

Spring 2011



## Dear Friends of the Foundation

The Education Foundation promotes and encourages student success by awarding scholarships to deserving students. In each quarterly edition of the Foundation newsletter we highlight a variety of scholarship recipients, demonstrating student achievement while revealing some of the motivating factors behind their accomplishments.

We hope that our readers will gain some insight into the lives of our student scholarship recipients as they work towards the promise of higher education. All of you, donors and volunteers alike, help to shape the destinies of these students. We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



David Zorn, President of the Board

## Art Institute of California-San Francisco Student Receives \$4,000 Scholarship



Kwadwo Otempong, student at The Art Institute of California-San Francisco and a native of Ghana, received a \$4,000 scholarship this spring from the Foundation.

"Growing up in Ghana, it took a lot of hard work, as well as a whole lot of luck, to get the opportunity to come to America and get a higher education. I am one of those lucky few who are able to attend The Art Institute of California-San Francisco to pursue my dream of becoming a

graphic designer.

I have already achieved so much in the first three years at the school, and I know there is still much more for me to learn. By attaining this scholarship I am hoping to overcome some financial difficulties and obtain my degree."

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## South University-Richmond Awards its First Foundation Scholarships

Ronda Harris and Folole Wang were awarded South University-Richmond Campus' first Foundation scholarships of \$750 each. The two were selected by a Scholarship Committee made up of faculty and staff at the school.

Both students were selected not only for their academic achievement but their tenacity and ability to keep going that extra mile. As a matter of fact, Folole Wang writes in her application essay, speaking of the last mile in a 6-mile military training course:

Kwadwo has gained the respect and admiration of his instructors and his classmates as well. Graphic Design instructor Marty Chappell, says of Kwadwo:

"Kwadwo is exceptionally dedicated to his Graphic Design studies, as well as his focus on connecting with peer and faculty resources to constantly refine his creative pursuits. He consistently provides creative and well-crafted solutions. He is giving of himself to his classmates and is committed to the learning process as a whole."



Randall Russ, son of benefactor Ronald Russ, Cynthia Schaan, recipient of The Ronald Russ Accounting Award and Donna Russ, wife of late Ronald Russ

### **Brown Mackie College-Salina Student Receives The Ronald Russ Accounting Award**

This year Cynthia Schaan received The Ronald Russ Memorial Scholarship, given in recognition of academic excellence in the field of accounting.

Cynthia states that she came back to school after her youngest child graduated from high school. "I have always regretted the decision I made to quit college at 19, and now as an older student I feared that I would not be able to make the grade."

Cynthia is now 19 months into her education at Brown Mackie College, and she is excelling in all of her courses. It hasn't been easy for her, however, with a grandson in her care and daycare bills to pay. "I am doing everything I can to stay in school, since I am very determined to finish my degree. I won't let the bumps in the road cost me my degree."

The scholarship honors and remembers Ronald Russ, who graduated from Brown Mackie College and advanced through the accounting world until eventually becoming CFO of a large Kansas firm. The scholarship is awarded annually.

### **The Art Institute of Phoenix Awards Culinary Merit Scholarship**

Daniel May, Culinary Management student at The Art Institute of Phoenix,

"No one really knows what they can do until they are challenged and put to the test. That personal struggle has helped to make me even more tenacious and persistent in achieving the many obstacles that I face in school."

Folole, who grew up in American Samoa, intends to eventually become a nurse practitioner and work for international organizations that bring aid to different parts of the world.

Ronda Harris, enrolled in the Business Administration program at South University-Richmond, carefully considered her opportunities after a job loss, according to one of her instructors. She made the decision to make a change in her life that would afford her an opportunity to pursue a career rather than just seek a job. That determination led Ronda to South University.

"My education is very important to me," Ronda states, "not just for success in a career but because I will have accomplished something that no one else in my family has done before, and that is to have graduated from college."

### **Student Finds Renewed Hope at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles**

Samantha Blanchard experienced the magic of success in the music industry as a singer-songwriter and then the bitterness of disappointment when the realities of the music business began to unravel her dreams. Just in time, she discovered The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles.



Samantha, a student in the Audio Production program there, recently won a well-deserved Foundation scholarship. She has found a new sense of her own abilities as she challenges herself in her classes. In her own words:

received a \$4,000 culinary scholarship this March. Daniel hopes that his academic experience will have a positive effect on his daughter as well as himself.

"Now that I am back in school, my daughter is able to see firsthand the time that I put into my courses and also the level of determination needed to succeed. She also recognizes the sacrifices I have to make in order to be successful in school, go to work, and spend time with my family."

The Culinary Merit Education Foundation Scholarship is a merit based scholarship available for current Art Institute of Phoenix students who have demonstrated academic success in any culinary program of study at the school.



"Almost instantly I felt like I belonged. Since enrolling, I've been invigorated. I've discovered talents I didn't know I had. I've developed skills I didn't even know I could. I've experienced an overwhelming positivity that has carried over into my professional career."

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