



National Hearing Conservation Association
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

www.hearingconservation.org

2021–2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Dated 2/XX/2022

MISSION

The NHCA Scholarship Foundation is organized to manage endowments and donations, and award scholarships to graduate students focusing on applied/practical studies in hearing loss prevention/hearing conservation at internationally accredited institutions.

I am pleased to present this annual report to the NHCA membership. In spite of the persistence of COVID, the Foundation remains financially sound and is resolute in serving the student community. As you will see, we continue to offer student awards. A special thanks goes to Jennifer Tufts for making recommendations to enhance the Student Research Award and to Kara Cave and her Student Research Award selection committee.

My term as President expires after the 2022 NHCA annual conference. Lynnette Bardolf will be taking over as President, and I know she will be an outstanding leader in this position. I thank the Board for all of their hard work and devotion to the Foundation and truly enjoyed working with all of them. Speaking on behalf of the Board, all of us look forward to seeing everyone face-to-face at our 2023 NHCA annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida! Until then...be safe!



James Jerome
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim".

THE FOUNDATION BOARD

The Foundation welcomed two new members to the Board: Kara Cave as Secretary and Greg Flamme as Director. Susan Cooper moved from her position of Secretary and will serve the remainder of her term as Treasurer. Unfortunately, in December of 2021, Greg had to step down as Director due to overwhelming work commitments. Thus, his position on the Board is a vacancy we hope to fill soon.



Lynnette Bardolf
President-Elect



Susan Cooper
Treasurer



Kara Cave
Secretary



Jennifer Tufts
Director



Vacant
Director



Brandy Hollins
Student Delegate

STUDENT AWARD CRITERIA CHANGE

The Board recently revisited the application criteria for the Student Conference and Student Research Awards. The Board is gratified to observe both the generosity of donations and steady increase of reserves that is now enabling the Foundation to effectively increase a more tangible dollar amount to such deserving recipients.

For the Student Conference Award, the only criteria change was that applicants must now have completed at least two semesters of study.

Extensive application criteria changes were made for the Student Research Award (SRA). Prior to the changes, SRA recipients were given a monetary award of \$500 and required to present their research at the next NHCA annual conference. Also, they were reimbursed up to \$2,000 for conference registration, travel, and per diem. For 2022, SRA recipients are now given \$1,000 to off-set out of pocket expenses incurred during their research. In addition, recipients now have the *option* to present their findings at an upcoming NHCA annual conference. As an incentive, they will be guaranteed a slot to present at the conference and will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for conference registration, travel, and per diem. We believe this not only better serves the student's needs, but it also provides some flexibility in presenting their research. Prior to the changes, there was always a rush to get the SRA recipient registered and set up as a speaker for the annual conference. Now students who are interested in presenting at the next annual conference will be able to better plan for their presentation.

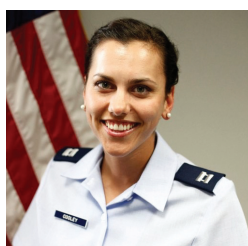
2021 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Unfortunately for the 2022 NHCA annual conference, there were no applicants for the Student Conference Award. However, we are happy to announce that three applicants were given the Student Research Award.



Jacqueline DiFrancesco SRA Recipient

Jackie is working on her PhD at the University of Connecticut. She's currently in her third year of the program. She applied for funding to conduct her research entitled: *Evaluating Safety of Enhanced Hearing Protection Options for Workers with Hearing Loss*. Her research will evaluate the safety of different 'enhanced' hearing protection options that incorporate amplification, either through the hearing protector itself or by wearing a personal amplification device in combination with a hearing protector.



CAPT Taylor Paige SRA Recipient

Taylor is an active duty Air Force audiologist working on her PhD at the University of South Alabama. She's currently in her second year of the program. She applied for funding to conduct her research entitled: *Clinical Assessment of Noise-Related Hidden Hearing Loss in DoD Service Members*. Her research will determine if extended high frequency audiometry is sensitive to hidden hearing loss as related to occupational noise exposure in Department of Defense service members. Service members with impulse or continuous occupational noise exposure will be compared with service members without a history of occupational noise.



Abas Shkembi SRA Recipient

Abas is working on his Masters in Environmental Health Sciences, specializing in Industrial Hygiene, at the University of Michigan. He's currently in his first year of the program. He applied for funding to conduct his research entitled: *Misperception of Noise Exposure at Work Among Miners Without a Hearing Loss*. His research will examine whether normal-hearing miners misperceive the noise they experience at work, the degree of noise misperception, and which factors impact noise misperception.

The Foundation congratulates all three on being chosen and hopes they take advantage of presenting at our next conference.

SUMMARY OF NHCASF FINANCIAL STATUS

The Foundation assets continue to grow with our Vanguard investment being the major contributor. Last year the Vanguard yield was approximately \$17,700. This year we gained an additional \$20,980. Although our checking account balance is approximately \$1,230 lower than last year, the Board anticipates that the balance is sufficient to carry us through the next year even without any income from fundraising activities.

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance 12/31/2020	\$15,941.60
Ending Balance 12/31/2021	\$14,712.02
Investment Income	
Beginning Balance 12/31/2020	\$156,227.02
Ending Balance 12/31/2021	\$178,436.67
Total Assets	
Beginning Balance 12/31/2020	\$172,168.62
Ending Balance 12/31/2021	\$193,148.69

FUNDRAISING

Our executive management firm's legal counsel strongly recommended that we *do not* conduct the 50/50 split or silent auction for the virtual 2022 NHCA annual conference. Because our conference spans the nation, the Foundation would have to purchase gaming licenses from numerous states. The time and cost to do this would be counter productive. The Foundation knows how much the membership enjoys both of these activities, and we were disappointed that we could not do something to enhance the virtual conference experience. However, the Foundation will continue to accept monetary donations outright. Simply go to the NHCA website <hearingconservation.org> and click on the "Scholarship Foundation" tab, then "Donate." Members are also reminded that another way to contribute is to use Amazon Smile when making online orders. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Foundation. Simply go to <smile.amazon.com>.

DONATIONS

Although the Foundation cannot offer fundraising activities for the 2022 NHCA annual conference, many members donated for a collective total of approximately \$2,500 for 2021. Most donations were personal, but a few were made in the name of organizations and deceased members (Don Gasaway and Dick Price). The Foundation also received a number of autographed books from Don Gasaway's personal collection and will be adding them to the silent auction. The plan is to display three to four books each year at annual conferences with the proceeds going to the Foundation's general fund. We sincerely thank all those who have donated.



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