



# The Phillips Scholar

*The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.*

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## Congratulations to our Recent Graduates

In our thirty years of funding scholarships, we have been extremely proud of every Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship recipient who has graduated from college. The coronavirus pandemic has made the last two years a particularly challenging time to be a college student, adding new hurdles on the path to receiving a post-secondary degree. Our recent graduates, who persisted through uncharted territory to complete their undergraduate education, have absolutely awed us with their grit. So, we dedicate this space to celebrating them. Congratulations Class of 2021!



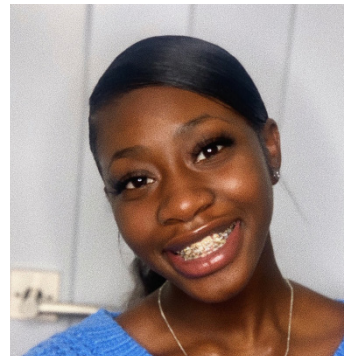
We are grateful to the students who shared their graduation photos with us; from top left to bottom right: Melida Alvarez - Clark University, Malate Aschalew - Syracuse University, Nubian Brooks - University of Massachusetts Lowell, Mateo Catano - Saint Louis University, Lara Cazemajou - Connecticut College, Geena Ciardelli - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Samantha Dargie - Fordham University, Joie Dillon - College of the Holy Cross, Rachel Driscoll - Husson University, Laura Gordon - Lancaster Bible College, Makeyla Hayes - Goucher College, Estarlyn Hiraldo - Providence College, Cheyenne Langrin-Delgado - University of Connecticut Storrs, Sarah MacMullan - North Carolina State University Raleigh, Bryanna Matias -

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Pearl McCarthy - University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Jessica Mini - Gordon College, Ange Munyaneza - University of New Hampshire, Emily O'Regan - College of the Holy Cross, Faustina Owusu - Clark University, Ramona Ramsarran - University of Connecticut Storrs, Sonja Then - Salve Regina University, Tamara Vujanovic - University of Mississippi, Takara Weir - Westfield State University, Geralson Withrow - Lasell University, Samantha Witkus - Simmons University, Aisha Zalwango - Regis College.

## Meet the 2021 Phillips Alumni Scholars

*Our four new wonderful Alumni Scholars exemplify the characteristics of a Phillips Scholar: academic excellence, dedication to serving others, strong work ethic, and excellent character. The funds raised from our generous alumni, parent donors and friends of the scholarship in the last year have been awarded to the Phillips Alumni Scholars profiled below.*

**Kayvona Brown** is a first-year student at The University of Connecticut Storrs this fall, having graduated from Stamford High School in the spring. After benefitting from the help of volunteers at an afterschool program she attended in her youth, Kayvona was determined to give back once she was able. She explained that in high school, "I devoted my free periods to tutoring 9th graders on how to write essays and understand the format of an essay. I also spent my afternoons before work tutoring lowerclassmen in Sciences, such as Chemistry and Biology... I knew what it felt like to not understand a text, a passage of a book, or a stoichiometry equation. I wanted to be the one to help others get to the place where they did." Kayvona also volunteered with The Stamford Public Education Foundation, which provided an opportunity to mentor younger children.



In college, Kayvona will be majoring in Biological Sciences on a pre-med track. She shared, "I grew up watching my grandmother and mother work within the nursing home as an LPN and RN. I watched them delicately care for the elderly, and listen to their agony and their long stories of the past. I grew to enjoy helping people and bringing a smile to their faces. I intend to do the same thing every day for the rest of my life as a pediatrician."



**David Richardson** is a recent graduate of Danville School in Vermont. In his freshman year there, he was introduced to Interact Club. He said, "I immediately was hooked onto the idea of volunteering and helping others throughout my community. Over the course of the school year, we had the opportunity to do a supply drive for an animal shelter, and volunteer in a homeless shelter." Building on his involvement in Interact Club, David became a leader in Student Leaders For Voice and Change, which he described as "a group in our school designed to help create change in our educational environment through the voices of student advocates."

David was also very involved in student government as Vice President and President of his class, which led to two years of service as a school board representative. In his seat on the school board, David affected positive change and discovered his purpose. He reflected, "It was at this moment I found my passion for what I wanted to do in my life. I loved advocating for change in my community, and after I graduate college, I hope to be able to do the same thing on a state and federal level." Regarding his time at the University of Vermont, where he is currently enrolled, David stated, "While at UVM, I hope to be able to learn from some of the best professors in the country, and participate in activism on campus and in the Burlington community."

**Mohamed Elsankary** traces the roots of his care for others to helping his family distribute packages of food to the less fortunate while celebrating Eid on visits to Egypt. That experience, he said, "inspired me to find ways I, too, could assist in the same ways my parents would. This led me to volunteering in my own community around New Haven, Connecticut." He found service opportunities at Hamden Hall Country Day School through the Interact Club, at soup kitchens around New Haven, and at his mosque's community center.

Recently, he said, "I also worked with a student-led organization named FLY/LinkCT in an effort to connect virtually with inner-city students from New Haven Public Schools to offer them homework assistance, but most importantly, someone to talk to during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Distance learning prevented children from being the social and talkative souls they naturally are so it was really important to me to interact with them aside from doing schoolwork."



This fall, Mohamed began his college career at Trinity College. He plans to eventually become a dentist, "working to provide others with the oral care they need." He would like to run a free clinic in New Haven one day.





**Kimberly Owens** is a recent graduate of Boston's John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science. There, she was a member of O'Bryant Push Up, a peer leadership program that works to prevent substance abuse among young people and to advocate on public health issues. Kimberly recalled, "One of my favorite events with Push Up was giving testimony to the Boston Health Commission about why they should ban menthol products. I spoke about my mother and niece who both have asthma and live in apartments where there was no smoke free policy. I was able to tell them about how my niece passed away from asthma and how the pollution from cigarettes only complicated [her] asthma more while she was alive." During high school Kimberly also engaged in activism as a member of the Mayor's

Youth Council, where she was able to raise awareness of youth housing insecurity in the city of Boston.

Kimberly recently enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She plans to be a lawyer one day, "to do pro bono cases for Black and other marginalized communities." She said, "I hope whatever career path I go down I am able to improve my community."

## Celebrating 30 Years of the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund

In 1991, Mrs. Betty Phillips launched the Phillips Scholarship in honor of her late husband, Stephen, with the selection of 14 scholarship recipients who were awarded a total of \$17,500 for the 1991-92 academic year. In the thirty years since, the organization's reach has grown tremendously. In summer 2021 the fund granted over \$4M in scholarships to over 500 students, including more than 70 students whose awards are part of five different donor-funded programs administered by Phillips.

While our scale has changed, our guiding principle has not. Mrs. Phillips was very involved in the selection of scholarship recipients for the first several years of the fund's operations, until she passed away in 1996. It was she who determined that Phillips Scholarship recipients should be students with financial need and academic promise who were serious about giving something back to society.

Now that thirty years have passed, we can see that Phillips alumni are contributing to the world five, ten, and even twenty-five years after receiving their Bachelor's degrees. With this perspective, it is crystal clear how much Betty's commitment to supporting those who want to serve others has created a positive impact far beyond the 4,500+ scholarship recipients who received our direct assistance.

It is a privilege to be carrying out this work that Betty envisioned and engendered, in honor of her husband Stephen and in tribute now to both of them. In fact, we are so proud of what the fund has accomplished in the last thirty years that we are producing a special publication to capture what three decades of the Phillips Scholarship has meant to our community. You can expect to receive a copy from us in the coming months; please keep an eye out!



Pictured above: Betty and Stephen as a young couple (left) and Betty at the time of launching the scholarship (right).

## Another Significant Anniversary

2021 marked another Phillips milestone: the two hundred year anniversary of the Phillips House in Salem. This was the house that Stephen Phillips grew up in, which was dedicated as a museum by Betty. It is operated by Historic New England today.

In 1821, the Phillips House was created when four rooms from an existing house were lifted from their foundation and transported by oxen to Salem. The house was set on fashionable Chestnut Street to form the beginning of a new mansion. Almost a century later, Anna Phillips (Stephen's mother) bought the house and renovated it in the Colonial Revival style. Thanks to Betty, Phillips House is the only mansion open to the public on Chestnut Street.



(Photo courtesy of Historic New England)

## Words of Thanks

We are very grateful for the generous alumni, parents and friends of the scholarship listed below. It is wonderful to see our former recipients reaching out to help others as they were helped. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

### \$1,000 and above

\*Michael Bednark  
\*Rev. John H. Finley IV

### \$500 to \$999

Barbara Densmore  
\*Jenna Flattery  
\*Sean Gage  
\*Scott Taylor  
Annette Tran  
\*Linda Veasna

### \$100 to \$499

\*Luis Alvarez  
Jenna Bancroft  
\*Eva Brock  
\*Sean Callahan  
\*^Donna & Robert Callahan  
\*Justine Carroll  
\*^Anthony and Joyce Coelho  
Kevin Doxey

\*Jieh Greeney  
\*Rachel Hopkins  
\*Erin Kelley  
\*Michael Kishko  
\*Thomas Laidley  
Kate Lufkin  
\*Thao Mai  
\*^Bryan & Karen Malloy  
Crystal Marquez  
Fredery Munoz  
Katherine O'Neil  
Amy Ohlson  
^Wendy Ohlson  
Jonathan Ralton  
\*Caitlin Roller  
\*Carmi Santos Punzalan  
Eleni Saridis  
Ema Scheifele  
^Leonora Scheifele  
\*Maria Speridakos  
Tiffany Staunton  
\*Aimee Valeras  
Sarah Walsh

\*^Stephen & Plernpis Wong

### Up to \$99

Samantha Ackerley  
Marsha Bottino  
\*^Eleanor Phillips Brackbill  
\*Kimberly Bridgette  
Jenny Broder  
Phoebe Cole  
Christopher Contino  
\*^Frances & Stephen Cooper  
\*^William Corley  
\*Timothy Cronin  
\*Phillip DiLiegro  
\*Fanny Dines  
\*Gregory Elinson  
Mary Ellen Hart  
\*^Frederick & Kathleen Insler  
\*Maria Lazebnik  
\*^Susan Lincourt

\*Matthew Lovett  
Justin Maasia  
\*Amanda Maddox  
Seth Magee  
Wurood Mandawi  
\*Laura Mason  
\*Sarah Murphy  
\*^Sharon Nicholson  
\*Megan Oliveira  
^Frederic Pirie  
\*Lauren Pizzi  
\*Jennifer Koehler Shay  
Ina Duka Shollo  
\*^Pamela Sletten  
\*Bethann Swartz  
Vadim Villarreal  
Kristen Wade  
  
\* Multiple-year donor  
^ Parent donor

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