

Dear Ms. Gaughan,

I am very honored to be this year's recipient of the Vera Laska History Prize. I have always had an interest in history. As a descendant of a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient I guess you could say it is in my blood. I will be attending Boston College in the fall and one of the things that attracted me to BC was the availability of interdisciplinary programs such as *Perspectives* which focuses on the Great Books while integrating elements of the humanities and natural sciences. It is a course rife with history. The prize money will defray the cost of my books and other academic expenses. My k-12 Weston education in history along with my own interest has led me to develop a great appreciation of history. Thank you very much for the prize and best wishes.

- 2016 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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Dear Judy Gaughan & Women's Community League of Weston,

It is an honor to receive your generous gift. I'm impressed by the Laska's accomplishments, especially Dr Vera Laska's excellence in education and history (my top two career interests). It has given me more inspiration to keep pursuing and interpreting history. Therefore, I plan to use your gift on buying college textbooks and using the rest of the money for a study abroad experience (in college, as well) Thank you again!

- 2017 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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Dear Ms Gaughan,

Thank you and the Women's Community of Weston for presenting me with the Vera and Andrew J. Laska Scholarship. It would have been impossible for me to have received this award without the help from my wonderful history teachers at Weston High School. History has been a favorite subject of mine as long as I can remember and this scholarship validates my hard work.

I intend to use this scholarship to further my education and academic excellence at the University of Southern California. Although I have declared to be a Business Administration major, I plan on using my freshman year to take a wide array of classes in multiple fields including that of history.

I would like to thank you and the Women's Community League of Weston again for this opportunity.

- 2018 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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To the Women's Community League of Weston,

I am honored to be the recipient of the Vera and Andrew J. Laska History Prize. I enjoyed studying history throughout high school especially U.S. History during my junior year. I love history for the same reason that Vera Laska valued it: we need to be able to understand our past or else we may repeat it. I plan on using this prize to buy books and other college necessities when I attend Harvard University in the fall this year. I hope to continue to explore and learn more about American history at Harvard. Once again, thank you for this gift.

- 2015 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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Ms. Nancy Hughes

Thank you so much for your generous scholarships (the Vera Laska Scholarship Award, and the Excellence in Science Award). I am incredibly honored and grateful to receive both of these awards.

With respect to the Science award, I have always been keenly interested in and challenged myself in Science. Knowledge of science is crucial in understanding and contributing effectively to our modern world.

That said, History is my true passion. History encompasses all fields. Only by scouring the past can we truly understand and appreciate the nature of our current world, and the implications of our actions on the future.

Once again, I thank you for honoring me with the Dr Vera Laska Award. I intend to use the generous check to continue to broaden my mind in college. I will be attending Harvard where I intend to major in History, History and Literature, or possibly another social science.

I appreciate and applaud the work you do at the Women's Community League of Weston. Thank you for your contributions to our community, and again, thank you for this honor.

—2007 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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Dear Ms. Gowdy and the Women's Community League,

I just wrote a letter of thanks to Dr. Vera Laska for creating the Laska History Prize for Weston High School seniors. As the first recipient of the award, I am also grateful for your support in facilitating the award this year. It is a significant support to the history education of Weston seniors, and I hope to make good use of it myself. As I wrote to Dr Laska, I anticipate spending some time abroad as I pursue the Yale University *Ethics, Political Science and Economics* major or some similar course of study. Two very attractive programs are the Yale

“Bulldogs in London” program working with British parliamentarians, and the nascent “Bulldogs in Beijing” program. In anticipation of exciting opportunities for history study such as those, I am gratefully keeping the prize money in the bank until next year. I promised to think of Dr Laska’s generosity when I do take advantage of the prize, and also to let her know what I am working on when I reach that point. Hopefully my letter might also persuade Dr. Laska to meet me in person; she seems to have a fascinating life story and I told her of the many interests that she and I have in common, from language to history. I wish you best of luck with your work through the summer and into another school year.

– 2005 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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Dear Mrs. Harris,

My name is X and I was the 2013 recipient of the Vera and Andrew J. Laska History Prize. Two years removed from when I was awarded this prize, I am a declared HISTORY concentrator at Harvard with a sub-field focus in intellectual history. I apologize for the incredibly long delay in writing this letter, but I will finally be using the generous scholarship as part of my living stipend for my summer internship with Justitia- a human rights think tank based out of Copenhagen, Denmark. There, I will be helping the head of the organization, Jacob Mchangama with research and analysis for an upcoming book of his regarding the newfound challenges multicultural western societies face in our incredibly diverse and media infiltrated world. This book will focus specifically on challenges in the field of freedom of speech. Thank you so much for this money- my research is unpaid and the funds will come in incredibly handy. They are asking me to pursue research in a historical field I am incredibly interested in, and I have you to thank.

- 2013 Winner, Vera and Andrew J Laska History Prize

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