety of professions and causes. This year's **BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame** members each represent a fascinating combination of professional achievement with personal interests or community-oriented service.

• **David Lipman, MD**, BHS'71 (originally class of '72) is a renowned public health physician, currently serving as senior science advisor in bioinformatics and genomics with the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"As we emerge from the world-

wide pandemic, it's timely to note that there are probably few Brighton graduates who have contributed more to public medicine and public health — both in the U.S. and worldwide," said nominator **Peter Lovenheim**, BHS'71 and a member of the BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame.

Lipman received an undergraduate degree in biology with honors from Brown University and his M.D. from SUNY Buffalo. He had an internship in internal medicine at the University of Arizona at Tucson and earned a Maryland State License from the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Early on, Lipman was a senior surgeon (Captain 06) in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, and a medical staff fellow in

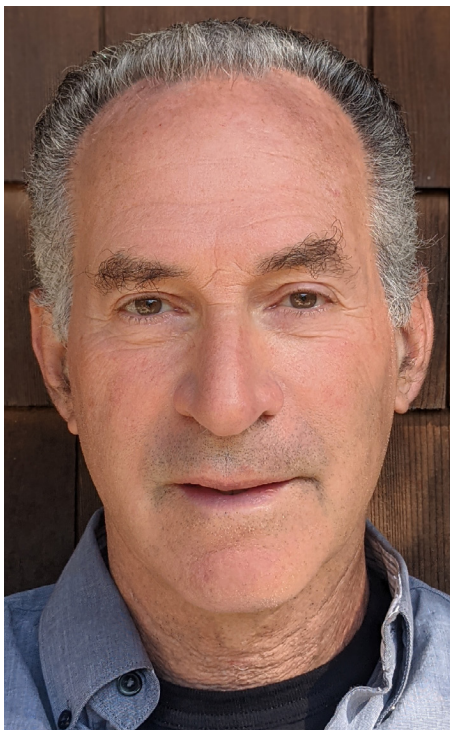
the Mathematical Research Branch of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases in the National Institutes of Health.

He had a groundbreaking 36-year career at NIH, where his research in molecular evolution and computational biology helped lay the foundation for understanding the molecular basis of human disease, food safety and vaccine development.

Lipman was the founding director of the National Center for Biotechnology Information, where he and his staff pioneered publicly accessible databases of genome and protein sequence data. He also was a founder of PubMed, an important resource for searching and retrieving biomedical

*Continued on next page.*

## 2023 Hall of Fame honorees, continued



*David Lipman today.*

information, and an originator of the Influenza Genome Sequencing Project who contributed historic work to the Human Genome Project. His research papers have been cited by more than 200,000 scientific publications.

Lipman went from the NIH to serving as chief science officer at Impossible Foods, a plant-based food company, where he directed the team that developed and commercialized the plant-based Impossible Burger formulation.

Company founder and CEO Patrick O. Brown said, "David has contributed more than any other scientist in the world to building the infrastructure and tools that made genome sequences an enabling resource for discoveries that have transformed biology and medicine."

In 2013, Lipman was honored by then-President Barack Obama as a White House "Open Science" Champion of Change. His other honors include Jim Gray eScience Award, Microsoft Research; two National Institutes of Health NIH Director's Awards; finalist, Service to America Medals; Na-

tional Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases NIH Merit Award; U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, and many more. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and National Academy of Sciences, and elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also widely published.

Lipman and his family have been long-time, significant yet anonymous supporters of Rochester-area nonprofit services, including community jazz organizations.

Lipman's career is proof of the value of a strong education in the sciences, math and technology in building an important career that makes the world a better place. His scientific career has been devoted to public health and public service at the highest levels, and serves as an inspiration to future BHS students.

"David Lipman exemplifies a successful scientific career devoted at the highest levels to public health and public service. As we emerge from this pandemic, it is especially timely that we recognize a BHS grad of David's achievement and stature as an example to current and future grads of what a laudable public health career can look like," said Lovenheim.

• **Murray Rosenthal, DDS,** BHS'57, has practiced privately and held positions of public leadership in the field of dentistry and periodontics for 60 years. He is also an accomplished producer of opera and theater in both London and New York City, and a supporter of several nonprofit arts groups.

"Dr. Rosenthal is a leader in philanthropy," said nominator Kerrie Anne Merz of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. "In Rochester, he recently made a large gift in honor of his parents to support the General Dentistry Clinic at the Eastman Institute for Oral Health." At the University at Buffalo School

of Dental Medicine, he has provided scholarships to dental students for three years each for more than 20 years. In New York City, he helped establish the Martina Arroyo Foundation, which provides young opera singers with education in performance, and served as president for 16 years of the Opera Index, which advocates for and supports opera and its singers, and holds a major vocal competition.

Rosenthal earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dentistry after undergraduate studies at the University of Buffalo and a summer course in physics at the University of Rochester; and did his general dental residency with an emphasis in pediatric dentistry at the Eastman Dental Center of the University of Rochester.

He was a Fellow in community medicine and in the Institute of Computer Science at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and earned a certificate in periodontics from the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery. He had a private practice in periodontics in New York City since 1976.

Rosenthal's public health career



*Murray Rosenthal today.*



included serving as dental director, New York City Children's Aid Society; Morrisania NFCC/NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation; the Boriken Health Center, which he established; and the Dr. Martin Luther King Health Center. He was director of the Bureau of Dental Health Service in the NYC Department of Health, reorganizing it and replacing fixed school dental clinics with portable dental clinics that expanded access to dental care for children — as a result, dental caries declined in New York City.

Rosenthal served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, at Fort Carson, Colorado, and in Nha Trang, Vietnam. One of his proudest achievements was establishing a dental clinic at the Flight Surgeon's Office of 17th Aviation Group HQ and providing dental services to Vietnamese and international civilians. The army gave him a Bronze Star for these services.

Rosenthal was a consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service, both locally with Region II and at the federal level with the Bureau of Primary Care, and with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, among others.

Rosenthal has also had an impact in education, teaching at the New York University College of Dentistry; St. Barnabas Hospital, Sunset Park Family Health of the Lutheran Medical Center, and Columbia University.

Rosenthal's honors and recognitions include Humanitarian Award, University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association; Service Award and Regional Health Administrator's Award, U.S. Public Health Service, Region II; and for contributions to increasing access for special population groups from the American Dental Association. He has co-authored several books and articles.

Rosenthal's non-professional life is, literally, dramatic. He always had a passion for theater and opera. He has held positions with the Pegasus Opera Company, London, UK; Martina Arroyo Foundation, New York, NY; and Opera Index, Inc., New York, NY. In

1997, he formed a theater partnership with composer/conductor Philip Hagemann that has invested in more than 150 productions in New York and London. They have co-produced seven shows on Broadway and two in the London West End, collecting three Tony Awards and one Olivier Award.

"He has changed my outlook on life for the better, teaching me to pay a little more attention to the people I interact with, to meet everyone with an open mind and an open heart and an appreciation for the contribution each of us has to make," said Merz. "I like to imagine the countless others he has left smiling the past 80 or so years. He has a deep love for his family roots, and a fondness for the community he was born in."

• **Carol (Case) Siracuse**, BHS'60, is an accomplished architect who founded and developed her own business, CSS Architects, and grew it from a one-person operation to a group of 12 architects, interns and draftspeople. Her firm specializes in public school, university, and other federal and state-funded projects. She served as chief project architect and educational planner for a project involving more than \$1.3 billion in reconstruction and new construction of the Buffalo, NY, Public Schools facilities.

"Carol and a few other young women in our class bravely rejected [the traditional] options and have had wonderful and meaningful careers in areas that previously were only open to men," said nominator, classmate and BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame member **James Allison, MD**, BHS'60. "Carol's leadership is obvious ... and her post-graduate achievements were remarkable. Carol's professional career has been outstanding and very distinguished."

At Smith College, Siracuse was president of the synchronized swim team and illustrated several publications, including the yearbook and the *Greecort Review* literary publication. She was secretary to the Department of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and received the



*Carol Case Siracuse today.*

Arthur Lehman Scholarship, based on academic achievement in her first year at Harvard; her master of architecture degree from Princeton University; and the LW Palmer Fellowship in Architecture at Princeton.

Before launching her firm, Siracuse worked at architecture firms in Ithaca and Dunkirk, NY, for several years, becoming an expert in designing and shepherding public school projects through New York State's complicated and demanding approval processes. Her firm worked on projects around New York and Pennsylvania, specializing in public school, university, and other federal and state-funded projects.

Her honors include Small Businessperson of the Year Award, Chautauqua County; Architect's Certificate in Historic Preservation, Landmark Society of Western New York and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and Mentor of the Year, Western NY Branch, American Institute of Architects.

After retiring from the practice of architecture, Siracuse returned to her first loves: painting and drawing. She has been a self-employed watermedia artist for the past 12 years and has won

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## 2023 Hall of Famers, continued

many awards in juried exhibitions. She is a Signature member, website manager, communications director and past president of the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society, as well as the online liaison to its exhibitions and workshop committees. “The Society is known for its friendly and informed accessibility and outreach, largely because of Syracuse’s efforts, which she totally enjoys,” Allison said.

She is also in the Buffalo Society of Artists and Western New York Artists Group; has served on the Stained Glass Window Restoration Committee of Trinity Church in Buffalo and on the vestry, the governing body of the church; and is a past president of the United Way of Northern Chautauqua. She was a Paul Harris Fellow and chair of the Student Services Committee of the Northern Chautauqua Rotary and board member of the Chautauqua Day Care Project.

“Carol’s accomplishments make her a pioneer and poster child for ... the BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame,” Allison said. “It is women like Carol who fought in the Women’s Movement and helped make many of our daughters be who they deserved to be.”

• **Heather (Miller) Podesta**, BHS’88 (2021 honoree), is the founder and CEO of the Invariant group, a consultancy headquartered in Washington, DC. Under her leadership, Invariant grew from a startup government

relations firm to a top-tier business advisory with more than 95 employees, including one of the most well-regarded federal government relations practices in the country. Podesta leverages her understanding of business and Washington to help startups mature and counsel Fortune 500 executives on the issues of the day.

“Heather has shown how women can take leadership roles in the professional field of government relations,” said nominator Lovenheim. “At the same time, she has become a leader in the arts and community relations.”

A respected attorney, communicator and lobbyist, Podesta draws on decades in Washington to navigate high-stakes environments with clients. Her work has been featured in many major media outlets. A senior senator told the *Washington Post* that “Heather is invariably the most knowledgeable person in the room because she’s done her homework.”

In addition to guiding Invariant, Podesta has been recognized for supporting Democratic candidates and providing valued counsel to candidates and officeholders. She is also an avid contemporary art collector. She is secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; vice chair of Ford’s Theatre; and a member of the board of the Washington DC Police Foundation.

Podesta graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and



*Heather Miller Podesta today.*

earned her JD from the University of Virginia School of Law.

At BHS, Podesta was a self-described “geeky jock” and introvert. “She transformed herself, first at Berkeley and UVA law school, and then through a series of Congressional staff positions, into a knowledgeable, persuasive and forceful inside player of Washington politics,” said Lovenheim. “That is a remarkable transformation that takes both persistence and courage. Heather can offer a valuable role model for all BHS students — particularly women — as they look to their future careers.”

## Looking ahead

The 2023 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame members are great examples of where a Brighton education can take students. To inspire new students, they are featured at the BSAA website, in the Alumni Resource Center and in the electronic display at BHS.

New hall of famers may be nominated at any time between now and **December 15, 2023**. To nominate a BHS classmate, friend or family member for the 2024 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame, go to [www.brightonalumni-rochester.org/halloffame](http://www.brightonalumni-rochester.org/halloffame). Nominators do not have to be BHS alumni.

### 2023 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame Committee

*Alumni:* **Steve Gaudio** ’63 (*chair*), **Peter Lovenheim** ’71,\*

**Maryjane Kimmell Link** ’58, **Dave LaBudde** ’78,

**Marcia Loomis** ’64, **Susan Salitan Robfogel** ’60,\* **Kay Salerno** ’56,

**Ruth E. Thaler-Carter** ’71\*

*Non-alumni:* Tom Hall, Brighton Central School District/BHS,

Jody Siegle, Brighton Education Fund

\* BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame member

*The Selection Committee membership is confidential.*



# 2023 Lambrix Scholarship recipient has music and science aspirations

With activities and honors ranging from music to science to athletics, the 2023 **BSAA Lambrix Scholarship** recipient stands out in any crowd. It isn't surprising that she's going to Harvard University, where she plans to major in neuroscience (pre-med) and its intersection with music.

**Elizabeth Norris** earned the George Eastman Young Leaders Award and was a National Merit finalist grade 12 and AP scholar with honors/distinction in grades 10 and 11. She worked on the *Trapezoid* school newspaper for all four years, including as editor-in-chief as a senior. She was president of the Science Olympiad in her senior year; on the varsity girls science team (captain in 11th and 12th grades); a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's youth orchestra, as principal cellist in grades 10–12; and “so much more — many jobs!”

That included engineering research assistant at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics.

“Over my 12 years in the Brighton schools, and my 18 years living in the Brighton community, I have found that



music is a source of unity,” she said in her application essay. “Music has been a backbone of my life, and a defining aspect of the special joys and memories of Brighton’s community.

“At age five, my cello teacher first taught me that music is about telling a story: Every phrase must have a purpose in the larger scheme of the piece’s narration. Music has become my

language for conveying emotions and ideas. It paints moments of ineffable beauty and echoes feelings too tender to discuss with words.

“... Brighton has encouraged this speech. Music has traced my story at Brighton, and through the musical memories I have formed in schools and around the community, my upbringing has been defined by the unforgettable bonds that remain after playing notes on a page.”

BHS orchestra conductor **Rachel Lauber** became Norris’s “musical inspiration.” “Dr. Lauber’s energy and love for music has brought me closer not only to her, but also my instrument,” she said. “During the pandemic, orchestra class was online, and she encouraged us to stay engaged and use music to heal and connect. We organized a project to play distanced music on the steps of the Memorial Art Gallery, and we continuously program concerts to showcase our emotions, values and diversity.”

The BSAA Lambrix Scholarship is named for **Robert Lambrix**, ’58, who founded the BSAA.

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## Past scholarship recipients report in

It’s always gratifying to hear from recipients of the BSAA’s **Lambrix Scholarships**.

**Robert Daly**, BHS2021: “I want to extend my deepest thanks to ... the BSAA as a whole for making this opportunity possible.

“I’ve been having a lovely time at Brown. I’m studying philosophy and mathematics, playing intramural soccer, writing for the political review, attending the Janus lecture series, and helping a professor with research. The opportunities and academic atmosphere at Brown are everything that I had hoped

they would be, and I’m truly grateful for the support that the BSAA has lent — it’s had a significant impact on my college experience, and I cannot express sufficiently enough how much I appreciate your assistance.”

**Jack Hannagon**, BHS2022: “Thank you ... once again for this scholarship. I truly appreciate the ability to have some help along the path for further education, and I’m so grateful my community has my back.

“More than anything else, though, I want to thank you and all other members of the [Alumni Association](#) who

have worked so hard putting dinners, events and other (gatherings) together because it is not an easy task! The work that is done through this organization is magnificent, and I want to stress that you are helping so many people live a better life.”

Recipients of the BSAA Lambrix Scholarship receive support throughout four years as long as they remain in college and maintain at least a 3.0 average. To date, all 50+ recipients have completed their undergraduate degrees or remain in school as of this issue of the *13th Corner* newsletter.

# 2023 Hart-Thomas Scholarship recipient demonstrates dedication to publishing

**Maia S. Hinesley-Saunders**, the 2023 recipient of the **Hart-Thomas Scholarship**, has taken an impressive range of classes at BHS, including AP Language & Composition; AP Literature & Composition; sociology; and five AP history, government and psychology classes over three years that enhanced her writing, proofreading and critical thinking skills.

Her interest in publishing can be seen in her service as senior editor of the *Crossroads* yearbook since 2019; senior editor of submissions for the *Galaxy* literary magazine (2022-present); and associate staff writer on the *Trapezoid* newspaper (2021).

Hinesley-Saunders has also taken courses at Barnard College of Columbia University and the Rochester Institute of Technology's Center for Engaged Storycraft.

She has published poetry in *Galaxy* and essays in *Crossroads*. Her culminating paper for the Barnard class exemplifies her critical thinking and thorough research skills. She also submitted a paper for her AP Literature class that demonstrates her ability to communicate complex concepts concisely, which fits with the goals of the award.



"It is not every year I have a student like Maia Hinesley-Saunders," said English teacher **Jennilyn Pickering**. "She has a powerful sense of self, a brilliant brain and the resolve to back it up. Maia is independent-minded and lives to be a true expression of her values. She pairs knowledge with action. She is committed to the service of something greater than herself. She has been an outstanding asset to our BHS community and will leave an indelible mark on the world."

Hinesley-Saunders will attend Smith College in the fall and plans to major in sociology and government, with possible concentrations or minors in English literature and/or psychology. She also plans to continue her ice hockey career there and to get involved with the campus newspaper and literature magazine, as well as continue her involvement in publications through the Northampton community and resources there.

"I hope that my dedication to the publications I have been involved in and the work I've done represents my enthusiasm for English as a discipline," she said.

**Ruth E. Thaler-Carter**, BHS'71, established the Hart-Thomas Scholarship in memory of **Louise Thomas**, who taught sixth-grade English at the middle school, and **Elizabeth Hart**, who taught Critical Reading and Writing, AP English, and other electives at BHS. Many BHS alumni have contributed to the scholarship in recognition of these teachers' invaluable, lasting contributions to their careers and skills.

The scholarship is a one-time award that recipients may use however they please.

The **Brighton Schools Alumni Association** (BSAA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS law and may be sent to:

**BSAA**

2035 Monroe Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14618

**BSAA Officers**

**Steve Gaudio** '63, president;  
**Maryjane Link** '58, vice president;  
**Scott Anthony** '69, treasurer; **Ruth E. Thaler-Carter** '71, secretary.



Founded in 1999

Celebrating  
service to BHS alumni  
and the Brighton schools

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Ruth E Thaler-Carter,  
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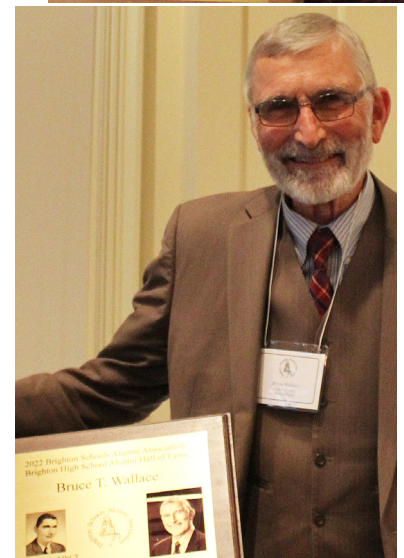
# Friends and family from around the country attend 2022 hall of fame Recognition Gala



BSAA president *Steve Gaudio*, BHS'63 (left, center) presents plaque to *David Clark*, BHS'59, brother of the late honoree *John W. Clark, Jr.*, BHS'54, and *Mrs. John W. Clark, Jr.*



Honoree *Ruth E. Thaler-Carter*, BHS'71 (right), accepts plaque.



Honorees *Jack Ferraro*, BHS'63; *Sharon D. Yates*, BHS'60; and *Bruce Wallace*, BHS'63, accept their plaques.

*A copy of each plaque will be on display at the Alumni Resource Center in the Brighton Central School District administrative building.*



*Joan Rusitzky*, BHS'56; *Alan Ziegler*, BHS'55 and hall of fame member; *Debbie Deffenbaugh Anthony*, BHS'71; BSAA treasurer *Scott Anthony*, BHS'69; BSAA board members *Burt Weinstein*, BHS'66, and *Marci Lyons Loomis*, BHS'64; *Lee Loomis*; and *Louis J. Giordano*, BHS'65.

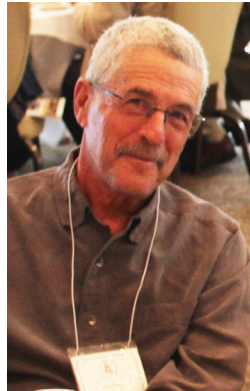




*Brighton schools superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan (left, center) with members of the Brighton Central School District board.*



*BHS principal Dr. Tom Hall (second from left) with BHS student volunteers.*



*BHS'71 alumni (left to right) Jan Heyneman; BSAA board member Victoria Brzustowicz, Rick Thaler, Kathy Gollin Marshak and Chris Hammond; Paul Tracy, BHS'85 (far right).*



*2022 BSAA Scholarship recipient Jack Hannagon (left); BSAA vice president and Scholarship Committee chair MaryJane Link, BHS'58, and recipient Chloe Cheatle; recipient Olivia Martinez (right); 2022 Hart-Thomas Scholarship recipient Sophie Zhou (far right).*