



THE STEPHEN PHILLIPS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THE
PHILLIPS
SCHOLAR
Volume 25 Fall 2023

2023 IN REVIEW

In partnership with our donors, we awarded nearly \$4.7 million to 567 new and returning students in 2023! Since our inception in 1991, we have awarded over \$80 million to students.

NEW AWARDEE SNAPSHOT 2023

Average Family Income

\$53,000

Average GPA

3.88

Attendance at

81

colleges and universities

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NEW LOOK,
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SERVING PHILLIPS ALUMNI AND AWARDEES

Over the past year, our Stephen Phillips Scholarship Alumni Council has renewed its efforts to create opportunities for Phillips Scholars and Alumni to connect. We have hosted several on-campus gatherings for members of our Phillips Scholar community to meet in-person and share their stories, which has been meaningful and energizing for those involved. In the coming months, we hope to host additional events at colleges where we have a large group of Phillips Scholars, in addition to virtual events focused on career exploration.



Phillips Scholarship Event at Suffolk University



Phillips Scholarship Event at Gordon College

WELCOME OUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

As we expand our efforts to engage Phillips Scholar Alumni, we have added two alumni representatives to the Alumni Council. We are grateful to Wongly Sine and Todd Torres for their commitment to cultivating community among fellow Phillips Scholars!

Wongly Sine was born and raised in Haiti, and has now lived in the US for 11 years. A first-generation college graduate, he proudly serves as a student success coach at Franklin Cummings Tech in the South End of Boston. Wongly was a Phillips Scholar at Suffolk University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with a leadership concentration in 2019. He went on to earn a Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs at Salem State University in 2021. He looks forward to helping connect Phillips alumni and current scholars and showing them what is possible beyond college.



Todd Torres hails from the small town of Rehoboth, MA, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in political science. He has built an impressive legal career in a variety of sectors. Todd first served as an antitrust paralegal at the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, DC, focusing on the transportation, energy and agriculture industries, before attending William and Mary Law School. He clerked for the Rhode Island Superior Court and spent six years as an employment lawyer with the management defense firm Ogletree Deakins in Boston before going in-house as one of three labor and employment attorneys at UMass Memorial Health in Worcester. He currently advises human resources and leadership across four hospitals and oversees litigation defense. Todd lives in Acton, MA with his wife, five-year-old, and seven-year-old French bulldog. He is looking forward to continuing the momentum to make alumni outreach and engagement a significant component of the Phillips Scholar community.

Phillips Scholarship Alumni Council Mission Statement:

To create a dynamic, professionally and socially valuable community for Phillips Alumni and current scholars, by facilitating meaningful connections among alumni, between alumni and current scholars, and among current scholars, through on- and off-campus events and greater dialogue on social media platforms.

Feedback from a current Phillips Scholar attending an event:

"Being able to meet the Phillips Scholarship staff and other Stephen Phillips Scholars within the community was awe-inspiring! I learned so much from each person and being in that space made me feel embraced. It truly made Stephen Phillips so much more personal for me, getting to see those who have made it possible for my dreams to come true."

MEET THE 2023 ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARS

Thanks to our former recipients and their families who have generously supported the mission of our scholarship, we are able to award new scholars through the Alumni Legacy Scholars program. These new Alumni Legacy Scholars exude the characteristics of a Phillips Scholar and the alumni who came before them and contribute towards these scholarships. They show tremendous academic excellence, a commitment to serving others, a strong work ethic, and exceptional character. Due to your continued generosity, we are able to feature five Alumni Legacy Scholars for the second year in a row.

Isabella Ba is currently studying Communications with a focus on Media Broadcasting and Public Relations at Rhode Island College. Isabella was a Battalion Commander for the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), President of National Honor Society, and Class President during her high school experience in Cranston, Rhode Island. Through these opportunities she participated in service to her community as a way to give back and also because she enjoys helping those in need. She says, "I believe that service is the greatest gift one can return to their community. When an individual takes their personal time and effort to help others in need, it helps progress not only the community they live in, but also sets an example for others to follow." Isabella also served as a Cranston Police Explorer and a Youth Program leader at the Youth Driven Summit, volunteering for events to educate and bring the community together.



Reem Elouardi is a graduate of Revere High School in Massachusetts. She now studies Liberal Studies on the Film and International Relations track at New York University. Her goal is to learn how to use film for social advocacy. She said, "Through my work, I aim to highlight the struggles of belonging to this identity (North African) and inspire political change against the racial injustices plaguing the U.S." She strives for increased representation in the film industry. Reem founded the Restorative Justice Program at her high school that helps connect inmates with students to help rewrite the narrative on their lives and help break stigmas surrounding these individuals. Reem served as an Ambassador for Mobile Health Youth and participated in the U.S Department of State and Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, allowing her to live in Germany her senior year and immerse herself in the German culture.

Kyle Lee spent his time at Malden High School in Massachusetts taking full advantage of the course offerings and tailored his course load to reflect his interest in the medical field including Anatomy/Physiology, Applied Health Sciences, and Biotechnology. Now, Kyle studies Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. During high school, he was President of his class, a member of National Honor Society, a member of the Science National Honor Society, Historian of Key Club, and Vice President of the YMCA Leader Club. Kyle says, "Serving others is important to me because it gives me a sense of purpose, and it allows me to make a positive impact in the world." Outside of school, he attended a monthly event sponsored by TB12 in Boston to learn more about injury prevention and nutrition. He also worked part time at a local restaurant.



Grace McHugh completed her traditional high school coursework at Concord High School in New Hampshire while seeking out and completing real-world independent studies that were personalized to her interests and goals of becoming a nurse. Grace applied for and received a state grant to complete the coursework necessary to be a LNA and work part time. She also became proficient in American Sign Language (ASL) and most recently, focused on learning medical terminology in ASL to be able to better communicate with patients and their families. In high school, Grace created the "Kindness Project," which is a quarterly column in the Concord Monitor and a live broadcast on the school's television channel. The project featured random acts of kindness and challenged readers to do the same. On top of all these pursuits, Grace has been a member of the National Honor Society and a coach for Girls on the Run. Grace is currently studying Nursing at the University of New Hampshire. Grace says, "I've chosen the road less traveled, and it has made all the difference."

Read about our fifth Alumni Legacy Scholar on the next page

Thomas Wysocki is currently pursuing his degree in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Connecticut Storrs. He says, "My near-future goals include focusing on prosthetics and developing new solutions to improve the lives of those who rely on prosthetic devices. I believe that through the development of new technology and innovative solutions, we can create prosthetics that are more functional and user-friendly, and that can greatly improve the quality of life for those who depend on them." Thomas also dreams of one day creating a non-profit organization to help those with the inability to afford the prosthetic devices they may need. Thomas was able to learn some skills he would need for the future due to his participation in the Electrical Trade Technology area at his high school, Vinal Technical High School in Connecticut. He also worked a part-time electrical job that provided him with hands-on learning. Outside of school and work, Thomas was an active member of his local food pantry, supplying food and assisting with food pickups, events, and other needs of the food pantry. In addition, Thomas was a member of the National Honor Society and received the DAR Good Citizen award that recognizes students for their service and leadership in the home, school, and community.



WORDS OF THANKS

We are humbled by the generosity of the alumni, families, and partners of the scholarship listed below, who made donations from November 2022 to October 20, 2023. Thank you for your commitment to making college more affordable and accessible for students across New England.

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