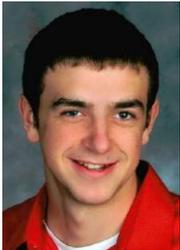


Meet the 2017 SRI Conference Scholarship Winners!



Daniel Baran is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Finance and International Studies. Having completed an internship with the wealth management division of a major investment firm, he is “seeking a client-facing career that couples his interest in working with people while also being immersed in markets and investing with an RIA or investment firm that specializes in ESG / SRI or has a SRI / ESG specific team.” Daniel is currently a Portfolio Analyst for his school's endowment and a CFA Level I Candidate. He has also interned in fundraising and grant development for a homeless shelter, and in microfinance for a Peruvian NGO.



Kate Barron-Alicante is moving into the field of financial planning, pivoting from a career in social justice non-profit work and international higher education. She holds a Master's in International Development Studies from the University of London, focused on the global economic order and inequality and a BA in International Relations. Kate has completed the educational portion of her CFP™ qualification in 2017. Her goal is to be a Certified Financial Planner™ who works with practitioners in progressive advocacy and philanthropy, NGOs and universities.



Aiswarya Baskaran earned her Master of Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia and her Honours Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from the University of Toronto at Scarborough. She is currently a research analyst at Sustainalytics covering technology companies, following work with the Sierra Club of Canada. Aiswarya writes that “the world is made of interconnected systems and solutions for a sustainable future, which requires efforts from everyone. My career goal is to use my ESG research skills to assist SRI investors with decision-making.”



Pallak Bhandari is completing her Bachelor of Science in International Business at Bryant University, where she serves as portfolio manager in the student-run Archway Investment Fund. She writes: “Through Archway, I learned more about the incorporation of environmental, social and governance factors (ESG) in our investment decisions as well as the impact it has on our community. I believe that I can spread my lessons from the SRI conference to a huge range of people across different professions and impact them.”



Andrew Crim is completing his bachelor's degree in Economics and his Certified Financial Planner™ education at Texas A&M University this Fall, and has begun his career at a wealth management firm in Dallas. He writes: “Through my passion, I could advise my clients to invest in companies and mutual funds that emphasize sustainability and make the environment a focus of their everyday business decisions. One of my main goals is to start a financial planning business with a focus on Socially Responsible Investing.”



Yuanyuan (Chris) Cui is pursuing her global Executive MBA program at Columbia Business School, London Business School and Hong Kong University, after serving as Director of the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Hong Kong. Her experience also includes impact investing, green insurance underwriting and consumer product marketing. Chris writes: "After having worked at both financial sector and nonprofit in developing and developed countries, I'm transitioning to a career in ESG/SRI investing that can bring the two worlds together to maximize social impact while being sustainable."



Nicholas Eggert earned his B.Sc. in Economics at University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2016. He currently runs a financial planning practice at Northwestern Mutual. He states: "My goal is to become the Socially Responsible/Sustainable/Impact investing expert in our office of over 100 financial representatives. I see myself being the person that can educate and expand the knowledge that people have on this topic." Nicholas cites family influences as shaping his interest in ESG/SRI; he has been investing in companies which demonstrate values that resonate with his own value set from an early age.



Carolina Fernandez-Maestri is pursuing a dual-degree (MBA/MS) program at University of Michigan, after earning a degree in environmental engineering University of São Paulo in Brazil. She has been working on sustainability in the high-polluting cement industry since graduation. Carolina writes: "The impact investing and sustainable finance knowledge acquired at Ross, SNRE, and my MBA summer internships, together with the SRI Conference will give me the skills to be part of the impact investing and sustainable finance scenario in Brazil, a rich country in natural resources but with extreme social inequalities."



Ashley Gardner is an MBA candidate at the University of Toronto, where she is a leader of the Net Impact Club. She served in the Peace Corps supporting women's business initiatives in the Dominican Republic after earning a combined Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Bachelor of Arts at Santa Clara University. Ashley is the student lead in launching the first MBA Impact Investing Network and Training (MIINT) team at the Rotman School of Management. She writes, "I anticipate this being the beginning of more opportunities for students to learn about SRI/ESG investing."



Jake Harris is an MBA candidate at the Yale School of Management; he earned his BA at Vassar. He writes, "I'm coming to SRI/ESG and impact investing from four years working in international development, where we partnered with social entrepreneurs to design solutions for combatting human trafficking in Nepal, supporting children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Kenya, and crowdsourcing ideas for a global women's leadership incubator. I realized the power that profit, and capital, had in developing truly innovative solutions with the possibility for impact at scale and I want the next evolution of my career to be in impact investing."



Cissy Hu earned her Bachelor's degree in business from Boston University and is currently pursuing the Sustainability Accounting certification and CAIA designation. She works in Fixed Income Product Management at Wellington Management and collaborates with the SRI Working Group. Cissy writes: "it's important to gain perspectives on how the SRI ecosystem operates beyond the asset management world. I want to be an active member of the team that drives significant capital flows towards investing in institutions that seek to leave the world in a better place for generations to come."



Ada Lio is studying for her MBA at University of Pennsylvania after earning her Bachelor's degree at Harvard and working for a management consulting firm in emerging markets. Inspired by her experiences supporting private sector and non-profit organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and Asia, she writes, "I started my MBA at Wharton to learn more about how I can play a role at the intersection of business and social impact. Attending the SRI Conference will further provide me with meaningful ways to expand my knowledge and network."



Andrew Oestreicher is a sophomore at Bentley University (Waltham, MA), double majoring in accounting/corporate finance and ethics/corporate social responsibility. He writes: "I have worked to position myself as a driver of positive change through business by gaining experience while simultaneously giving back to my community. I am incredibly passionate about this field and plan to continue to devote my life to pursuing a career in this industry. The opportunity to attend this conference would be a great privilege and allow me to continue to explore this field."



Kenneth Silva Ballard was a chef for ten years before returning home to manage his family's financial planning practice. He is also completing his business degree at University of Phoenix. Ken holds the Series 7 and 66 designations. Ken writes, "I understand the importance of SRI and have implemented this philosophy into my practice as a driving force within my own character and I believe within the character of an entire generation. I'm building a book of business using SRI/ESG on a fee-based platform."



Carol Tsoi is completing her MBA at Yale School of Management after earning her BA from Williams College. Her background in affordable housing development, commercial banking, and nonprofits has spurred her interest in SRI investing. Carol writes, "I would like to attend the SRI Conference in order to support my career transition to SRI/ESG investing and understand how to access capital for community development initiatives."



Adam Walden is a senior at Brown University, majoring in Development Studies, after earning an International Baccalaureate and studying International Development in Costa Rica. He works with the Brown Investment Office to analyze fossil fuel demand and has interned with the Intentional Endowment Network. Adam writes: "I intend to remain engaged with SRI/ESG investing immediately after graduating from Brown, and throughout the duration of my career."



About The SRI Conference Scholarships

The emeritus representatives of First Affirmative Financial Network founded The SRI Conference Scholarship program in 2015 to insure that the culture, commitment, and competence of the pioneering SRI movement be sustained into the next generation. We believe the values driven, multi-disciplinary, community of practice that has built the responsible investment industry is a unique and vital part of the business model. As people who brought sustainable, responsible, impact investing to the public one client conversation at a time, we understand the value of personal connection. We seek to bring a diverse group of top students and young professionals to the conference so they can experience and be welcomed into this community.

In service of these goals we actively solicit a diverse group of applicants. We delete the applicants' names and other identifiers before sending them to our readers who represent many decades of client-facing experience in our industry. Decisions are based solely on the applicants' essays and professional and educational experience. We require winners to communicate what they are learning to their networks as a condition of being awarded a scholarship. We use the conference to integrate winners into the community with personal introductions and mentoring. After the conference, we stay in touch with winners and integrate them into a network of scholarship winners across class years. All donors are treated as equal contributors regardless of the size of their donation to maintain the communal and collaborative culture of the project. And we operate exclusively with volunteer labor so ALL donations go toward maximizing the number of winners who can attend the conference.

Please consider joining us in this work by making a tax deductible contribution to The SRI Scholarship Fund through the Crane Institute / Intentional Endowments Network at http://www.intentionalendowments.org/sri_conference_donate.

For more information, contact srischolarship15@gmail.com.

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