

United Scholarships

The Sheep Skin



Incorporated

News and information about USI recipients, donors and Yreka High School graduates

Autumn, 2006

Post Office Box 1328, Yreka, CA 96097

www.unitedscholarshipsinc.org

U.S.I. Awards over \$91,000

On May 24th United Scholarships, Inc. made available over \$91,000 in grants and scholarships to over sixty deserving Yreka High School seniors. Students planning to attend colleges as small as C.O.S. and as large as U.C. Berkeley were helped in furthering their education.

The award monies were part of U.S.I.'s earnings on its investment portfolio, direct grants from bequests, and individual donations over the past year.

The laurels were presented as a part of the Yreka and Montague Rotary clubs' Top 100 program, honoring the scholastic achievers in the high school.

The evening's presentations brought the total awarded by USI since its inception in 1964 to almost \$1,400,000, given to some 1400 students to further their education.

Continuing education monies also play a big role in U.S.I.'s objectives. Recipients are allowed and encouraged to apply for additional financial help in their second and third years of higher schooling. Ten percent of each year's allotted monies is earmarked for continuing education.

Change made in applicant qualifications

Because of the nature of recent bequests, recipients of the Gene Keefer enticement awards have been chosen from those students generally seeking trade schooling and they are allowed to have a 2.5 GPA. Mr. Keefer and his wife were gen-

erous in their bequest and the board feels the recipients of the Keefer scholarships be those students tending to a trade school or other non-technical institution. All other merit scholastic



U.S.I. Director Vera Clement proudly awards the Vera Clement scholarship to Will Cook, a class Valedictorian.

winners maintained at least a 3.0 GPA. to be eligible for the merit scholarships.

Are you a U.S.I. recipient who is still in school?

You are welcome and encouraged to apply for a continuing education grant to help with your expenses. Merely write us to request a form, or check our web site at www.unitedscholarshipsinc.org for directions.

New Board Members

Over the past year or so five new members have joined the board of U.S.I. Greg Kuck, Tracy Louie, Mark Greenfield, Cathy Quinn, and Michael Pavlik joined, replacing Jim Beck, Larry Bacon, Ron Ferrando, Dr. Donald Meamber, and Dr. Douglas Lawson. This maintains the board's seats at 15, as stipulated in the by-laws.

Greg Kuck, prominent Willow Creek rancher, has been active in Rotary affairs in Montague and is involved with all of Rotary's many charitable works. He and his wife, Sheila, have two children. His Mother, Betty Kuck, is a former board member of U.S.I. and past board secretary.

Tracy Louie is vice-president and manager of Yreka branch of Tri-Counties Bank. Her husband is Dan Louie and they share three children.

Mark Greenfield is Yreka Union High School District Administrator. He is a native of the San Joaquin Valley and began his duties in Yreka July 1st of 2005. He and his wife have four children ranging in school age from high school freshman down to twins in the fourth grade.

Cathy Quinn has been at YHS since 1991 and teaches all levels of Spanish including AP Spanish. Her husband, Mark teaches at Gold Street School; they have three children, the youngest a Senior at YHS.

Michael Pavlik, CPA, is a Yrekan tried and true, a graduate of YHS and has his own accounting office in Yreka. He and his wife, Judy, have two grown boys, Derek and Kevin.

We will have more thorough biographies of our board members in later issues so you can get a better idea of who is running our organization.

Inaugural Newsletter

This is the first in what is hoped will be an informative method of keeping in contact with our scholarship recipients through the years, in addition to others interested in the work of U.S.I.

Parents and guardians of students: After reading this newsletter, please send it on to your student **AND** send us his/her address. *It is imperative we obtain the addresses of as many of our USI recipients as possible. Your help will be appreciated!!*

If you know anyone who would like to re-

ceive this newsletter and learn more about our organization, please supply us their name and address.

We Have an Internet Web Site

In an effort to make U.S.I. more accessible to the public, including its award recipients, U.S.I. has established a web site and we can now be reached on the world wide web. To visit us, type in www.unitedscholarshipsinc.org on the address line. Please have patience with us as we develop the site. We hope this venture will enable our scholastic beneficiaries still in college to more easily apply for second and third year monies that are available and for all who reach the site to learn about United Scholarships.

U.S.I. still seeks funding

Although in the 42 years we have been in existence we have seen some substantial bequests and keep the funds in a safe investment account with Smith Barney, the rising costs of a college education cause us to seek funding constantly.

The competition for memorial gifts is keen in our area and we encourage people to donate to U.S.I. when they would like to honor someone, either living or deceased. Donations are fully tax deductible and a note will be sent to whomever you stipulate telling them of your generosity, plus a receipt for your records when ever you donate.

We also encourage estate bequests via wills and to those thinking along these lines, we suggest they see their tax advisor and attorney for this matter.

U.S.I. Board of Directors

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Editor's note: We asked student recipients of U.S.I. funds to let us now how they are doing in college. Angie Markes is a 2006 graduate of Y.H.S. and graciously supplied us with the following:

U.S.I.

By: Angie Markes

After a long 4 years of high school, am I not right when I say that students from all over the world want to be done with school! Well, sadly enough, all students know that after high school all of the fun and games go down the drain while being replaced with the military, more school, and/or a full time job. Hi, my name is Angie Markes and I just recently graduated from Yreka High School and as a student, I chose to further expand my education at California State university, Chico, to pursue my lifelong goal of majoring in mathematics. However, there were several different factors in attending a university, but one of the most crucial would have to be financial aid.

Financial aid is one of the most amazing programs out there to help young students, like myself, pursue their goals and dreams. Obviously there are several different types of financial aid. Ranging from loans to scholarships, money for college isn't too hard to get a hold of. When it came to my situation, the most helpful and beneficial grant I received was by far my United Scholarships, Inc. (U.S.I.) grant. I also received multiple state grants and some local scholarships, but U.S.I. has helped me in so many ways it is unbelievable.

Once a student finally moves away from home, he/she learns the costs of living. Below is an inquiry of the cost of attendance to California State University, Chico which I obtained from www.csuchico.edu. The estimated COA (cost of attendance) for a full-time student (taking 12 or more units of college classes) is \$16,066 for one school year. How can a student who has just graduated high school come up with nearly twenty thousand dollars? The answer is with financial aid and a job. I am very pleased to say that U.S.I. has helped me in school by paying for my tuition, books, and some of my supplies for school; and as for the job, I am proudly working as a college-level math tutor in the College of Business with the Business Resource Center. With the help of financial aid, especially U.S.I., and my job, I am able to pursue my dreams and continue going to school.

Fall 2006

Budget Item	Amount
Books	657.00
Fees	1,701.00
Housing	4,280.00
Loan Origination fees	40.00
Personal expenses	930.00
Transportation	425.00
Term total:	8,033.00
Total COA for year:	16,066.00

In the long run, continuing one's education is much harder than it ever seemed to be. Knowing this firsthand, I want to encourage all of the other soon-to-be college freshmen out there to apply for everything out there that could help with college finance, especially U.S.I. U.S.I has been helping students from Siskiyou County with their pursuit of higher education since 1964. Also, U.S.I. has rewarded over \$1,400,000 to nearly 1500 students! Luckily, I am one of those students, but by taking the time out of your day and applying, you could be, too. College is one of the biggest challenges I have ever had to deal with, but with help from such charitable organizations such as U.S.I., I am able to survive in this hectic new world of mine.

Continuing Education Funds Out Soon

Thirty-two former U.S.I. recipients, still in school, have applied for continuing education monies from U.S.I. for the '06-07 school year and application results will announced around Thanksgiving. This year we have over \$30,000 to award. The application deadline was Sept. 15th.

The U.S.I. board reserves some ten percent of each year's monetary allotment for just this purpose: to help with second, third, and fourth year college expenses. Unclaimed monies are also used.

Information on how to apply for funds for the 2007-'08 school year will be on our web site together with a downloadable application form. Again, to be eligible a student must have received a U.S.I. scholarship upon graduating from Yreka

High School, and provide the information as stated on the application. As of this writing, deadline for the application for those continuing education awards will be Sept. 15, 2007.

The following was received from an applicant for continuing education funds recently:

"....Thank you for taking the time to consider me for this scholarship. Your generous assistance in past years has really given me the support and help in college that has made it one of the most memorable experiences I will ever have. Thank you."

'The Sheep Skin' is a publication of United Scholarships, Inc. , a non-profit organization dedicated to rewarding deserving graduating Senior students at Yreka High School. Donations, which would be used toward this goal or to offset the costs of this newsletter, are gratefully appreciated and may be made to U.S.I., P.O. Box 1328, Yreka, CA 96097.

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