This is the second annual “Vantage” report in which we hope to provide Acoustical Society of America (ASA) members with an overall view of where the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) has been and also where the Fund is headed (see bit.ly/3we52wg). The feedback on last year's report (see bit.ly/3u4jjdz) was positive, and I hope this report will also be well received.

I am providing information about the Acoustical Society Foundation Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board), the financial performance of the Fund, expenditures, the support provided to the new Summer Undergraduate Research or Internship Experience in Acoustics (SUREIA), the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Fund, and a discussion on how members can support the Fund's mission. I conclude with a brief description of how to donate to the Fund.

The Acoustical Society Foundation Board

The Board supports the mission of the ASA by developing financial resources for strategic initiatives and special purposes. With the generosity of its many donors, the Fund provides awards, prizes, fellowships, and scholarships and supports other types of programs. The Board is made up of dedicated, hardworking volunteers, currently including Anthony Atchley, Freddie Bell-Berti, David Feit, Ron Freiheit, John Hildebrand, Ed Okorn, Rich Peppin, ASA Treasurer Judy Dubno as an ex officio member, and me as Board chair.

The Board makes recommendations to the ASA Executive Council about award levels for each activity the Fund supports. These activities are listed in Table 1. The Board also solicits funds across and outside the ASA and works with donors who wish to set up new programs and make contributions to existing ones.

Financial Performance in 2020

Contributions in 2020 to the Fund from members and friends of the ASA totaled $70,770. In addition, gains from investments, interest, and dividends totaled $1,363,223. Expenses for the Fund were $286,323, which mostly included the awards, prizes, fellowships, and scholarships, and the details of these expenses are covered Fund Expenditures in 2020 in Support of the ASA. Net assets in the Fund at the end of 2020 were $11,424,510 compared with $10,462,143 at the end of 2019, an increase of 11%.

Fund Expenditures in 2020 in Support of the ASA

In 2020, the Fund was very active in supporting the many activities of the Society. Awards, prizes, fellowships, and scholarships shown in Table 1 were supported by the Fund in the amount of $240,945. You can find details of each of these activities at bit.ly/3we52wg. And, as an aside, after reviewing these activities, think about any for which you or your students might apply.

The support for student travel to ASA meetings through the Student Transportation Fund is one of the most important activities of the Fund. The experience and
connections made by students with each other and with more senior members can change lives. The future of the Society is our students, and this investment in their careers will pay off for decades. With ASA meetings converted to virtual events, no awards from the Student Transportation Fund were made in 2020 but will resume with the Fall 2021 meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The Fund has two distinct types of accounts: those with donor restrictions (41%) and those without donor restrictions (59%). As the names imply, these categories inform us how the ASA can spend the monies along with spending rules approved by the Executive Council. As an example, one of the accounts with donor restrictions is the Frank and Virginia Winker Fund, which was created by ASA member Doug Winker to establish and support the Frank and Virginia Winker Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Study in Acoustics. One of the Funds without donor restrictions is the Operating Fund, which supports many activities and all administrative expenses and had $2,969,356 at the end of 2020 compared with $2,685,843 at the end of 2019, an increase of 10.6%.

## Summer Undergraduate Research or Internship Experience in Acoustics

The ASA has established a plan to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field of acoustics (see the Acoustic Today essay by Porter; available at [bit.ly/3fvx2F7](https://bit.ly/3fvx2F7)). As part of this plan, the ASA has created a 12-week paid, summer undergraduate research program for underrepresented minority students interested in acoustics from around the country. This new program will emphasize training, mentoring, research, and preparing students for graduate studies and careers in acoustics. The Fund supported SURIEA with $30,000 in addition to support from the ASA; American Institute of Physics; National Council of Acoustical Consultants; Threshold Acoustics, LLC; and other donors. As I write this report, SURIEA received 170 applications for support for research in 2021, but funds were available to fully support a maximum of 12 internships. Unrestricted donations to the Fund will help assure that SURIEA extends beyond 2021 and allows the ASA to increase the number of supported students underrepresented in acoustics.

## Covid-19 Impact on the Foundation Fund

As I write this report, the world is still dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. However, with the excellent leadership of the ASA Investments Committee chaired by Dave Adams (which is charged with reviewing the financial investments of the ASA including those of the Fund) and with advice from the Society’s investment advisors, the financial impact of the pandemic has been mitigated. The emphasis on long-term growth has allowed the Fund to weather several storms of the last

---

### Table 1. Awards, prizes, fellowships and scholarships supported by the Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award/Fellowship/Acivement</th>
<th>Award/Fellowship/Acivement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical Oceanography Student Travel Award</td>
<td>Medwin Prize in Acoustical Oceanography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASA Early Career Leadership Fellowship</td>
<td>Pioneers in Underwater Acoustics Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank and Virginia Winker Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Study in Acoustics</td>
<td>Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship in Phonetics and Speech Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick V. Hunt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Acoustics</td>
<td>Robert Bradford Newman Student Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E. West Minority Fellowship</td>
<td>Robert J. Urick Prize for Best JASA Article by a Student in Ocean Acoustics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo and Gabriella Beranek Scholarship in Architectural Acoustics and Noise Control</td>
<td>Robert W. Young Award for Undergraduate Student Research in Acoustics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medwin Prize in Acoustical Oceanography</td>
<td>Rossing Prize in Acoustics Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneers in Underwater Acoustics Medal</td>
<td>Royster Student Scholarship Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Bruce Lindsay Award</td>
<td>Student Transportation Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship in Phonetics and Speech Science</td>
<td>Theodore John Schultz Grant for Advancement of Acoustical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Bradford Newman Student Award</td>
<td>Trent-Crede Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Urick Prize for Best JASA Article by a Student in Ocean Acoustics</td>
<td>von Békésy Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Young Award for Undergraduate Student Research in Acoustics</td>
<td>Wallace Clement Sabine Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossing Prize in Acoustics Education</td>
<td>Wenger Prize for the Student Design Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royster Student Scholarship Award</td>
<td>William and Christine Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Transportation Awards</td>
<td>Tedd Stockbridge Scholarship in Acoustical Oceanography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore John Schultz Grant for Advancement of Acoustical Education</td>
<td>University of Illinois Merit Scholarships in Acoustics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trent-Crede Medal</td>
<td>von Békésy Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>von Békésy Medal</td>
<td>Walter M. Kauzlarich Acoustics Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace Clement Sabine Medal</td>
<td>William and Christine Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
decades, and we are looking forward to continued gains over the next months and years.

**What Do You Want the Fund to Do?**

The Fund does a lot of good in supporting the ASA mission. But we can do more. If you have an idea about where the Fund can make a difference, let’s start a conversation.

For example,

- Do you feel strongly about acoustics education?
- Do you want to make a difference for early-career acousticians?
- Do you want to support the ASA commitment to increase racial diversity, equity, and inclusivity in acoustics?
- Do you think emerging research in one of our technical areas needs a kick start?
- Are you excited about standards?
- Do you want to recognize a pioneer in acoustics or an outstanding teacher/mentor by creating a fund and naming it in their honor?

Reach out to me at miller@uri.edu. I would enjoy hearing your ideas and discussing how we might implement them.

**Ways to Give**

Donors have a number of options for giving to the Fund and they include

- Outright gifts of cash,
- Publicly traded securities,
- Real estate,
- Tangible personal property,
- Life insurance,
- Bequests,
- Pooled income fund,
- Charitable trusts, and
- Charitable annuities.

For more information on these giving options, see bit.ly/3wcViCG.

One of the options listed is a charitable trust. In my 2020 report, I discussed charitable remainder trusts. This year, I focus on revocable trusts. A revocable trust is a trust in which provisions can be changed or canceled by the grantor or the originator of the trust. During the life of the trust, income earned is received by the grantor, and only after death do the assets transfer to the beneficiaries of the trust (in this case, the ASA). There are a number of advantages to revocable trusts that include continuity of management during disability, flexibility, avoidance of probate, and immediate availability of funds.

Let me know if you would like to learn more about using one of these options to donate to the Fund. Or just visit the Fund’s website (available at bit.ly/3we52wg) and click Donate at the bottom. This will take you to the Fund's webpage where you can use a credit card (or other means) to donate to the Campaign for Early Career Leadership, the Student Transportation Fund, or make an unrestricted donation to the Fund (all are tax deductible).

Thanks for taking the time to read Vantage, our annual summary of the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund.

**Contact Information**

James H. Miller miller@uri.edu
Acoustical Society Foundation Board
Department of Ocean Engineering
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882, USA

**ASA Publications now has a podcast!**

Across Acoustics highlights authors’ research from our four publications: *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (JASA), JASA Express Letters, Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics*, and *Acoustics Today*.

Streaming now at www.buzzsprout.com/1537384