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## NEWS RELEASE

### Seton Catholic Class of 2017 Earns \$11.2 Million in Scholarships, Takes the Stage with 'Talent and Distinction'



CHANDLER, Ariz., May 15, 2017—Commencement of the Seton Catholic Preparatory class of 2017 will be held at 7 p.m. on May 16 at the Mesa Center for the Arts. Of the class of 123 graduates, 70 percent have received at least one scholarship, totaling \$11.2 million over four years to state, private and Ivy League colleges and universities. A partial list of out of state universities and colleges offering one or more scholarships to Seton graduates includes Boston College, Brown University, Cornell College, Creighton University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Gonzaga University, Marquette University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, University of Notre Dame and Yale University.

*Ben Leach (photo courtesy of Lamar Studios)*

“We are immensely proud of yet another Seton graduating class poised to lead and to serve,” said Assistant Principal Dr. David Sorkin. “I am honored and privileged to take the stage among such talent and distinction on graduation night.” The following are just a few of the graduates to grace the stage and receive their diplomas, representing the Seton Catholic class of 2017:

**Valedictorian Ben Leach** (*above*) will attend **Johns Hopkins University** in Baltimore where he plans to study biomedical engineering. Beyond college graduation, Leach has his sights set on developing new prosthetics to help improve people’s lives. At Seton Catholic, Leach was involved in theater, playing the lead role of Tevye in “Fiddler on the Roof” during his senior year. Also, he served as a Seton Ambassador and as an officer for the National Honor Society and National Junior Classical League chapters.

**Salutatorian Nicole Gehret** (*below*) will attend **Brown University** in Providence, R.I., where she received a full-ride scholarship to the Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME). The PLME combines undergraduate education and professional medical studies in a single eight-year program—the only combined baccalaureate-MD program in the Ivy League and a route of admission to the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown.



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Gehret plans to study neuroscience and spend summers abroad to study alternative medicine and medical ethics, as well as Spanish to volunteer at the Clinica Esperanza in Providence. Following medical school, she plans to become a neurosurgeon. While at Seton, Gehret was selected and completed over 80 hours of service for the Dignity Health East Valley Summer Volunteer Program at Chandler Regional Medical Center.

**Luke Bastain** (*below*) will attend MIT in Cambridge, Mass., on scholarship in the fall. Bastain plans to study civil or environmental engineering, pursuing a career in either of these fields. While at Seton, he played three varsity sports all four years: cross country, soccer and track.

*Nicole Gehret (photo courtesy of Lamar Studios)*

Bastain served as the captain of all three his senior year. He was president of the Spanish Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, as well as a Seton Ambassador and member of the National Honor Society. In addition, he was a top scorer on the school's Academic Decathlon team, earning a personal fourth-place finish overall at nationals.



#### **About Seton Catholic Preparatory**

Seton Catholic Preparatory is a private, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. Seton Catholic Prep, founded in 1954, serves young men and women from parochial, private, charter, public and home schooling backgrounds and is the only Catholic college preparatory high school in the East Valley of Phoenix. The Seton experience allows ample opportunity for students to discover and develop their God-given talents in a supportive community, thus enabling them to succeed in higher education.

*Luke Bastain (photo courtesy of Lamar Studios)*

Seton Catholic Prep is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. [www.setoncatholic.org](http://www.setoncatholic.org).

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