The Scholarship Foundation News

July 2022

The Scholarship Foundation @ Archie Williams High School

The Scholarship Foundation proudly announces the 2022 recipients of twenty $3,000 scholarships, given in honor or memory of people who significantly inspired our community over the school's 71-year history. Recipients are selected by a committee of school staff on the basis of academic achievement, service to the school and community, and financial need.

From The President

I am writing this letter after a wonderful in-person Senior Awards Celebration held at the Archie Williams High School gym. It was great after two years of COVID to have the presentation in a more intimate setting in which we were able to shake each scholarship recipient's hand and see their smiling faces once again.

The highlight of the night was the presentation of scholarships to 20 outstanding seniors in the class of 2022. They represented an inspiring range of achievements beyond their academic success, from the arts to athletics, Eagle Scouts to club founders, search and rescue volunteers to community activists. These future leaders also represent a wide range of backgrounds, including members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) and LGBTQ communities – and, for the first time in our history, an even distribution of 10 young women and 10 young men. Awardees are moving on to a broad spectrum of colleges and universities — ranging from the UCs to the Ivy Leagues.

Additionally, we announced the launch of our new foundation name—The Scholarship Foundation at Archie Williams High School. After the high school changed its name, our board thoughtfully deliberated what that would mean for us. The foundation was created in 1965 to provide scholarships to graduates of the high school in the Ross Valley community, and to fulfill this mission we decided that our name needed to be aligned with the name of the school. The Scholarship Foundation scholarships are funded with a combination of endowment income and annual contributions from the Ross Valley Community, many of whom make gifts in memory or in honor of a family member or respected person of the school community. We continue to look at ways to increase the number of scholarships to keep up with the rising costs of higher education. This will only be possible with continued gifts from our generous supporters.

We have updated our website with our new name and hope you will visit it at www. scholarshipfoundationawhs.org. Please let us know what your think. Our email address is: thescholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.

We 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 generosity.
Alex Thomas
President 2021-2022

The Scholarship Foundation 2021-2022

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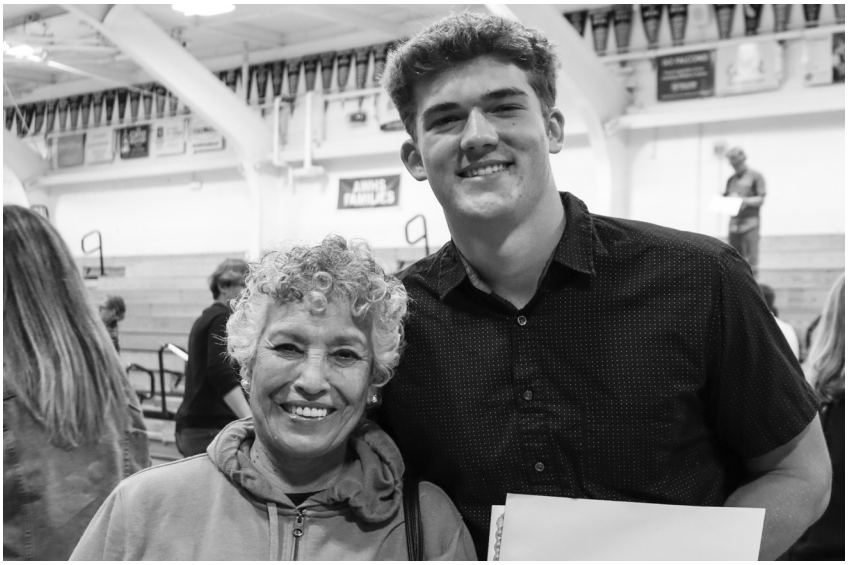

Rose Milani & Bennett Steiger

THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Donate today at www.scholarshipfoundationawhs.org

The Scholarship Foundation has a dedicated website that provides information on the history of the foundation, the names of scholarship recipients, and an online donation button.

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!

NEWS Editor: Lisa Neumaier Header Graphics: Michael Schwab Studio
Photographers: Elliot Smith Publisher: Karen Brigando

The recipients were asked which of their activities meant the most to them and why, and here are their responses. Below each of their names are the specific scholarships they were awarded. To learn more about each award, please visit https://scholarshipfoundationawhs.org

Nicolas Barry
(U Washington)
His favorite activities were being the co-president of the Gender & Sexuality Alliance Club (GSA) & joining Students Taking Action Against Racism (STAAR). He appreciates that GSA has given him the opportunity to give younger kids that are questioning or new to their identities a place to feel pride in it, and not feel like they're being judged for exploring who they are. STAAR allows him to learn skills to start fighting against hate and how to take care of yourself as the work becomes hard to manage.

Ronald Beggs
(UC Berkeley)
He found a motivated group of students through his AP Chemistry class to stay banded together during the pandemic when so many others lost their motivation to stay connected and participate fully in their online classes. "Recognizing that we wouldn't have in-person labs to reinforce new content, we organized frequent study sessions to discuss all things chemistry-related. My chemistry study group taught me that the success of others was just as important and rewarding as my own." He tutors students through one-on-one Zoom sessions, in the Archie Williams homework club, and as a teacher's assistant. "I hope to make others feel accomplished with their efforts and ultimately foster inspiration and excitement for learning. The satisfaction of helping the community is unlike anything else, and it never ceases to make me smile."

Albion Bodle
(College of Marin)
His most meaningful activity has been having a job and earning money that he can use to help his family. In May of 2021, his mom was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, and she spent the next six months in and out of the hospital. She is still fragile and requires a lot of care and attention. Albion was forced to grow up quickly and assume many adult responsibilities. Both of his parents are public school teachers, and his dad has worked in our district for 21 years.

Addison Bugas
(UC Berkeley)
The Partners at Lunch (PALS) club, of which she was president, was the most impactful group in which she participated. She became an activist because of her involvement with this club and loves how it helps to "destigmatize attitudes towards differences and offers an immersive and enriching experience for those who may not have the awareness, sensitivity, and courage to engage with an often invisible, yet important, segment of the student body."

Jordan Freeman
(Chico State)
In 8th grade he was diagnosed with IBD: Ulcerative Colitis. He eventually had his intestine removed. "Because of my experience, I value being a peer mentor for other children with IBD. I've worked with kids one-on-one, fundraised for the Colitis Foundation and participated in the Take Steps events in SF." After recovering, his goal was to reach out and help anyone going through IBD. Another favorite activity was stepping up to coach the JV Girls Volleyball team after playing on the boys' team for three years. He pushed himself outside his comfort zone, particularly speaking in front of larger groups and taking on a leadership role.

Ava Gaughan
(Yale University)
"I've been in love with music for as long as I can remember. Even before it became such a big part of my life that I can't imagine my development without it. The Tuesday-Thursday rehearsals were like the steady beat that shaped my childhood. I spent

my days composing toddler sonatas and one-girl operas. I sang before I learned how to talk." She was part of the San Francisco Girls Chorus, a comprehensive vocal training program comprising a Chorus School and the professional touring and performing Premier Ensemble (a.k.a. Chorissima). "Before I'm anything, I'm a musician. More than that, I'm the music itself."

Andre Giraldi
(Cal Poly Humboldt)
"My time at Marin Water over the last four years has no doubt been my most important professional extracurricular that I have participated in, through which I have met amazing people and mentors that have greatly inspired my vision for the future. Photography has been a hugely influential hobby. I have continued to explore areas all over the state in search of wildlife and landscapes. "Andre's involvement with the water district includes being a youth representative for the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, being part of their vegetation team, and doing turtle surveying.

Elizabeth (Ella) Heimbrodt
(UC Berkeley)
"Although all of my activities have shaped my character and added value to my high school experience, SEA-DISC has meant the most to me because of the community it provides, and the life lessons it teaches. SEA-DISC has provided me with indispensable guidance toward my future educational and career goals, taught me the value of professionalism, and allowed me to collaborate with my peers. and I wouldn't be the person I am today if I hadn't joined SEA-DISC."

Natalia Hernandez-Bernal
(U Portland)
"The activity that meant the most to me was the First Annual BIPOC Art Exhibition I started because it had the most impact at our school and on me. The purpose was to educate others about different peoples' races, cultures, and ethnicities. But also to give representation and empower young BIPOC artists. The event was beautiful, and I did it because I wanted students to be seen. I, too, felt seen as the student artists were coming to me feeling proud of themselves and expressed gratitude towards me. I ended up also finding myself and feeling finally seen at a school that I felt so lost in."

Evan Lee
(Cal Poly, SLO)
"Training and competing with both the AWHS Cross Country and Track & Field teams was an extraordinary experience. For four years I've been pushed by my amazing coach, Robyn, and my friends and teammates, who taught me devotion and discipline. My work ethic and confidence transformed once I started to spend so much time with this team. I formed a strong bond with my newfound friends through intense training in a sport that took me to my physical and mental limits. before I was just a runner, but now I am a leader (team captain for both sports), racer, and helper all at the same time." Evan's other important activity was being a Boy Scout. "Scouting was vital for me to develop personally and become independent." Evan has earned Eagle Scout rank.

Francisco Mena
(UCLA)
"The activities that mean the most to me are the Spanish Club and my music production." Francisco and his friend founded the Spanish Club to support minority (Hispanic) students like him. The meetings created a safe environment for Hispanic students to speak Spanish and talk about different cultures. "Through my experience in the club, I came to realize the importance of taking the initiative to help others and bring change." Francisco produces, mixes, and masters his own music on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) as a hobby. "Making music is like medicine for me and I'm the scientist who creates it. I write the words and music speaks for me. It allows me to be free."

Mahala Peter-Frank
(UCLA)
"Though I believe most of my activities have been integral to my development, the ones that have meant the most to me have been my work with the Daraja Club, and specifically the film we made, and teaching violin." She helps raise awareness of the importance of girls' education around the world and raises money for the "inspiring girls of Daraja Academy, a free boarding school in Kenya for girls who cannot otherwise afford an education. "The most exciting and meaningful thing I did for Daraja was to make a film. A filmmaker/philanthropist attended a Daraja Club bake sale and offered to fund a trip to the school and help us learn filmmaking. The filming process enhanced our trip by helping us ask meaningful questions and gain profound insight into the girls' lives and culture... I loved facing challenges outside my comfort zone, learning cinematography and communication skills, increasing self-awareness and independence, and developing friendships. My gratitude for this life-changing opportunity inspires me to continue my own, and support others' engagement in community service."

Ariana Pillitteri
(Clark University)
"The accomplishment that I am the proudest of is creating and implementing the SchoolCycle recycling program at AWHS. I planned and am currently implementing two TerraCycle programs on the AWHS campus." Bins are in each classroom, and she installed a TerraCycle bin in the cafeteria to recycle snack wrappers. She wrote a business plan for this program to be implemented at AWHS and other schools in the Ross Valley School district. Also, she's president of the Surfrider Foundation club, an activist organization dedicated to ocean conservation. She organized recruitment of 70 members and facilitated beach clean-ups and an ocean-friendly restaurant campaign to help local restaurants to reduce their plastic waste. "These two activities mean the most to me because I made a change in my school, and I encouraged and led others in becoming environmental activists."

Sophia Pillitteri
(UC Santa Cruz)
"My internships with Marin Health & Human Services and Behavioral Health & Recovery Services department certainly meant the most to me. Ever since I can remember, I've been fascinated with global and public health. I enjoy learning about the direct results of how global health can affect a population, which is something the world has recently seen through the COVID-19 pandemic. Luckily, throughout high school, I was able to participate in two health related internships to further my expertise in public health. Within these internships, I spoke at various policy meetings regarding tobacco flavor bans, smoke-free housing, and restorative justice practices in high schools."

George Shryock
(UC Davis)
"Being involved in Scouting has been my favorite activity throughout high school. It helped me better myself as a person and also helped my community. the Scouting community shaped me as a person by teaching me valuable leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills. As I grow older, I will continue to work with the Scouts and benefit greatly from the skills Scouting has provided me." George achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Bennett Steiger
(Cal Poly, SLO)
"My experience playing club and high school water polo has been a highlight of my teen years. I only started playing the sport my freshman year of high school, so I had a steep learning curve. By junior year, I was named co-team captain and by senior year, I was honored to be elected by my teammates to be their head team captain. I took my leadership role seriously and established goals: to lead by example, establish team unity, amplify positive team chemistry, and win our regional MCALs. As a

self-taught pianist, I strive to be as precise as possible when following the rhythm of songs. the pursuit of precision, in all its forms, is endlessly inspiring. Whether I am setting expectations for myself in school, in the pool, or on the piano, integrity and perseverance are always at the core of how I go about my life."

Evgeniya (Jane) Tananaeva
(UC Berkeley)
"I have done swimming for 10 years, so the sport has always been a constant in my life. I have met amazing people through swimming and the feeling of community present in both the school team and the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team is very important to me. Participating in this sport for so long has also taught me lessons of self-discipline and mental resilience." Jane has also enjoyed being part of Business Professionals of America where she's expanded her knowledge of entrepreneurship and the business field, as well as pursued leadership opportunities. She started her own baked good delivery business, combining her interest in entrepreneurship with her passion for baking. Jane moved from Russia and learning a new language as a child gave her a uniquely global perspective and sparked her interest in foreign cultures. Another favorite activity was volunteering with Meaningful Teens, a platform to teach literacy, reading comprehension, and English Language Learning through online tutoring. "Tutoring helped me step out of my comfort zone and inspired me to embrace leadership opportunities."

Alejandra Tellez
(San Diego State University)
"Picking which one of my activities is my favorite is hard because I love all of them. If I had to pick one, it would be going to the gym. I started working out when the pandemic started to distract myself. As time went on, I fell in love with the feeling of working hard and getting results. I've seen a great amount of progress in myself, physically and mentally. The gym has become my coping mechanism to help decrease stress, increase my happiness and has kept me on track with focusing on myself. I come from a single mother household and have had to work to help her out. I work 3-4 days a week which takes up a lot of my time. But I do it to help her out and lift some weight and stress off her hands. This obstacle has slowed me down a bit, but I still manage to get it all done at the end of the day."

Nicolas Wolf-Rodriguez
(U Chicago)
"My job as an Esports Coach for Esporterz is the most meaningful activity I've done. Before getting this job, I hadn't had responsibilities outside of familial ones. Getting to experience the real world through a job that I really enjoy has helped me grow a lot as a person. It's nice to get appreciated for a good job. It's nice to feel like I'm contributing to something. I feel as though working as an Esports coach has helped me become more social than I was before, especially considering that my job is to help the kids with social interactions, which for many of them, do not come easily or naturally. Working with kids who are very similar to how I was when I was their age has been very impactful."

Fawn Zech
(Western Washington University)
"Volunteering with Marin Search and Rescue has been my most rewarding activity that I have participated in through high school. Joining the team as a freshman amongst EMTs and emergency room doctors was pretty intimidating. However, over my years with the team, I have found my footing and where I am valuable to the organization and also have gained a lot of confidence and skill. I have been able to take amazing courses and have discovered my passion for medicine and healthcare. Working with the team to save lives, provide closure for families, and serve the community when providing first aid at county events has made this volunteer experience extremely meaningful to me."

Kevin Shea, Laura Shea, Ava Gaughan & Judy Agnew

Judy Agnew & Evan Lee

Donations received during the 2021-22 fiscal year

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Scholarship Awardees Class of 2022

Back row, left to right: Bennett Steiger, Evan Lee, Jordan Freeman, Nicolas Wolf-Rodriguez, George Shryock, Francisco Mena, Ella Heimbrodt, Ronnie Beggs
Middle row, left to right: Mahala Peter-Frank, Ariana Pillitteri, Jane Tananaeva, Alejandra Tellez, Natalia Hernandez-Bernal, Ava Gaughan, Addison Bugas
Front row, left to right: Andre Giraldi, Sophia Pillitteri, Nicolas Barry, Albion Bodle