

# Scaife Scholarship

Alumni Association Inc. Newsletter



December 2014



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## President's Message

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the officers of the Scaife Scholarship Alumni Association, Inc., it is again my pleasure to wish you all Happy Holidays. I hope that this letter finds you and your family with health and happiness.

Thanks to you, members of the Alumni Association, we raised enough money to award 27 scholarships this year.

We also continued assisting the Northern California Scholarship Foundation as advisers and several alumni had the honor of returning to one of the banquets this fall.

As the banquets passed and the focus shifted to this newsletter, I had the opportunity to reflect on a continued challenge of the Alumni Association, namely the challenge of cultivating the network of Alumni Association itself and providing opportunities for the numerous alumni who ask to get involved.

I have regularly discussed with fellow alumni, the importance of not just continuing our work of providing financial assistance to 5th year and graduate students, but cultivating the relationships and involvement within the Alumni Association. The desire of many alumni to help is matched by the desire to find better ways to involve and grow the Association. We have taken some steps to encourage involvement, such as building our LinkedIn group, hosting an online poll to select our Advisor of the Year recipient, and stepping up our outreach to new graduates. However, there are many ideas waiting to

be driven forward, such as, arranging networking events, building an alumni based career mentor-ship program, and setting up an adviser program for our graduate students.

In past years I've belabored the importance of the help we provide the 5th year and alumni attending graduate school. The importance of that work is no less this year. That is one way that all of use who feel grateful for the opportunity that the NCSF gave us can help. However, there is another way we can also benefit the NCSF – we can strengthen our alumni community.

You can help the Alumni Association by simply emailing an update to [admin@ncsfalumni.org](mailto:admin@ncsfalumni.org), especially if you're contact information may be out of date. Also, if you aren't part of our LinkedIn group, which many of you are still not, then please email [admin@ncsfalumni.org](mailto:admin@ncsfalumni.org) to join. Please also, let us know if you want to get involved with the Alumni Association or are interested in becoming an adviser. We regularly recommend alumni as new advisers for NCSF recipients and many alumni find this to be a rewarding way to stay involved with the NCSF and the Alumni Association.

With your help, we can continue to not only provide the invaluable assistance to fifth year undergraduate and Alumni graduate students, but also strengthen the alumni community itself.

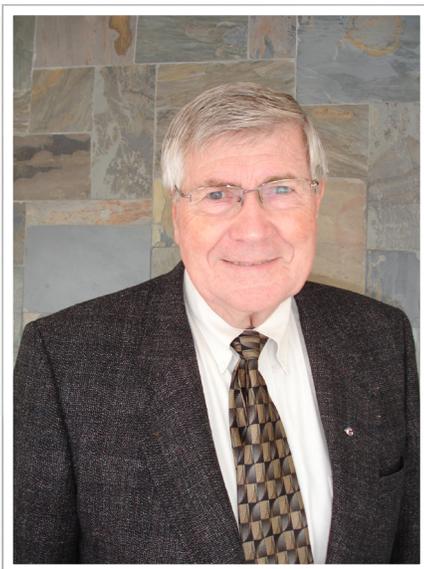
Best Wishes,  
*Nikolaus Baer*



## Summary Of 2014-2015 Awards To Fifth Year And Graduate Students

Fifth Year Aid (All \$1,000 One Year Grants)	Benjamin Recipients (All \$8,000 One Year Grants)	Non-Benjamin (Alumni) Graduate Aid (All \$1,000 Grants)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amber Bond</li> <li>2. Royce Harner</li> <li>3. Adam Jocobo</li> <li>4. Hillary Kuo</li> <li>5. Danielle Gardnes</li> <li>6. Caitlin Mitchess</li> <li>7. Rachel Nuno</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kerilyn Ambrosini</li> <li>2. Scarlett Clothier-Goldschmidt</li> <li>3. Amanda Evans</li> <li>4. Nhu Le</li> <li>5. Shane McDonough</li> <li>6. Elise Schubert</li> <li>7. Vuong Vu</li> <li>8. Megan Powers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sally Chang</li> <li>2. Zoya Derebenskiy</li> <li>3. Jordan Han</li> <li>4. David Kashevaroff</li> <li>5. Charles Lintott</li> <li>6. Hua Ni</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Joseph Park</li> <li>8. Ga Rhee</li> <li>9. Sven Sandberg</li> <li>10. Lena Sweeney</li> <li>11. Lindsey Terry</li> <li>12. Caitlin Vejby</li> </ol>

## Hans Bissinger—Advisor of the Year



It is with great pleasure that the Scaife Scholarship Alumni Association announces its 2014 Advisor of the year – Hans Bissinger.

Hans has been an active Shriner and Scottish Rite member since about 1970. During that time, he has also served as a Trustee of the Laird Educational Foundation and as a much beloved advisor to many NCSF scholars.

Hans was born in Heidelberg Germany to a family of seven. He wanted to be a chemist, and started his academic studies in Germany. In 1958, Hans immigrated to the United States and resumed his studies in chemistry at San Jose State University. He joined the U.S. Navy and was on one of the first ships deployed to Vietnam. He eventually earned a Master of Science in chemistry from Santa Clara University.

In his early career, Hans worked as a chemist with Monsanto, and then Corning Chemical. Hans became a jewelry manufacturer's representative in 1973, representing an East Coast jewelry manufacturer across the West Coast until his retirement.

Hans's smartest move came in 1967 when he married his wife of 47 years, Sharon. The couple have two children and two grandchildren.

Hans is proud to have been a founder of youth soccer teams in Alameda at a time when there was no league.

Today, one of his favorite pastimes is driving his two granddaughters to choir practice with the famous Piedmont Children's Choir.

Hans and Sharon have lived in Alameda since 1974.

## Alumni Testimonial—Mi Thich

The NCSF scholarship provided me the opportunity to enrich myself at one of the top public universities in the world. I could never have attended college given my family's financial background. My parents grew up during the Vietnam War and as a result, never received any formal education. Though my mother emigrated to Sweden and my father was a boat refugee to the U.S., my parents have worked as self-employed tailors and higher education was never a guarantee within our family.

When I first heard about NCSF, I had returned from a gap year abroad sponsored by 3 local Rotary clubs where I served as a Rotary Youth Ambassador to Taipei, Taiwan and learned Mandarin while living with three different host families. Afterwards, I had the chance to attend the University of California at Berkeley and I couldn't have attended without NCSF and other schol-

arship resources. My education at UC Berkeley has been invaluable in committing me to promote sustainable change in the world as I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts double-degree in International Development Work and Political Economy of European Affairs. The dynamic energy encompassing Berkeley has allowed me to remain passionate about creating social impact through Foreign Service, and this passion has been able to grow my whole time there due to NCSF's continued support.

Furthermore, NCSF has made me aware that there are always resources and assistance available. Since I've gone to Berkeley, I have reached out to other resources and gone on scholarship to over 50 cities in Portugal; financial aid supported me in spending a semester at Lund University in Sweden, and to enable me to conduct research on sustainable environ-

mental initiatives in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and France which were funded by work-study opportunities. In addition, I served as membership vice-president for Delta Phi Epsilon, a Foreign Service co-educational organization, where I organized campus-wide educational forums. In addition, I interned as a resettlement and placement intern at the International Rescue Committee, a global humanitarian aid and relief NGO, where my responsibilities included facilitating orientation services for displaced refugees. Last, Berkeley (and by proxy NCSF) has also enabled me to intern in Washington DC.

Now, after my graduation from Berkeley last year, I'm currently living in Europe. Since I participated in a travel study program in Freiburg last summer, I heard about and applied to a Masters degree where a student spends one semester in Freiburg, Germany,

*Continued on next page.*

## Alumni Testimonial *(continued from previous page)*

another semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina / Capetown, South Africa, a third semester in New Delhi, India / Bangkok, Thailand, and then finishes with a thesis in Germany. In April 2014, I completed my first academic semester for a Master of Social Sciences in Global Studies at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg in Germany. NCSF was central in supporting me in this pursuit. However, I left the program because I already knew specifically that I'm interested in development practice, and the program was very theoretical. My decision to pursue a Mas-

ters in Germany had been primarily driven by financial factors since the costs would be more manageable than in the States. I am hopeful of resources to help me advance my career aspirations and have the chance to enroll in a US-based Masters in Development Practice when I return.

In the meantime, I wanted to remain in Switzerland, because I'm currently working as a paralegal at a boutique tax law firm in Zurich to save up money. Afterwards, I'd like to work with the international development NGOs based in

Geneva. I've remained busy here as I've joined Rotaract to help distribute food to charity organizations, volunteered as a support and event coordinator for the Impact Hub to help entrepreneurs at social start-ups, and now I'm volunteering to help out with the Berkeley alumni scholarship foundation. I'm in contact with my mentor from NCSF and with other students who have inspired me with their own exciting experiences and I'm most grateful to be part of the NCSF community.

## Treasurer's Report

The Alumni Association is grateful for this opportunity to thank all of the individuals and businesses that have contributed to our cause, whether it was in 2014 and/or in years past. The Alumni Association awards scholarships to NCSF graduate and fifth year aid applicants. On an annual basis, the total amount awarded exceeds the contributions received, with investment income from the Alumni Association's investment portfolio funding the difference. The investment earnings also pay the Alumni Association's minimal operating expenses, which mainly consist of the costs to print and mail the newsletter.

In 2013, we received 24 contributions totaling \$14,824 and averaging \$618. As of November 16, 2014, we have received \$13,440 through 62 contributions, averaging \$217. The average contribution in 2013 was much higher than in other years, due to a contribution of \$10,000

Total contributions in 2013	\$14,824
Number of contributions in 2013	24
Total contributions in 2014 (through November 16)	\$13,440
Number of contributions in 2014	62
Investment portfolio at December 31, 2013	\$211,078
Investment portfolio at October 31, 2014	\$229,931
Investment income as of October 31, 2014	\$7,288
Investment income in 2013	\$8,751

received in January of 2013. Based upon the contributions received, we were able to provide \$19,000 of scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year.

The investment portfolio was valued at \$211,078 at December 31, 2013, up over \$31,000 from December 31, 2012. As of October 31, 2014, the investment portfolio was valued at

\$229,931. The funds continue to be invested in various securities, with a minimal amount held in cash/money market accounts.

Through October 31, 2014, the invested funds have generated about \$7,288 in interest and dividend income. The 2013 interest and dividend income totaled \$8,751.

## Connect Online

### LinkedIn Group

The Scaife Scholarship Alumni Association has continued to maintain a LinkedIn group for all alumni. The Alumni Association uses the group's page to share events and other alumni information. Alumni are also welcome to post opportunities, such as open positions, to all active members. Alumni are encouraged to leverage the group to grow their own professional networks.

How will the Scaife Scholarship Alumni Association group help you?

- The group facilitates communication with other alumni and accelerates the important process of building a professional network.
- The group serves as a central bulletin board for announcements and job opportunities from other alumni.
- The group is used to select the Advisor of the Year, so please join and vote.

### How can you join the Alumni Association LinkedIn group?

If you are interested in joining the alumni group and connecting with other professionals that are part of the Alumni Association, please send an email to [admin@ncsfalumni.org](mailto:admin@ncsfalumni.org) and we will send you an invitation. Membership in the alumni group is by invitation only and is restricted to alumni.

We hope to grow the group so that we can all build our professional networks and share our stories. Once you are a member, please visit the discussion board and share what you are interested in and what you would like to see from the Alumni Association.

### Please Visit Our Website

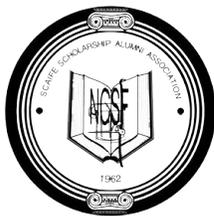
The Alumni Association continues to improve [www.ncsfalumni.org](http://www.ncsfalumni.org). Please read our calendar of events and information about our Board of Directors and Officers. Visit us and leave a comment or submit an updated mailing or email address via the contact page, so that this newsletter and all our communications continue to reach you each year.

**SCAIFE SCHOLARSHIP  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.**

C/O N. BAER  
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Mountain View, CA 94040



Moving? Please update your contact info at [www.ncsfalumni.org](http://www.ncsfalumni.org).



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We're on the Web!  
See us at  
[www.ncsfalumni.org](http://www.ncsfalumni.org)

**How You Can Help?**

For those of you who are able, a contribution to our scholarship efforts would be most appreciated. Due to out-of-state solicitation registration requirements, we can only accept gifts from California at this time. In the past, alumni have suggested the following schedule for contributions:

One year	\$25
Up to 10 years	\$50
10-20 years	\$125
20-25 years	\$250
25 years+	\$300

Your contributions are tax deductible per IRS#94-6104364 and should be made payable to the  
Scaife Scholarship Alumni Association, Inc.  
c/o Alana Maxwell  
2388 Callender Rd., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

Historically, the recommended sums have been modest. People have contributed at levels that we hope have been comfortable. Please do what you can.

If you have never contributed, consider starting small. If you cannot contribute, please consider working with the alumni association to improve our newsletter, website, and activities or— if possible—serving as a networking resource for employment and career development.