Opening summer 2021 Scholarship Foundation



Former Students Give Back

Throughout The Scholarship Foundation's history, former students have donated to support the Foundation's programs. Graduates who benefit from the Foundation's awards often want to pay it forward by giving other students the same opportunities they enjoyed to pursue their dream jobs, improve their communities, and ease the financial pressure on their families. Some students, like **Dillon Fisher** (BA, anticipated 2022), tell the Foundation about their intentions while they are still in school. Dillon says, "I am beyond thankful every day, and hopefully one day I will be able to return this opportunity to another deserving student." Other graduates quietly work to build their careers and give their first donation to the Foundation many years after they graduate.

Giving by former Scholarship Foundation students has increased since the beginning of 2020, with the number of former students who made a donation for the first time last year increasing by 5% over 2019. Former students who were already donors to the Foundation also stepped forward to help students in need by increasing the cumulative amount they gave by 29%. Such gifts are deeply meaningful as confirmation that the former students valued the support the Foundation provided them when they were in school and that they remain confident in the Foundation's support of today's students.

Former students who have become donors often cite their appreciation for the help the Foundation gave them in their time of need as their reason for giving back now. Countess Price (BA, 1983; JD, 1993), who works as assistant general counsel at Bayer, donates because she is grateful to the Foundation. She says it "helped me out when I was a struggling student" and now that she is able, she wants to give back.

When he was in high school, John Milonas (BS, 1988; MBA, 1992) knew that he would be responsible for paying for his own education. "There's a lot of stress to that," he says. While in college, he was always aware that another tuition bill was around the corner, and he says that it was a "nice safety net" to know that the Foundation was there. John, now in real estate, and his husband recently made a commitment to be more philanthropic, and they wanted to make the kind of difference for today's students that John felt when he was awarded an interest-free loan.



For many years, the Foundation had a policy of destroying records once a loan was fully repaid. As a result, many former students are only discovered when they identify themselves. Below are donors who have made a first gift between October 1, 2019-May 31, 2021 and have self-identified as former Foundation students. If you are a former student, we would love to hear from you! Please tell us what you have been doing and how your education impacted your life. Please contact us at gift@sfstl.org or 314-725-7990.



Amanda Heidemann (BA, 1995; MD, 1999), a physician, remembers her father researching financial aid and discovering The Scholarship Foundation. Amanda was pursuing a medical degree and already had a large amount of private loans. The interest-free loans she received from the Foundation were a big relief to her and allowed her to choose a specialty in family medicine, which she is passionate about, but which has lower compensation than other specialties. She remembers how her parents were supportive of her education in every way, and with her brother Craig she established the Heidemann Family Designated Scholar Loan in their honor.

Former students who are first-time donors

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(top) Amanda Heidemann (far right) with her internship class at St. John's Mercy Medical Center

(above) John Milonas during his college years

Perseverance Pays Off: Congratulations to the Class of 2021!



"I'm proud of completing the nursing program while raising my boys and showing them that you can do whatever you want. It takes hard work and dedication, but...go for it! Do it!"

Asia Ward—AAS-Nursing, St. Louis Community College



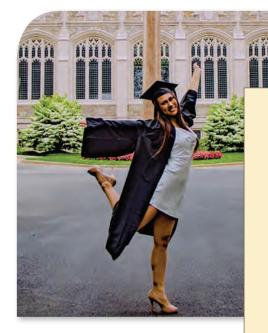
"The advice and guidance provided by the Foundation will stick with me forever. I hope to be able to give back and make a positive impact on my community."

Kennedi Harmon—BA-Strategic Communications/ Pre-Law Track, Hampton University

"Thinking of The Scholarship Foundation brings tears to my eyes. Thank you for helping this first-generation college student navigate and afford a college education."

Lindsey Grossheim—BA/MA-Philosophy and Honors College certificate, University of Missouri-St. Louis





"I am so proud of all of the courses I've completed, performances I've done, and all of the incredible people I was able to meet. Through the generosity of The Scholarship Foundation, I was able to study abroad in Australia, meet my best friends, and earn a degree from the college of my dreams."

Meilin Fields—BA-Psychology & Theatre (double major), Boston College



"As cheesy as it sounds, I am most proud of the fact that despite all the challenges and trials I stayed the course and accomplished this amazing goal. The road may be tough but with the right support, anything is possible."

> Darion Williams—BA-History (with teaching certification), Fontbonne University



"As a first generation student, this huge achievement wasn't just for me but for my community." Vivian Garcia Cruz—BSW, Fontbonne University

Expanding Horizons: Marti Hughes and Jill Hill Designated Scholar Loan

The Marti Hughes and Jill Hill Designated Scholar Loan (DSL) was

established through a bequest by Martha "Marti" Hughes. Marti was a member of the Board of Directors of The Scholarship Foundation from 1994 until 2000. She strongly believed in promoting education as a way for people, especially women, to overcome disadvantages and build better lives.



Jill Hill (left) and Marti Hughes (right)

Jill's nieces, **Robyn Hearty** and **Sharon Westerholm**, considered Marti an adopted aunt. Sharon tells stories of how Jill and Marti expanded their nieces' horizons in every way, from the mundane of spurring them to try new vegetables to the important work of broadening their world view and encouraging them to be more accepting of others. Sharon remembers how her aunts "*acted as the family*'s *conscience*" and inspired them all to be better people.

Sharon explains that Jill and Marti were proponents of social justice long before the term was coined. Their love for people was evident in the community they built wherever they went and the many 70-yearlong friendships they had.

Marti and Jill were born in the 1920s and forged their own paths, though single women were not encouraged to be independent at the time. Both earned their Master of Social Work degrees and enjoyed long careers contributing to human service and community. They worked together at YWCA Metro St. Louis, and Jill worked in the department of social work at Washington University. Marti was proud to have become the first female senior vice president of the United Way of St. Louis before her retirement.

Their niece, Sharon, remembers how Jill and Marti "acted as the family's conscience"



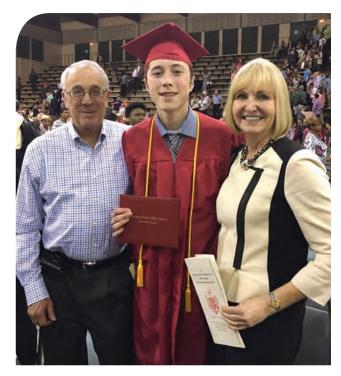
and inspired them all to be better people.

The Marti Hughes and Jill Hill DSL will be awarded to an art student, preferably to one pursuing a 4-year degree focusing on watercolor or photography. Marti was an excellent photographer and enjoyed compiling slide shows of the photos she took during their travels. Jill was also a gifted artist who worked in watercolors and ink.

Marti Hughes (left) and Jill Hill (right) on a visit to family

Remembering a Generous Spirit: The Lucas Bernard Shanker Designated Scholar Loan

The Lucas Bernard Shanker Designated Scholar Loan (DSL) was established in 2019 in memory of Lucas Shanker by his grandparents, **Dr. Benjamin** and **Linda Goldstein**; his parents, **Dr. Michael Shanker** and **Karen Shanker**; and his siblings, **Eva** and **Jackson**.



Lucas Shanker at his high school graduation with his grandparents, Dr. Benjamin and Linda Goldstein

This DSL remembers a very special individual. Lucas graduated summa cum laude from Parkway Central High School. In his two years at Purdue University, Lucas excelled as a student majoring in computer engineering and mathematics and even took graduate level courses. Lucas passed away in his sophomore year at Purdue University in 2018 at the age of 19 from injuries resulting from a biking accident. In addition to his incredible intellect, Lucas was kind and showed genuine concern for others. His family feels that establishing a DSL in his name is a fitting way to remember his generous spirit.

An outdoor and sports enthusiast, Lucas was active in the running club and outdoors club at Purdue. He enjoyed hiking, biking, kayaking, and camping. He was also a gifted cellist and pianist. One summer, he was hired to play in an orchestra with professional musicians and performed at numerous venues around the St. Louis area. To mirror his interests, the DSL supports students studying computer science, mathematics, or music.

Linda and Ben Goldstein had the opportunity recently to connect with the first Lucas Bernard Shanker Scholar and are thankful for such a great



The Lucas Bernard Shanker Designated Scholar Loan extends his legacy by enriching the lives of others through providing educational opportunities to students with financial need.

match to Lucas' interests and academic pursuits. The student is majoring in computer science and will graduate with honors with both a bachelor's and graduate degree. She is also an avid runner. With such common interests, the Goldsteins believe she is a perfect match as the first DSL recipient.

Linda Goldstein was President of the Board of Directors of The Scholarship Foundation from 1995-1998. She is devoted to public service, having served as alderman and past mayor of Clayton, Missouri. Linda and Benjamin, an internal medicine physician with BJC HealthCare, both value education and view it as important to society. Linda was first introduced to The Scholarship Foundation from a friend after moving to St. Louis from Chicago. She saw it as a wonderful organization and a way to get involved in the community.

Lucas hiking with his mother, Karen Shanker

Lucas' father, Michael, is a child psychiatrist and was awarded an interest-free loan by the Foundation when he was in college. Karen Shanker, Lucas' mother, is a board-certified acute care pediatric and family nurse practitioner. Both Eva and Jackson, Lucas' siblings, are college students.

This is the second DSL set up by the Goldstein family. The first was established in honor of the family by Benjamin's parents, Sara and Joseph Goldstein.

Lucas' memory lives on in his parents, siblings, and grandparents. This DSL extends his legacy by enriching the lives of others through providing educational opportunities to students with financial need.

Current and Former Board Members Establish the Civil Society Designated Scholar Loan in Memory of Two Champions of Democracy

Current and former Scholarship Foundation board members have worked together to create the **Civil Society Designated Scholar Loan (DSL)** in memory of U.S. Representative John Lewis and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Board Secretary Robert Schmalz says, "I cannot think of two individuals whose lives are more closely aligned with our mission than Representative Lewis and Justice Ginsburg. They have modeled scholarship, engagement, footwork, and persistence to a just cause, all abiding principles of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and our work as board members."

In keeping with the founding principles of The Scholarship Foundation, the Civil Society DSL honors Representative Lewis and Justice Ginsburg's commitment to civil discourse, justice, and equity. These two champions of democracy understood the importance of education in sustaining civil society, and so do those who serve on the board of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

> (left) Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (right) U.S. Representative John Lewis



A Life that Was Always Learning: Joan Ann Sessel Designated Scholar Loan

The **Joan Ann Sessel Designated Scholar Loan** has been established in her memory by one of her granddaughters (who wishes to remain unnamed). When Joan passed away of Alzheimer's in 2020, the fund was created in memory of *"a life that was always learning."* Joan's granddaughter remembers how her *"teacher's heart"* was evident in everything that she did. The DSL will be open to students pursuing any major.



any major.

Joan graduated from Washington University in 1956 with a degree in education. Her education was meaningful, and she wanted to share the experience of achieving a college education with others. Joan and her husband, Marcus, made sure their grandchildren all had the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education, and Joan told her seven granddaughters that they should not let anything discourage them from pursuing their dreams. Joan's granddaughter felt that the best way to honor her memory would be to extend that same opportunity and encouragement to others.

Joan and Marcus have been great proponents of the Designated Scholar Loan Program over the years. Marcus' mother introduced them to the Foundation and created the **Catherine Sessel Reydon DSL** for six students. Subsequently, Joan and Marcus established the **Joan and Marcus Sessel DSL** for six students, as well as numerous DSLs to honor the memory of close friends. Joan always enjoyed hearing from the students who were awarded interest-free loans through these DSLs. Reading of their successes and accomplishments through their letters and even occasionally meeting them in person gave her great joy.

Joan remained deeply committed to education throughout her life, serving nine years on the Clayton Board of Education. She also volunteered at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado during the summer for 25 years, sharing her love of the natural world with park visitors. Joan Sessel and one of her granddaughters celebrate college graduation day.

Thank You for Opening Doors for Area Students Tributes in Memory of

September 1, 2019–May 31, 2021

Indicates a donation of \$50 or more

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Evelyn B. Goldberg

Evelyn B. Goldberg was a long-time supporter and volunteer for The Scholarship Foundation. Evelyn was proud to be known as wife of the late **Harold Goldberg** and mother of former Foundation staff member **Martha Aronson** and **Miriam Wilhelm**, CPA.

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Carolyn A. Beimdiek

Carolyn A. Beimdiek served on The Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors from 1993-2002. Her many contributions in support of education, literacy, and learning were felt throughout the community and will be deeply missed.





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Sylvia Zveitel Beverly Abrams*

* Deceased

Peggy G. Ross

Peggy G. Ross chaired the 75th anniversary gala of The Scholarship Foundation in 1995 and co-chaired the Foundation's capital campaign from 1998-2000. She served on the Board of Directors from 1996-2007 and remained a lifelong champion of the Foundation.



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James C. Romeis

James C. Romeis was an ardent supporter of The Scholarship Foundation and husband of Dana Romeis, who has served on the Board of Directors since 2014. Jim and Dana first became introduced to the Foundation in 2010 when they created the **James Joshua Romeis Designated Scholar Loan** in memory of their late son, and their contributions since have been countless.

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Jane A. Eiseman

Jane A. Eiseman served on The Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors from 1975-1990. She stayed active in the organization by regularly attending former board member gatherings and was excited about the Foundation's advising and advocacy work.



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New Interest-Free Loan Repayment Policy Advances Equity

The Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors has made an historic policy change to more closely align the Foundation's interest-free loan repayment policy with its commitment to economic and racial equity.

For as long as anyone can remember, all Scholarship Foundation repayment plans have been scheduled over 60 months, following a 12-month grace period after graduation. Recently, this timeframe has become more difficult for many borrowers due to stagnant wage growth and the increase in total loans needed to meet the rising cost of higher education. The new policy, which will begin with the graduating class of 2021, creates individualized repayment plans based on the borrower's anticipated earnings and total balance owed. The result will be lower monthly payments and longer total repayment periods for most borrowers. Graduates will continue to receive a one-year grace period, and all borrowers can request hardship-based deferrals or reduced payments.

The Foundation's new repayment policy change will help borrowers gain more control over their long-term financial well-being. As Program Committee Chair **Heidi Veron** stated, *"The main goal of the policy is to do right by our students."*



A group of students who were awarded interest-free loans in 2018

New Contributors

The Foundation is grateful for the following first-time gifts received through the annual giving campaign, major gifts to Designated Scholar Loans, and gifts given for student grants and special projects from September 1, 2019-May 31, 2021.

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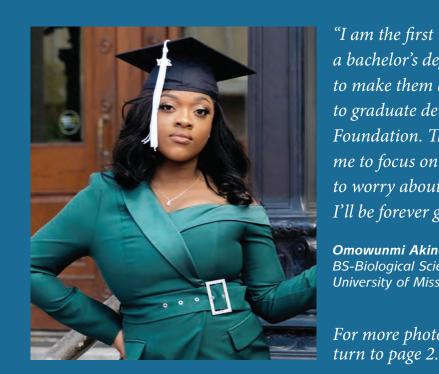
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"I am the first in my family to earn a bachelor's degree and I am happy to make them all proud. I was able to graduate debt free because of the Foundation. The Foundation allowed me to focus on school without having to worry about finances, and for that

I'll be forever grateful."

Omowunmi Akinade BS-Biological Sciences,

University of Missouri-Columbia

For more photos of 2021 graduates,

Executive Director Faith Sandler

or email info@sfstl.org.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | 6:30-7:30 pm

as they prepare to attend college.

with the potential to succeed. education will be available to all financial resources, and postsecondary be closed to those who lack a community in which doors will not of economic circumstance. This is outcomes are accessible to all regardless lanoites that positive educational of educational attainment and that truly recognizes the importance The Foundation envisions a community communities, and nations. of change for individuals, families, sees education as a catalyst, an agent The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis

understand college award letters, compare financial aid packages, and determine next steps Decision-Making: Using Award Letters to Assess Affordability will help students

• Wednesday, March 2, 2022 | 6:30-7:30 pm • Wednesday, April 27, 2022 | 6:30-7:30 pm

will be presented virtually or in person. For more information or to register, call 314-725-7990

through the end of 2021. It will be announced at a later date whether the 2022 workshops

All workshops are free and open to the public. Workshops will be presented virtually

• Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022 | 6:30-7:30 pm • Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021 | 6:30-7:30 pm private scholarships and how to compare types of aid to find the best options. Financial Aid Basics will help students learn about different sources of financial aid and

mq 05:7-05:3 | 2202 ,21 .nel ,ysbsanbaW • Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021 | 6:30-7:30 pm





FREE workshops for students and families: stson noitabnuo^A qinteralon hosts

aid process and how to navigate through potential challenges when applying. why, when, and how of the FAF3A, including the critical role it plays in the college financial FAFSA Workshop: Free Application for Federal Student Aid will teach students the what,

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