



**The University of Oklahoma
College of Public Health**

***CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
2013-14 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!***

Scholarship Recognition Luncheon

August 28, 2013

Erin Davis

Edward N. Brandt, Jr. Scholarship

Erin is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and earned a biology degree from the University of Pittsburgh before transplanting to Oklahoma. She began her graduate career as a master's student in epidemiology at OUHSC, and is currently a doctoral candidate in the BSE department. Her research interests and dissertation focus are in the field of maternal and child health, concentrating on vitamin D deficiency and associated negative health outcomes.

Erin currently works as a graduate research assistant and has instructed a human anatomy laboratory section in Norman. She has served as president of BSESA, chaired an OUHSC GREAT Symposium committee, and completed an internship in the Oklahoma LEND program.

Honors include attending the National Institute of Child Health and Development Reproductive Epidemiology Summer Institute training program, receiving multiple GREAT travel awards, and presenting her research at national conferences, earning first place in the OPHA Student Poster Sessions.

Amanda Janitz

Edward N. Brandt, Jr. Scholarship

Amanda is currently pursuing a doctorate in the field of epidemiology with a focus on childhood cancers. Her interests in this field are understanding the etiology of cancer, factors that affect survival and long-term complications of treatment.

After graduating in 2006 with a BS degree in nursing, Amanda worked as a pediatric oncology nurse and began pursuing a MPH degree in 2007. While in the MPH program, she studied the etiology and survival of three select childhood cancers and worked with Susan G. Komen for the Cure on their 2009 Community Profile. Thereafter she worked as a research nurse and returned to the University with the goal of completing a doctoral program and contributing to cancer research in Oklahoma. She has coordinated the Komen's 2011 Community Profile and has worked on several other projects in her department.

Amanda is currently a graduate research assistant for the Oklahoma Public Health Training Center and is working on her dissertation.

Cherionique Thomas

Calvey Family Scholarship

Cher was born in Ada, Oklahoma in June, 1982. She is the daughter of Cynthia Thomas, sister to Charmaine Thomas, and a member of a large immediate family.

Cher believes she has always been academically inclined and graduated high school with honors. Knowing opportunities awaited her, she decided to pursue an undergraduate degree from a stellar school not too far from home and received a Bachelor's degree from OU in international business with a minor in management. She realized that while she was passionate about education, an element was missing. Life changes brought a new desire to promote health and combine it with education. While completing a MBA degree at the University of Central Oklahoma she began the pursuit of a MPH degree at OU.

In her spare time, Cher is involved in community and volunteer activities and is currently working to complete her first half marathon.

Oumy Sy

Ronald L. Coleman Scholarship

Oumy was born and raised in Senegal West Africa. Currently she is a full time student pursuing a MS degree in industrial hygiene and environmental health science. She received a Bachelor's degree in biology and has over five years work experience in the public health field of HIV testing, counseling, and as a Sexually Transmitted Disease Intervention and Prevention Specialist.

Oumy is an active member of "Ndimbeule" (a Senegalese organization in Oklahoma City) where she devotes her time collecting clothes and school supplies for underprivileged children in Senegal. Additionally she spends her time volunteering in many health screening programs in the Dallas and Philadelphia areas.

Oumy is a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and a recipient of the 2013-2014 Liberty Mutual Scholarship and the Oklahoma Local AIHA Scholarship. Her goal is to commit to protecting the health and safety of people in the work place and communities, globally. She and husband Cheikh have a beautiful four year old daughter Dior. Oumy is honored and thankful to receive this year's Ronald L. Coleman Scholarship.

Breanca Thomas
COPH Advisory Board Scholarship

Breanca is a PhD student in health promotion science. A native of Shreveport, Louisiana, she earned a MA degree in political science with emphasis in public policy and administration from Texas A&M, and a BA degree in journalism from OU. She decided to pursue a career in public health because of her interests in health disparities and the growing role of public policy in health behavior.

Breanca is a member of OU Crimson Club and serves as 2013-2014 HSC Sooner Safety Week co-chair. She was selected for the Oklahoma Summer Policy Institute; a scholarship recipient for the 2013 Children's Behavioral Health Conference; and a reviewer and associate editor for *Health Behavior and Policy Review*.

Breanca works as a research assistant with the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center helping develop an intervention to reduce diabetes-related behaviors among American Indian children. Her research interests are in social and political determinants of obesity and its comorbidities. She intends to pursue a research career focusing on effective methods to reduce health disparities among at-risk groups.

Abigail Lansdown
ConocoPhillips OEH Scholarship

Abbe received a BS degree in kinesiology and dance, with a mathematics minor from Indiana University. Upon graduation, she began her professional dance career in Denver, Colorado, finishing in Austin, Texas. In 2012 she began her academic career at OUHSC and plans to graduate in May, 2014 with a Master's in industrial hygiene and environmental health sciences.

Abbe interned as an industrial hygienist at the Phillips 66 Ponca City Refinery during the summer of 2013; and has worked as a graduate research assistant for the ONIE project in 2012-2013. In addition, she works with small dance companies in Tulsa and actively participates at Tulsa's 918 Crossfit, working towards competing in local competitions next summer.

Abbe plans to receive both her MBA and PhD related to her field. Upon graduation she hopes to work as an industrial hygienist, with aspirations to become a manager of health safety and environment at an oil and gas company.

Stephanie Villanella
ConocoPhillips OEH Scholarship

Stephanie, from Skiatook, Oklahoma, is a second year student in the occupational and environmental health program pursuing dual Master's of Science in industrial hygiene and environmental health sciences. She received a Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2012, where she focused on chemistry, leadership, and student involvement.

Stephanie currently works for the OSBI as a fingerprint technician and interns with Marshall Environmental Management, Inc. as an industrial hygiene associate. She is currently working on her Master's thesis, focusing on exposure risk posed by toilet flush bio-aerosols.

Stephanie plans to finish her coursework, complete her thesis, and graduate in May 2014. With her education, passion for public speaking, and work and leadership experiences, Stephanie has high hopes for an exciting and bright future as an industrial hygienist and safety professional.

Molly McCool
David J. Falcone, PhD Scholarship

Molly is a MHA candidate from Eufaula, Oklahoma. She earned a BS degree in multidisciplinary studies with an emphasis in health studies and a minor in history from OU in May 2012. She always knew she wanted a career in healthcare, and after researching various positions, discovered her place was in healthcare administration.

Molly spent the summer as an intern at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center, Enid, Oklahoma, where she gained hands-on learning experiences in hospital administration. She serves as a board member for the Sooner Healthcare Executives, current president of the OU Student Affiliate of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and vice-president of the College's Student Association.

Molly intends to pursue a post-graduate fellowship, and looks forward to a career in hospital administration, specifically in physician practice management. Molly thanks her family, friends, and the HAP faculty for their endless support.

Jannate Ahmed
Rosetta Fisher Scholarship
(through COPH Alumni Association)

Jannate graduated with an undergraduate degree in medicine from Bangladesh. She completed her residency and is currently enrolled in her second year of the MPH program. Her experience in observing an overwhelming number of patients forced her to believe only interventions with serious investment in preventive medicine are feasible directions for future health management, and thus influenced her decision to pursue a career in epidemiology.

Jannate has volunteered as a patient welfare secretary in a national-level blood donation organization, and is a graduate research assistant on the Surveillance of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism project.

Jannate is completing her practicum with the State Health Department, where she is investigating the incidence of tick borne disease in Oklahoma. She plans to focus on expanding her epidemiological research skills, leading to a career in chronic disease research and clinical epidemiology.

Ann Paul
Rosetta Fisher Scholarship
(through COPH Alumni Association)

Ann recently completed the MPH program at OU with a 4.0 GPA and recognition as Outstanding Student of the Year, Interdisciplinary Public Health. She enters the DrPH program this fall with special interests in collaboration throughout the care continuum to improve population health.

Ann joined the St. John Health System in Tulsa as Vice President in June 2013, and is leading various population health management development initiatives including accountable care organization development. She has 30 years experience in healthcare management and administration, experience as a market leader with national health insurers, and has been an independent consultant in her own company supporting rural hospitals.

Ann has been active over the years with various government and healthcare organizations including: serving a second term as president of the College's Student Association in Tulsa, and past president and active member of the Oklahoma Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Jessica Reese
James George Scholarship

Jessica earned a BS degree *cum laude* in zoology/biomedical sciences in 2005 from OU. She received a Master's degree in epidemiology in 2008 and wrote a thesis in the area of child and maternal health. Since receiving the MS degree, Jessica has been working as a clinical trials coordinator under the direction of Dr. George and has gained experience in clinical research, presenting research at national conferences, and publishing papers on a variety of hematology-related disorders.

In 2011 Jessica started the PhD program in epidemiology and has recently completed her comprehensive examinations to become a PhD candidate. She is looking forward to writing her dissertation and continuing her career in hematology.

Jessica is very honored and grateful to receive the 2013-2014 James N. George Scholarship. She would like to thank her husband Jason and three children Patrick, Jack, and Cecilia for their support over the past two years.

Hanh Dung Dao
CMDR Edmund Gleason Scholarship

Hanh, June to those who know her, was born and raised in Vietnam before she moved to the US in 2008. She graduated and was named class valedictorian with a BS degree in biology and chemistry from Northern Arizona University in 2011. Currently she is working towards her MS degree in epidemiology at OU.

June has been a graduate research assistant in the BSE department since fall 2011, and is currently involved in multiple projects including epidemiology and diagnostic tools study for diabetes in minority pregnancy. She is a member of the SAS/R users group and the BSE Student Association on campus.

Upon completion of the MS program, June intends to pursue her interest in the link between environmental exposure and risk of cancer. She currently explores the association between residency in refinery oil plants in Oklahoma and cancer, at the State Health Department.

Nam Do
Brent Hurd Scholarship

Nam is a MHA candidate currently in his second year of study. His passion for healthcare began at a young age and he grew up dreaming to one day serve his community as a physician. While earning an undergraduate degree in zoology at OU, he realized his passion remained the same while his strengths began to change. He soon stumbled upon the field of health administration and has not looked back. Health administration combines his love of healthcare with his strengths in leadership.

Nam explored the industry during his internship at the JPS Health Network in Texas. His experience allowed him to be exposed to the inner-workings of a hospital and the future career that lies ahead of him. He hopes to further explore his interests in operations, finance, and quality improvement as it relates to the patient experience. Additionally, his internship has solidified his passion for serving others, especially those who truly need access to care. Nam is excited to enter into the healthcare industry at a time when innovative and creative thinking are encouraged.

Hannah Hirsch
Robert W. Ketner Scholarship

Hannah was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, graduating with a BA degree in environmental studies from OU in May, 2011. In her junior year of college she learned of the OU MPH program and concluded that obtaining a public health degree could give her a skill set to achieve her goal of improving the health, wellbeing, and lives of others. Hannah began the MPH in epidemiology program in fall, 2011, and began working as an epidemiology intern at the State Health Department. Throughout her time as a MPH student and epidemiology intern, she developed a true passion for both public health and epidemiology. Upon graduating this December, Hannah is committed to harnessing all of her enthusiasm, compassion, and knowledge into her career, with the ultimate objective of achieving a healthier future.

Sydney Martinez
Elisa T. Lee Scholarship

Sydney is a second year PhD student at OUHSC studying epidemiology. Her current research focuses on cancer disparities among American Indians in Oklahoma, evaluating the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline utilization and outcomes and modeling smoking, using a transmission dynamics approach. She plans to research community-based chronic disease prevention programs primarily in the areas of tobacco. Understanding health disparities among American Indians and populations with low socioeconomic status will be used to develop strategies and reduce tobacco-related health disparities.

Sydney previously worked as an epidemiologist at the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board providing grant technical assistance and evaluation services to tribes in Oklahoma and Kansas. Currently she is a research project coordinator in the BSE department where she evaluates multiple public health prevention programs involving tobacco, physical activity, and nutrition.

Sydney received a MPH degree in epidemiology and a BS degree in health and exercise science from OU.

Bradley Bishop
Dan J. Macer Scholarship

Brad is a MHA candidate from Bristow, Oklahoma. He earned a BS degree in communications from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2006. His passion for health administration stems from the experience he shares with his mother during her fight with cancer in 2007.

Brad is employed in a marketing role at INTEGRIS Health. He leads the video team and has been instrumental in elevating INTEGRIS onto the national stage as a top dedicated hospital for internal video production. He has won national marketing awards, and has been a guest speaker at the National Healthcare Internet Marketing Awards.

Upon graduation, Brad intends to begin a post-graduate fellowship position. In the future he would like to be part of an executive leadership team for a children's hospital.

Brad would like to thank everyone who has supported him, specifically his wife Kelsey as none of this would be possible without her.

Evaren Page
Dan J. Macer Scholarship

Evaren was born and raised in Oklahoma and currently resides in Norman with her husband. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA degree in psychology from OU. This fall she will start her second year in the MPH program with a concentration in epidemiology.

Evaren has participated in OU Leadership and has also worked as a research technician for the Transition Project with the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center. For her hard work she has been rewarded with an authorship credit on a recently published research abstract.

Evaren participated in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration summer internship program in Rockville, Maryland, gaining valuable experience working with data at the federal level, and was approached to return to the internship program in the future.

Evaren plans to complete her MPH in epidemiology and hopes to continue her education in a PhD program. She is interested in infectious disease etiology, transmission dynamics, and surveillance methods.

Ram Poudel
Dan J. Macer Scholarship

Ram is pursuing a MPH degree in epidemiology and a graduate research assistant for Sooner SUCCESS. He has eight years of experience in natural and holistic health approaches from his works in Nepal, India, Malaysia, and Singapore.

With a love to serve the community, Ram is a certified exercise evaluator, volunteer for the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps, Total Wellness Program of the Oklahoma County Health Department, as well as active in statewide organizations. His campus activities include the OUHSC Crimson Club, financial committee of the OPHA, secretary of the BSE Student Association, Task Force for Academic Excellence, and Phi Kappa Phi. He and his wife Binu have two daughters Sirisha and Erica.

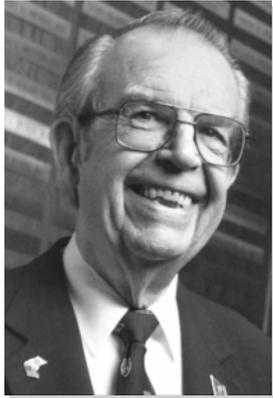
Ram prefers working with big data and infectious disease modeling; spatial analysis is his passion. He is very honored and grateful to receive the Dan J. Macer Scholarship of 2013-2014.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP
HONOREES

A lifetime of successful achievement and professional contribution cannot be condensed into five or six bullet points. However, the following pages provide brief highlights about the individuals, companies and entities for whom these scholarships are named.

Today, we celebrate their commitment to public health, as well as this year's scholarship recipients.

Established in 2004 to honor



Edward N. Brandt, Jr., MD (1933-2007)

- Served as Dean, Graduate Studies and College of Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch
- Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, University of Texas System
- President, University of Maryland at Baltimore
- Executive Dean, OU College of Medicine
- Appointed by President Ronald Reagan as Assistant Secretary of Health, Department of Health and Human Services
- Recognized by many as the godfather of women's health, increasing the national awareness of women's health and health care
- Elected member of Institutes of Medicine and Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Professor Emeritus, OU College of Public Health and College of Medicine, and avid Sooner fan

Established in 2004 to honor



The Calvey Family

- 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 served 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 Jane Calvey runs an Environmental Consulting firm, Real World Management Solutions, and serves on the Board of Advisors for the OU College of Public Health

Established in 2009 to honor



Ronald L. Coleman, PhD (1934-2008)

- Served OU for 37 years, 15 as Chair, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health
- An environmental toxicologist, his area of research focused on biochemical effects of carbon black, metals and petroleum products
- Was recognized with several campus-wide awards for his commitment to students and outstanding teaching
- Was a lifelong learner who was never limited by "the box" and believed success comes from persistence and hard work
- Was widely published, including book chapters, national presentations and prestigious scholarly journals
- Was a modest man, who didn't take himself too seriously and who valued personal integrity above all else
- Devoted to his faith, family, community and service

Established in 2011 by



College of Public Health Advisory Board

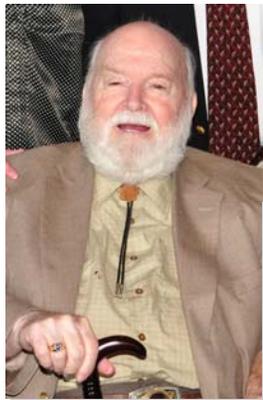
- Following the Scholarship Recognition Luncheon in August 2010, discussion was held at the COPH Advisory Board meeting about the growth of the college's scholarship opportunities, the impact scholarships have on students' lives and career development, and specific actions the Board might take to help 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.

Established in 2011 by



- 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 \$100,000 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.

Established in 2001 to honor



Roy B. Deal, Jr., PhD (1919-2012)

- Earned BA ('47), MA ('48) and PhD ('53), all from the University of Oklahoma
- 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
- Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, OSU, including a year of study and research at University of Paris (Sorbonne)
- Professor, Department of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, OUHSC (1967)
- Traveled the globe, with sabbaticals at Universities of Dublin, Manchester, London, Stockholm, Athens, and Pahlavia (Iran)
- Retired from OUHSC in 1985
- Distinguished career with awards too numerous to mention

Established in 2010 to honor



David J. Falcone, PhD (1944-1996)

- Earned BA and PhD from Duke University, and MA from Arizona State University
- Regarded nationally and internationally for his expertise in gerontology and long-term care
- Was faculty member, Duke University, while serving as Associate Editor, *Journal of Health, Policy, Politics & Law*
- Recruited to OU in 1992 as Chair and Professor, Health Administration and Policy, and Associate Director, Oklahoma Center on Aging
- Recognized as a role model who intellectually stimulated and inspired students, earning the OUHSC Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (1996)
- Was major participant in RWJ Foundation grants on long-term care, as well as Oklahoma Rural Research and Demonstration Center

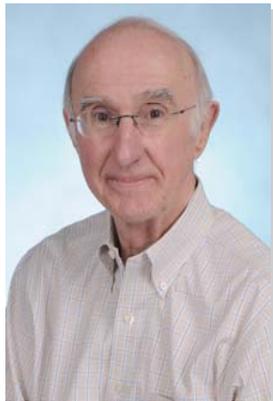
Established in 2005 to honor



Rosetta Fisher

- OU employee for 33 years, the last 27 in the College of Public Health
- First position in COPH was program admissions coordinator, handling recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and graduation
- Moved to administrative manager, overseeing Dean's office staff, college budget and first accreditation, ending her tenure as Assistant to the Dean
- 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
- Retired in 2005, she now pursues genealogy and enjoys grandchildren and nieces

Established in 2011 to honor



James N. George, MD

- George Lynn Cross Professor, Department of Medicine (2005-present)
- Medical Degree from Ohio State University (1962); trained in internal medicine and hematology (1962-1970) at Vanderbilt University, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and University of Rochester
- Chief of OU Hematology-Oncology Section (1990-99) and Director of Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Program (1990-2002)
- Current focus: thrombocytopenia, describing the demographics, clinical course, and outcomes of patients with immune thrombocytopenia, drug-induced thrombocytopenia, and thrombotic thrombocytopenia purpura
- Active in American Society of Hematology (ASH); served as President (2005); Development Committee (2010-2013)

Established in 1998 to honor



CDRM Edmund Gleason (1915-1986)

- Through a GI bill, received OU's first public health degree (1949): BS Public Health & Sanitation, then in the College of Arts and Sciences
- First job following graduation was city-county sanitarian, Lawton, overseeing implementation of a state-of-the-art sanitary landfill which was subsequently used as a model for others
- Participated in The Passage to Freedom (1954), a Naval operation that evacuated over 1 million Vietnamese refugees from Haiphong south to Saigon. Received Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation and Secretary of Navy Commendation for his efforts
- Had a distinguished military career in the U.S. Navy, with over 30 years of service

Established in 2008 to honor



Brent Hurd (1973-2005)

- BA Economics, University of Rochester
- Member of Chi Phi Phi fraternity
- Hosted a popular campus radio show and was a great DJ with extensive knowledge of music
- Married his college sweetheart, Denise Brien, in 1998
- Was a natural athlete who loved to travel and hike
- 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

Established in 1999 to honor



Robert W. Ketner, PhD (1925-1995)

- BA and PhD from OU; MSW from Colorado
- Served as psychiatric social worker in Topeka, faculty member in OU School of Social Work, and later in COPH's Health Promotion Sciences
- 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
- Was instrumental in keeping the COPH from being closed by the legislature in the early '70s due to severe budgetary crisis
- Shared a strong bond with his twin William, his benefactor and lifelong supporter

Established in 2010 to honor



Elisa T. Lee, PhD

- George Lynn Cross Research Professor in BSE, and former Dean, COPH (1994-2002)
- Founder and Director, Center for American Indian Health Research, devoted to research and training to improve health and reduce health disparities in the American Indian population
- Spent over 30 years focusing on research in Native American population, bringing more than \$45M in research funds to OU
- Has authored over 200 technical papers in a variety of prestigious journals, primarily focused on Indian health, particularly relating to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and eye disease
- Is a member of the National Advisory Council for Minority Health and Health Disparities and continues as a valued member of the COPH faculty

Established in 1997 to honor



Dan J. Macer (1917-2001)

- MS Health Administration from Northwestern University
- Retired as Major, U.S. Army (1946) and awarded Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Unit Badge for exemplary acts while serving in WWII
- Held senior executive positions in Veterans Administration & U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and VAMC in Oklahoma City
- Served as Interim Dean, COPH (1980)
- President, Dan J. Macer Inc., consultant to health fields, professional associations, health planners, etc.
- Held leadership roles in various community organizations

The College of Public Health has made it a priority to increase the amount of financial support given to students through scholarships. In 2003-04, three scholarships were awarded totaling \$4,000. This academic year, 18 scholarships are awarded totaling \$42,000. Scholarships are established as endowed accounts with minimum 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 and/or number of awards to also increase.

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. And, with each award, the individuals for whom these 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 Deanna Debus (405-271-2232 or Deanna-Debus@ouhsc.edu).



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. A special thank you to each of the donors who helped make this year's scholarship awards possible!