



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

9/20/24

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.



Lynnette Bardolf
President

I am pleased to present this annual report to the NHCA membership. The Foundation remains financially sound and is resolute in serving the student community. We continue to offer student awards to worthy recipients.

My term as President ended at the commencement of the February 2024 Conference. Since I was unable to attend the 2024 Conference, Marjorie Grantham (the incoming SF President) graciously stepped in for me and took over as the new NHCA Scholarship Foundation President for the 2024-2025 term at the conclusion of the 2024 Conference in Albuquerque. I have no doubt that Marjorie will do an outstanding job as SF President!

It was a privilege to serve as President of such a worthwhile organization for the past two years, and I know that I am turning it over to good hands in Marjorie. Just for continuity-sake, there was a change in the President-Elect status from last year's annual report Jenn had to delay her term starting as the new SF President for the next two years. Because of this, Marjorie stepped up to be the incoming President for 2024-2025, and Jennifer will then step into the President Elect position once again, and into the President' role for 2025-2026, once Marjorie has completed her term. I will continue to serve on the SF team as a non-voting Board member to see the Student Tuition Award (STA) to fruition, or at least get it going in terms of getting current academia members' input on criteria for the Award.

I have really appreciated all of the hard work and devotion of the SF Board, and have truly enjoyed working with all of them. I am sorry I had to miss the Albuquerque conference, but I hope to see everyone again in Charleston in 2025. Until then, many blessings, and be safe!

The Foundation Board

The Foundation Board will also say goodbye to Kara Cave as well. Kara was a valued member of the SF Board who served her term as Secretary and did a great job! Thank you to Kara for serving as Secretary. Jackie DiFrancesco will move up to the Secretary position for 2024-2025. Joining our SF Board to replace those leaving for the 2024-2025 timeframe, as incoming Directors, will be Christian Giguere and John Casali.



Marjorie Grantham
Incoming President



Jennifer Tufts
President-Elect



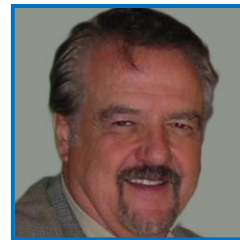
Susan Cooper
Treasurer



Kara Cave
Outgoing Secretary



Jackie DiFrancesco
Director/Incoming Secretary



John Casali
Incoming Director



Christian Giguere
Incoming Director

Financial Summary

Assets for the Scholarship Foundation increased due to growth in investment value over the previous year. Recent balances are as follows:

Balance as of	12/31/22	12/31/23	<i>variance</i>
Checking Account	\$8,773	\$4,241	-\$4,532
Vanguard Investment Fund	\$148,188	\$172,501	\$24,313
Total Assets	\$156,961	\$176,742	\$19,781

2024 Student Award Recipients

For 2024, there were two applicants selected for the **Student Research Award (SRA)**. Those two worthy recipients were: Conner Jansen and Samantha Rodriguez.

SRA Recipient

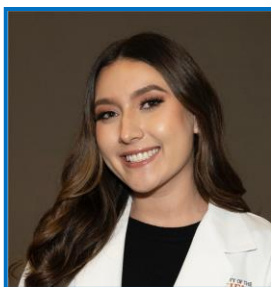
Conner Jansen



Connor is a doctoral student at The University of Texas at Dallas, in the dual AuD/PhD program there. His undergraduate degree was in Communication Sciences and Disorders which he also completed at UT Austin, where he specialized in Audiology, including a minor in American Sign Language (ASL) prior to attending UT Dallas. His research interests include hearing conservation and hearing loss prevention, vestibular disorders and diagnostics. He is currently completing his clinical externship at the Stanford Ear Institute as the Audiology research fellow.

SRA Recipient

Samantha Rodriguez



Samantha Rodriguez is a Doctor of Audiology student at University of the Pacific. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Speech- Language Pathology from California State University, San Marcos. Samantha was given the opportunity to conduct research at University of the Pacific to explore the noise levels emitted from various dental tools and the association of hearing loss found in dental professionals. She is currently completing her externship at University of Southern California Caruso Family Center.

We are also happy to announce that three students were recipients of the 2024 **Student Conference Award (SCA)**:

SCA Recipient

Ahmed El Mawazini



Ahmed is a currently a first year Ph.D. student at the University of Ottawa, Canada, where he also completed a Master’s degree in Audiology and a Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences. He is also a certified audiologist and his research interest lies in speech intelligibility in noise and hearing loss prevention, Ahmed’s doctoral project will focus on developing auditory tests that the professional workforce can use to measure the effect of auditory protection and situational awareness.

SCA Recipient

Allison Staker Woodford



Allison Staker Woodford is a dual Au.D./Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her undergraduate degree was in Communication Sciences and Disorders, completed at the University of Utah. After fifteen years of life experience—including working with children with Autism, community involvement, and hands-on participation in the ear education of her three children—she has returned to academia with research interests focused on the early detection and prevention of hearing disorders, currently focusing on understanding sound exposure in classical musicians. Allison was the recipient of the 2021 American Academy of Audiology Foundation’s Music and Hearing Research Grant. A few of her favorite things including backpacking in the Rocky Mountains, curling up with a good book, going for a long run, or attending a classical musical performance—preferably accomplished by family or friends.

SCA Recipient

Brynne Stevens



Brynne Stevens is a 2nd year doctoral student at Washington University in St Louis School of Medicine. Originally from Denver, CO, Brynne cultivated a passion for sound the manifested in playing the saxophone, joining a jazz ensemble, and hosting a radio show. She earned her B.S. in Neuroscience from Trinity University. In her professional journey, Brynne aspires to serve the adult population with emphases on noise-induced hearing loss, hearing conservation for musician, and tinnitus services.

The Foundation congratulates all these students on being chosen and hopes they will be frequent attendees at our annual conferences.

New Student Award

In 2022, the Board unanimously voted to start finalizing what will be called the Student Tuition Award (STA). Initially, the STA will be \$5,000.00 awarded to at least one student each year. In time, we anticipate that two awards per year will be implemented. The application process, including eligibility criteria, and selection committee criteria is still being worked through and we hope to finalize it in the 2024-2025 year. We will be reaching out to members in academia to help us finalize the criteria for this award.

2024 Fundraising

Once again this year, the SF Foundation fundraising efforts at the 2024 Annual NHCA Conference were a hit! We did well with the “Buy A Hair Cell” campaign and the Silent Auction campaigns this year. And to spice it up a bit, we had a competition between longtime NHCA members this year to see if they could raise more hair cells to put on their heads than the cochlea, or the other. In keeping with the last conference, the “hair cells” could be purchased individually, or a recommended donation of \$20.00 for five “hair cells,” stickers representing the hair cells were applied to the “cochlea.” We also had headshots for both Theresa Schulz and Greg Flamme, and members were encouraged to add “hair” to their heads as well. Once again, even in financially difficult times for people, this fundraising activity was successful, and the Foundation received \$1,005. We thank members for participating in this “hair raising” event!



Theresa Schulz



Greg Flamme

The Silent Auction was held as well. Many donated items were available for bids this year, yielding a donation return to the Scholarship Foundation of \$2,464. So, between the “hair raising” event and Silent Auction, the Foundation received a total of **\$3,469** for the 2024 Albuquerque Conference.