



THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEWS

JULY 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

On May 25th board members attended the Senior Awards event in the Archie Williams gym. We were blown away by the talent and achievements of the 2023 graduating class.

The highlight of the evening for me was awarding The Scholarship Foundation's 20 scholarships. I've been involved with the board for the last seven years, and I have never seen such a joyous, positive group of awardees. It was clear these students had survived the extraordinary challenges of attending school during COVID and came out as optimistic individuals ready to move on to the next phase of their lives.

The Scholarship Foundation awards are funded with a combination of endowment income and annual contributions from the community at large. With the difficult past economic year, our endowment took a slight hit, but our shortfall was made up by generous gifts from the community. Our endowment continues to allow us to offer 20 scholarships, and we hope in the coming years to increase the dollar amount to keep up with the high costs of education.

I remain grateful to our ongoing supporters who make it possible to sustain these scholarships. If you have not given this year, I hope you will visit our website or use the enclosed envelope for your tax-deductible donation to The Scholarship Foundation.

The Scholarship Foundation Board and scholarship recipients thank you in advance for your continued, generous support.

ALEX THOMAS, *President 2022-23*

BOARD MEMBER LISA NEUMAIER NAMED A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

We congratulate fellow board member, Lisa Neumaier, for being named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation. As the Archie Williams College & Career Specialist, she received this award for her work with the Rotary Club of Ross Valley to offer scholarship opportunities to our students. The fellowship is given in appreciation for "tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." We are thrilled to see Lisa recognized for her tireless efforts on behalf of students.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS



BACK - Judy Agnew, Greg Davison, Alex Thomas, Lisa Neumaier, Cheryl Keast FRONT - Carolyn Vavrek, Tim Bachmann, Kevin Shea, Chuck Alberton (ex officio) NOT PICTURED - Kathie Renick, Cathy Sarkisian, LaSandra White (ex officio)



CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



BACK - Abigail Yacoub, Gabriela Yacoub, Brianna Thomsett, Julia de Melo, Alexis Ayala, Alice Simenstad, Stella Theobald

MIDDLE - Sean Neal, Beth Brisson, Dunara Senadheera, Ana Rodriguez

FRONT - Ashley Fine, Giovanna DePalma, Tony Heffernan, Lucas Nerelli, Tadeo Leon Furlany

NOT PICTURED - Barrett Acker, Rebecca Agpaoa, Xoxa Bell, Sascha Van Rozeboom

Since 1965, the Foundation has given out hundreds and hundreds of scholarships. The funds for the awards are generated through our investment portfolio and through donations. Thanks for helping our students get a good start towards their college education!

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

CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARDS

Each of the recipients were 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.

BARRETT ACKER **CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO** *Harold Allison Scholarship*

“Being the 2022 Youth Firewise Coordinator for my community taught me many valuable lessons. Taking this role meant I was in charge of educating my neighborhood about fire safety through organizing informational gatherings, passing out flyers, and walking door-to-door to give informative speeches and collect neighbors’ contact information that would be useful in the case of an emergency. Consistency and discipline were essential to carrying out this long process. It felt great giving back to my community in a way that they didn’t even know they needed ... Although this was my first year being the Youth Firewise Coordinator, I would not hesitate to do it again if it weren’t for me going off to college. Nonetheless, I will make an effort in any way I can to better the fire safety awareness in wherever I end up in the years to come.”

REBECCA AGPAOA **UCLA** *Merrill “Mike” and Elsie Convis Scholarship*

“The two activities that mean the most to me are working and cooking. Going to work has a great significance in my life because it allowed me to grow independent from my parents and be able to live on my own without their support. Cooking also has great meaning to me ... it offers me the opportunity to learn new techniques, cultures, tastes ... it fulfills me when I am feeling down or stressed because it gives me time to myself where I can relax and enjoy free time, while at the same time I can serve the people that I love and those that are around me with delicious food. Cooking gives me the opportunity to cater to everyone, including myself.”



Rebecca Agpaoa & Judy Agnew

ALEXIS AYALA **CSU SAN MARCOS** *Daniel Joseph Vacha Scholarship*

“I am most proud to have been in STAAR (Students Taking Action for Anti-Racism) because I feel like I was actually able to make a difference for students at our school.

I was given the opportunity to educate students and teachers on important topics like microaggressions, privilege, and accountability. Learning about these topics can leave a lasting impact, especially with the teachers because it helps them with knowing how to treat future generations of students. That was my main goal going into STAAR, and I feel that I have accomplished it.”



Alexis Ayala & Judy Agnew

XOXA BELL **OREGON STATE** *Sue McDowell Scholarship*

“My internship with ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) gave me an in depth look into how global policy makers work, and

how desperately women’s voices are needed in governments. Spending 10 days at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as a formally accredited Youth Delegate was a priceless experience and a strong call to action for me to keep doing everything I can to make positive change ... After my time at the UN with an international delegation, the President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, and the liaison to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, I know I want to pursue policy work in addition to science.”



Sue McDowell, Kevin Shea and Recipient Xoxa Bell



BETH BRISSON
PACIFIC UNIVERSITY OREGON
Gery Gomez Scholarship

"For me, soccer has been the most influential thing in my life. Not only has it meant the most to me, but I would not be the person I am today without it. I love playing the sport, but I am more thankful for the connections I have made, the leadership qualities I have gained, and the strength and determination I have developed. I have met so many different people through this sport and have been lucky enough to meet some of my best friends. I was given the opportunity to be one of two varsity captains my senior year. I took my role as captain very seriously and created a great community within the team. I made sure to include everyone, lead by example, and create a positive attitude amongst my teammates."

JULIA DE MELO
CHICO STATE
Gary Sorgen Scholarship

"Volunteering for tutoring immigrant students has had a proud effect on me, partially because I was once in that same position, having gone through the same struggles and hardships that these students face ... I could relate to and provide guidance and support. Tutoring these students has been a way for me to give back to the community and help navigate the challenges of adapting to a new country. So far, I've learned the importance of empathy and compassion ... it allowed me to share my academic knowledge and success with other students and help them thrive." Julia was born in Brazil and lived there for 13 years. She is proud of being able to speak three languages (Portuguese, Spanish, and English). "Learning different languages throughout my childhood became a skill that I plan to continue to develop while attending University ... I plan to use my language skill to reach a diverse group of patients when I become a therapist."

GIOVANNA DEPALMA
CSU NORTHRIDGE
"Chet" Carlisle Scholarship

One of her most special experiences was a summer trip to Tahoe through an organization called Back to Earth. They support young people from all walks of life to connect deeply with the natural world. "It combined my love for introspection and growth, with physical activity, and connection to nature and others ... There is something so ful-

filling about being self-sufficient and carrying everything you need in the backcountry ... the trip was with a small (and what grew to be a) tight-knit group of other females with two lead mentors which allowed it to be a safe place for self-exploration, especially exploring the female aspect of my identity. For the first time, I truly felt like a woman."

ASHLEY FINE
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
Frances Parks Scholarship

She joined AVID and did leadership work for three years through that program. She was also in SEA-DISC (environmental and social justice academy) for two years. This year she organized Earth Day at AWHs and interned at Hidden Valley as a teacher's assistant. The activity that meant the most to her was volunteering at Spectrum Surf Camp, a unique therapeutic program that brings surfing to children with special needs, including autism and Down syndrome. "I loved working with the kids and the experience led me to realize I want to major in elementary education."



Judy Agnew and Ashley Fine

TONY HEFFERNAN
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
Jeremy Collins Scholarship

He was on the AWHs mountain bike team and became the team captain for the 70-person team his junior year. "Being on the bike team taught me a lot about teamwork, perseverance, and putting recovery/self-care at the forefront of importance. ... The bike team showed me that it's alright to take a step back when I need to." Tony has been part of our school's ComAcad (communications academy) since junior year. It has "taught me very much about being comfortable with the uncomfortable ... and given me a large responsibility when it comes to making our videos. Staying up late editing videos to perfect them, not for myself, but for the non-profit we were working with. While I have always found myself in a leadership role in most group projects, through ComAcad I need to be comfortable with not being in charge when in certain groups, and something like that is a big learning experience for me." He's also been working at a vet clinic in Fairfax for years and it has enabled him to be self-reliant and earn money to help out his family.

THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

TADEO LEON FURLANY
COLLEGE OF MARIN

Joseph Biasotti Scholarship

"Game development is one of the most meaningful because it taught me how to be a leader. It also taught me how to guide a project, as well how to use 3D modeling and In Character Design. In addition, it taught me animation and music composition. Art is also very meaningful to me. I have developed skills in various mediums ... and this has greatly enhanced my ability as a creator, leader, and video game designer."

SEAN NEAL
WASHINGTON STATE

Archie Williams Scholarship

"My job at the Meadow Club has ... given me the opportunity to develop valuable relationships with my coworkers and has provided me with a strong sense of community. What I value most is the chance to connect with people who are not within my usual social circle and learn about their cultures and backgrounds ... working alongside other first-generation immigrants like myself has been an enlightening experience ... I have learned the value of embracing my own culture and language. Throughout elementary and middle school, I used to try and hide my Filipino identity because of the predominately white schools and community I've grown up in ... Another reason why this job means so much to me is that it has allowed me to be more independent and financially support myself ... I want to do everything I can to support my own education. Through my job at the Meadow Club, I can save money for college and alleviate some of the financial burdens on my family."



Sean Neal and Tim Bachmann

LUCAS NERELLI
COLLEGE OF MARIN

Steve and Randy Schaffer Scholarship

"Of all my activities, fencing and church mean the most to me. I have been committed to fencing more than almost anything else in my life, and I have a community there. I have tight bonds with friends

and coaches, despite not being too good at the sport itself. Church, being a religious gathering, is quite meaningful as it is the only time in my life when I can come together with those who believe in the God I believe in. I consider it a very sacred time and it helps to ground me. I return to school after church with a sense of peace and comfort."



Lucas Nerelli and Judy Agnew

ANA RODRIGUEZ
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

The Faculty Scholarship

"I am proud to have participated in Daraja Club for the past four years as it has allowed me to spread awareness of the importance of education in my community ... I have worked constantly on marketing campaigns ... to promote our events and bring in more people, which has been fundamental in keeping our community involved. Illustrating the situation that girls in Kenya go through allows me to share and remind my community regularly of the importance of education in a person's life, as it is a personal value that I hope to share with those around me. "Being the current president of the Daraja Club has allowed me to grow holistically as a person and student as I am continuously learning about what it takes to be an exemplary leader. I believe everyone deserves to have the opportunity of experiencing a proper education no matter their social and economic background."

DUNARA SENADHEERA
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

Carl J. "Red" Brown Scholarship

"I believe the most meaningful one was being able to play water polo because this sport shaped me into the person I am today. Whether it was doing a water polo academy in Barcelona for six months by myself, or traveling to Spain and Italy to play with their women's national teams; it helped me acquire the favorable qualities of



Dunara Senadheera



myself of being independent, a team player, and a hard worker. It created mental toughness: water polo can be a physically and mentally demanding sport, requiring players to remain focused and resilient even in the face of adversity. This helped to build resilience that was useful in other areas of my life when I dealt with racism, sexism and other obstacles I faced as a young Sri Lankan woman. Through water polo, I was offered opportunities for personal growth, connections with others, and a sense of purpose and accomplishment.”

ALICE SIMENSTAD
UC SANTA CRUZ,
HONORS

*Marilyn Lee Myers
Scholarship*

“I am the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of my school’s newspaper, something I couldn’t have imagined when I joined freshman year as a nervous, overwhelmed girl who almost quit before she started. After four years on The Pitch, I have never been more proud of myself than looking back on what I have accomplished as EIC. The work is a grind, but the inch-by-inch pace has culminated in a stronger news magazine, a capable and hardworking staff, and my own growth as a leader.” Alice also loves ceramics and never wants to leave the studio. “Ceramics enable me to tap into my creative side, to explore limits of what I can create with my hands, a glob of Black Mountain, and some Blue Celadon glaze.”



Alice Simenstad and Kevin Shea

STELLA THEOBALD
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Ellsworth & Marcia Hagen Scholarship

“The activity that means the most to me has been my volunteer work at Halleck Creek Ranch. I have always loved animals and watching the positive impact that they can have on humans.” Halleck is a therapeutic horseback riding facility for individuals with disabilities. “Over the summer I completed an internship at Halleck Creek Ranch in addition to my regular volunteering in which riders were able to attend a summer camp to learn more about horsemanship and riding. I have made volunteering a priority for the past four years because of how it

has positively affected my life and the lives of others in my community. It is this type of service to others around me that brings me so much joy and contentment.”

BRIANNA THOMSETT
UC DAVIS

*Joshua Portnoy
Scholarship*

“Theater has always been a staple in my life. I grew up watching my mom and dad be extraordinary actors who put everything into their craft while also taking care of me, and working 9 to 5 jobs. I’m thankful for the outlet theater has given me to hone my creativity and passion throughout the good and bad in my life ... From getting to act in the spotlight to calling cues backstage, being in theater has helped me comprehend the beauty, work ethic, and community a stage production can foster in everyone who is involved — regardless of how many years you’ve done it.” Brianna has also learned many valuable lessons from working part-time. “I love learning how new things work which is why I am so interested in being a barista. I don’t like drinking coffee or tea, but I loved learning how to make it and what the different types of coffee were.”



Judy Agnew and Brianna Thomsett

SASCHA VAN ROZEBOOM
CHICO STATE

Barbara McCune Scholarship

“All of the activities that I did and took part in throughout high school meant a lot to me in many different ways. The activity that meant the most to me hit close to home. I worked and campaigned with a nonprofit organization called MAYA. MAYA fights and campaigns for domestic abuse victims and survivors. It felt incredibly special to work with them. Most of the work that I did consisted of taking part in conversations, presentations, trainings, implementing new ideas, and becoming more educated on all topics regarding domestic abuse in general. It was empowering to work with this organization because they work so hard to help people and change their lives for the better.”

THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ABIGAIL YACOB LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

The Drake Alumni & Community Scholarship

She began ballet at a very young age and at 15 she moved out of state to join a full-time pre-professional program. "As I sought increasingly advanced instruction, I simultaneously gained perspective on the negative, toxic pressures of ballet culture. Witnessing this drove me to reconsider what I once thought was my end-all-be-all." She left the studio her junior year to "focus on more holistic passions and goals. With a new perspective on who and what I wanted to be, I immediately recognized how the skills of ballet, my childhood dream and passion, resonated within every aspect of my life. I witnessed these skills translate into my academics . . . I am incredibly grateful to have gained and developed dedication, discipline, self-awareness, ambition, drive, and hard-work from ballet. It is these factors of my character that I am confident will aid me in seeking and achieving my academic goals as I head into a new chapter."



Abigail Yacoub and Rose Milani

GABRIELA YACOB CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Nicholas Shea Scholarship

"Before my freshman year, I had never kicked a soccer ball in my life ... as a junior, I became the first person in Archie's history to advance to varsity following my participation on the freshman team. I faced various rejections; being turned down from all levels of teams available offered by the local club Marin FC, being scrutinized from all my teammates, receiving the smallest number of game minutes on numerous teams. I continued to train and motivation emerged from my desire to prove to myself, and everyone else, my capability ... I have been asked by my high school coach to address the younger players of my school's soccer program and their parents discussing what tenacity is. For me, soccer has never been about championships or winning. It's about the invaluable life lessons regarding determination, community and gaining the respect of others: by being yourself and never giving up."



Kevin & Laura Shea
with Gabriela Yacoub

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

IN MEMORY OF

Harold Allison	Mr. Girton, Chemistry	Keith Lester
Mr. B	Teacher '64	W. Keith MacNab
Don Baker	Darryl Grewell	Barbara McCune
Vincent Boyle	Ellsworth & Marcia	Steve McEntee
Carl "Red" Brown	Hagen	Tom McEntee
Chet Carlisle	Eleanor Leith Hill	Frank Milani
Rene Chetelat	Janet Hoch	Vincent Milani
Jeremy Collins	Stan Hook	Don Millar
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Cowperthwaite	Bob Juskelis	Jay Murphy
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Ted Freeman	Lucinda Lake	Tom Odetto
Rudy Genetti	Cap Lavin	

IN HONOR OF

Frances Parks	Chris Alfaro, '21
Jane Perry	Class of 1972
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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! For more, visit scholarshipfoundationawhs.org.

**THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
AT ARCHIE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL**
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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 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Twenty \$3,000 scholarships are given in honor or memory of the people who have inspired our community over the school's 72 year history. Recipients are selected by a committee on the basis of academic achievement, service to school & community, and financial need.

SCHOLARSHIPFOUNDATIONAWHS.ORG

We have upgraded our site with a community spotlight section including profiles of our past awardees and donors.
Please visit scholarshipfoundationawhs.org to learn more about our scholarships and to donate.
You can also sign up for brief updates (every other month) via email at thescholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.