

Nine Girls Nine Stories One School

Emma welcomes the DAVIS SCHOLARS, the youngest participants in an innovative educational experiment that aims to do nothing less than change the world.

The first class of Davis Scholars arrived at Emma in September from Bolivia, Botswana, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam as well as the United States. They came as part of a ground-breaking pilot program, created and supported by Shelby Collum Davis and his wife, Gale Lansing Davis, class of 1963.

A similar program was already in existence at a number of colleges and universities across the nation, but this year, the Davis Foundation decided to pilot the concept in a select few secondary schools. Emma Willard is the only girls school among that group.

The Davis family wants to create a cadre of future leaders, Americans and non-Americans alike, whose shared perspectives and global experiences will prepare them to collaborate effectively in a demanding, increasingly interdependent world.

The awards are need-based, and each successful candidate will have her full need met by grants from the Davis Foundation and from Emma Willard. Upon graduation from Emma Willard, Davis Scholars are eligible for continued scholarship support at any of the 89 colleges and universities participating in the Davis United World College Scholars Program, which now hosts more than 1,400 students from 131 countries.

In their own words, here are some of the goals, talents, and desires of these nine young women.





“Since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a doctor. An epidemiologist—you can treat people as well as search for medicines.”

—OEMA RAMBHAROSE

Quianna Smith

WASHINGTON STATE

- **I want to become** a pediatrician.
- **I do see myself** as leading and being an example for my little sisters.
- **Mom told me to meet** as many people and learn as much as I could, but also have fun.
- **I study Chinese.** I like the Chinese characters; they're really pretty. I want to go to China.
- **I love working with chemicals** and doing mixtures. I loved bio.
- **I never would go** to the mountains and hike, camp outside, play soccer with my friends, so I get to experience something different in a different cultural setting.
- **I miss my mommy's cooking.**
- **I shop for shoes** to relax. I used to have like 40 pairs. Most are not suitable for the wintertime out here.

Meryll Castro

SAUDI ARABIA

- **Both my parents** are from the Philippines. I have five siblings.
- **I speak** Arabic, French, and Tagalog.
- **I'm interested in medicine—** particularly cardiology.
- **I just like the heart** above all other body parts because it has mystery to it. It pumps; it's a muscle; it's intense. It's the vessel that gives you adrenalin, gives blood.
- **My favorite book** in the world: *Little Women*. I've read it like five times. I never get tired of it. You always find something new there. You're like, “Wow, I never saw that before.”
- **I miss baking** with Mom. I miss the smell of the kitchen. I miss Filipino food.
- **My favorite music** is classic rock, Beatles, Rolling Stones. In the car, my dad always, always plays the Beatles. He has every single record.

Oema Rambharose

BORN IN SURINAME,
MOVED TO SCHENECTADY

- **My mom is from Ghana,** and Dad is from Suriname. Dad's a mechanic. I have five siblings.
- **Since I was a little girl,** I wanted to be a doctor. An epidemiologist—you can treat people as well as search for medicines.
- **I love to learn** different languages. And I like math and chemistry.
- **I speak** Dutch, Hindustani, and Talki-Talki, which is the language created from all the languages together.
- **In 20 years** I'll be practicing medicine, but who knows where? I like to travel and learn about other cultures, so it could be anywhere.
- **I miss our food.** It's kind of Indian—pepper, curry, spicy food. Mom brought food, and I shared it with my hallmates.
- **My favorite book** is *Go Ask Alice*. It was really eye-opening.

“I want to be a novelist. I’m always writing, yet can’t seem to finish anything!”

—JAQUESS WYNN



JaQuess Wynn

ALBANY

- **I want to be a novelist.** I’m always writing, yet can’t seem to finish anything! Mostly fantasy, sci-fi, teenage fiction. I sometimes write poems.
- **Culinary arts** is my fallback; I love cooking.
- **I read a lot.** I read *Reservation Blues*. Before that, *The Once and Future King*. I love the Harry Potter series.
- **I’ve wanted to go to Japan** forever. I’m particularly interested in the early 19th century to early 20th century—the time of Geishas and when General Perry came over and started trade with them.
- **I’m trying** to teach myself Japanese.
- **I want to have three kids**, one of my own and two adopted so I’m not forgetting about people who don’t have any homes. That’s just sad, and the world shouldn’t be that way.

Makeda Morrison

BORN IN ALABAMA,
MOVED TO ATLANTA

- **I want to be an obstetrician.** I think that babies are beautiful, and birth is one of the most beautiful things that happens.
- **I really want to travel the world.** Maybe go around the world delivering babies!
- **I try to be color-blind.** And if I experience some kind of racism, I just turn the other cheek.
- **My mother says** remember where you came from.
- **I met a few new friends** and we were playing hide-and-seek in the little playground. One of my friends rolled down the hill. It was the purest fun that I’ve had. You don’t have to do wrong to have fun.
- **It’s noticeably harder here** than at my other school. But I like it a lot. I’ve been waiting for an opportunity so I can be challenged, and I’ve gotten it here.

Ngoc Minh Nguyen

VIETNAM

- **My dad** passed a few years ago. He always wanted me to go to the States to study. It was his wish.
- **I can see myself** as a businesswoman, or doing public relations. I do want to travel, but I think Vietnam has a lot of opportunity.
- **At home**, we have to learn 11 compulsory subjects. School day starts at 7, ends at 5.
- **There are more** discussions here. Class is very active.
- **I like to listen to R&B** music by artists like Yiruma and Dan Gibson. Dan Gibson’s music is taken from nature, is very interesting.
- **I speak** Vietnamese and English; I’m taking Chinese.



“I’d like to help my government communicate with people from other nations.”

—REFILWE MOAHI

Karmela Padavic

CROATIA

- **I want to be** a scientist, a theoretical physicist.
- **Theoretical physics** has answers to everything—to the way our world functions, the beginning of the universe. The fate of the universe.
- **There’s always something** to look into, like how to connect the theory of relativity with quantum mechanics.
- **I feel better** when I’m working; some obligations are good to have.
- **I’m reading** a book about chaos theory, by James Gleick.
- **I’m into metal.** I love Iron Maiden. My dad was a metalhead when he was my age.
- **My parents encourage** me to be myself and try and fulfill myself.
- **This was a great choice** for me to come here. I was raised to want more, so my parents were prepared for it.
- **My parents know** what they can expect from me. And there is mutual trust, so they know I wouldn’t make a bad choice.

Michelle Echenique

BOLIVIA

- **I want to help** people, especially from my country or South America.
- **I’m excited** and happy to be at Emma Willard. I like the school and classes.
- **I’m so far** from my family, but right now I don’t miss them!
- **I love that** everything has a time here. Everything is on time. It’s very different in Bolivia!
- **I really like** history and math. It’s just one week, but I am learning a lot.
- **In a couple of months** my roommate is going to be my sister! We get along really well. We help each other, or we just laugh and talk.
- **I love ballet** and I’m taking ballet lessons. I’m going to take sports, soccer, and yoga.
- **My life at Emma?** It’s like a dream. A dream.

Refilwe Moahi

BOTSWANA

- **I’m interested in** working for the UN—maybe in economics or international relations.
- **I speak Setswana** and English. I’ve always loved languages. My favorite subject is French. I’d like to learn Chinese.
- **I’d like to help** my government communicate with people from other nations. I’d also love to work in France.
- **People are** a lot friendlier here. A lot more talkative. I really like it because you can get to know people better.
- **At home** I did ballet and drama, school productions. Recently we did *Seraphine*—a South African musical about apartheid.
- **I’m a Motswanan,** but I’d also like to learn about other cultures and countries. I’m interested in the rest of the world.

\$75m

GOAL

\$62.4m

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

With gifts and pledges totaling more than \$62 million, the Emma Willard Idea campaign is making good progress on two of its goals: increased support for faculty compensation so that Emma can recruit and retain the best teachers, and a more robust unrestricted endowment so that we have the agility to meet our most pressing needs at any point in time.

What needs the most help? Emma Willard's scholarship resources, where contributions thus far total less than half of the \$20 million goal for this vital priority.

The economic downturn makes gifts to scholarships more important than ever. Like other independent schools, we anticipate increased financial need not only on the part of students applying for admission, but also from parents challenged to keep their children enrolled.

This year 48% of the student body is receiving scholarship assistance. This is a larger percentage than at most independent schools, and it reflects Emma's historic commitment to ensuring socioeconomic diversity.

But Emma Willard's average scholarship award is far smaller than those of our peer schools.

AVERAGE BOARDING SCHOLARSHIP, 2008-2009

Andover	\$33,100
Taft	\$32,000
Exeter	\$31,227
Emma Willard	\$25,794

Stronger scholarship resources are essential to Emma's ability to compete for the best students. They also allow students to learn alongside classmates whose backgrounds and perspectives differ from their own—key to preparing the next generation of Emma women to make a difference in an interdependent world.

For all these reasons, scholarship assistance is the prime focus of the Emma Willard Idea Campaign, including the Annual Fund. This year, every gift to the Annual Fund supports scholarships and provides a girl with the transforming power of an Emma education.

—Larry Lichtenstein, Director of Advancement

This year, EVERY GIFT to the ANNUAL FUND is a gift to SCHOLARSHIPS and provides a deserving girl with the transforming power of an Emma education.