

Opening FALL 2015 DOORS

Constant Focus in a Changing Context

There is no doubt the environment for postsecondary education is changing rapidly for low income and underrepresented students. Higher education was once considered a public good, of collective importance to national security, of importance to how we live and work together as a society. It is now largely configured as a private commodity. Aggressively marketed and highly competitive, colleges are raising tuition and fees, trimming financial aid, and making it harder and harder for students to weigh the costs and benefits of continuing their education. In this changing academic and financial environment, students need support to persist through multiple levels of challenges to earn their degrees. With support and determination, students can reach their goals of completing postsecondary education.

Within the programs and services of **The Scholarship Foundation**, determined students graduate with degrees in spite of the many difficulties they encounter. At all times, the Foundation remains focused on the needs of students in this changing context. Since 1920, the Foundation has set its sights on making higher education accessible to all, regardless of economic circumstance. That is still true. What has changed are the strategies that the Foundation and its students must employ to reach that goal, and the creative ways in which the Foundation's donors choose to support this singular focus.



1. Holly Robinson introduces herself to her peers at New Student Orientation. (2015)

2. Foundation student Maria Vargas provides information to families at Universidad Ya! Hispanic College Fair. (2015)

3. ScholarShop (circa 1967)

4. ScholarShop—Clayton



5. ScholarShop—Webster Groves

6. Miki's Closet by ScholarShop at Beyond Housing's Food Truck Round Up (2015)

7. (l-r) ScholarShop student employees: Kyle Christeson, Christina Thomas & Sarah Civili (1999)

8. Board Members Genie Thoma, Pat Mendel, Peg Wells, and Audrey Shanfeld reading student loan applications (1990)

Education Policy Internship Program

Focus: Student Voices

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis continues to build its impact through community partnerships, statewide student networks, and advocacy participation on behalf of low-income and underrepresented groups through its Education Policy Internship Program. Leading the Foundation's advocacy efforts is **Karissa Anderson**, former Foundation Education Policy Intern who now serves as the Foundation's Manager of Advocacy and Policy Research.

For many years, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis has advocated for access to higher education in a variety of ways including: writing guest editorials, letters to the editor, press releases, appearing on radio and television talk shows, testifying before the Missouri Legislature, visiting congressional leaders in Washington D.C., and encouraging its supporters to contact their legislators on key issues. While the Foundation has the integrity and standing to speak with authority on these issues, it has not had the human or financial resources to spend significant capital on the research that would fuel smart advocacy efforts.

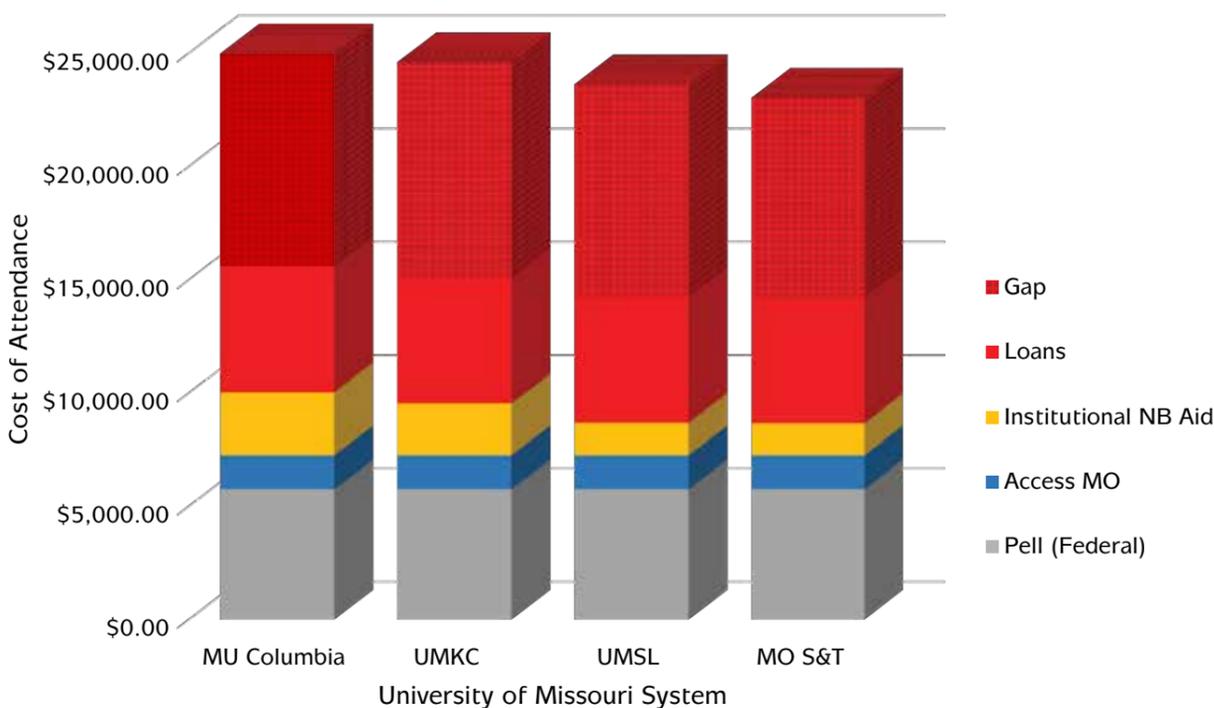
"There is a lot of work to be done so that student voices can be heard. In many policy decision making processes regarding low-income and underrepresented students, the actual voices of the students are not present. We're working to change that," says Anderson.



2014-2015 Education Policy Interns at the Missouri State Capitol: Karina Arango, Karissa Anderson, Robert Elam, Jocelyn Posos, Amber Overton, and Derion Tabb

Estimated Gaps at University of Missouri

Based on Posted Cost of Attendance and an Average of Institutional Need Based Grant Awards, Assumes an Expected Family Contribution of 0



For nearly 100 years, the Foundation's mission has been to help individuals and families advance their economic health through access to postsecondary education. The Foundation's first students were Jewish immigrants who came to America to learn, work, and contribute to their community.

To continue the mission of helping immigrants gain skills to contribute to a healthy democracy, the Foundation opened its eligibility for funding and support services to students approved under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA allows individuals who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 to continue living in the U.S. without fear of deportation and allows young people to work and attend college. For some students, obtaining DACA status solidifies their dreams of going to college; yet in Missouri, DACA students are ineligible for state financial aid or in-state tuition rates.

"This particular group of students we serve desperately need a voice in the educational policy making process. Just this summer, the Missouri Legislature made it impossible for DACA students to receive any financial assistance, even after they did everything right to qualify for certain programs," says Anderson.



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Is Missouri a land of opportunity?

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Access to education • Other states realize the value of educating undocumented students.



BY JOCELYN POSOS AND ROBERT ELAM

The Missouri Legislature is swiftly moving through a tangled web of bills that would severely limit access to a postsecondary education to students all over Missouri. Students who have

charge them the highest possible rate of tuition or face forfeiture of state funds. The coordinated convergence of these bills establishes an ominous tone that undocumented and DACA students are not welcomed in Missouri.

DACA is the result of an executive order enacted by President Barack Obama that allows individuals who meet specific criteria to have deportation deferred for a period of time. This allows recipients to work and go to school without the fear of depor-

capable of accomplishing. Under federal law, all children regardless of immigration status are guaranteed access to K-12 public education. The U.S. Supreme Court affirms that denying such an education would create a permanent underclass of citizens. Many of the students who will be adversely affected with the passage of these bills have lived in Missouri from as early as they can remember. Missouri is their home, where they have excelled academically as model students

in undocumented and DACA students. Other states realize the value in educating all students. Currently, 18 states have taken the steps to make postsecondary education more accessible to undocumented students. Many states recognize that supporting undocumented youth in obtaining higher education is not only a humane policy; it's also an investment in the state's human capital and economy. In an admirable display of bipartisan support for greater

are passed. As graduates of Missouri public universities, we have been deeply concerned about affordability. We know where we might be, if not for access to higher education. We know how our education has benefited not only ourselves and our families, but also our communities and our state. Students who want to learn, are driven to excel and want to contribute to a thriving state deserve the opportunity to do so.



Through the generous support of **Deaconess Foundation** and **Incarinate Word Foundation** the Education Policy Internship Program has grown significantly since its first year. In addition to providing grant support to fund intern stipends, both foundations have shared the work of the interns with community members and elected representatives. Deaconess Foundation has engaged policy interns in its Community Advisory Board and its Board Advocacy Committee, as well as in its annual "Children at the Center" event.

The Foundation's Education Policy Internship Program brings an authentic perspective to education policy conversation. In the first year, interns accomplished the following:

- Focused on issue research and how to navigate the legislative process
- Studied key issues such as need-based financial aid and access to higher education financial aid for undocumented students
- Met with several policymakers in order to build credibility with officials in the state capitol
- Published several op-eds in prominent newspapers.

In the second year, interns expanded the program's outreach through the following:

- Conducted nearly 20 meetings with key legislators, aides, and government officials
- Testified on critical issues relevant to current educational policies
- Published op-eds and also attended national, state-wide, and local policy meetings
- Made their presence known in the capitol and gained a reputation of being timely, accurate, and insightful.



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As the Education Policy Internship Program enters its third year, the work of the interns will be expanded into a statewide, student-led **Active Advocacy Coalition**. The Scholarship Foundation, in partnership with **St. Louis Graduates**, received a generous grant from **TG Philanthropy** to support students in advocating on issues related to educational affordability and access at the federal, state, and institutional levels. The Foundation's policy interns will act as the "think tank" that will conduct the research necessary to mobilize the wider coalition, connecting students across urban and rural areas, including DACA students.

Alan Byrd, Co-chair of St. Louis Graduates and Dean of Enrollment Services, University of Missouri-St. Louis says, "St. Louis Graduates is excited to partner with The Scholarship Foundation and TG Philanthropy to build this student-led coalition. Through the Active Advocacy Coalition, we will be equipping students from across the state to advocate for policy changes to remove existing barriers that prevent them from attaining postsecondary success. Every student deserves access to a quality, affordable education."



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1. (l-r) Jocelyn Posos, Deaconess Foundation's Brandon Haynes, Karissa Anderson & Robert Elam
2. Tweet to Senator Nadal (l-r): Amber Overton, Karissa Anderson, Karina Arango, & Robert Elam
3. Jocelyn Posos, Robert Elam; Op-Ed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch
4. (l-r) State Rep. Sharon Pace, State Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, Karissa Anderson, State Rep. Tommie L. Pierson, Sr., Derion Tabb, Jocelyn Posos, Robert Elam, Karina Arango, State Rep. Rochelle Walton Gray
5. Karissa Anderson and State Senator Joseph Keaveny

SPANNING GENERATIONS:

ScholarShop Offers Creative Funding Support

The compassionate, gifted, and beloved **Evelyn Newman** passed away this year. A pillar of the St. Louis community, Evelyn Newman established many of St. Louis' most effective fundraising ideas. Her gift of philanthropic creativity touched many organizations including The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. Through her energy, love of retail, and charitable mind, Evelyn created ScholarShop in 1960, as an upscale resale boutique designed to provide ongoing funding for The Scholarship Foundation's Interest-Free, Fee-Free Student Loan Program.



Evelyn Newman and Nancy Kalishman (2010)

Evelyn was born the same year The Scholarship Foundation was founded, 1920. She graduated from John Burroughs School and attended Goucher College and Washington University in St. Louis. She learned the industry of retail through her family's company: Edison Brothers Stores, Inc. Later, she soared in retail entrepreneurial endeavors and community development.

As founder of ScholarShop, Evelyn established the volunteer-based, donation-driven community initiative which affords families the ability to buy top quality clothing at resale prices while helping students with financial need pursue their educational goals. ScholarShop began with one store located at 7809 Forsyth in Clayton, Missouri and generated \$10,000 in sales in its first year of operation. "It's fashionable to be thrifty," was the original mantra and continues to remain so today. Now, ScholarShop has

two store locations: 8211 Clayton Road in Clayton, Missouri and 7930 Big Bend Boulevard in Webster Groves, Missouri, and a new mobile boutique-on-wheels, Miki's Closet by ScholarShop. In 2014, ScholarShop generated \$3 million in sales.

Because of Evelyn Newman's keen understanding of philanthropy and community development, she knew ScholarShop would succeed and grow if it remained fundamental to its purpose. As noted in The Scholarship Foundation's 1961 Annual Report, "...the real success of ScholarShop, and its growing ability to provide more and more scholarships, will result from the continued support of the community... in particular, the support of you, the members of The Scholarship Foundation."

Nancy Kalishman, Foundation Board President 1981-1985 and Honorary Life Director says, "She really was an innovator in fundraising. She was just amazing, constantly thinking of ways to give support to the community in an ongoing way. Her ideas were not just quick one-time events. She was a philanthropist through-and-through, providing extraordinary, sustainable, and always enthusiastic ways to fundraise. The Foundation is lucky to have benefited from one of her ideas."

The Scholarship Foundation honored Evelyn Newman with the Distinguished Humanitarian Award at its 75th anniversary celebration. Many community members, nonprofit organizations, and Foundation supporters know how pivotal she was to the Foundation's growth. In addition, the Foundation is grateful for the years of generous financial support from **Evelyn** and her husband, **Eric Newman**.



Dorothy Pelton (on ladder) and Evelyn Newman preparing for ScholarShop opening (1960).

ScholarShop Now Has **Miki's Closet**

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis launched its newest addition to ScholarShop's brand, **Miki's Closet by ScholarShop**, an innovative fashion boutique-on-wheels. Named in memory of businesswoman and philanthropist, **Miki Zimring**, the fashion truck is designed to extend the reach of ScholarShop, which has served the St. Louis community since 1960.

With Miki's Closet by ScholarShop, the Foundation is on the cutting edge of a new retail trend—fashion trucks. There are only a few nonprofit upscale resale fashion trucks in the entire country. Miki's Closet by ScholarShop has appeared at Beyond Housing's Food Truck Round Up, Corporate Hill Campus affiliated with Sangita Partners, Cottleville/Weldon Spring Chamber of Commerce Food Truck Frolic & Movie Night, The St. Louis World's Fare Heritage Festival, St. Louis Vintage Market Days, Chain of Rocks Community Association Oktoberfest, as well as private bookings and ScholarShop events.

From the generous donations of the **Zimring Family**, Miki's Closet by ScholarShop came to fruition, debuting at a launch event on May 14, 2015 at The Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis. The concept of Miki's Closet by ScholarShop was created by Miki's daughters, **Lori Sale** and **Fran Slutsky**, when the beloved Miki Zimring passed away. Fran and Lori reflect on their mother's legacy saying:

"We have such great memories of her actual closet. When we were young, she let us 'clean' her closet and hang out there as she'd pull things down and say: 'Do you want this?' She literally wanted to give us the clothes off her back. That's who she was. Always taking care of us and watching our backs. Now that Miki's Closet is created, we hope to enable others to have the education that they dream of, having hope for their future, and feeling our mother's presence watching their backs too."



Since its debut, the fashion truck has appeared in *ALIVE Magazine*, *Fox 2 Now*, *The Jewish Light*, *Ladue News Magazine*, *St. Louis Magazine*, *The St. Louis Post Dispatch Fashion Calendar*, and the *West End Word*. In addition, The Scholarship Foundation is collaborating this fall with a project team of students from Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School to develop a strategic business plan for this new initiative.

Miki's Closet by ScholarShop sells upscale men's and women's apparel, jewelry, and accessories that have been carefully selected from the annual donations of more than 8,000 households and businesses in the St. Louis region. One hundred percent of the proceeds from Miki's Closet by ScholarShop will support interest-free loans and grants to low-income students through The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

To book an event with Miki's Closet by ScholarShop, visit scholarshopstl.org/fashion-truck or contact ScholarShop at 314-725-3456.

(l-r): Alex Sale, Adam Slutsky, Danielle Frissell, Dr. Scott Sale, Randy Zimring, Muriel Zimring, Lori Sale, Morrie Zimring, Fran Slutsky, Dennis Slutsky, Andrew Slutsky, Jordan Sale, Megan Zimring, Haley Ariel Lesavoy, and Joseph Zimring

Four Strong Years: From Beginning to Now

This marks the fourth year that **Equifax** and The Scholarship Foundation's collaborative partnership has provided paid community internship opportunities for Foundation students. At its inception in 2012, the program supported just four interns, but this year 11 students have been placed in nonprofit agencies. Not only has the program grown in size, but also in geographic impact. Originally, students worked with various agencies in the Old North St. Louis neighborhood, but the program has grown quickly as the philanthropic impact of Equifax and work of The Scholarship Foundation continues to involve more nonprofit organizations throughout the St. Louis Region. In future years, the Foundation hopes to build on its support from other corporations so that more students and community agencies will benefit from the **Community Internship Program**.



Hanleigh Shepard

Hanleigh Shepard is a Webster Groves alumna currently studying at the University of Dayton. This summer Hanleigh developed her marketing skills through her internship with **Central Print**. Hanleigh worked on website development and created promotional materials, including a video, for the nonprofit organization. She also learned public relations skills by promoting the nonprofit's one-year anniversary, and worked on a social media plan that will help guide the organization's digital strategy.



Kia Davis

Kia Davis is a Bayless High School graduate currently studying at the University of Missouri with plans to attend graduate school for health administration. Kia interned with **Southside Early Childhood Center** over the summer to gain skills in healthcare and health communications. At her internship, Kia created family and parent resource materials including a community resource guide to help families navigate local public services. She also assisted with coordinating her organization's health fair, gaining the highest attendance of all health fairs for the organization.



Jacob Masek

Jacob Masek, a Pattonville High School graduate currently studying at Truman State University, enhanced his communication skills during his internship. Over the summer, Jacob interned at **Ready by 21 St. Louis** and worked on the organization's communication initiatives. Jacob helped develop the Ready by 21 website by taking on the challenge of researching platforms that were both affordable and easy to use. He also helped establish the organization's first true online presence, in addition to supporting the organization's administration.



Karina Arango

Karina Arango, an alumna of Ritenour High School and Fontbonne University, interned at the **St. Louis Graduates High School to College Center** this summer. During her internship, Karina enhanced her communication research skills by writing an in-depth case study about "summer melt," an occurrence that happens between high school graduation and the beginning of college when many enrolled students do not make it to campus on the first day of class. For the case study, Karina interviewed students and families and organized data into an electronic document for easy accessibility.





MJ Gewalt and Desiree Blue

MJ Gewalt and Desiree Blue both interned with **Prosperity Connection** over the summer. MJ worked on fundraising events and created content for the organization's blog. She also helped plan fundraising events and a gala for the organization. Desiree created and implemented social media marketing plans while working on website updates. In addition, she assisted with outreach initiatives for the organization.

MJ is a Visitation Academy alumna currently studying at Denison University. Desiree graduated from Tower Grove Christian School and attends the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



Hanna Knigge

Hanna Knigge, an Affton High School and Drury University alumna, interned at **Rebuilding Together-St. Louis** this summer. In her internship, Hanna coordinated the organization's annual Trivia Night—gaining work skills in fundraising and development. For her Trivia Night project, Hanna worked to acquire silent auction donations from local businesses and created the Trivia Night questions. She also made home visits to some of the organization's homeowners and helped the organization find deeds to homes.



Davontae Anderson

Davontae Anderson is a Gateway STEM High School graduate who is studying marketing at the University of Missouri with a minor in communication. Over the summer, Davontae gained hands-on work experience as **The Scholarship Foundation's** social media intern. Davontae learned micro-targeting strategies using online platforms, created social media content, and analyzed data for **ScholarShop's** social media sites. His internship provided experience using some of the leading marketing strategies for social media brand awareness.



Alnita Smiley and LaTwuanna Troupe

This fall Alnita Smiley and LaTwuanna Troupe are gaining work skills at **Prosperity Connection**. In their internships, they are researching financial banking and financial aid literacy materials from Prosperity Connection and **The Scholarship Foundation** to create a curriculum that educates the community about personal and educational financial programs, services, and potential challenges. Alnita is researching literature concerning personal checking and savings accounts, budgets, credit and identity theft, and predatory lending. LaTwuanna is researching literature on college acceptance letters, financial aid letters, barriers in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how to fill the gap between financial aid awards and tuition, and student work-study programs. The curriculum will be delivered by Equifax volunteers as an outreach initiative to increase financial literacy.

Alnita is a Roosevelt High School and Fontbonne University alumna currently pursuing her master's degree in social work from Saint Louis University. LaTwuanna is a Clyde C. Miller Career Academy and University of Missouri-St. Louis alumna.



Amber Overton

Amber Overton is interning this fall at **Vernare Learning Center** while taking classes toward her master's in social work from Washington University. At her internship, Amber is working on assessing targeted zip-code segments of the St. Louis region to inform the structure and curriculum of Vernare's Parent University, a series of parenting education classes for parents of young children. Part of her data collection is to identify evidence-based practices and provide recommendations for improvement in family and student recruitment. In addition, Amber works on outreach activities and events to recruit families for Parent University and Vernare School.



Scholarship Fund Launched to Support Normandy High School Graduates



“Supporting and helping to start the scholarship fund for Normandy is another way of giving back. I believe the community is excited about being a part of this.”

–Jermaine Jackson

Normandy alumni and area residents are collaborating with The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis to launch a scholarship initiative for graduates of Normandy High School. The **Normandy High School Scholarship Fund** will provide scholarships for up to four graduating seniors beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year. The Scholarship Foundation views the Normandy High School Scholarship Fund as a way for the entire region to rally around Normandy students.

For **Jermaine Jackson**, the new scholarship effort is a way of starting a new chapter for Normandy High School. *“I graduated from Normandy 25 years ago. I’ve served my country as a Master Sergeant in the United States Army and believe that it is time for me to serve St. Louis in some small way. Supporting and helping to start the scholarship fund for Normandy is another way of giving back. I believe the community is excited about being a part of this.”*

Devin Tucker, a fellow classmate, agrees. Tucker, who attended Saint Louis University and completed graduate school studies at Harvard University, now works as an executive at a Washington DC-based nonprofit organization. He sees the scholarship fund as a way to make an important economic investment in the school’s future and celebrate the success of its students. *“It’s just been really hard to watch the saga involving Normandy. There are so many accomplished graduates from the school in St. Louis and across the country. We’ve got to get this right for the sake of the greater St. Louis community and ultimately the young people attending the school.”* Recent media depictions about students in the district, particularly in the high school, attracted alumni attention and inspired this fundraising effort.

Fund organizers are encouraging public support of the Normandy High School Scholarship Fund through earmarked donations to The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. To donate, visit sfstl.org/donate/annual-campaign-donation or contact the Foundation at 314-725-7990.

New Designated Scholar Loans

Designated Scholar Loans (DSLs) offer donors a unique opportunity to honor or remember loved ones in perpetuity by helping current students. As of October 1, The Scholarship Foundation increased its DSLs to **280**, representing the stories of those honored or remembered. DSLs are established with contributions of \$30,000 or more, which may be paid in one lump sum or pledged and paid over five years. Additional information on establishing a DSL can be obtained by contacting Faith Sandler at 314-725-7990.

In addition to those featured in this section, the following new DSLs have been established recently:

- **Jean Agatstein and Les Loewe DSL**, by Jean Agatstein and Les Loewe
- The third **Marian D. Auer DSL**, by Dr. Arthur I. Auer for a student studying medicine or health-related fields
- The second **Joan and Marcus Sessel DSL**, by Joan and Marcus Sessel
- **Linda Dubinsky Skrainka DSL**, in loving memory by Stephen Skrainka
- **Marilyn Werner DSL**, in loving memory by Joan and Marcus Sessel
- **Daisy Wilson DSL**, in loving memory by Pat Cox and Graham Colditz

Gloria and Rubin Feldman Family DSL

Gloria Feldman has established five DSLs since 2006 in recognition of the impact a scholarship had on her husband's college education. She claims she is a "selfish" giver because she gains so much when making her gifts to those who otherwise would not have access to a college education. Her preference is for the funds to be directed to an engineering student because her husband was an engineer.

Kipnis/Rothman DSL

Lynne Kipnis and Steve Rothman have created a new DSL to support students studying behavioral science or one of the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering or mathematics). Lynne and Steve have been involved for many years with The Scholarship Foundation. Lynne served on the board followed by a tenure as Foundation President from 2003-2006. She still actively serves as an Honorary Life Director. With their extended family they created the Paula and David Kipnis DSL honoring Lynne's parents who were also longtime friends of the Foundation.

Joy and Jerome Sandweiss DSL

Joy Sandweiss has been involved with The Scholarship Foundation for many years through her board service and generous donations. She and her late husband, Jerry, who passed away in 2013, began making gifts in 1972. Joy served on the Foundation board from 1986-1992. In 1998, Joy and Jerry created their first DSL. In 2013, Joy established the second DSL as a vote of confidence in the work of the Foundation.

Heidemann Family Designated Scholar Loan

Amanda Heidemann was thrilled when her father found that The Scholarship Foundation could help her pay for medical school in 1995. Amanda had aspired to be a doctor since the age of four. After graduating from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1999 with an emphasis in family medicine, Amanda fulfilled her residency requirements and began practicing medicine. She initially returned to her hometown of Florissant, Missouri and was in private practice for five years. Most recently, Amanda has been working with a software company that develops electronic health records, spending equal parts of her time on product design and working with clients to integrate the product into practice. She also practices urgent care medicine in St. Louis.

Education has always been important in Amanda's family. Amanda says, "The loan I received from The Scholarship Foundation served as the catalyst for my career. I repaid my loan early because I wanted others to benefit sooner. Then, I started donating to the Foundation. I've been thinking about giving back in a more significant way for several years, and finally decided to make it a gift to my parents for their support of my education." With her brother, **Craig**, Amanda established the **Heidemann Family Designated Scholar Loan**, which will support a



Harvey and Marilyn Heidemann

student studying education, law, or medicine, fields dear to the family. Amanda's mother, **Marilynn**, is a retired teacher and principal, her father, **Harvey**, is a retired electrician, and her brother is a litigating attorney in Springfield, Missouri.

Amanda says her family has been supporting Scholarship Foundation students for years, "We're on our fourth generation of donors and shoppers and will continue to spread the word to students who could benefit. We all believe in the mission."

Janice and Stanley Gitt Designated Scholar Loan

Foundation Board Treasurer **Patty Malashock** and her husband **Larry** decided to extend her family's dedication to The Scholarship Foundation by creating the **Janice and Stanley Gitt Designated Scholar Loan (DSL)** in honor of her mother and father. Patty has served on the board since 2012, and is also currently serving as the Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee. With the rising cost of tuition, Patty created this DSL opportunity to assist students who have financial need.



Janice and Stanley Gitt (2007)

Since 1972, the Gitt family has supported the Foundation in a variety of ways. In addition to financial support, Janice volunteered in ScholarShop as Treasurer and served on the Foundation board (1977 to 1990). In 1982, Janice and Stanley Gitt created the **Sylvia and Jason Kawin DSL** in memory of Janice's parents.

The Kawin DSL has helped 11 students persist through postsecondary education to pursue their careers. One student, **Stuart Portman**, was the Jason and Sylvia Kawin Designated Scholar from 2009 to 2013. Upon hearing of Stanley Gitt's death in June 2015, Stuart contacted the Foundation to relay his condolences to the family. Stuart recounts that funding from The Scholarship Foundation filled the financial gap allowing him to attend the University of Denver, where he studied biology and political science.

Stuart's goal was to be a doctor who could influence health policy, specifically Medicaid and vulnerable populations. When Stuart came to The Scholarship Foundation seeking assistance for his postsecondary education, he was unaware of the Designated Scholar Loan Program and the opportunities that would follow. The DSL Program did not just provide him with the financial assistance he needed to attend school, it also allowed him to build a relationship with his financial supporters.

"When I started sending my letters to Mr. Gitt, I was amazed at how much he and his wife cared about my schooling," says Stuart. "They were so nice and thoughtful. Mr. Gitt was very warm, very friendly, and caring."

The Sylvia and Jason Kawin DSL supported Stuart as an undergraduate student, yet his educational journey continued through earning his Master of Public Health degree specializing in Health Policy from George Washington University in June 2015. He is currently Healthcare Legislative Correspondent for Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah.

Continued support from the Gitt and Malashock families is truly opening doors to educational opportunities, as the recently selected twelfth Kawin student and first Gitt student can attest. The families' dedication to generously invest in students through the DSL program will continue to make a difference to students for years to come.



"I was amazed at how much Mr. Gitt and his wife cared about my schooling."

–Stuart Portman

Helen and Carl Pratter

Designated Scholar Loan

Carl Pratter was eight years old in 1922 when his family emigrated from Ukraine to the United States. Family lore is that “Pratter” was the name his family was given at Ellis Island, as they would not be allowed into this country with their original last name. His future wife, **Helen**, immigrated with her family to the U.S. from Poland as a child, also in 1922. She and her sisters selected new first names, and the family’s last name was changed at Ellis Island. While Helen’s only brother, Sid, was born in the US, and attended college under the GI bill, Helen was the only one of the six sisters to attend college. Her college education was made possible through a \$500 per year scholarship from the Jewish Federation of Buffalo, New York.

Helen earned her college degree in European History at the University of Buffalo. She always wanted to earn a Ph.D. and teach in a university. Instead she became a high school history teacher in the Buffalo public schools to help support her family. Carl wanted to go to medical school but chose pharmacy because it required fewer years of study and less tuition. When Carl became a pharmacist, he opened his own drug store on the east side of Buffalo. This entire neighborhood was demolished in the 1950s. He relocated his business to the suburbs and developed a number of other drug stores outside the city.

Helen and Carl’s son, **S. Jerome “Jerry” Pratter**, a longtime friend of The Scholarship Foundation, created the **Helen and Carl Pratter Designated Scholar Loan (DSL)** in memory of his parents and “to enable others to have the opportunity his mother had.” This new DSL is for a recent immigrant student to honor Carl and Helen’s shared belief in the value of education. Jerry says, *“Only two of my grandparents spoke English. My mother and each of her siblings who emigrated from Poland gave their first child born in this country a first name beginning with ‘S’ to honor Uncle Sol, the man who sponsored the family’s immigration to the U.S. He was a family hero.”*

Education has played a very important role in the Pratter family’s lives. As a young man, Carl helped put his younger sibling through school. Jerry and his brother, **Robert**, earned college degrees at Harvard and Yale and law degrees from Michigan and Penn, respectively. Jerry also holds a master’s degree in urban law and planning from Washington University



Helen and Carl Pratter (1955)

in St. Louis. In 1968, he co-founded Team Four, an urban design and planning firm in St. Louis that worked with a number of communities and developers throughout the country. He retired six years ago after a subsequent career as an attorney specializing in real estate and issues related to urban design and city planning matters. He also served as counsel in the formation of several St. Louis nonprofit organizations, including Beyond Housing and Forest Park Forever; and was an Adjunct Professor in the School of Architecture at Washington University for more than 25 years.

One of Jerry’s long-time clients was The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. He represented the Foundation in the expansion of its facilities on Clayton Road in the late 1990s, and in its initial location of ScholarShop-Webster Groves. In addition to many professional publications he has written about urban design and development, Jerry is currently writing a memoir about his family, growing up in Buffalo in the 1940s and 50s, and his career as a lawyer and planner.

Designated Scholar Loan Get Together

The **Designated Scholar Loan Program** (DSL) was created in 1982 as a way to build relationships between students and donors. When establishing a DSL, a donor has chosen to honor or remember a loved one while creating opportunity for students to pursue higher education. Relationship building is the key to the continuing success of the DSL Program and in July a small group of donors and students had the opportunity to meet at The Gatesworth. Current and former board members, DSL donors, current and former students, and parents of one student joined together for an evening of conversation, connecting, and sharing. The Foundation is grateful to **Bob Leonard**, Director of Operations at The Gatesworth and former Scholarship Foundation student, for making this evening possible.

Donors present were **Peggy Ross, Marilyn Shampaine, Jean Agatstein, Barbara and Ed Shifrin, Joan and Marcus Sessel, and Doris Kohn**. Former students present were **Lisa Thorp** (also a current Scholarship Foundation board member), **Phoung Nguyen**, and **Byron Goodrich**. Current students included **Aaron Arnold** and **Hanna Knigge**. Also present were **Lisa and Tim Dwyer**, parents of current student **Dan Dwyer**.



1. (l-r) Aaron Arnold, Hanna Knigge, Lisa Thorp, Phoung Nguyen & Byron Goodrich

2. (l-r) Lisa Thorp & Jean Agatstein

3. (l-r) Marilyn Shampaine, Phoung Nguyen & Peggy Ross

4. (l-r) Aaron Arnold, Joan and Marcus Sessel & Lisa and Tim Dwyer, parents of Dan Dwyer

5. (l-r) Ed Shifrin, Byron Goodrich & Barbara Shifrin

6. (l-r) Doris Kohn & Hanna Knigge



Rose and Benjamin Schermer Designated Scholar Loan

Sid Goldstein, a current Scholarship Foundation board member, established the **Rose and Benjamin Schermer Designated Scholar Loan** for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students in memory of his maternal grandparents. Sid and his wife, **Laura Kipnis**, have been financial and merchandise donors of the Scholarship Foundation for twenty years. In addition to annual gifts, Sid has chosen to make generous contributions through the DSL program including the **Paula and David Kipnis DSL**, the **Ruth and Bud Goldstein DSL**, and the **Chip Wolkowitz Goldstein DSL**.

The Scholarship Foundation's history of assisting immigrant students and its recent expansion of criteria to include DACA students aligns well with the background of Sid's grandfather, Benjamin Schermer. "Ben" was born in Hungary in 1882 and immigrated to Dixon, IL when he was 18 years old. Ben and Rose (who was born in Scranton, PA) were married in 1913 then moved to Granite City, IL where they raised their three children.

According to Sid, his grandfather was a successful business owner, a leader in the community, and a quiet philanthropist. He started in the grocery business and decided to open a hardware store that he operated until his death in 1952. Ben served as President of the Merchant Association, director of the Chamber of Commerce, and leader

of the Association of Realtors. In the 1920s, he co-sponsored a low-cost housing development and assisted in the settlement of newly arrived immigrants. He also helped raise funds to build the local YMCA and organized the Cahokia Mounds Boy Scout Council.

Upon his death, Rose assumed management of **Ben Schermer Hardware** and expanded to a second location in Pontoon Beach, IL. In fact, Sid fondly remembers his first job as a twelve year old working at his grandparents' store for 25 cents per hour! When Rose moved to St. Louis after Ben's death, she commuted by car with other store owners every day for many years. Rose passed away when she was in her late 90s, more than forty years after the death of her husband.



Rose and Benjamin Schermer (circa 1930)

New Foundation Officers and Board Members

A new slate of officers and several new board members began service in June. **Barbara "Barb" A. Touchette** is the new President and **Hardy Washington, Jr.** is the Foundation's new Vice-President/External Relations. **Patty Malashock** is the new Board Treasurer and **Lisa K. Thorp** is the new Member-at-Large. They join **Kathianne Knaup Crane** (Vice-President/Program) and **Kathy Day** (Secretary).

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Gellman currently leads The Gellman Team, a Coldwell Banker Affiliate. Mark began his career as a CPA, later became an internet retail entrepreneur, and has been in real estate since 2007. He received a Scholarship Foundation interest-free loan to attend Indiana University, where he graduated with a degree in business in 1992.



Colin Meadows is Vice President, Global Occupier Services, with DTZ Americas. His work involves the development and implementation of strategies and processes to manage the commercial real estate portfolios of Fortune 100 clients. Colin received his bachelor's in operations management and marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in 2005.

Jennifer Haynes served on the board from 2006-2012, and rejoined the board in 2015. She is Assistant Counsel and Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, a position she assumed in 2012 after eight years in private practice at Lashly & Baer. She has also served as adjunct professor at Washington University's School of Law. Her B.A. and J.D. are both from Washington University.



Susan Plassmeyer is currently Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni and Development at Washington University in St. Louis. Susan grew up in rural Missouri, graduating from a high school in which just 25% of the students went on to further their education. She is a graduate of Truman State University and has her MBA from University of Chicago.

Sandy Nelson Marsh spent much of her professional career teaching English at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Sandy has served on the University City Board of Education and helped develop the University City Education Foundation. Her bachelor's and master's degrees in English Literature are both from Creighton University.



2015 Board Members

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Kathianne Knaup Crane,
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Hardy Washington, Jr., Vice-President
Patty Malashock, Treasurer
Kathleen A. Day, Secretary
Lisa K. Thorp, Member-at-Large

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Our MISSION & VISION

THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF ST. LOUIS, a nonprofit organization founded in 1920, is based upon the conviction that an educated citizenry is essential to a healthy democracy. The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis sees education as a catalyst, an agent of change for individuals, families, communities, and nations. The Foundation envisions a community that truly recognizes the importance of educational attainment and assures that positive educational outcomes are accessible to all regardless of economic circumstance. This is a community in which doors will not be closed to those who lack financial resources, and postsecondary education will be available to all with the potential to succeed.

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