

CONGRATULATIONS!



Morgan Penner 2010 California Youth Scholarship Winner

Morgan is a 19 year old student at the University of California, Merced. She has been a member of the Boots & Slippers square dance club since 2008, so she is fairly new to our activity. This graduate of Merced High School has received recognition for her diving skills, volunteer work and scholastic ability. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. We congratulate Morgan as our 2010 Scholarship Winner.

MORGAN'S SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Over a year ago I had mentioned to my mother that square dancing would be fun to learn. My mother agreed with me and mentioned that the only dancing that my dad is capable of doing is square dancing (due to his severe lack of rhythm). About a month after my statement my mother had told me that she heard an advertisement for Boots & Slippers on the radio. She wrote the telephone number down and told me that if I really wanted to learn to square dance then I needed to call the number and get the information to join. Little did I know that I was actually going to call Nancy McElwain - one of the nicest, most generous ladies at the Boots & Slippers.

Nancy, as well as a large majority of square dancers in the Central Valley, has a lively personality that I truly enjoy and cherish when I am at the club learning to dance. However, it was not all as easy as it seems. I am the type of person that has a tendency to overbook myself, so when I began to learn I would sometimes be late to class due to a prior college class running late. Now I have to babysit every Monday night so I always come late if I can make it at all. Fortunately, my family as well as the square dance family are very supportive of me and are always willing to catch me up if I miss anything.

However, my overbooking has led me to have more problems than just missing a few square dance classes. It has brought me away from my family. I actually spend more time at school and at my employer's house than I do at home. The square dance movement has contributed in this area of my life. Square dancing has brought me closer to my family simply because it is a great excuse for me to spend time with my family.

If I have a Saturday or Sunday off from work I can go with my parents to one of the many dances that square dancing has to offer. I get to spend time with my parents after work on Monday nights at the Boots & Slippers where Harvey Smith teaches us a new skill and, for the square dancing community, a lifelong passion.

Those that are passionate about square dancing have been a lot of fun to be around. The people in the square dancing movement have impacted my family's life as well. They have taught us that you can't worry about life, because then you won't hear the calls. However, they are not just teachers, they are friends that make us laugh and keep us coming to class every Monday night to dance.