

## Professional Women Controllers, Inc. 2015 Scholarship Winners



**Loise Wambui Mwangi** is the winner of the 2015 *Jacqueline Smith Burdette Scholarship for a Career in Aviation*

By Michelle Bales-Woods, PWC Central Regional Director, Staff Specialist at Kansas City Center

I had the honor of being on the PWC 2015 selection committee and I must say the scholarships we awarded this year are phenomenal. One in particular that amazed me was **Loise Wambui Mwangi**, from Nairobi, Kenya. Loise is pursuing her Master's degree in Aviation Safety Systems via Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University online courses, while working full time as a Terminal Radar Controller at Jomo Kenyatta Int'l Airport in Nairobi. What caught my attention was how her bigger goal is to improve the safety of aviation in Africa. Loise fell into her career in Air Traffic Control, like many of us, by responding to an ad in the newspaper! I see Loise as a pioneer for women in aviation in Africa. She is involved with International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers (IFATCA) and helped create the Kenyan chapter of Women in Aviation (WAI). She teamed with women in other countries to establish Women Aviators in Africa (WAFRIC), which mentors young women and girls and encourages them to aspire to careers in aviation. Loise has personally committed to rewarding each girl in her community that attains a B+ and above in Mathematics. I see many parallels between Loise and our own Charter members in PWC. I hope the new women coming into ATC in the FAA recognize the paths paved by our co-founders Sue Mostert Townsend and Jacque Smith Burdette, our charter members, and all of our PWC members. When I learned the history of PWC, I understood that a lot of privileges I take for granted were hard fought battles won by these women. It looks like Loise and her peers in Africa will be fighting many of the same battles for the rights of women to work in aviation in Africa. Loise has many challenges ahead - it's her goal to be among the generation of professionals that turn around the current safety record in Africa. Our scholarship will help her reach her goals - and through Loise, PWC will have a role in improving aviation safety in Africa!



**Anni Luong** is the winner of the 2015 *PWC Recruitment Scholarship*

**Anni Luong** is a student member of PWC, in her first year in Embry-Riddle's highly selective Honors program, where she will be conducting research projects on her way to a degree in Air Traffic Management. Growing up, her parents expected her to be a doctor or engineer. In high school she realized she needed to create her own identity and purpose in life. She researched many careers, and when she stumbled upon ATC, she found her niche. She interviewed several controllers who love their job, as well as current ER students. Her passion for aviation drives her to excel both in and out of school. She says trusting her intuition is the first step to succeeding as a controller and as an adult. She is deciding her own future! She has been a math tutor and a student assistant. Anni is TRI-lingual: English, Vietnamese, and Spanish! Her letters of recommendation describe her leadership, her love of learning and her dedication toward her goals.

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**Claudia Buchsenschutz** is the winner of the *Margaret Hoffman PWC Scholarship*

**Claudia Buchsenschutz** is a CPC at Albuquerque Center (ZAB). Before that she earned her Bachelors of Science in Occupational Education with a specialty in Criminal Justice. Now she has returned to school to take accounting courses on her way to becoming a Certified Public Accountant. Her short-term goals are to expand her FAA experience either in Traffic Management, Airspace and Procedures, or Training, then move into management positions. Her long-term goal is to become a CPA and open her own tax preparation business as a second career. Her letters of recommendation all cite her work ethic, desire for excellence, and passion for education. Claudia is a member of PWC, NATCA, and the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. She is the first in her family to attend college and receive a degree. She has been volunteering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and is now mentoring a young Hispanic female who reminds her a lot of herself. Sounds like Claudia is providing a shining example!



**Christina Filipowski** is the winner of the *2015 Herm Lyons, Jr. Memorial PWC Scholarship*, which is awarded to a candidate that stands out for their service to their community, excellence in academics, and dedication to the advancement of aviation education or design.

By Sandy Holcomb, PWC Education/Career Development Program Manager, Air Traffic Manager at Stockton Tower in CA.

First in her family to attend college, **Christina Filipowski** is working on her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership! She was inspired by aviation at age 11, when she earned a flight in a single engine plane through the Wright Flight Program. Enamored by aviation ever since, she has been engaged and persistent in her goals. She began with the FAA in an intern program and while waiting to become a controller, she worked for Raytheon as a remote pilot and an air traffic assistant (ATA) before her first ATCS position in Casper, WY. Today she is a CPC at Deer Valley Tower in Phoenix, AZ. As a controller, she goes above and beyond her duties - she volunteered to create training scenarios for tower positions. She has received awards for her diligence and attention to details, as well as earned seven other scholarships to help with educational costs. Her aspirations are to further her aviation knowledge, move into management positions, expand her abilities in leadership and be a positive force in the future of FAA management. She volunteers as an Aviation Industry Advisory Board Member at Arizona State University. Her passion is to promote women and minorities in aviation. Christina has volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for six years, at a local High School as a teacher's assistant in the aviation program, and has mentored students personally. She provides tours of the tower to show students how their studies are related to the daily activities of controllers. When not working or studying, Christina travels with her husband Michael (P50, Phoenix TRACON) and her very large puppy, Maya. She has also done volunteer work with Panda bears in China. Congratulations, soon-to-be Doctor Filipowski!

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**Chad Fischback**  
is the winner of a  
*Mary McBurney*  
*PWC Member*  
*Scholarship\**

**Chad Fischback** will attend Kent State University this August as an Aeronautics major. He has been participating in sports, volunteer work, and part-time work while maintaining his academics, graduating high school with a 3.5 GPA. He has been in the National Honor Society for the past two years. His stepfather, a controller for 31 years (currently at Cleveland Center), has related his experiences and inspired Chad to pursue aviation as a career. Chad has volunteered as a summer camp counselor and mentored younger players on his baseball team. From that he says he has learned responsibility, respect, social and relationship skills, self-confidence, and the importance of teamwork. His letters of recommendation describe him as a good writer, intelligent, diligent, conscientious, affable, enthusiastic, reliable, resolute, determined, and a great team player. All of those qualities are necessary to become a good air traffic controller - sounds like Chad will be an excellent candidate to work alongside some of us someday!

(\*awarded to PWC members in honor of our beloved late past-president who got this scholarship program off the ground)