

September 2015

Dear Foreign Service Colleague:

Over the last 90 years, the AFSA Scholarship Fund has provided both merit awards and need-based college aid to thousands of children throughout the Foreign Service community.

Each year, AFSA receives an increased number of applicants seeking recognition for their academic and artistic endeavors and financial assistance for college tuition. **Sadly, some students are turned away because of lack of funding.**

Please consider making a donation to the AFSA Scholarship Fund so we can continue to help children of AFSA members fulfill their career dreams.

Here are two recent recipients of AFSA merit awards and financial aid scholarships:

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### Aaron Hilton

*Aaron Hilton has studied ballet since the age of three, even attending the Professional Children's School in New York City during his last two years of high school so he could pursue further training at the School of American Ballet. He is the son of Olivia and Robert Hilton, retired and active-duty State Department employees. In 2015, Aaron applied for and won the AFSA Art Merit Award for his stellar ballet performance, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ma9O7TYKruo>.*

*Aaron also won \$2,500 for his academic merit accomplishments. He comes from a talented family; his sister Meredith was an AFSA Merit Award winner in 2013, as well. AFSA provided \$1,000 and \$2,500 Merit Awards to 22 high school seniors in 2015 to reward student achievements.*

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### Wanit Ruekit

*Wanit Ruekit is a freshman studying biomedicine and health at Saint Leo University in Florida. He is the son of the late FSO Carlos Bras, who sadly passed away while posted in Lusaka, Zambia, in 2013. Wanit states: "My dad was a great man and better father, and he has inspired me to one day join the Foreign Service. I am so grateful for this generous AFSA grant toward my education." AFSA provided individual awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to 64 college students in 2015 using the applicant's family assets and income to determine need.*

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Every year, we appeal for your assistance, large and small, to allow AFSA as many resources as possible to award scholarships. Join the hundreds of AFSA members who have generously made scholarship contributions over the years.

If just 100 new contributors donated \$25.00, AFSA would be able to award one additional scholarship in 2016. If you have never donated before, we hope we can count on you to be one of these 100 new family donors.

Please **consider funding deserving Foreign Service children** like Aaron and Wanit.

**No portion of your AFSA membership dues funds any AFSA Scholarship Program activity. We rely solely on private charitable support; we receive no government grants.**

**Your contribution is tax-deductible.**

**To make a secure donation online with a credit card, please go to [www.afsa.org/donate](http://www.afsa.org/donate).**

Finally, it is never too early to consider a planned gift to the AFSA Scholarship Fund, where you can leave your mark on this close-knit community and keep your gift in the Foreign Service family. Visit [www.afsa.org/donate](http://www.afsa.org/donate) for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Barbara Stephenson  
President

P.S. Please visit the AFSA Scholarship Program website at [www.afsa.org/scholar](http://www.afsa.org/scholar) as AFSA scholarship applications for the 2016-2017 school year will be available starting November 2015.