

# 2008 Scholarship Recipients

## ***2008 KERRY GARLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP***

**Amaris Bailey** loves words. “Ever since I realized that I could make sensible words from the alphabet magnets on my mother’s refrigerator,” she wrote in her Garland Scholarship application essay, “they have been my calm, my comfort and my solace. From those early lessons on the fridge, I began to pay attention to how words form to make sentences, how sentences form to convey ideas and how certain ideas can be strengthened, weakened or altogether changed with a carefully planned placement of words.”

A 20-year-old Ruston resident, the Louisiana Tech junior journalism major maintains a 3.789 overall GPA and a perfect 4.0 GPA in her major. Her goal is to gain a better understand of the written word’s power and “impact the forming and changing of ... ideas. To work with words in any capacity is my ambition. I have chosen journalism as my field of study as a way of using words to impact people with the truth.”

She wants to progress as a journalist and become an editor, “a position in which I hope to both influence and encourage others in the careful and purposeful usage of words. My attention to the conglomeration of words serves as my main focus – to reach people. I want to be the voice – or rather the pen – that is heard and trusted throughout the community as a reliable source for information.”

## ***2008 ORLAND DODSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP***

Extraordinary times require extraordinary actions.

**Amy Brittain** turned in an extraordinary performance following Hurricane Gustav that landed her on ESPN’s Sports Center and College Football Live to discuss Gustav and the LSU football game postponement.

When Gustav hit South Louisiana, the 22-year-old LSU senior mass communications-journalism major who plans to pursue a “sports news” career, said she “was the senior reporter on the whole (*Daily Reveille*) staff, so the whole sports thing went out the window for a few days.” Her Dodson Scholarship-winning essay recounts how the 12-member Gustav Emergency Team (E-Team for short) served the university community with “around-the clock coverage through articles, blogs, photos and videos.”

The southeast Shreveport resident, who carries a 3.82 overall GPA and a 3.9 in her major, said Gustav’s 80 mph winds “knocked me to the ground. But I couldn’t walk away. The community relied on our team for information about damages, cancellations and the lasting impact of Gustav’s wrath. I had a purpose.”

Her interest in “sports news” was sealed last March when she covered the scandal involving the LSU women’s basketball coach. “It ended up being the best thing that every happened for my career,” she said.