

Scholarships in Review

by Kevin Ziegler, Xi '16

2022

Recent years have seen some incredibly challenging times for everyone - particularly students - as their academic, personal and professional lives have all been interrupted. Although everyday life seems to have returned to “normal,” the financial needs of students remains high and continues to increase.

In 2022, the US Zeta Psi Scholarship Committee received 430 applications. Nearly 200 awards were issued and we distributed over \$150,000 in grants. Awards were used to cover tuition, room and board, food, books and living expenses. Fall 2022 award recipients shared the impact these funds had on them: relieving the stress of financial burdens and the increasing cost of attendance, which gave the recipients the ability to purchase important books or subscriptions for class while shifting some time away from work. They were able to put this newfound time towards their academics.

The scholarship program would not be possible without the support of our donors, Foundation staff and volunteer graders: Evan Pressman, Alex Pruce, Alex Sharif, David Morris, Tom Leavens and Bob Baer. The team of graders successfully reviewed all applications within seven days, which enabled quick award determinations and ensuring that funds were distributed expeditiously.

Application numbers and their respective quality continue to increase while our ability to award grants remains relatively steady. To increase our support for students, the committee is working towards partnering with external organizations' community scholarship programs, sharing scholarship recipient spotlights with our donors and continuing to refine the emergency assistance program that was launched last year.

	Spring	Fall	Total 2022
Applications	253	177	430
Awards	89	102	191
Award Rate	35%	58%	44%
Total Awarded	\$80,200	\$70,450	\$150,650

Scholarship Recipient Quotes (Fall 2022)

- “It was a big stress reliever.”
- “It helped to relieve tension and stress and motivate me to do well.”
- “Help from the Zeta Psi Scholarship Fund allowed me to pay for the expensive textbooks that I needed.”

While much of the scholarships are funded through annual donations, specific funds make up an increasing percentage of our awards. These funds helped support at least one scholarship this past semester:

The funds supporting the Fall 2022 scholarship awards were:

- The Jud Browning Fund (Alpha Pi/Virginia Tech)
- The Burkhardt Family Fund (Psi/Cornell)
- The Michael Davidson Scholarship Fund (Delta/Rutgers)
- The William R. Duryee Fund (top scholar)
- The Harold Finley Fund (Phi/NYU)
- The Virgil and Moody Gates Fund (Phi/NYU)
- The Tom and Donna Jewett Fund (Psi/Cornell)
- The Leila and William Mackay Fund (Phi/NYU)
- The McElroy Endowment Fund (IHQ Staff)
- The Red Motley Leadership Fund (leadership)
- The Omicron Epsilon Fund (Omicron Epsilon/Princeton)
- The Phi Epsilon Fund (Phi Epsilon/Maryland)
- The Psi Fund (Psi/Cornell)
- The Scott Puddy Fund (Eta/Yale)
- The Albert C. Valentine Fund (Phi/NYU)
- The Owen Williams Fund (Rho Alpha/MIT)
- The Witter Fund (Iota/Berkeley)
- The Zahn-Olmstead Endowment Fund (Alpha Epsilon/Illinois)

The Zeta Psi Educational Foundation has started several new chapter funds over the past year. Chapters that wish to discuss the creation of a dedicated chapter fund are encouraged to reach out to Barth Gillan. (gillan@zetapsi.org).