

Foundation Of The Wall & Ceiling Industry Announces

★ First Annual Scholarship Award Winners

James L. Houser, 1989 President of The Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, recently announced the names of 15 future industry professionals selected to receive \$500 scholarships.

The 15 students were selected on the basis of academic performance, community service, employment experience, financial need and a demonstrated interest in a construction industry career.

"We were pleased to see that so many of the applicants have strong family ties to the industry," Mr. Houser stated. "They described childhood experiences that sparked an interest in a construction-related career.

"Some of these students have really struggled to afford tuition, fees and books," Houser continued. "As a member of the Foundation, I'm glad we're able to make it a little easier for these future professionals to complete an education."

Mr. Houser made the scholarship award announcement at the Foundation's recent Eighth Annual Auction fundraiser on Monday evening, April 18, at the Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Auction was part of the AWCI Convention program, and proceeds from the fundraiser will

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be used to support Foundation programs including the scholarships. (See related story this issue.)

According to Kathy Sedgwick, Executive Director of the Foundation, "The Scholarship Review Committee was impressed with the high academic achievement, energy and drive these students displayed during personal interviews and on their applications."

The Scholarship Review Committee reviewed more than 100 applications, letters of recommendation and transcripts from students across the nation. The committee selected 15 winners—two students in each of seven geographical regions in North America plus one "at large."

Impressed by outstanding drawings included with her application, the Scholarship Review Committee selected **Sylvia Wai Yan Fong** to receive the "at large" scholarship award. Sylvia is

seeking her Masters Degree in Architecture at the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Born in Hong Kong, at the age of seven Sylvia and her family moved to French-speaking Quebec, and then to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she first developed an interest in architecture. These drastic changes in environment helped Sylvia develop a strong sense of culture. Her goal is to discover a method to translate the richness of culture, through construction details, into architecture.

In the **Northeast Region** (New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec and Labrador) the Foundation awarded scholarships to **Gloria J. Godsell** and **Stephen J. Outerbridge**.

A construction-related career was a "natural" for Gloria J. Godsell whose father owns a general contracting firm. The youngest of six children, five of whom have an interest in the construction industry, Gloria attends Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Her goal is to concentrate her studies in the construction industry so that she "may help alleviate



tensions which harm the industry's growth as well as individual careers."

Stephen J. Outerbridge is pursuing a Master's Degree in Architecture at the Technical University of Nova Scotia. Steve has always been fascinated by construction, and he believes that his undergraduate degree and experience in Engineering/Urban Planning will help make him a better architect.

In the **Mid-Central Region** (Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South and North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario) the Foundation awarded scholarships to **Mark E. LeFebvre** and **Nancy Restivo**.

Mark E. LeFebvre is enrolled in the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Mark studied electronics at technical school, working as an electronic technician for several years before returning to school. Mark says his work in electronics strengthened his logical thinking; now he's training his

creative side so that he can emerge as a successful architect.

Nancy Restivo attends Ball State University where she is enrolled in the College of Architecture and Planning program. A talented artist and dancer, Nancy's real love is historic buildings. She plans to pursue a career in architecture, specializing in historic preservation.

In the **Southeastern Region** (Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) the Foundation selected **Jeffrey B. Long** and **Stephen R. Mersch**.

Jeffrey B. Long attends the University of Tennessee School of Architecture. As a small boy he was fascinated by his grandfather's carpentry and drafting tools. This fascination, combined with his love for art and mathematics, manifested itself in a desire to become an architect. As a

result of recent work-study experiences, Jeff plans to concentrate on designing quality, but affordable public service structures.

Stephen R. Mersch is seeking a degree in Architecture and Building Science at Clemson University. Steve gained hands-on construction experience by helping his father on residential projects. This kind of direct exposure, Steve says, conveys an understanding beyond what can be achieved in the classroom.

In the **Mid-Atlantic Region** (Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Ohio and West Virginia) the Foundation awarded scholarships to **Jose R. Bernardo** and **Lee LeFrancois**.

Jose R. Bernardo is one of ten children of parents of Cuban birth. As a child he was strongly influenced by his father who is an architect. Jose attends the University of Maryland and hopes to pursue a career in architecture which he views as a way of contributing



to society by shaping a pleasant environment in which to live.

Lee LeFrancois, a student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., is interested in becoming a design architect or construction manager. This interest in a construction career was chiefly influenced by two of his uncles, both of whom own and operate construction companies.

In the **Southwestern Region** (Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas) the Foundation selected **Don F. Carlos** and **Marbelia Hernandez**.

Don F. Carlos is a student at the University of Arkansas where he has won several student design competitions. Don operates his own company, performing small scale renovations and repairs. He plans to open his own design firm and is particularly interested in adaptive reuse of older structures and neighborhoods.

Marbelia Hernandez is enrolled at the Texas Tech University's School of Architecture. Marbelia lived on an isolated ranch in Mexico with her grandparents until at age eight she moved to Brownsville, Texas to live with her father and begin school. During the summers she traveled with her family as migrant workers. Marbelia says that her early childhood experiences with uncomfortable, inadequate housing created a strong desire for construction improvements. She is currently pursuing a dual major in architectural design and civil engineering.

In the **Northwest Region** (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) the Foundation awarded scholarships to **Charles W. Crane** and **Deborah J. Strausz**.

Charles W. Crane, a student at Washington State University, says that the built product and its construction process have always fascinated him. His interest grew from Tinker toy inventions to the real thing. Nurtured by experiences in construction, as a framer and finish carpenter, Charles has developed a strong desire to design energy efficient low-income housing.

Deborah J. Strausz also attends Washington State University. Born and raised in the apple-producing community of Cowiche, Washington, Debbie first became interested in architecture at age twelve when her family

remodeled their home.

In the **Western Region** (California, Nevada and Utah) the Foundation awarded scholarships to **Tracy S. Loeffler** and **Rod T. Mortensen**.

Tracy S. Loeffler attends the Southern California Institute of Architecture. She has worked with home-builders and private architects, and her responsibilities have covered the gamut from blueprinting, drafting, model-making, small-scale studies to execution

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of techniques in actual projects.

Rod T. Mortensen is studying at Woodbury University and plans to become an architect, with an emphasis on religious sanctuaries. Employed with an architectural firm, he started at the bottom, from Xerox and filing through blue printing and drafting. Currently he is chief draftsman for his company where he frequently works directly with construction crews and clients.



Funding for the Scholarship Program is possible through the support of Foundation members and by gifts from others who consider these scholarships an investment in the future.

As former Foundation President J. Munroe McNulty once stated, "The most important resource in our industry is the people—the officers, the managers, office and field personnel. The search for qualified individuals is an unending task. This makes education vital to our industry."



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