

First of all, I want to thank WASDA for their generous scholarship. I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity and excited for the next chapter in my life.

My name is Alexandria Renckens, but everyone calls me Ali. Throughout high school, I enjoyed a variety of fine art activities (playing the flute, dancing, and musical theatre) as well as being a dedicated crosscountry runner and active member of Florida YMCA Youth In Government (YIG), where I was deeply involved in the press program, even becoming statewide editor-in-chief my senior year. I have wanted to be a writer since elementary school and my experience in YIG inspired me to pursue a career in news writing. My senior year, I interned at a local news office and am now a freelance reporter. I also enjoy volunteering as a high school mentor to middle school students, tutoring younger students, and teaching a kindergarten class at church. In the future, I hope to continue working with children, perhaps as an editor for a young girls' magazine. In the fall, I will be attending Union University, where I plan to major in Journalism and minor in Creative Writing.