

2016-2017 Scholarship Award Recipients

**Dr. Henry Ward Church
Scholarship**
Yuanshuai Cui, Professional
Alpha Chapter #0
Allegheny College

**Dr. Anthony S. Corbiere
Scholarship**
Sarah E. Meeker
Chi Omega Chapter #263
University of South Alabama

**Dr. Santiago Vilas
Scholarship**
Orion Smart
Eta Alpha Chapter #142
San Francisco State University

**Dr. Marie-France Hilgar
Scholarship**
Shayla M. Cohen
Phi Nu Chapter #30
Muskingum University

**Dr. Cleon Capsus
Scholarship**
Hannah L. Morris
Kappa Chi Chapter #165
Caldwell University

**Dr. Dorothy I. Mitstifer
Scholarship**
Taylor M. Jaczko
Sigma Tau Chapter #61
Alfred University

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Delaney E. Jones
Gamma Tau Chapter #220
Ashland University

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Amelia Eppard
Chi Zeta Chapter #262
Bryant University

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Alexandra Siegel
Beta Tau Chapter #197
California State University Chico

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Raquel Mattson-Prieto, Professional
Beta Tau Chapter #197
California State University Chico

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Jenna J. Butts
Psi Chapter #88
St. Norbert College

**Phi Sigma Iota
Scholarship**
Mary V. Andrikus
Gamma Phi Chapter #222
Northern Kentucky University

Reports From The 2016-2017 Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship Recipients

The Dr. Henry Ward Church Scholarship
Yuanshuai Cui, Alumni Member, Alpha Chapter #0, Allegheny College

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$3500 scholarship that enabled me to travel to Paris this summer to conduct research on the French composer and humanist Charles Koechlin. With the help of this scholarship, I was able to gain access to the archives of the Fonds Koechlin at the Médiathèque Gustave Mahler and the music department of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, both of which provided me with manuscripts, historical documents and research on Koechlin which would not be possible to consult in the United States.

My archival research confirmed the extensive connections between French literary traditions and Charles Koechlin's musical compositions. In addition to his early song cycles that would earn Koechlin a place alongside Fauré and Debussy, his monumental suite for piano, *Les Heures Persanes*, attracted most of my attention. Upon examining the documents around the conception and creation of this work, including Koechlin's own program notes and his article on Orientalism in French music, I concluded that the scope and sophistication of musico-literary connections as displayed here was comparable to that in *Gaspard de la nuit* of Maurice Ravel, based on poems of Aloysius Bertrand, which was the focus of my senior thesis at Allegheny College. It is not by chance that both composers were members of *les Apaches* (another member, Tristan Klingsor, was a mutual friend whose poems Koechlin and Ravel both set to songs), moved in literary circles as well as musical ones, and held mutual admiration (as seen in their correspondence and Koechlin's *Etude sur Ravel*). Through my research this summer, a study on the musico-literary connections within *les Apaches* and comparable circles in *fin-de-siècle* Paris emerged as a potential dissertation topic for my future doctoral studies at Indiana University, and I would like to look further into other members of those circles in the following summers.

In addition to the progress I made in my own research and towards my future dissertation, traveling to Paris on scholarship also helped me build my professional connections. I had the opportunity to meet two of the leading scholars on Koechlin, Sylvie Douche and Philippe Cathé, both professors at l'Université Paris-Sorbonne and editors of the book *Charles Koechlin: Compositeur et Humaniste*. They further introduced me to colleagues from France, England, Canada, Russia and the United States at the occasion of the Francophone Music Criticism conference held in Paris (July 10-11).

The above progress in my research and my professional development would not have been possible without the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship. Thank you again for enabling this opportunity.

Dr. Marie-France Hilgar Scholarship
Shayla M. Cohen, Phi Nu Chapter #30, Muskingum University

I am writing to share with the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship committee how I have chosen to use the money received from the Dr. Marie-France Hilgar Scholarship. Shortly after receiving the scholarship, I began making arrangements for my year abroad in Spain as an English Teaching Assistant. Moving abroad is costly as one can imagine. Consequently, the scholarship money helped pay for many of the inevitable expenses such as: a background check, visa expenses (visa, transportation to Chicago, etc.), as well as transportation to Spain (flight, buses, and trains). Before settling in at my new home, however, I used part of the scholarship money to travel to France. While there, I explored the French

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Riviera with a friend (native to France), and was able to experience the French culture first-hand while also putting my knowledge of the language to use.

Now I am settled in at my new home in Toledo. I am already considering spending another year in Spain although I haven't even been here an entire month. That being said, the thought of graduate school is still lingering, but it's possible that it may be a little further away than originally anticipated. Nonetheless, I can assure you that the remainder of the scholarship money will be put to good use, and will help in furthering my education of language and culture, as well as assisting with the enlightenment of others in this regard.

The Dr. Cleon Capsus Scholarship

Hannah L. Morris, Kappa Chi Chapter #165, Caldwell University

In reflection of my trip to Spain, which the scholarship I was awarded helped pay for, I realize the main benefits of this trip align perfectly with the motto of Phi Sigma Iota. "Philotes, Spoude, Idioma," or Friendship, Research, Language can sum up most of my trip to Spain.

I traveled with a group of students who were previously strangers and I now have the pleasure to call my friends. My friends made this trip more personally enriching through their companionship and the unforgettable memories we made together. Along with the people I traveled with, I also made new friends in the city of Segovia and if I am ever able to return, I will surely visit them.

While in Spain, I studied Catholic Traditions in Spain and the Spanish language. The group that I traveled with visited cathedrals, mosques, synagogues, art museums, palaces, and many more places, but all of our visits focused on the dynamics of religions in Spain. This is something we also learned about in class. The emersion into the Spanish culture and the knowledge I gained while abroad will continue to help me in my journey towards becoming a Spanish teacher.

Lastly, language. I spent my time in Spain living with a host family that only spoke Spanish, taking a Spanish language class, and speaking to people around the cities we visited in Spanish. This experience truly immersed me in the Spanish language. In class I was able to refine my language skills and correct long-imbedded bad habits I had picked up. At my host family's house, I learned new colloquial phrases, new general vocabulary, and fine-tuned my pronunciation. And in my free time, I met many people who helped me learn new words and generally practice my skills. Overall, my Spanish skills improved exponentially during my month abroad.

The many benefits personally and professionally that I gained during my month abroad will continue to impact me for years to come and I have Phi Sigma Iota to thank for a large portion of that. I will continue to learn, grow, and try to spread any knowledge I gained from my trip inside the Phi Sigma Iota community and outside of it as well. I cannot express how truly grateful I am for my study abroad experience and the help I received from Phi Sigma Iota.

The Dr. Dorothy I. Mitstifer Scholarship

Taylor M. Jaczko, Sigma Tau Chapter #61, Alfred University

This past spring I was awarded the Dorothy I. Mitstifer scholarship through Phi Sigma Iota in order to pursue a certification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. In late May, I attended my twenty-hour practical lesson at the Brooklyn School of Languages and was thrilled to be surrounded by like-minded students. We all shared a passion for education and travel, and thus decided to put our

natural English skills to use in the classroom. This practical course was taught by a woman who spent seven years teaching English in the Czech Republic, and currently teaches Chinese schoolchildren in a weekly broadcasted TV show. Her expertise and credentials were incomparable, and I feel as though my takeaway was significant enough to reassure myself that teaching English abroad is the definite employment that I'd like to work in. In combination with the 120 hours of online education and practice, I am now confident in my skills and feel ready to get in front of a classroom.

With this newfound assurance, I am currently in the process of applying to two separate programs for teaching English overseas— the Teaching Assistant Program in France as well as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Luxembourg. This certification will help my application stand out among the sea of highly-qualified and passionate candidates. I am incredibly grateful to Phi Sigma Iota and the Scholarship Committee for awarding me this life-altering opportunity. I plan on continuing on my trajectory of acquiring new lingual and cultural knowledge and sharing it with as many as possible. Thank you.

Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship

Delaney Jones, Gamma Tau Chapter #220, Ashland University

I wanted to take this time to thank you all for choosing me to receive the Phi Sigma Iota scholarship for a second time. It was an honor to receive it, and it certainly went to good use. This scholarship has benefitted me in so many ways in my final year of University. I was able to apply to the CIEE Teach in Spain program and guarantee a placement teaching in Madrid, Spain. Thanks to Phi Sigma Iota, my program cost was covered and I was able to focus my energy on planning for my year abroad! I am currently teaching English in a secondary school in Alcalá de Henares, Madrid and enjoying every minute of it. I hope to renew my position for next year! Thank you to all who have considered me for this award; it has been an honor and a privilege.

Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship

Amelia Eppard, Chi Zeta Chapter #262, Bryant University

The Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship has allowed me to pursue one of my dreams of living in another country. I am honored to have received this scholarship and I thank Phi Sigma Iota for their generosity.

Currently, I am an English teaching assistant in Madrid, Spain. I work at a primary school where I use both English and Spanish on a daily basis. I absolutely adore my students, and even though they are so young, they have taught me so much. Their curiosity, excitement, and eagerness to learn is so refreshing and admirable.

Aside from teaching, I am living with a host family



Amelia in Toledo, Spain

where I have gained knowledge of both the Spanish language, as well as the culture. Living with a family has widened my global perspective and has made me challenge myself. Before coming to Madrid, I was still timid to speak Spanish, and while the learning process is ongoing, I am gaining more confidence every day.

Upon returning to the United States, I am eager to take the Spanish I have learned and a new sense of independence to another job. I am planning to begin my career in marketing. There are many opportunities in marketing, many which value bilingualism. I am confident that the skills I have gained will assist me in any job I pursue.

Phi Sigma Iota Professional Scholarship

Alexandra Siegel, Beta Tau Chapter #197, California State University Chico

As I said in my proposal for the Phi Sigma Iota Collegiate Member Grant back in April, the money that I received from the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship Committee went to a study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. This experience further advanced my Spanish language skills I have been studying the past few years in college. [Photos: 1) Temple of Debod in Madrid, which was a gift from Egypt back in the 1960s to show gratitude to Spain for helping them preserve their temples; 2) Park Güell in Barcelona; 3) my favorite food in Spain “tortilla” from a restaurant in Madrid called Pez Tortilla.]



I took six units in my short time in Spain, but these two classes were amongst my favorite I have taken. As I said in my proposal, I plan to use my undergraduate studies of the Spanish language when I am a nurse. One of my classes, Spanish Medical Terminology, had materials that will directly benefit my career as a nurse. I plan to travel with my career, hopefully to places that are Spanish-speaking, and I hope that my knowledge of a second



language will be beneficial with future Spanish-speaking patients. The other class, Hispanic Cinema, was essentially a history class about the Hispanic world taught through movies. I learned something new every day, especially from Dr. Prieto, who did research on the Spanish Civil War, and had a large spectrum of knowledge about the subject. These classes were fast paced yet very immersive, being over three hours a day every day of the week.

When I'm at my home university at Chico State, I go home from Spanish class and am back into the English-speaking world. This is what was unique about studying abroad in Spain. I would go to a coffee shop or go exploring after class and continue to use those learned Spanish speaking skills. I became an expert at public transportation, asking for directions, and basic phrases that got me around to get the most out of my time there.

Although I know that this scholarship money was meant for my academics in a foreign country (and yes, all the money awarded went towards the tuition of my program), it opened up doors in my life that

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are much more than just academic, as I believe studying abroad is meant to do. The independence and inspiration gained during my time abroad is not something that could be learned in a normal school setting, and for this opportunity I am forever grateful. The excuse of already being abroad in Europe allowed me to travel other places too, making the world seem so possible. The interesting people I met and diverse viewpoints I gained during my travels emphasized the values of being an active member in Phi Sigma Iota and made me even more proud that I can call myself the president for my chapter at Chico State. Thanks so much and I hope you enjoyed hearing about my experience!

Phi Sigma Iota Professional Scholarship

Raquel Mattson-Prieto, Alumni Member, California State University Chico

I want to begin by thanking the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship Committee for its continuous financial support while I complete my doctoral dissertation in Hispanic Applied Linguistics. Because of the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship, I have been able to finance travel to participate and present my research on second and foreign language development in two international conferences. In the summer of 2016 I presented my dissertation proposal on heritage language learners in the Spanish foreign language classroom at the *VIII Congreso de la Asociación de Humanidades Hispánicas* in Madrid, Spain. This past summer of 2017, I traveled to the University of Reading in England and presented a case study on heritage learners and identity in the foreign language classroom as part of a colloquium at the *27th Conference of the European Second Language Association*. Both experiences were enriching and beneficial toward my research, the practice of talking about my research and giving oral presentations, as well as networking with emerging scholars in both the field of Hispanic Language and Literatures and Applied Linguistics.

As a recipient of the Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship I have been able to reap both the personal and professional benefits of the award. Personally, I feel very honored and grateful that an association such as Phi Sigma Iota has deemed my project worthy of funding. On a professional level, the scholarship has allowed me to pursue opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible financially; namely, it has helped pay for international travel, lodging, and time off from work.

As an active member and scholarship recipient of Phi Sigma Iota, I will continue to uphold and promote the ideals and interests of the honor society – “Philotes, Spoude, Idioma,” “Friendship, Research, and Languages” – in both my personal and professional endeavors.

Thank you very much for your sponsorship and support.

Phi Sigma Iota Scholarship

Jenna J. Butts, Psi Chapter #88, St. Norbert College

I am very blessed and grateful to have received a scholarship from Phi Sigma Iota this past year! Financially, this scholarship has relieved stress for me as I applied it directly to my tuition. I not only saved money on tuition, but also on the interest on the loan I would have had to take out. This summer I will be continuing my education at Trevecca Nazarene University, pursuing a Master of Science in Medicine (Physician Assistant Studies). While continuing my education has been my dream, it comes with a cost. I am very thankful to have received a scholarship from Phi Sigma Iota to help with undergraduate costs, so I can worry less about my past expenses and focus on the costs to come. Additionally, this scholarship has helped me personally and professionally. After receiving this

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scholarship, a professor in the Spanish Language Department at St. Norbert College approached me and asked me to join him in conducting undergraduate research. Not only will this help my personal Spanish skills, which I will use to talk to patients in the future, but it has also given me the professional opportunity to present at a national conference in April. I am beyond humbled for the scholarship, as it has helped me financially, personally, and professionally!

2015-16 Dr. Henry Ward Church Scholarship
Elsie Hendricks, Alpha Chapter #0, Allegheny College

I am very happy to write a second letter to thank you in regards to the Dr. Henry Ward Church scholarship that you generously granted me last year. It has made my study abroad semester in Angers, France, affordable and wonderfully memorable. I have been able to explore the city and the surrounding area, and to plan trips around France and Europe to learn as much as possible about the amazing continent on which I have based my major at Allegheny College.

Angers is a beautiful city. I like to think of it as a miniature Paris: it has ornate balustrades, an opera house, parks with fountains, quaint museums, a rainbow tram, plenty of shops, dozens of bakeries, a river, and an enormous medieval castle at its center. Throughout the semester, I have planned Angers exploration days: I seek out a museum or theater to visit, bring a picnic and set off on my adventure. I have been able to see modern tapestries, a European photo exhibition, a taxidermy laboratory at the natural history museum, the gorgeous Angers cathedral organ, and many more fascinating sites.

I am lucky enough to play in a local university orchestra, with which I went to Paris last weekend to play two concerts: the first at the Luxembourg Gardens and the second at a modern church called Notre Dame du Travail. It was magnificent to explore the nation's capital with other musicians, and your grant helped me to take that step.

The university at which I am studying also offers cultural excursions, which I have purchased thanks to the scholarship. I had the pleasure of visiting Versailles for the first time a few weeks ago, as well walking the cobblestone streets of Saint Malo and admiring the vastness of the landscape around Mont Saint-Michel. We will be going to Giverny in May. I am taking advantage of the fabulous and affordable system of high-speed trains in France to do some exploring on my own as well. I went to Bordeaux two weeks ago and toured its monuments and its culture museum. With my wonderful host family, I plan to go to Nantes and Tours very soon as well.

Half term is approaching and I have been able to plan trips around Europe. I have always wanted to visit Amsterdam, where I will spend four days exploring museums, parks, and the tulip festival, which I hear is exquisite. From there, I will travel to Köln to visit my German host family from last year, and then spend the last couple of days in Brussels, visiting European Union institutions.

I cannot thank you enough for all of the wonderful opportunities that you have given me with this scholarship. I will continue to cherish every moment in France, and endeavor to be the best ambassador for the United States during my stay.