2016 ANNUAL REPORT

GEORGE M. PULLMAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

**PULLMAN** 



# GENERATIONS WITH ONE LEGACY

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# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Lee Iococca, the former Chairman of Chrysler Corporation, described the donors of his scholarships as "somebody who was kind enough to educate people they would never get to know." That quote describes George M. Pullman, as well. From his original bequest to establish the Pullman Free School of Manual Training, to its successor institution, the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation, George Pullman provided opportunities to learn and succeed.

"Opportunity" is defined as "a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something." Sometimes people create their own opportunities, while at other times opportunities are created for them. And, sometimes, the two serendipitously come together.

Such is the legacy of opportunity that personifies the George M. Pullman Educational Foundation. On one hand, our scholars create their own opportunities to get a college education by excelling in school and in their communities. On the other, the Foundation creates opportunities for those scholars by rewarding their hard work with meaningful scholarships that ease the financial burdens of college tuition – 30 percent of our 2016 graduates reported they were graduating debt free.

During our 66 years, the Foundation has taken advantage of many opportunities to meet the changing needs of our scholars. As a result, the Foundation has a new opportunity about which we are very excited. We have recently applied to the Internal Revenue Service to change our tax status from our current classification of "private foundation" to a "private operating foundation." We are hoping that all of the paperwork will be filed and the change approved by the end of 2016.

The bottom line for the Foundation is that it will be able to receive donations in new ways. Additionally, our donors will receive enhanced tax benefits. Giving to the Foundation whether, through planned giving or donor advised funds, as examples, will be much easier. It is anticipated that this change in tax status will expand our donor base, which in turn will grow our endowment, thus providing more scholarships for more students.

Through the Foundation, George Pullman's legacy has changed the lives of nearly 14,000 students, from those in the very first group of 60 scholars in 1950 to the 131 total scholars for the 2016-2017 academic year. Few know each other, yet all are bound by a common thread... the legacy of opportunity created by one man who was kind enough to educate people he would never get to know.

Barbara H. Miller Board President

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



#### Connecting Generations Under One Legacy

At this year's annual Pullman Scholar Symposium, a group of Salesforce employees arrived ready to spend the day assisting Pullman Scholars. They reviewed resumes and conducted one-on-one and group interviews. Their two sessions, described by one scholar as "super helpful and very engaging" were organized by a team that included Pullman Scholars Billy Leung (University of Michigan, '16) and Susie Turk (University of Notre Dame, '98). One floor down, scholar Pamela Bloomquist (Rockford College, '74) prepared the newest class of Pullman Scholars for their first year by teaching them how to read their financial aid letters, and how to make a budget so that they can afford their school supplies, while still having money available for fun things.

It is not unusual to see this type of multi-generational comradery at a Pullman Foundation event. It is what makes being a Pullman Scholar so special. It is the deep connection that is formed when you become a member of the Pullman Scholar Community.

As you look through the following pages of the 2016 annual report, I hope you will enjoy seeing the Pullman Scholar legacy in action. This year, we have happily seen more and more scholar alumni reconnect with the Foundation. We are seeing the true impact of those connections on our current scholars. They are thriving on their campuses, graduating college with less student loan debt, and excelling in their post-college careers. This is thanks, in part, to the guidance and assistance they have received from the Pullman Scholar Community.

But, we want to do more and we welcome the chance to hear your thoughts on how to engage more of you, Pullman Scholar Alumni. Would you be interested in getting to know scholars or other alumni? Participate in Pullman Foundation events in your community? Please let us know how you would like to become involved by contacting me, or any member of the Foundation staff. We look forward to talking with you and hearing your ideas.

Robin Redmond Executive Director

# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR

Keeping the Pullman Foundation Legacy on Track

With the help of our supporters, 151 scholars excelled personally and academically at college this year. Ninety-five percent (95%) of Pullman Scholars retained their scholarship and 91% of the senior class graduated. Thank you to our alumni supporters who believe in paying it forward —99% of Foundation donors are Pullman Scholar Alumni!

151

OF THE FOUNDATION DONORS ARE ALUMNI

OF SCHOLARS RETAINED THEIR SCHOLARSHIP

Of the Senior Class GRADUATED







CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF

2016

THE LEGACY
OF ACHIEVEMENT
CONTINUES

Here is just a sampling of how our graduating scholars are succeeding after college...

Bradley Meliska (Lehigh University) joined J.P. Morgan as a private banking analyst

Billy Leung (University of Michigan) accepted a position as an investment banking analyst at the UBS Group in their Global Industrials Group

Emilia Belciak (North Park University) is a teacher in St. Louis, MO as part of the Teach for America program

Corie Wilkins (University of Missouri) is pursuing a master's degree at Duke Divinity School at Duke University Tyrianna Jones (Illinois State University) is pursuing her master's degree in student affairs and higher education at Indiana State University. She is a graduate assistant at the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center

Luz Herrera (Lake Forest College) is teaching in Spain for one year through Meddeas, an organization that provides support to bilingual teaching in educational centers around the world O U R

S C H O

L A R S

Get to Know Who We Supported



Our 151 scholars identified themselves as 30% male, 70% female; 4% multiracial, 19% Asian, 23% White, 26% Hispanic/Latino, 28% Black/African American; and 45% first-generation college students.





### 2015-2016 PULLMAN SCHOLARS





Olivia Fritz
Stanford University

Erika Reyes University of San Francisco



Elisabet Ortiz *University of Colorado Boulder* 



Michelle Santos

Ahmed Syed

Saad Syed\*

Yale University



Tamara Popovska *University of Miami* 



Malika Anderson\*

Emory University

Jasmine Baker



Ibrahim Abubakar University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nermin Aly DePaul University

Amel Baker

Loyola University Chicago

Emilia Belciak\* *North Park University* 

Martin Bellido University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Rukayat Bello Illinois Institute of Technology

Chelsea Bennett Knox College

Shaliyah Brown University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Daniel Buss University of Illinois a Urbana-Champaign

Jason Buss\*
University of Illinois a
Urbana-Champaign



Angelica Cabrera
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Charlotte Carroll University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

McHugh Carroll University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Maritza Chavez University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Xiomara Contreras *Northwestern University* 

Adelaide Curry University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Melissa Drab Augustana College

Linus Erkenswick *Loyola University Chicago* 

Jennifer Escobar
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Matthew Gallagher
Loyola University Chicago

Julissa Garcia
University of Illinois at Chicago

Selina Garcia
Robert Morris University

Carolina Goncalves\*

Knox College

Adrianna Gorniak University of Illinois at Chicago

Hannah Henry\*

Maribell Heredia *University of Illinois at Chicag*o

Ana Hernandez
Southern Illinois University at
Carbondale

Luz Herrera\* *Lake Forest College* 

Paulena Hopson *MacMurray College* 

Natalia Hornik

Loyola University Chicago

Loren Hou *Loyola University Chicago* 

Hanh Huynh<sup>+</sup> University of Illinois as Urbana-Champaign Yara Ismail
DePaul Universit

Daniel Jackson *Illinois State Universit* 

Donan Jackson DePaul University

Tyrianna Jones\* *Illinois State University* 

Christina Kelley Saint Xavier Universit<sub>y</sub>

Victoria Kennedy\* Loyola University Chicago

Adam Kiolbassa Illinois Institute of Technolog

Erica Lee DePaul Universit

Sarah Lin DePaul Universit

Agona Lutolli Lake Forest College

Kameron Marshbanks University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Montoria Miller *Illinois State University* 

Fathima Zikra Izmin Mohideen\*
Lovola University Chicago

Sana Moqeet

Mia Morgan Saint Xavier University

Bella Mucino\*

DePaul Universit

Asia Muhammad\* Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Lorena Munoz Ledezma University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Rebecca Nelson *Northwestern University* 

Armani Nightengale *Loyola University Chicago* 

Christopher Nowak' *DePaul University* 

Agata Oborka University of Illinois a Urbana-Champaion

Kelsey O'Donnell *Northwestern Universit*y Anthony Onyeaghala Illinois State University

Hiral Parikh *University of Illinois at Chicago* 

Sweety Patel
University of Illinois a
Urbana-Champaign

Ignacio Perez, Jr.\*

Dominican University

Mary Pierce\*
University of Chicag

Marco Rodriguez *Northwestern Universit*y

Omar Saldana\* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Josue Salgado University of Illinois at Chicago

Jennifer Salgado-Benz\* *Lake Forest College* 

Gerson Santizo\* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nirali Shah\*
University of Illinois a
Urbana-Champaign

Huda Shahid *University of Illinois at* 

Memona Shahid *University of Illinois at* Urhana-Champaion

Ranish Shrestha University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jasmin Smith
Illinois State Universit

Naomi Sopt University of Illinois at Chicago

Medina Spiodic\* University of Illinois a Urbana-Champaign

Amanda Sweis\*

Loyola University Chicago

Mahnoor Syed *University of Illinois at Chicag*o

Cheyenne Syring University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bukky Tabiti *Loyola University Chicago*  Brenda Tang University of Illinois at Urhana-Champaion

Nicholas Tarleton\* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ashley Terrell
Northern Illinois University

Juanita Vargas *University of Illinois at Chicago* 

Ariana Vidana Northwestern Universit

Denee Webster
University of Illinois a
Urbana-Champaign

Andrea Weiss-Trac DePaul University

Jasmeen Wellere\* Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Maurice Westbrooks

DePaul University

Alexus Williams University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Xiaoteng Yang University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Lynda Arredondo Valparaiso Universit

Sheldon Bolden
DePauw Universit

Uriah Brown
DePauw University

Nancy Huynh *DePauw Universit* 

Brendan Johnson Valparaiso University

Mateusz Kosciuk\* De*Pauw Universit*v

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Shajaya Martinez DePauw Universit

Alanphong Nguyen *Purdue University-West Lafayette* 

Juan Velazquez *University of Notre Dame* 



Yishi Liang\* Grinnell College

Jimmy Nguyen *Drake University* 



Juan Angulo
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

Imani Marshall\* *Amherst College* 

Stephanie Orozco

Alexander Pei
Boston University



Kiyomi Mino
Bowdoin College



Angela Fong\*

Kalamazoo College

Billy Leung\* *University of Michigan* 

Michelle Ng\* *University of Michigan* 

Mariana Thomas\* *Hope College* 

Vernon Thomas\*

Grand Valley State University



Lisa Cheung *Carleton College* 



Maya Stewart
University of Missouri-Columbia



Lauren Auyeung
Princeton University



Crystal Bahena
Parsons The New School
for Design

Tyler Maxie

Coloate University

Dejah Powell

Cornell Universit

Marquis Watson United States Military Academy at West Point



Nina Mercado

Jennifer Munoz

Case Western Reserve University

Alyssa Zediker\* Miami University Ohio



Bradley Meliska\* Lehigh University

Daniel Mielnik *University of Pennsylvania* 

Anne Noonan
Carnegie Mellon Universit



Giovanni Santiago



















# CREATING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE PULLMAN SCHOLAR COMMUNITY

Each year, Charles Shipan, a political science professor at the University of Michigan, invites Pullman Scholars attending the university to lunch, dinner, or coffee to chat. He meets with scholars like Michelle Ng, a recent graduate in international studies who plans on attending medical school. Now in his 50s, Shipan earned his bachelor's degree from Carleton College and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. Despite the difference in age and fields of interest, these two have a connection. What do they have in common? They were both Pullman Scholars.

"I started meeting with the scholars around the same time my kids were going to college or looking at colleges, and I started thinking about all of the built-in advantages my children had," says Shipan. "I have a good sense of the things admissions committees are looking for, and I started thinking, a lot of Pullman Scholars might not have that."

Shipan wanted to be a resource for the new scholars. He wanted them to know someone on their 29,000+

undergraduate campus had an interest in their college journey and would be there for them if they had questions or wanted to talk. Not only do the scholars benefit from speaking with Shipan, but they help each other as well. They give advice on what classes to take, which professors they like, etc.

"It felt like I was a part of a community," says Michelle Ng. "It was nice to connect with fellow Pullman Scholars and know that they could give me advice and help whenever I needed it. It was great."

The small gesture of inviting Pullman Scholars to a meal led to connections that will last a lifetime. Shipan inaugurated his meal invitations for fun, to get to know others in the Pullman Scholar Community, and he's been able to see Pullman Scholars at the University of Michigan excel, embrace opportunities, and continue on their path to achieving their American Dream.

### OUR NEWEST CLASS OF SCHOLARS



Autumn Macklin

California State University

Long Beach



Viridiana Villalva
Connecticut College



Elsadig Abdalla University of Illinois at Chicago

Sofia Ali

Loyola University Chicago

Dziedzom Bansah *University of Illinois at Chicago* 

Sarah Dickey Elmhurst Colleg

Zakiyah Dillard University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Loyola University Chicago

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University of Illinois at Chicago

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Tiffany Nieves University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chidinma Ohia
Northwestern University

Hilary Pham
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Bryan Taylor University of Illinois a Urbana-Champaign

Mayra Torres

DePaul Universit

Darius Vinesar
University of Illinois at Chicago

YingYi Wu University of Illinois a Urhana-Champaign

Ivy Zhu

Loyola University Chicago



Kostadin Pendev



Daisy Evariz

Harvard University



Lauren Hucko *Washington University in St. Louis* 



Nebeyu Tibebu

Duke University



Beatrize Stephen-Pons University of Pennsylvania



Selvyn Martinez Barahona *Middlebury College* 



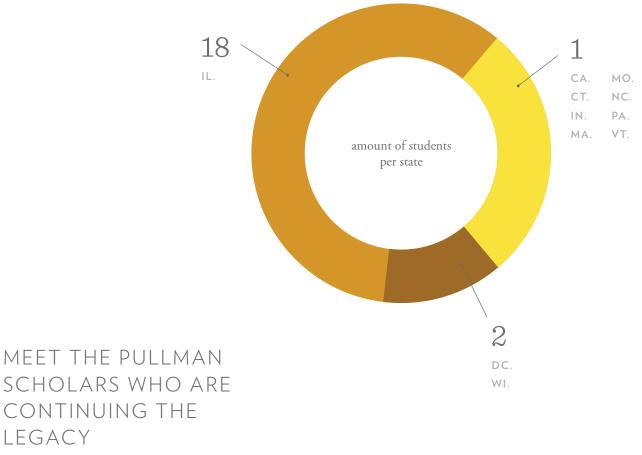
Megan Barnes Howard University

Tierra Goldston *Howard University* 



Muzammil Chaudhry University of Wisconsin Madison

Daniel Tryba
University of Wisconsin
Madison





### SHARING KNOWLEDGE

#### How We Are Advancing The Legacy

For the first time, upper-class Pullman Scholars were invited to lead sessions at the 3rd annual Pullman Scholar Symposium on May 20, 2016. Scholars worked in teams and with alumni to plan and deliver sessions on topics including how to develop your individual voice, resume preparation, interviewing skill and other relevant subjects. Pullman Scholar Corie Wilkins gave the first-ever scholar keynote address to his fellow scholars during lunch, encouraging them to pursue their dreams even in the face of adversity. The symposium was a remarkable opportunity for scholars to share their knowledge, deepen their connection to one another and alumni who participated in this year's event. Alumni equally enjoyed the evening reception and inspirational keynote by alumnus Patrick T. Murphy as well as networking with the larger Pullman Scholar Community.



### WE EXTEND A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SYMPOSIUM VOLUNTEERS:

List of symposium speakers and full-day volunteers (alphabetical order with members of Pullman Scholar Community in bold)

Maggie Allard Salesforce

Deborah Bade, RVP Customer Success Group, Salesforce

Doris Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago, 1980

**David Bakker** 

Northwestern University, 1983

Pamela Bloomquist

Rockford College, 1974, Assistant Dean, Law Admission & Financial Assistance, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Steve Dobrow Salesforce

The Etiquette School of Chicago Ellen Clayton, Co-Founder, and Nancy Burke Connolly

Angela Fong

Kalamazoo College, 2016

Russ Glover Salesforce

Jeffrey Hanson, Ph.D. Jeffrey Hanson Education Services, Financial Literacy and Borrower Education

John Harrison Salesforce

Maribell Heredia

University of Illinois at Chicago, 2017

Adam Johnson Salesforce

Tyrianna Jones

Illinois State University, 2016

Bonnie Kanter Director of College Bridge, Neighborhood Schools Program, University of Chicago

Neil Kuehnle

Loyola University Chicago, 2014

Billy Leung

University of Michigan, 2016

Maddie List Salesforce Ben Meisner Salesforce

Leonna Mote Salesforce

Asia Muhammad

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2016

Patrick T. Murphy, MS

Loyola University Chicago, 2009, Associate Director for Communications at Midwest Augustinians

Kathy Neff Salesforce

Christopher Nowak

DePaul University, 2016

Tracie Pape LCSW, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Loyola University Chicago Wellness Center

Harish Pavithran Salesforce

Mearah Quinn-Brauner, Ph.D. Assistant Director, Student Career Advising, Career Advancement, Northwestern University

Bhavini Shah Salesforce

Adil Siddiqui Salesforce

Michael Tran Salesforce

Susie H. Turk

University of Notre Dame, 1998, Principal Solution Engineer, Salesforce

Jasmeen Wellere

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2016

**Corie Wilkins** 

University of Missouri, 2016

Alyssa Zediker

Miami University, Ohio, 2016

SAVE THE DATE

05.19.17

4TH ANNUAL PULLMAN SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

**#PULLMANSS17** 

## A LEGACY OF ASKING THE CORRECT QUESTIONS

The Honorable Ramon Ocasio III, Pullman Scholar Alumnus and current Pullman Scholar Lorena Munoz Ledezma, connected this year with common backgrounds, the same alma mater (the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and an interest in the law. Lorena had the opportunity to interview Judge Ocasio. Not only does their conversation showcase Pullman Scholar values, but it demonstrates how the Pullman Foundation legacy continues to engage individuals who ask the right questions and who are involved in giving back to their community.



The Honorable Ramon Ocasio with Pullman Scholars Omar Saldana, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, '16, and Angelica Cabrera, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, '17, at the second annual Pullman Scholar Symposium.

(L) Lorena:

What steps did you take to ensure that you reached your goals?

Ramon:

As a Pullman Scholar, I was reminded that the pathway to the top of whatever profession I pursued was predicated on academic excellence. Therefore discipline and hard work were required. When I doubted myself an effective antidote was to reflect on how my mother and father struggled and sacrificed and worked so I could achieve and have a future. My parents always said: You have to have a better life than we did, you have to study and get an education. As a first generation college student, I understood this was an opportunity. Above and beyond working toward academic excellence; I took advantage of several educational opportunities including tutoring, pre-law seminars, establishing relationships with faculty and getting involved with student organizations.

( L ) Lorena:

When did you come to the realization that you wanted to become a lawyer, and later on a judge?

(R) Ramon:

When I was admitted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign I initially thought I would be a math teacher. I was good at math and it seemed at the time that's what my career path would be. Of course, it's not uncommon for students to change majors perhaps several times before establishing a course of study. I was drawn and pulled to history and social justice, and law seemed like a career where I could do justice. There were two Puerto Rican law students, visible role models, I met at La Casa Cultural Latina and they encouraged me to consider the law as a profession coupled with the idea of the attorney who takes on the fight for justice and the law was a foregone conclusion.

Lorena:

What advice would you give to aspiring lawyers and others?

(R) Ramon:

It is the duty of all those who have been given the opportunity to realize a dream, and the good fortune to achieve some success, to return and talk to those who are following behind, to warn those coming behind of the hidden dangers ahead. The advice I would give is this—Find a mentor if you can. Work hard. Believe in yourself. And give back. When the time comes, and it will, you be the mentor, the career day speaker, the teacher, or the role model. Give back.

Lorena:

How did the Pullman Foundation assist you in attaining your goals?

(R) Ramon:

The Pullman Foundation saw the potential and believed in me and the monies they provided helped finance my goals and dreams.

The Honorable Ramon Ocasio III is a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, first elected in 2006 from the 6th Judicial Subcircuit. As a Pullman Foundation Scholar, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1985. He earned his juris doctorate from Northeastern University's School of Law.

Lorena Munoz Ledezma is a current Pullman Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is pursuing a degree in political science with a minor in Spanish. She plans to graduate in spring 2017 and to attend law school shortly thereafter.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR LEGACY

#### Your Generosity Makes This Possible

On behalf of our current class of Pullman Scholars and everyone at the Foundation, we would like to recognize and extend our deepest appreciation to our generous donors and volunteers for their support. This year, 99% of the gifts received were from Pullman Scholar Alumni.

Foundation Supporters August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016

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Christopher Dionesotes Barbara Posadas

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Bolded donors are acknowledged for their increased support of the Foundation this year.

We have made every effort to assure the accuracy of this list. However, if you note any discrepancies, please bring them to our attention so we can correct our records. Thank you!

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Tribute gifts are a unique way to recognize someone dear to the supporter by either memorializing the passing of an individual or by celebrating and honoring them for a special occasion. Thank you for making this touching gift to the Foundation in memory or in honor of a loved one.

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In memory of Joseph Fister

Carol S. Friedlander
In memory of Alan Friedlander,
IIT '58

Robert Gordon In memory of Alex Gordon

Stacie Hartman
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In memory of Fr. Wheeler

Elizabeth Keenan
In honor of Adele Miller

George E. Kennedy In memory of Noah Stephen Francis Evermann Jeanne Kollmeyer

In memory of Elise Maloney

Scott L. Kornstedt In memory of John G. Verkade

Christina M. Mathai
In honor of all the donors that
allowed me to be a Pullman
Scholar

Shawn J. Mayberry
In memory of Barbara Mayberry

Richard McPherson
In memory of Marie LaFond
McPherson

Gordon J Miller Jr. and Irmi M. Schewe-Miller In memory of John G. Verkade

David Oyama

In memory of Bernard Apple

Lewis Pegues In memory of Harrisel Pegues

Melani Van Petten
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Barbara Posadas In memory of Alipio G. Posadas

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Margaret Rohter In memory of Margaret and Andrew Miller David Rook

In memory of David M. Rook Sr.

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In memory of Phyllis Rosenbaum

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In honor of Fenger High School Grads

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Geralene and Carl Walton In honor of Barbara Walton

Patti Collins and L. Keith Woo In memory of John G. Verkade

Janice Yohanan
In honor of Joseph Yohanan

John J. Yonker

In memory of John H. Yonker





Our gratitude extends to those who helped select our 67th Class

Carine Acks

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1979

Lauren Adams

Loyola University Chicago, 2015

Lawrence Albrecht

Valparaiso University, 1969

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#### 2016 FINANCIALS

August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016

During the fiscal year ending July 31, 2016, the Foundation supported 151 scholars with merit-based, need-based scholarships of up to \$10,000 and renewable for four years. In addition to financial support, scholars also receive educational, professional, and personal support from the Foundation and from the larger Pullman Scholar Community.

| ASSETS       | As of July 31, 2016         | ASSE   |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Cash         | \$3,294.00                  | Cash   |
| Money Market | <sup>\$</sup> 799,343.00    | Mone   |
| Investments  | <sup>\$</sup> 27,472,107.00 | Invest |
| Net Assets   | \$28.274.744.00             | Net A  |

| ASSETS       | 113 bj July 31, 2019        |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Cash         | <sup>\$</sup> 31,807.00     |
| Money Market | <sup>\$</sup> 1,820,312.00  |
| Investments  | <sup>\$</sup> 26,797,558.00 |
| Net Assets   | \$ <sub>28,649,677.00</sub> |



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