

Stockton Foundation Scholarship Recipients Thank Donors at Annual Recognition Dinner

For Immediate Release; photos on [Flickr](#); list of [scholarship recipients](#)

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For Michael Tumminia, there were tears of joy when he received his Stockton acceptance letter in 2013, just one week after receiving a life-saving brain surgery.

“I could not contain my excitement after learning how precious our time is and how wisely I was going to be spending it,” he said.

Just weeks into his first semester, Tumminia felt at home on Stockton’s campus and was asked by Justin Ostrofsky, assistant professor of Psychology, to get involved with a psychological

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Diane Falk, professor of Social Work, has established a \$25,000 endowment for the Master of Social Work Program. "Social work is not something you go into for the money. You go into it for the passion. Students deserve the support," she explained.

Support from the Council of Black Faculty and Staff, as well as the Diane Leitner Book Award, have eased financial burdens for Jessica Mahon, who graduated from Stockton in 2014. She is now a graduate student in the Communication Disorders program working to complete her clinical externships. She completed her undergraduate degree with minimal debt because her parents started a college fund for her. But, "when it came to paying for graduate school, I knew it was on me," she said.

"Stockton has given me more than just a great education. It has given me leadership opportunities, research experience, helped me to build long lasting relationships with professors and staff, and most of all it has challenged me and forced me to step outside my comfort zone. I know no matter where I go in life, I will always have my Stockton family," she said.

Support from Stockton graduates is also very strong. Stockton Accounting and Business Administration alumnus Bruce Dooley, president of the Antique Collectors Club of Atlantic County, said that his club wanted to support local students studying history or art history "to keep antique collecting and history alive."

Also among the donors was a group of current Stockton students who won the grand prize in a national competition to raise awareness about the national debt. The 2015 Up To Us team donated \$5,000 of their winnings to the Stockton University Foundation to create the Up to Us 2015 Term Scholarship, which will provide a \$1,000 award to qualified undergraduates over the next five years. The team also