We applaud your dedication and hard work. You bring honor and recognition to the College of Public Health and The University of Oklahoma. Congratulations from the entire faculty and staff. You are exemplary role models and we are proud of you!

Gary E. Raskob, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Public Health
Regents’ Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine

AZIMI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Kae Aithinne

Kae, a Hudson Fellow in Public Health, is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH) whom has a passion for prevention of hospital-acquired diseases. Kae’s research intends to utilize the translational model to substantially reduce cases resulting from environmental surface contamination. Kae will be sitting for the general exam this fall and starting her research in spring 2019. She is extremely grateful to receive the Azimi Family Scholarship, and wants to thank Dr. Azimi for his involvement in the OEH community and his passion for environmental health.

The scholarship was established in 2017 by Mehdi Azimi, Ph.D, 1981 alumnus of the College of Public Health. Dr. Azimi has been involved in the consultation practice of development, implementation and administration of public and environmental health and risk management through promotion and prevention since 1978 for private companies, government agencies, health care facilities, hospitals and prison systems nationally and internationally. Dr. Azimi, who now owns his own risk management company and has a strong passion for environmental health, wishes to give back and support future public health professionals.
EDWARD N. BRANDT JR. SCHOLARSHIP

Patricia Pius
Patricia Pius is in her second year of medical school at the OU College of Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education in radiation therapy at McMaster University, Canada. After graduating, she moved to Oklahoma and worked as a radiation therapist at St. Anthony Hospital. During her time in radiation therapy, she observed the healthcare disparities that exist in Oklahoma but saw hope through the positive impact physicians had on patients and their families. This further motivated her to pursue a career in medicine. Patricia has an interest in the field of Oncology. After graduating from OU, she plans to stay in Oklahoma and serve those in need of medical care.

Miranda Smith
Miranda is a second-year medical student at OU College of Medicine as well as a Master of Public Health student in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences. She is honored to receive the Edward N. Brandt, Jr. Scholarship. Through work at local free clinics as well as a study abroad program in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Miranda has seen the many barriers that exist for individuals pursuing medical care. She plans to pursue a career in primary care medicine while building sustainable health programs that work to support healthy behaviors and ensure access to adequate healthcare.

The scholarship was established in 2004 to honor Edward N. Brandt Jr., MD (1933-2007). Dr. Brandt was Professor Emeritus at OU College of Public Health and College of Medicine, and an avid Sooner fan. He served as Dean of Graduate Studies and College of Medicine at University of Texas Medical Branch, the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at University of Texas System and as President at University of Maryland at Baltimore. He also served as Executive Dean for OU College of Medicine. Dr. Brandt was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as Assistant Secretary of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. He was recognized by many as the godfather of women’s health, increasing the national awareness of women’s health and healthcare. He was an elected member of Institutes of Medicine and Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DALE W. BRATZLER SCHOLARSHIP

Bennett Pickar
Bennett Pickar is a student in the dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Administration program at The University of Oklahoma. Bennett currently works full-time for OU Medicine, Inc. as a manager for the Performance Management & Innovation department. Outside of work and school, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and two dogs.

The scholarship was established in 2016 by Dr. Dale W. Bratzler to provide support to students pursuing an MPH or MHA degree in the area of Health Administration and Policy. Dr. Bratzler, who serves in leadership at OU Physicians, has a strong commitment to helping OU students succeed and meet their professional goals and careers. Dr. Bratzler, Professor and Associate Dean in the College of Public Health, is also an alumnus, earning his MPH in 1996.
BURNS-SCHAIFF SCHOLARSHIP
Angel Giron Lopez

Angel graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical biosciences from The University of Oklahoma. He is now a second-year Master of Public Health student in epidemiology and is honored to receive the Burns-Schaiff Scholarship in Public Health. Currently, he is a graduate research assistant working on a project titled "Developing and Testing a Diabetes Training to Improve the Health of Oklahomans through an Effective Community Health Worker Workforce." He plans on doing a practicum involving Hispanic youth and the use of electronic cigarettes. Angel will graduate in 2019 and will pursue a career in medicine.

The scholarship was established in 2016 to honor Drs. Tim and Robyn (Burns) Schaiff. Robyn is a critical care pharmacotherapy specialist and works as a cardiovascular senior medical director at Pfizer. Tim is a PhD molecular biologist currently working for a start-up company developing point-of-care assays. The Schaiffs met while undergraduates at the University of Kansas. They both received their doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa and currently reside in the greater St. Louis area. The preference for this scholarship is to support a practicum experience or research in the area of tobacco dependence cessation and/or tobacco prevention.

CALVEY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Munim H. Deen

Munim, an epidemiology doctoral student, aspires for a career combining administration, teaching, and research. His work on West Nile Virus clusters has been awarded in multiple symposia; his published topics include cancer epidemiology and rural pharmaceutical availability. Currently a graduate research assistant on Oklahoma-Area Tribal Epidemiology Center projects, he has developed nationally-available online public health training courses at the Oklahoma Public Health Training Center. He thanks his family, academic and GRA mentors, and college faculty, staff, and students for their support and guidance. Finally, he thanks the Calvey family for their generosity.

The scholarship was established in 2004 to honor the Calvey Family. The members of the Calvey Family are supporters of the next generation of Public Health Professionals. Harry J. Calvey (deceased) was active in the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma for many years. Kevin Calvey, JD, serves in the Oklahoma legislature. Mike Calvey runs a successful venture firm. Cathy Calvey Chandler is a full-time mother and Occupational Therapist. Beth Calvey Bohanon, DDS, practices in Oklahoma City. Mary Jana Calvey runs an Environmental Consulting firm, Real World Management Solutions, and serves on the Board of Advisors for the OU College of Public Health.
Taylor Reeves
Taylor Reeves graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a dual minor in math and biology. Taylor is currently in his second year of a master’s degree in industrial hygiene and environmental science. Over the summer, he worked as an intern for Texas Instruments. Taylor is proud to accept the award of the Ronald L. Coleman Scholarship and represent what it stands for proudly. Taylor plans to pursue a career in the environmental health field and give back to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The scholarship was established in 2009 to honor Ronald L. Coleman, PhD (1934-2008). Dr. Coleman served OU for 37 years; 15 years as Chair of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. He was an environmental toxicologist and his area of research focused on biochemical effects of carbon black, metals and petroleum products. He was recognized with several campus-wide awards for his commitment to students and outstanding teaching. He was a lifelong learner who was never limited by “the box” and believed success comes from persistence and hard work. He was widely published, including book chapters, national presentations and prestigious scholarly journals. He was a modest man, who didn’t take himself too seriously and who valued personal integrity above all else. He was devoted to his faith, family, community and service.

Marcio Luis S. Bezerra
Marcio is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH). He was born and raised in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He graduated with distinction from the Brazilian Army Military Academy with a bachelor’s degree in military science – artillery, in 1993. He also graduated with degrees in physical education (2001) and theology (2013). Marcio is studying metal exposures from metal fabrication processes and the ways to prevent health problems in exposed workers. He will retire from the Army after 23 years and he wants to pursue a career as a professor and researcher. Marcio is honored and grateful to be the recipient of ConocoPhillips OEH Scholarship. He would like to thank his wife and two sons for their unconditional love and support, and the OEH faculty and staff for their support in his academic endeavor.

Sara Greenlee
Sara, a master’s degree student in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, is honored to receive the ConocoPhillips OEH Scholarship, as well as the continued support from the Dan J. Macer Scholarship. Sara is grateful to ConocoPhillips, the Macer Family, her professors and her family for their support. In summer of 2018, Sara supported the Health, Safety and Environment department at Halliburton. In the summer of 2017, she interned at an ExxonMobil chemical plant and refinery in Louisiana. Sara plans to continue to keep people safe with a career in occupational and environmental health.

The scholarship was established in 2011 by ConocoPhillips. ConocoPhillips’ primary goal is to operate a safe and efficient business that protects communities and environments. These scholarships were created to help advance public health education at OU and target students whose career paths align with the company’s goal. This endowment is the first corporate-sponsored scholarship in the College. The endowment enhances existing support by ConocoPhillips, including three-month summer internships and participation in programs that provide students access to career opportunities and ways to stay current in the field.
Madison Trost

Madison “Madi” is a second-year Master of Public Health student in health administration and policy. She works as the project coordinator for the Step-Up for Dementia Care program in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences. She is involved on the OU Health Sciences Center campus and serves as a Leadership HSC Student Advisor and the College of Public Health Student Association President. Madi enjoys distance running and is training for her first marathon in November. In the future, she aspires to become a hospital administrator and create a more positive patient experience.

The scholarship was established in 2011 by the College of Public Health Advisory Board. Following the Scholarship Recognition Luncheon in August 2010, discussion was held at the COPH Advisory Board meeting about the growth of the college’s scholarship opportunities. The impact scholarships have on students’ lives and career development, and specific actions the Board might take to help further this priority. A suggestion was made that the Board establish a scholarship. Over the course of the next few months, several members offered to give dollar-for-dollar matches, and through the commitment and generosity of the group, $58,507 was initially raised for the endowment. As additional gifts to the Fund increase the principal, the number of annual awards can expand.

Quyen Duong

Quyen is a doctoral candidate studying biostatistics. She grew up in Minnesota where she received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at St. Olaf College and a master’s degree in statistics at St. Cloud State University. Her dissertation is focused on deriving analytical solutions to the adjusted kernel density estimate using the gamma distribution for the conjugate prior. The real data application of the project is to improve the classification of infants at risk for severe intraventricular hemorrhage. Quyen is very grateful to receive the Roy B. Deal, Jr. Scholarship.

The scholarship was established in 2001 to honor Roy B. Deal, Jr., PhD (1919-2012). Dr. Deal earned BA (‘47), MA (‘48), and PhD (‘53), all from the University of Oklahoma. He served as general foreman with Boeing over the “experimental” shop on the first B-29, followed by a year in the U.S. Navy teaching radar technologies. He was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at OSU, including a year of study and research at University of Paris (Sorbonne). He was also a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics & Epidemiology at OUHSC (1967). Dr. Deal traveled the globe, with sabbaticals at Universities of Dublin, Manchester, London, Stockholm, Athens, and Teheran (Iran). He retired from OUHSC in 1985 with a distinguished career and awards too numerous to mention.
DAVID J. FALCONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Anja du Toit

Anja is a Juris Doctor and Master of Public Health student in the Department of Health Administration and Policy. She is honored to receive the David J. Falcone Scholarship. In the past, Anja has worked for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. For her practicum, she spent the summer working with the Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program in New York City. There she advised low-income and disabled New Yorkers in areas such as managed long-term care, administrative appeals, Medicaid and Medicare program eligibility and estate planning. Anja plans to graduate in December 2018.

The scholarship was established in 2001 to honor David J. Falcone, PhD (1944-1996). Dr. Falcone earned his BA and PhD from Duke University, and his MA from Arizona State University. He was regarded nationally and internationally for his expertise in gerontology and long-term care. He was a faculty member at Duke University and served as Associate Editor for the Journal of Health Policy, Politics & Law. Dr. Falcone was recruited to OU in 1992 to serve as Chair and Professor in the Department of Health Administration and Policy, and as Associate Director for the Oklahoma Center on Aging. He was recognized as a role model who intellectually stimulated and inspired students, earning the OUHSC Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (1996). He was a major participant in Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants on long-term care and Oklahoma Rural Research and Demonstration Center.

ROSETTA FISHER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Lindsay Denson

Lindsay Denson, a doctoral student, first obtained her bachelor’s degree in diagnostic medical sonography followed by a master’s degree in epidemiology. She currently works as an epidemiologist for the Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. This position is perfect for Lindsay in that she is able to combine her knowledge and skills from both epidemiology and obstetrical sonography. This position has provided numerous opportunities including the opportunity to represent Oklahoma at the CDC’s Zika Pregnancy & Birth Defects Task Force meeting in 2017 and present a poster at the 2018 National Birth Defect Prevention Network conference. Lindsay’s goal is to continue to focus on improving the lives of women and children in Oklahoma through education and research.

Shannon Yero

Shannon Yero is a dual degree candidate who will graduate in May 2019 with a Juris Doctor and Master of Health Administration. After graduating and taking the bar exam, Shannon plans to pursue a career in health law as in-house counsel for a hospital. Shannon currently works at the OKC Veterans Affairs Hospital as a legal and administrative intern. In this role, she helped create a business plan for the hospital’s new geriatric psychiatry unit and participated in a Healthcare Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (HFMEA) for the unit. Shannon enjoys serving veterans and working in a hospital setting.

The scholarship was established in 2005 to honor Rosetta Fisher. Ms. Fisher was an OU employee for 33 years: the last 27 in the College of Public Health. Her first position in the COPH was as a program admissions coordinator, handling recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and graduation. She moved to administrative manager, overseeing Dean’s office staff, college budget and the first accreditation. Fisher ended her tenure as Assistant to the Dean. She was recognized with Employee of the Month Award, International & African-American Student Association Award, COPH Alumni Association Service Award, and Regents Award for Superior Service. She retired in 2005 and now pursues genealogy and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and nieces.
JAMES N. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP IN BIOSTATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Miguel DeMarzo

After earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Southern Nazarene University, Miguel is now a second-year Master of Public Health student in epidemiology. Since entering the program, he has worked as a graduate research assistant for Dr. Laura Beebe on various tobacco cessation projects. Miguel hopes to enter the medical field as a physician and apply his knowledge from public health and epidemiology in a clinical setting. In his spare time, Miguel likes to volunteer at a local clinic in OKC and stay active.

The scholarship was established in 2011 to honor James N. George, MD. Dr. George is a George Lynn Cross Professor in the Department of Medicine (2005-present). He earned his medical degree from Ohio State University in 1962 and trained in internal medicine and hematology at Vanderbilt University, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and the University of Rochester. He served as faculty at the University of Texas in San Antonio, Chief of OU Hematology-Oncology Section, and Director of Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Program. Dr. George’s current focus includes thrombocytopenia: describing the demographics, clinical course, and outcomes of patients with immune thrombocytopenia, drug-induced thrombocytopenia, and thrombotic thrombocytopenia purpura. He has served as President in 2005.

EDMUND H. GLEASON SCHOLARSHIP

Kaitlin McGrew

Kaitlin is a doctoral candidate in epidemiology. Her dissertation research involves a Bayesian approach to estimate the prevalence of injection drug use using administrative databases. Kaitlin’s ultimate career goal is to conduct research that guides the development of public health interventions to prevent and reduce harm from substance use disorders.

Kaitlin is honored to continue this year as a Hudson Fellow in Public Health. She has served as a teaching assistant, Secretary of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Student Association and Vice President of the OUHSC Running Club. Kaitlin is grateful to be the recipient of the Edmund H. Gleason Family Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The scholarship was established in 1998 to honor CMDR Edmund H. Gleason (1915-1986). CMDR Gleason received OU’s first public health degree in 1949, then housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, using the GI bill to earn a bachelor’s degree in public health & sanitation (now known as occupational and environmental health). His first job following graduation was senior city-county sanitarian in Lawton, enforcing public health and state ordinances on food safety and overseeing implementation of a state-of-the-art sanitary landfill which was subsequently used as a model for others. He participated in The Passage to Freedom (1954), a naval operation that evacuated over one million Vietnamese refugees from Halong Bay south to Saigon. He received Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation and Secretary of Navy Commendation for his efforts. CMDR Gleason received an MPH in Sanitary Science in 1958 from UC-Berkeley. He had a distinguished military career as a public health officer in the U.S. Navy, with over 30 years of service.
CLAUDIA GRIFFITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brittany Karfonta

Brittany is a second-year Master of Public Health student with a concentration in biostatistics. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in zoology from The University of Oklahoma. After graduation, she began managing a research laboratory for several years. Since then, she has been an employee at OUHSC working as a Clinical Research Coordinator. In that role, she has enjoyed collaborating with healthcare professionals to promote health and life science research in Oklahoma. In her free time, Brittany enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, Kyle, and son, Connor. After graduation, Brittany plans on working as a biostatistician assisting with the design and implementation of human clinical trials.

The scholarship was established in 2018 by the friends, family, and colleagues of The Honorable Claudia Griffith, State Representative for House District 45 and 1994 MPH alumna of the College of Public Health. Representative Griffith served the people of Oklahoma as a State Representative for House District 45 in 2004 and was then re-elected in 2006. She had a passion for improving our healthcare system and ensuring that more Oklahomans have access to quality medical care. Griffith passed away suddenly in July 2018.

HENLEY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Tabitha Foraker

Tabitha graduated with a bachelor’s degree in both biology and psychology from The University of Oklahoma in the spring of 2018 and is now a first-year Master of Health Administration student. She wishes to help better the lives of others by improving healthcare quality and accessibility in developing countries. Tabitha and her fiancé, Preston, enjoy binge watching TV shows, exploring new places and playing with their two children, Sawyer (a moody Maine Coon cat) and Finn (a rambunctious golden retriever). In the future, she plans to attend medical school and eventually work for an organization like UNICEF.

The scholarship was established in 2013 by E. Scott, Susie, Regan, and Shannon Henley to support students who are pursuing an MPH or MHA degree in the Department of Health Administration and Policy. Mr. E. Scott Henley, alumnus of the Department of Health Administration and Policy, earned his Ph.D in 1981 from the College of Public Health. He is the President of Henley Associates, Inc. and serves a member of the COPH Advisory Board.
HUDSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Ross Ogden

Jimmy “Ross” Ogden, now a second-year Master of Public Health student in epidemiology, earned a bachelor’s degree in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish from The University of Oklahoma. Ross has continued his genetics research all while working as a graduate research assistant at the OU Health Sciences Center, where he works on the Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention program. He and his team aim to reduce the prevalence of suicides in Native American communities. Ross likes to rodeo and enjoys playing sports. With a strong passion for people and medicine, Ross plans to attend medical school next fall and eventually practice medicine in rural Oklahoma.

The scholarship was established in 2013 by Dr. Leslie and Mr. Clifford Hudson to assist students preparing for a community-based health practice. Priority is given to students who pursue a degree in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Leslie and Clifford Hudson are both graduates of the University of Oklahoma and have a long history of supporting the academic mission of the institution. Dr. Hudson received her MPH in 1986 and Ph.D. in Epidemiology in 1990. In the past, she served as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and is currently a member of the COPH Advisory Board. The Hudsons are involved in a variety of philanthropic activities in the state and nationally. Mr. Hudson is the Chairman, President and CEO of Sonic Corporation.

BRENT HURD SCHOLARSHIP

Taylor Hayes

Taylor graduated from Texas Christian University in May 2017 and is now a second-year Master of Health Administration student. She is honored to receive the Brent Hurd Scholarship. This summer Taylor interned at UT Southwestern’s Moncrief Cancer Institute in Fort Worth, Texas. There, she worked under the Assistant Director of Operations, assisting in a variety of projects, including data analysis on a new screening program for the psychology department. Taylor plans to graduate in 2019 and will be applying to post-graduate fellowships. In the meantime, she is taking classes and planning her upcoming wedding.

The scholarship was established in 2008 to honor Brent Hurd (1973-2005). Mr. Hurd earned his BA in Economics from University of Rochester. He hosted a popular campus radio show and was a great DJ with extensive knowledge of music. He married his college sweetheart, Denise Brien, in 1998. Mr. Hurd was a natural athlete who loved to travel and hike. He was working as a research assistant at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and in the final year of earning a master’s degree in health administration when his life was cut short.
JOHNSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Jacob Bartels

Jacob Bartels is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health. He is extremely honored to receive the Johnson Family Scholarship. Jacob is focusing his attention on his research, which includes the application of an innovative chemical assay to assess the oxidative potential of various industrial aerosol exposures in the occupational environment. He plans on utilizing his research and educational experience to increase his practical knowledge in an industrial field before attaining his ultimate career goal of becoming a professor.

The scholarship was established in 2016 by Dr. and Mrs. David L. Johnson and their family, to provide scholarships to students pursuing studies in the area of Occupational and Environmental Health. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson are both long-time employees of the University with a commitment to helping OU students succeed and meet their professional goals and careers. Dr. Johnson, Chair of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and Associate Dean in the College of Public Health, has been with the University since 1991, and Mrs. Patsy Johnson, Senior Administrative Manager in the College of Allied Health Department of Nutritional Sciences, has been with the University since 1993.

ROBERT W. KETNER SCHOLARSHIP

Sophia Chen

Sophia is honored to receive the Robert W. Ketner Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. Sophia earned her MD from China Medical University in 2011. After graduation, she came to the US to further her education. She completed her master’s degree in biostatistics in 2016 and continues to pursue a doctorate degree in biostatistics. Her career goal is to lead public health studies and collaborate with interdisciplinary investigators in medical research. She wants to thank her family for their endless support and love.

The scholarship was established in 1999 to honor Robert W. Ketner, PhD (1925-1995). Dr. Ketner earned his BA and PhD from OU, and Masters of Social Work from University of Colorado. He served as psychiatric social worker in Topeka, faculty member in OU School of Social Work, and later in COPH’s Department of Health Promotion Sciences. He was an inspired public health advocate in response to his own life experiences with polio and the stigma that surrounded it. His strongest relationships outside of family were with his students and faculty colleagues. Dr. Ketner was instrumental in keeping the COPH from being closed by the legislature in the early 1970s due to the severe budgetary crisis. He shared a strong bond with his twin brother, William.
Cassandra Camp
Cassandra Camp is an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and a descendant of the Muscogee Nation. She earned a Master of Public Health degree in health promotion sciences from OUHSC in 2015. Cassandra is now a second-year doctoral student in health promotion sciences. She chose this field because she is passionate about the health and well-being of Indigenous people. Cassandra believes we must first address the root causes of health disparities and issues related to equity through policy change before health and well-being can be achieved.

Lance Ford
Lance, a first-year doctoral student in biostatistics, is honored to receive the Dan J. Macer scholarship for the 2018-2020 academic years. During his time at OUHSC, Lance has worked in the Research Design and Analysis Center where he has contributed to research projects in the departments of Neurology, Rehabilitation Sciences, and Geriatric Medicine, and the Stephenson Cancer Center. Lance has helped co-author three manuscripts over the last year which have been accepted for publication. When Lance isn’t at school or work, you can find him running, volunteering, or playing volleyball with friends.

Johnson Truong
Johnson, a Tulsa native, is a second-year master’s degree student in the Department of Health Administration and Policy. In addition to his studies, Johnson serves as the patient resources and volunteer coordinator for the Stephenson Cancer Center, where he has the opportunity to impact and engage with patients and volunteers daily. In the near future, he hopes to work in a project or quality management role. His hobbies include running, reading in local coffee shops, exploring new cities, hiking, and trying out new restaurants.

The scholarship was established in 1997 to honor Dan J. Macer (1917-2001). Mr. Macer earned his MS in Health Administration from Northwestern University. He retired as a Major in the U.S. Army in 1946 and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Unit Badge for exemplary acts while serving in WWII. He held senior executive positions in the VA & U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and VAMC in Oklahoma City. Macer also held leadership roles in various community organizations. Mr. Macer served as Interim Dean of COPH in 1980. He also served as President of Dan J. Macer Inc., in which he was consultant to health fields, professional associations, and health planners.
**Valarie Carter**

Valarie Carter is a trained chef, culinary educator, food writer and stylist, wife, mom, sister and daughter of a farm family. Valarie chose to pursue a degree in public health after joining the Culinary Medicine Project at OU-Tulsa, which aims to teach healthcare students and community members about the essential links between food and health and practical culinary skills. Valarie is currently Vice President of the Tulsa Farmers’ Market and lives in Bixby with her husband and two children.

This scholarship was established to celebrate the gifts received from the College of Public Health OU Giving Day held on February 28, 2017. The college participated in the University’s first-ever, 24-hour campus-wide campaign to raise funds directly to support student scholarships. Our goal was met thanks to the alumni, donors and friends of the College. The funds in 2018 are being used to support an interdisciplinary Master of Public Health student.

**Alshine Chen**

Alshine Chen

Alshine is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and is honored and grateful to receive the Elisa T. Lee Scholarship. Alshine has a great interest in statistical genetics and plans to focus his dissertation on developing new methodology in the rapidly growing field. His position as a senior data analyst at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation facilitates progress toward this goal. Alshine is also a part of a start-up company, called Bayesic Technologies, which originated at the College of Public Health, and aims to develop user-friendly statistical software.

The scholarship was established in 2010 to honor Elisa T. Lee, PhD. Dr. Lee is a George Lynn Cross Research Professor Emeritus, Regents’ Professor Emeritus in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and served as Dean of the College from 1994-2002. She was the Founder and Director of the Center for American Indian Health Research from 1994 to 2017 when she retired. She is devoted to research and training to improve health and reduce health disparities in the American Indian population. Dr. Lee spent over 30 years focusing on research initiatives American population, bringing more than $50M in research funds to OU, mostly from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She has authored over 250 technical papers in a variety of prestigious journals, primarily focused on Indian health and particularly relating to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and eye disease. Her book “Statistical Methods for Survival Data Analysis,” published by John Wiley & Sons, is now in its fourth edition and has been a popular textbook and reference. She served on numerous advisory committees and study sections of many federal and other agencies including the NIH, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Institute of Medicine.

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**Elisa T. Lee Scholarship**

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**OU Giving Day Scholarship**

Valarie Carter

Valarie Carter is a trained chef, culinary educator, food writer and stylist, wife, mom, sister and daughter of a farm family. Valarie chose to pursue a degree in public health after joining the Culinary Medicine Project at OU-Tulsa, which aims to teach healthcare students and community members about the essential links between food and health and practical culinary skills. Valarie is currently Vice President of the Tulsa Farmers’ Market and lives in Bixby with her husband and two children.

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DIANE E. RIGGERT SCHOLARSHIP

Ashton Glover Gatewood

Ashton Glover Gatewood, honored recipient of the Diane E. Riggert Scholarship, is in her third year as a Master of Public Health student in the Department of Health Administration and Policy. Before her public health pursuits, Ashton achieved a bachelor’s degree in cell and molecular biology, a bachelor’s degree in nursing, and a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Oklahoma City University. She thanks the OUHSC and Native American Research Centers for Health programs for launching her healthcare career that has now spanned a decade. She currently serves as the Director of Public Health and Interim-Director of Health Promotion Disease Prevention with Oklahoma City Indian Clinic.

The scholarship was established in 2016 by Dr. Aaron Boyd and Mrs. Tanja Krous Boyd to honor Tanja’s mother, Diane E. Riggert, RN, BSN, MPH, and to support a Registered Nurse pursuing a Master of Public Health degree. Riggert is a COPH alumna and registered nurse who later earned her MPH degree. She taught pediatric nursing and upon completion of her MPH from OU, she worked at the Seattle Children’s Hospital, where she was the Manager of Occupational Health Services.

J.C. WATTS FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS SCHOLARSHIP

Azka Khawaja

Azka, a second-year Master of Public Health student in health administration and policy, is honored to receive the J.C. Watts Family Health and Wellness Scholarship. Azka has a strong international background that allows her to bring a unique perspective to the hospital administration world. Striving to empower communities to reduce inequalities, Azka volunteered in Honduras for three consecutive years with a public health brigade. There, she assisted in changing lives with clean water and in-home sanitation projects as well as increasing access to healthcare by helping to operationalize a free clinic. Currently, she is interning at the Stephenson Cancer Center and spearheading projects to improve efficiency and quality within clinics. After graduating in 2019, she plans to begin a postgraduate fellowship to broaden and enhance her training through an array of administrative rotations and leadership empowerment.

This scholarship was established in 2015 in memory of J.C. Watts, Sr. In 2015, the family of J.C. Watts, Jr. directed the funds be used to recruit and support students who study the health and wellness of diverse populations. J.C. Watts, Jr. is a nationally recognized athlete who played on the OU football team. He was named Orange Bowl MVP in 1980 and 1981 and inducted into the Orange Bowl Hall of Fame in 1992. Watts was the first African American U.S. House of Representative elected from Oklahoma. He served four terms in the U.S. Congress and continues his life’s work today as a political consultant and advocate for autonomy in low-income families. Watts also served as president and CEO of Feed the Children. He and his wife, Frankie, reside in Norman.
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THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH has made it a priority to increase the amount of financial support given to students through scholarships. In 2003, three scholarships were awarded, totaling $4,000. This academic year, 29 scholarships have been awarded, totaling more than $73,000!

Scholarships are established as endowed accounts with balances of at least $25,000. As these principal balances grow through the continued support of alumni and friends, the increase in earnings will allow the annual awards to increase as well.

Our goal is to get each scholarship’s principal balance to a $50,000 minimum, generating annual earnings of approximately $2,500. This will allow the financial support to be awarded annually in perpetuity. Moreover, the individuals for whom each of the scholarships are named will be remembered, and their contributions and life celebrated.

If you are interested in supporting one of these named scholarships or would like information on establishing a new named scholarship, please contact Kyndall Wahkinney, Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, at (405) 271-8001 ext. 43414 or kyndall-wahkinney@ouhsc.edu.
THANK YOU!

While private giving has always been a primary key to increasing our scholarship offerings for outstanding students who strive to balance work, home and school, it is particularly so in these challenging and uncertain economic times. We’d like to say a special thank you to each of the donors who helped make this year’s scholarship awards possible!