



## THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEWS

### JUNE 2025

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This year's celebration of the Class of 2025 scholarship recipients marks our **60th anniversary** as an organization. In 1965, we began with one \$200 scholarship in honor of Daniel Joseph Vacha. This year, we increased the award to \$3,500 for 21 outstanding graduates, and our scholarships now honor an inspiring roster of past students, educators and leaders in our community.

These awards are only possible with our community's generous support, including those who gave during our successful year-end fundraising effort, which secured a \$15,000 match. Thank you!

I hope the student statements in this newsletter fill you with as much optimism for the future as they gave me. If you would like to share the newsletter with others or receive it digitally in the future, please add your email address using the "subscribe" button on our website: [www.scholarshipfoundationawhs.org](http://www.scholarshipfoundationawhs.org) or email us at [thescholarshipfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:thescholarshipfoundation@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

Finally, as we celebrate this year's graduates, our board also wishes to express its deep sympathy to all who have been touched by the tragic loss of four young lives in our Ross Valley community in April.

Gratefully yours,  
**ALEX THOMAS**

#### 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



**BACK** - Cheryll Keast, Tim Bachmann, Liz Kolcun, Kevin Shea, Alex Thomas

**FRONT** - Lisa Neumaier, Ben Wilson (ex officio), Judy Agnew, Jacob Gran (ex officio), Carolyn Vavrek

**NOT PICTURED** - Greg Davison, Kathie Renick



## CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



**BACK** - William Alvarado Mendoza, Samantha Dvorin, Reid Cross, Jackson Richardson, Xavier Ayala,  
Grace Garvey, Alden Milstead, Sydney Milstead, Nobel Peter-Frank

**FRONT** - Abigail Baker, Phoebe Ginis, Isaac Shott, Christian Zapata, Caroline Lozaw,  
Makena Quinones, Neve Galmarini, Ella Furuichi

**MISSING FROM PHOTO** - Miya Kotaka, Marlee Snider, Sam Williams, Simon Xu

---

Since 1965, the Foundation has given out hundreds and hundreds of scholarships.  
Funding for the awards comes from annual contributions from our community and endowment income.  
Thanks for helping our students get a good start toward their college education!

**DONATE TODAY AT [SCHOLARSHIPFOUNDATIONAWHS.ORG](https://scholarshipfoundationawhs.org)**

---

## CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARDS

Each of the recipients was asked which of their high school activities were the most meaningful. Here are their responses with the name of the scholarship each was awarded. You can learn more about specific scholarships on The Scholarship Foundation website.

### **WILLIAM ALVARADO MENDOZA** **COLLEGE OF MARIN**

*Frances Parks Mentorship Scholarship*



William Alvarado Mendoza  
& Tim Bachmann

“Participating in football and wrestling has taught me discipline, teamwork, and resilience. These experiences have been instrumental in helping me adapt to a new environment, strengthen my physical and mental health, and build friend-

ships. They’ve also motivated me to stay focused on my goals, both academic and personal. I’ve loved sports since I was little, thanks to my brother and my uncles, who always instilled in me the discipline and motivation to never give up easily. This discipline has carried on to my education, making me motivated to give school my all even though it is harder to learn in class when I am still learning English. I take ESL classes at COM every summer, but since I only arrived over a year ago, even writing this is a little harder for me. I still don’t understand English 100%, but I’m studying to understand it better and maintain high grades in my classes.”

### **XAVIER AYALA** **CSU FULLERTON**

*The Faculty Scholarship*



Xavier Ayala & Carolyn Vavrek

“Playing high school soccer has meant the most to me. My journey started rough — our freshmen team won just one game, and I was out of shape after missing time due to COVID. Sophomore year, I improved but barely

played on JV, despite strong performances. Frustrated, I used that as fuel to improve. Junior year, I made varsity, coming off the bench as we reached the NCS Division 3 and NorCal Division 4 finals. Determined, I pushed myself, and senior year, we won the MCAL season title, NCS Division 2 championship, and NorCal Division 3 championship, finishing 6th in California and 27th in the nation while being the starting center back. Playing for

my dad as coach made it even more special. The program’s culture — integrity, risk-taking, and valuing relationships — has shaped me. Overcoming adversity in soccer has prepared me for life, and I’m grateful for every moment of this journey.”

### **ABIGAIL BAKER** **LOYOLA MARYMOUNT**

*Joseph Biasotti Visual Arts Scholarship*



Judy Agnew & Abigail Baker

“My experience making illustrations, layouts, covers, and teaching design at The Pitch (student newspaper) has been one of the most transformative experiences in high school, and has provided me with skills that I

will take into college and into my career. From teaching design principles and inspiring other students to design, to collaborating with editors and photographers to spread information to our community, I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of it. As I think about my next steps and leaving journalism, I’m working to leave the department with the tools they need to have a thriving design department in the coming years.”

### **REID CROSS** **UC SAN DIEGO**

*Archie Williams Scholarship*

“My greatest accomplishment is my career in running. I started running in 3rd grade and have pursued my passion every day since. I have always loved the unique feeling of running — a weightless, freeing sensation, which immediately captured my attention and drove me to push myself to my limits. Pursuing my passion, I joined track and cross country in high school and almost immediately developed a dream to run on the state meet team. Despite facing over six months of lost progress due to recovery from a bone growth abnormality that led to a fractured femur, come senior year, I was running for Archie Williams at the state meet for the second time. Overcoming both the fierce competition for a state spot and unavoidable injuries that set me back months of progress, running has been my driving source of both mental victory and earned achievement.”



## SAMANTHA DVORIN

UCLA

*Nick Shea Author, Athlete & Friend Scholarship*



Lisa Neumaier & Samantha Dvorin

“Do you have a pad? A tampon?” It was an unspoken reality at Archie: if you needed menstrual products, you either carried them yourself or hoped someone had one to spare. When I noticed this absence of dispensers, I

co-founded the Period Project to ensure access to high-quality essentials and combat menstrual stigma. Over 2.5 years, I led efforts to organize fundraisers and conduct surveys to understand students’ preferences. Eventually, we raised enough to install a menstrual product station in our Wellness Center with pads, tampons, and heating pads. I established our social media presence, increased membership and ran weekly club meetings. Watching someone take a tampon from the station for the first time was a quiet but powerful moment: evidence that our efforts left an impact. Most recently, we expanded to the Fairfax Library and installed a menstrual product station to provide accessible products to the broader community.”

## ELLA FURUICHI

UC SANTA BARBARA

*Marilyn Lee Myers Journalism & Writing Scholarship*

“My high school career in the journalism program has been an invaluable experience. Beginning as a reporter, I learned the value in conversation, learning about new people, places and things every day. Moving up to News Editor in junior year, I got to pass down these things I learned to my new reporters, teaching them how to write, but more importantly, how to understand, how to care about what they were writing about. As I taught them, they also taught me how to lead a small group, how to organize myself and my work, and how to be both a leader and a learner. Furthermore, I am now the Editor in Chief of The Pitch, where I lead over 30 students. I have grown up in this activity, having experienced each level in the program. I now get to watch the new reporters learn and struggle as I did and help them along.”

## NEVE GALMARINI

UC BERKELEY

*Hagen Science Leadership & Service Scholarship*

“My most meaningful extracurricular commitment is volunteering at Cedars, a home for adults with developmental disabilities. I remember my first day walking into the facility. I was so nervous because I thought that I would

be unable to connect with the patients at the facility. But I quickly learned that I was wrong. They welcomed me with open arms and showed me no form of judgment. Those patients, people that others tend to look down on, were the most kind-hearted people I have ever met, and I am thankful for my friendship with every one of them. Now, I will run into them on the street, and they will light up at the sight of me, so excited to see someone who truly sees them.”

## GRACE GARVEY

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

*Environmental & Social Justice Scholarship*



Matt Anaker, Grace Garvey & Chris Wilhelm

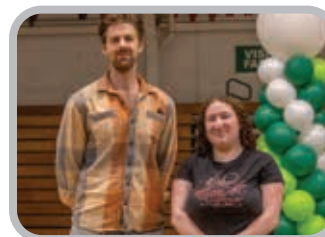
“Dance Troupe and dancing alone in my room are the two places where I feel most alive. Dancing has always been an art, yet in recent years, the culture has shifted to a display of athleticism. It’s about who can stretch the furthest, spin the fastest, or isolate

their movements with the utmost precision. Through Dance Troupe, I’ve learned to push myself, to see improvement in ways that feel measurable, and to truly understand what it means to lead as a team captain. It’s this sense of progress that drives me to work harder every day. However, my undying passion for the art of dance is what fuels the vehicle of my body. My desire to dance is rooted in a deep part of my soul that I can only describe as insatiable, a never-ending hunger for an art that is constantly evolving.”

## PHOEBE GINIS

SCRIPPS COLLEGE

*Jeremy Collins Creative Spirit Scholarship*



Nicolas Collins & Phoebe Ginis

“I fell in love with acting in our synagogue’s annual Purim Play when I was five. Onstage, I can embody all kinds of people, from the title role in Robin Hood to Mrs. Fryer in Radium Girls. Whether I’m doing improv or scene work,

getting into the mindset of someone else and figuring out how they would react to a situation is intriguing. Not only do I get to explore my creativity through making acting choices as well as reacting to my scene partners, but theatre is a chance to learn about the lives of those throughout time and space. Taking on a role, I get to learn history (whether real or fiction) about what made my character’s life the way it was.”

**MIYA KOTAKA**  
**UCLA**

*Sue McDowell Mentor & Advocate Scholarship*

“The Youth Ambassador Program, a political exchange program through the United States Department of State, was the activity most important to me. I have always wanted to learn Spanish and am interested in international relations and politics. This program gave me the opportunity to have both an immersion experience and a firsthand look at Argentine politics. I lived with a host family who immersed me in both the language as well as their culture and traditions. I met with the United States Ambassador local in Buenos Aires, and learned a lot about the political climate in Argentina and how it relates to their culture. By the end of the trip, my Spanish had improved immensely, and I developed lasting connections with people living in Argentina. I became motivated to learn more about Spanish-speaking cultures, while advancing my conversational ability.”

**CAROLINE LOZAW**  
**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Josh Portnoy Performing Arts Scholarship*

“Serving as a soccer referee meant the most to me because I felt I was teaching the next generation of kids to share love and passion for the game of soccer. Although some may view soccer as just another sport, I view it as an activity that brings people together, forms bonds of friendship that last throughout high school, and teaches kids how to push through adversity. Getting to watch little kids grow from small soccer fields up to big fields and knowing I had an impact on their growth as players has been extremely rewarding. Not only was I able to teach kids more about the game, but they taught me patience, care, and understanding. From dealing with angry shouting parents on the sidelines to kids wanting to “one vs. me” at half-time, I have never had more fun than my experience as a youth league referee.”

**ALDEN MILSTEAD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

*Sarkisian Arts & Engineering Scholarship*



Cathy Sarkisian, Alden Milstead  
& Mark Sarkisian

“My internship at Marin Art & Garden Center has meant the most to me. I am grateful for all of the activities I have participated in, but my internship has helped me hone my interests and taught me a lot about plant care, which has become something I

enjoy doing. My internship helped solidify my passion for the environment, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with other people with similar interests. I did this internship both on my own time and again through SEA-DISC, so although I was already fascinated by the environment, working in the actual field, caring for endangered plants, and doing physical work has turned it into a passion of mine.”

**SYDNEY MILSTEAD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**

*Chet Carlisle Service & Leadership Scholarship*

“The TEAM program’s blend of outdoor adventure, academics, and personal growth at Archie Williams High School has been personally transformative. Over the past two years, I’ve learned valuable life skills through activities like backpacking, hiking, community service, and internships. The small cohort model has allowed deep connections with peers and teachers, making the learning experience more impactful. What stands out the most to me are the lessons in presence and appreciation. Through the challenges on trail with weather, homesickness, and having to adapt, the program has helped me reconnect with a child-like sense of wonder, while also teaching me the importance of time spent with others. These experiences have given me lifelong experiences and insights that I carry into my academics and personal life, shaping how I approach relationships, challenges, and growth.”

**NOBLE PETER-FRANK**  
**WILLIAMS COLLEGE**

*Gary Sorgen Arts & Athletic Scholarship*



Carolyn Vavrek & Noble Peter-Frank

“When I got accepted to go to California Boys and Girls State, I didn’t think I would enjoy it. In fact, the only reason I went was because I knew it would be a good experience to get outside of my comfort zone.

After all, I was a science and math kid — I had no interest in politics. One week later, my life was changed. One week and I had decided to redirect my educational plans to focus on economics and government. At CBGS, I made speeches and ran for office in our mock government. I became popular as the resident photographer, taking over 200 portraits of my fellow delegates. My favorite part was the fact that everyone there was truly motivated. I met some of the brightest people in all of California. These people inspired me, and I am very grateful for the time I got to spend with them.”



**MAKENA QUINONES**  
**SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE**

*Gery Gomez Athletic Excellence & Community Service Scholarship*



Judy Agnew & Makena Quinones

“My favorite extra-curricular throughout my high school career would have to be swimming. I have always loved the sport since I was a young girl and started competitively competing about 12 years

ago. Swimming presented me with the opportunity to grow in many different ways, whether it be in my performance, time management skills, or emotional (with practice 17 hours a week). I was able to learn to deal with setbacks and failure, and it taught me how far I can push myself mentally and physically to become the best version of myself. I created many connections through my club and high school team that I truly believe have helped shape me today. I believe I would not be the person I am today without it.”

**JACKSON RICHARDSON**  
**UC DAVIS**

*Harold Allison Leadership Scholarship*

“Soccer has always been my main source of happiness ... My love for soccer started in elementary school when we would play at recess. We would not worry about making a mistake or trying to impress anyone. I still think about those moments and remind myself to chase that feeling and remember to have fun every time I step on the field. This sport has taught me the importance of having a positive and optimistic mindset. I try to be as positive as possible during games/practices because it makes me and my teammates play better and translates to success. Positivity and having fun were my high school team’s main principles this season and helped us win the state championship! I will be involved with soccer forever, whether it’s playing, coaching kids, or watching. It will always have a special place in my heart because of the life lessons it teaches and the joy it brings me.”

**ISAAC SHOTT**  
**UC SANTA BARBARA**

*Drake Alumni & Community Scholarship*

“The volunteer peer tutoring I currently do in my 7th period ELD (English Learner Development) class has meant the most to me. It is easily my greatest source of pride because

I’m able to help provide underprivileged students with the opportunity to succeed and achieve their potential. Most days I work with my primary student, an 11th grader from Peru. Every day I walk into class with excitement to not only see her growing confidence, but also to challenge myself. Tutoring through a language barrier forced me to rethink my approach entirely. I had to break abstract problems down into their simplest parts and find creative ways to communicate concepts visually and verbally, using the Spanish I knew. I wasn’t just helping my primary student learn math; I was re-learning it myself, through her perspective. The impact of our time together is clear — her teacher continues to praise her significant improvement.”

**MARLEE SNIDER**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, MANOA**

*Barbara McCune Spirit of Kindness & Community Scholarship*

“The Wahine Project is an organization whose name, “Wahine,” means “woman” in Hawaiian, symbolizing strength and community. Growing up with limited financial resources in a wealthy area was challenging, but discovering The Wahine Project was transformative. Every weekend, I had the opportunity to go to the beach—my favorite place—and teach surfing to underprivileged youth in the Salinas Valley. Many of these children had never been to the ocean before, and through surfing, they experienced the joy of inclusion, connection, and empowerment. I began volunteering as a freshman, and every weekend I worked with different groups of grade-school kids who filled my days with laughter and happiness. Their silliness and excitement were contagious, and seeing their confidence grow in the water was incredibly rewarding. The Wahine Project not only allowed me to share my love for the ocean, but also reinforced the power of community, proving that no matter what our background, we all deserve the chance to feel supported, included, and strong.”

**SAM WILLIAMS**  
**UC SANTA BARBARA**

*Convis Founders Scholarship*

“As co-president, the Archie Williams Jewish Culture Club has provided a unique opportunity to learn more about my own Jewish identity and the importance of inclusivity and acceptance. We began this year by leading a meeting for Rosh Hashanah, providing apples and honey alongside other traditional foods associated with the holiday. A few weeks later, we held a table in solidarity with the Israeli hostages still being held in Gaza to commemorate the

**THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

---

one-year anniversary of October 7th. The importance of the club’s community involvement was emphasized by the significant instances of antisemitism that occurred throughout our district the previous year, highlighting the need for a safe space for those of Jewish descent and an opportunity to educate the broader community. As the club has grown, so have I, taking initiative in the club’s leadership and furthering my skills as a collaborator through the organization of our meetings.”

**SIMON XU**  
**CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
*Shaffer Maker & Explorer Scholarship*

“Creating EdCode meant the most to me because I wanted to make coding accessible for free and was able to see an impact. Not everyone has access to coding courses in school or outside of it, so I wanted to help people by making an educational platform with lessons and quizzes. This was something that I wished I had when I was starting to learn to code. When we launched, there were over 500 people using the platform, completing courses, and submitting feedback about how we helped. I was happy to see my work help others after spending a lot of time building EdCode. This fueled my passion for software engineering and my desire to make a positive impact on the world.”

**CHRISTIAN ZAPATA**  
**COLLEGE OF MARIN**

*Carl J. “Red” Brown Science & Athletics Scholarship*



Christian Zapata & Tim Bachmann

“The gym and football have meant the most to me by far because they have taught me that discipline outlasts motivation, as motivation will always run out. These two activities have made me into the person I am

today, pushing me to take action and make stuff happen. In the gym that means going past failure and doing one more rep while my whole body is on fire; on the football field it’s playing till the whistle and giving it my all for a short 30 seconds, trusting my hard work will pay off ... All in all, these two activities have shown me growth through all the discomfort and effort. Whether it’s in athletics, academics, or even in life, I have learned to create a perfect moment — not wait for it.”

**THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR THE 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR**

*Many donors to the Foundation make gifts in memory or in honor of friends, family or members of our community. Thank you!*

**IN MEMORY OF**

Harold Allison	Rudy Genetti	Milena Maarangone
Don Baker	Gery Gomez	Barbara McCune
Vincent Boyle	Ellsworth & Marcia Hagen	Tom McEntee
Carl “Red” Brown	Janet Hoch	Frank Milani
Chet Carlisle	Harry & Maria Howard	Vincent Milani
Jeremy Collins	Anita Juskelis	Don Millar
Robert (Bob) Drucker	Cindy Lake-Thomas	Richard Neumaier
Nick Dutto	Albert “Cap” Lavin, a great teacher	Bob Norwood
Bruce Ferrigno	Keith Lester	Becky Paradis
William F. Franchini		Jane Perry

**IN HONOR OF**

Joshua Portnoy	Jordy, Pace & Nash Freeman
Elizabeth “Lillo” Price	Deborah Gump
Brian Purcell	Lisa Neumaier
Janet Purcell	Frances Parks
Joseph Riekana	Shea Family
Nicholas Shea	
William H. Shea	
Jerry Thompson	
Daniel Vacha	
Archie Williams	

Want to help? Beyond a check or credit card gift, you can direct an IRA contribution (and avoid taxes) or make a future gift through your will or trust, or by designating the foundation as a beneficiary in a retirement account, life insurance policy, etc. No gift is too small! Visit [scholarshipfoundationawhs.org](http://scholarshipfoundationawhs.org) for more.

**THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION  
AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL**  
1327 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD  
SAN ANSELMO CA 94960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

### **60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

Please help us go paperless. Send your full name, mailing address and e-mail address to:  
**thescholarshipfoundation@gmail.com**

Former awardees, e-mail us and let us know how you're doing!



## **THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Twenty-one \$3,500 scholarships are given in honor or memory of the people who have inspired our community over the school's 74-year history. Recipients are selected by a committee on the basis of academic achievement, service to school & community, and financial need.

---

**PLEASE VISIT [SCHOLARSHIPFOUNDATIONAWHS.ORG](http://SCHOLARSHIPFOUNDATIONAWHS.ORG)  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND TO DONATE.**

You can also sign up for brief quarterly email updates by clicking "subscribe" on the website menu. Thank you!