

# Where Are They Now?

## Checking in with TPGA Scholarship Winners from Years Past



**Amanda (Holloway) Rutherford**



**Alice Ann Spurgin Holland, Ph.D.**



**Stephen Spurgin**

It's been 18 years since TPGA started awarding scholarships to the children of the Texas propane industry. And in those 18 years, the TPGA Scholarship Foundation has awarded \$69,000 to 50 scholarship winners.

2015 marks a record-breaking fundraising year for the TPGA Scholarship Foundation. We'll take this landmark year as an opportunity to check in with some of our past TPGA Scholarship winners.

### **Amanda (Holloway) Rutherford**

Amanda Rutherford, daughter of Lon Holloway, Northwest Propane, has been busy over the last decade moving toward her Ph.D. In May 2009, she earned two undergraduate degrees from the University of Oklahoma—a B.A. in Journalism and a B.B.A. in Marketing and Supply Chain Management. She went on to earn a Master's in Education Policy in 2011. This past May, Amanda earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Texas A&M University, successfully defending her dissertation "Politics, Perceptions, and Performance in Higher Education."

She has garnered a long list of academic awards throughout her years, the latest two being the "George W. Kunze Endowed Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Graduating Ph.D. Student" and the "Distinguished Graduate Student Award for Research", both presented in 2015.

Rutherford's research interests include managerial values and deci-

sion making, performance management, organization theory, representative bureaucracy, higher education policy, and research methodology. Her work has been published in various journals, including the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, International Public Management Journal, and Public Administration.

Amanda is now serving as an Assistant Professor at Indiana University in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

### **Alice Ann Spurgin Holland, Ph.D.**

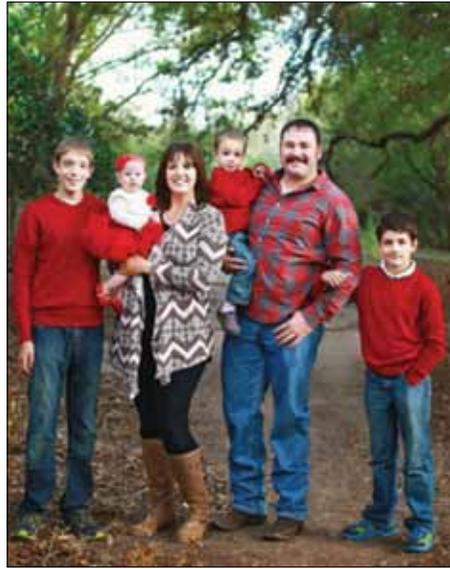
Alice Ann, daughter of Bob Spurgin of TPGA member Ben Spurgin Insurance Agency, received a scholarship from the TPGA Scholarship Foundation in 2004. Since then Alice went on to graduate from Stanford University in 2008 with a degree in psychology with a concentration in neuroscience. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa academic honorary society and received several other honors at Stanford.

She completed her Ph.D. in psychology at UT Southwestern in 2012 and her postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology in 2014.

She is now an assistant professor at UT Southwestern and a clinical neuropsychologist in pediatric oncology at Children's Medical Center, Dallas. She has several professional publications. She is the youngest member of the Texas Psychology Association board of directors. Alice



**Melissa Hicks Harvey**



**Whitney Massingill**



**Tiffany Bowman**

Ann is married to Brian Holland, who does air quality modeling and consulting internationally with Dallas-based Trinity Consultants.

**Stephen Spurgin**

TPGA Scholarship Foundation went on to also award Alice's brother Stephen a scholarship in 2006. Stephen went on to be a National Merit Scholar at Stanford University and graduated in 2010 with a major in biology and a minor in English literature. He is currently a fourth-year medical student at UT Southwestern, as is his wife, Emily.

He has been an active community health volunteer while in medical school, and was student manager of a medical clinic for the homeless. He has also completed two years of endocrinology research at the Touchstone Diabetes Center and has several professional publications. Steve plans to enter a residency in pediatrics upon completing medical school next spring.

Both Alice Ann and Steve greatly appreciate the TPGA scholarships and the encouragement and good wishes that went with them to college and beyond.

**Melissa Hicks Harvey**

In 2007, Melissa Hicks now Harvey received a scholarship from the TPGA Foundation. Melissa is the daughter of Sean Hicks of Greens Blue Flame of Houston.

The TPGA scholarship helped alleviate high cost of tuition for Melissa who says: "The average student is in severe debt when they graduate. Scholarships are important for students to look for and help themselves when they graduate. Some may search for years for a job and could end up swimming in student loan debt if they do not try to look for assistance."

Since then receiving the scholarship, Melissa graduated in 2011 from Sam Houston University with a degree in history and a minor in secondary education. Upon graduating, Melissa worked for a

Houston oil company doing recruiting and human relations for two and a half years. Now she is in her third year at Klein High School teaching U.S. History to the 11th grade.

"I am grateful for the experience in the corporate world. The lessons learned really helped me prepare for the education field."

Melissa now lives in Magnolia, with her husband and two chocolate lab pups.

**Whitney Massingill**

Whitney Massingill, son of Woody Massingill, Roadrunner Energy, earned his associates degree from Texas Lutheran University in 2007 and joined the U.S. Border Patrol in 2008. He has done training in California and Georgia and taught at the Border Patrol Training Academy in New Mexico. He currently is on the marine unit, which includes a lot of time on airboats (including when we talked with him), and home is Brackettville, Texas. He enjoys hunting and fishing and is married with a daughter, a son and two stepsons.

**Tiffany Bowman**

Tiffany Bowman, daughter of Linda and Troy Bowman, Consumer LP Gas, began her academic career at Mary Hardin Baylor, transferring to Louisiana State University to complete her bachelor's in sociology (with a concentration in criminology) in 2010. After graduation, she embarked on a life of service. She spent six months in Ethiopia as a social work intern. When she returned to the states, she began graduate studies towards a Masters in Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She also worked full time for the Gladney Center, working with birth mothers on adoption plans. She had intended to move back to Ethiopia, but her plans were derailed by a political climate that meant no visas were being issued for social workers. She has just recently joined Child Protective Services and is beginning a career helping Texas families. She hopes to complete her Master's degree next year.