

Vantage: A Report on the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund

James H. Miller

This is the third annual “Vantage” report. In it, I 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 where the Fund is headed. Past Vantage reports from 2020 and 2021 and other reports about the Foundation can be found at [bit.ly/ATC-Foundation](https://doi.org/10.1121/ATC-Foundation).

I usually give a description of the ASA Foundation Board, a summary of our financial performance in the last year, and a list of our scholarships and fellowships and then close with different ways to give. I briefly cover these topics because I am featuring four people who have benefited from the generosity of our donors.

The Acoustical Society Foundation Board

The Board is made up of dedicated, hard-working volunteers, currently including Freddie Bell-Berti, David Feit, Ron Freiheit, John Hildebrand, Ben Markham, Ed Okorn, Scott Pfeiffer, ASA Treasurer Judy Dubno as an ex officio member, and me as Board chair. I want to especially thank our colleagues Anthony Atchley and Rich Peppin who recently stepped off the Board for their many years of service. 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**.

Financial Performance in 2021

Contributions in 2021 to the Fund from members and friends of the ASA totaled \$76,293, an increase of 7.8% over 2020. In addition, gains from investments, interest, and dividends totaled \$1,578,004. Expenses for the Fund were \$323,286, which mostly included the awards, prizes, fellowships, and scholarships. The details of these expenses are covered in **Fund Expenditures in 2021 in Support of the ASA**. Net assets in the Fund at the end



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

William and Christine Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience
Medwin Prize in Acoustical Oceanography
Rossing Prize in Acoustics Education
Medals Fund
Frederick V. Hunt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Acoustics
ASA Early Career Leadership Fellowship
Theodore John Schultz Grant for Advancement of Acoustical Education
Frank and Virginia Winker Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Study in Acoustics
Leo and Gabriella Beranek Scholarship in Architectural Acoustics and Noise Control
James E. West Minority Fellowship
Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship in Phonetics and Speech Science
Robert Bradford Newman Student Award
Robert J. Urick Prize for Best JASA Article by a Student in Ocean Acoustics
Robert W. Young Award for Undergraduate Student Research in Acoustics
Robert W. Young Award for International Standards Travel
Royster Student Scholarship Award
Acoustical Oceanography Student Travel Award
Student Transportation Awards
Wenger Prize for the Student Design Competitions

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of 2021 were \$13,043,274 compared with \$11,638,499 at the end of 2020, an increase of 12.07%.

Fund Expenditures in 2021 in Support of the ASA

In 2021, the Fund was very active in supporting the many activities of the Society. Awards, prizes, fellowships, and scholarships (see **Table 1**) that are supported by the Fund totaled \$215,789, an increase of 10% compared with 2020. You can find details of each of these activities at bit.ly/3we52wg. After reviewing these activities, think about any for which you or your students might apply or where you might like to donate.

The support for travel to ASA meetings by students through the Student Transportation Fund is one of the most important activities of the Fund and one of those with the greatest need. Most of the assets in the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund are donor restricted and that limits the amount of travel awards for students. The experience and connections made by students with each other and with more senior members at ASA meetings can change lives. The future of the Society is our students, and so this investment in their careers will pay off for decades. The Foundation Fund awarded \$20,510 to students for travel to the fall 2021 meeting in Seattle, Washington, which was only 28% of the funds requested. The need will be even greater in 2022 with ASA's return to two in-person meetings.

Four recent winners of awards supported by the ASA Foundation Fund were kind enough to send me descriptions of their work that are featured below.



Hannah Rowe is a student at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions, Boston. She is a recipient of the Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship in Phonetics and Speech Science.

“My research centers around developing acoustic-based clinical phenotypes of distinct speech motor disorders. Quantitative profiles of speech may help to (1) motivate the need to individualize treatment based on a patient’s underlying deficits, (2) provide more granular outcome measures for evaluating the efficacy of behavioral and pharmaceutical interventions, and (3) further our understanding of the underlying articulatory mechanisms that contribute to functional

communication. With objective, accessible, and interpretable measures of speech function, we may be able improve the confidence of both patients and clinicians in diagnosing and treating speech motor disorders. The Stetson Scholarship has been integral to allowing me to complete my doctoral research in a timely manner and ultimately assisting me in my next step toward becoming an independent academic researcher.”



E. K. Ellington Scott is a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. He is a recipient of the James E. West Graduate Fellowship for Minorities.

“My name is E. K. Ellington Scott, and I am the 2020–2022 James West Fellow.

I am currently a doctoral candidate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the Graduate Program in Architectural Acoustics. My research focuses on auditory spatial perception, spatial audio technologies, and room acoustics of jazz performance venues. Specifically, my work aims to understand how acoustic energy distribution affects passive and active listening on the stage of smaller jazz venues utilizing auralizations rendered from measured spatial impulse response and hybrid acoustic simulations. The James West Fellowship has allowed me the freedom to combine my passion for jazz and improvised music with my experience as an acoustic consultant. The fellowship has also allowed me to explore other professional institutions to gain experience in communications engineering, software development, and government research.”



Miran Oh is a student at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She is a recipient of the Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship in Phonetics and Speech Science.

“My research focuses on understanding the role of articulatory coordination and timing stability in encoding phonologically contrastive speech motor tasks. This research leverages real-time magnetic resonance imaging (rtMRI) of the vocal tract during speech production to investigate interarticulator timing of oral and nonoral speech actions such as velum and larynx movements, which have been difficult to quantitatively assess with other instrumental tools. The current investigation

of stabilities in coordination illuminates the cognitive representation of linguistic units that are used to structure speech segments and how this timing structure interacts with variations in phrasal structure. The support from the Raymond H. Stetson Scholarship has greatly helped expedite the completion of the proposed research projects, from the facilitation of data analyses and computational modeling to the dissemination of my work in professional settings at ASA meetings as well as at other scientific communities in speech science.”



Samuel Underwood is a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a recipient of the Leo and Gabriella Beranek Scholarship in Architectural Acoustics and Noise Control.

“The Beranek award has been instrumental in allowing me to pursue multiple exploratory research efforts that otherwise may not have been externally funded. To date, the award has supported my ongoing work for a visual mapping study of flanking sound transmission in wall and door assemblies, a project to develop acoustic applications of building information modeling (BIM) software (recently presented at the ASA meeting in Seattle), and also an effort to re-create Wallace Clement Sabine’s original portable organ pipe and stopwatch decay measurement setup (now to be used for outreach with younger students). Moving forward, I hope to leverage these experiences as I begin formulating a proposal for my PhD dissertation in the coming months. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to spend virtually every moment of each day studying, practicing, or teaching in the area of acoustics. This award has granted me the resources to amplify these efforts even further.”

What Would You Like the Foundation Funds 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. I would enjoy hearing your ideas and discussing how we might implement them.

- 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’s 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?

Ways to Give

Donors have several options for giving to the Fund, and they include

- Outright gifts of cash,
- Publicly traded securities,
- Life insurance,
- Bequests,
- Pooled income funds,
- Charitable trusts, or
- Charitable annuities.

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

As you can see, the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund is doing important work for the ASA with the generous support of our donors. Please reach out to me at miller@uri.edu if you would like to learn more about how to make a difference in acoustics.

Contact Information

James H. Miller miller@uri.edu

*University of Rhode Island
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882, USA*

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