Meet the 2018 SRI Conference Scholarship Winners!

The Emeriti of the First Affirmative Financial Network present this year’s winners of The SRI Conference Scholarships.

**Martin Cilloniz** worked as an environmental engineer before coming to Yale to earn a joint degree in Environmental Management and Business. Martin was a summer associate at Encourage Capital, working with the firm’s sustainable seafood investment strategy. He writes, “After graduating from Yale, my goal is to pursue a career in impact investing. I want to become an expert in the market for impactful projects and replicate it in Peru...to engage in conversations regarding investment opportunities in deforestation reduction and mercury contamination in the Amazon, sustainable fishing along the Pacific coast, remediation of old mining liabilities, and evolving social and environmental legislation.”

**Connie E** is a senior at Northeastern University, where she is a candidate for Bachelor of Science in Economics with a minor in Social Entrepreneurship. Her cooperative education working with the UN, a social enterprise, an investment firm, and a public policy journal has led her to London, Geneva, New York and Cape Town, South Africa. She leads NUImpact, Northeastern’s student-led impact investing initiative, which she sees as closely aligned with the SRI Conference.

**Kristin John** is a junior at Boston University, pursuing a dual degree in Honors Business and Economics, with minors in Mathematics and African-American studies. She has been involved in environmental and volunteer work since middle school and has interned at a women’s microfinance enterprise in India and at Pathstone in Boston. Kristin aims “to create a community of students that want to pursue the field so that we can work together to ensure that impact investing will be a subject taught in business schools.”

**Michelle Levinson** is completing her joint Master of Public Policy / M.A. Energy & Resources at University of California Berkeley where she serves as a student-principal of the Haas Socially Responsible Investment Fund. After earning her B.A in International Relations at Brown University, Michelle worked on climate and energy policy for 5 years. She writes, “(I want to attend the Conference) to learn from the latest perspectives and best practices...to help in the shift towards a greener, more sustainable economy for all.”
Gabriel Malek is a junior pursuing a B.A. in American Studies at Yale, where he has served as co-chair of the Dwight Hall Socially Responsible Fund, an endowment of the university’s Center for Public Service and Social Justice. He interned at the Environmental Defense Fund, researching ESG in the fixed income markets. Gabriel writes, “I want to learn about the ways different investors are quantifying impact in their portfolios...Money talks. When investment firms acknowledge the significance of ESG factors in allocating money, other public figures listen, and society becomes both more sustainable and more equitable.”

Chase McGill earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Central Michigan University in 2018, with a focus in Personal Financial Planning, and works as a Client Associate at B. Riley Wealth Management in Marshall, Michigan. He holds the Series 7 and 66 licenses, and will sit for the CFP™ exam in March 2019. Chase writes, “attending the Conference will have a direct beneficial impact on the timeliness of advising my clients on ESG-focused and impact investments, as well as the quality and depth of understanding I’ll be able to afford them.”

Faina Rozental is completing her M.B.A. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, where she is co-President of the MIT Impact Investing Initiative. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Boston University. Prior to Sloan, she worked at Root Capital, where she led the redesign of the organization’s social due diligence platform to strengthen its leadership role in responsible lending. Faina writes, “I am eager to help grow the SRI ecosystem; gaining a deeper understanding of this ecosystem through the conference will lay the foundation for my contributions in the years to come.”

Francois-Jerome Selosse (FJ) earned his M.B.A. at University of California Berkeley in 2018, focusing on impact investing, conservation, and sustainable food systems. He co-founded Hyphae Partners, and helps guide impact investment capital to regenerative agriculture. FJ has over ten years of experience in investment management across asset classes and sectors. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Statistics from the Ecole Polytechnique in France, and an M.S. in Financial Engineering from New York University. His goal “is to create more SRI and ESG investment options in the agriculture and sustainable land management sectors, and help guide institutional capital towards the space”.

Emily Simso earned her B.S. degree in Biology and Environmental Science from Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles in 2017 and currently serves as the Responsible Investing Associate for the university. As a student, Emily was a lead campaign coordinator for LMU’s fossil-fuel divestment movement. Emily writes, “The SRI Conference provides tools and insights on RI best practices that I plan to apply throughout my career. I am passionate about environmental and equity issues, which I hope to learn to better address through ESG strategies.”
James Smith is a senior at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Asheville, completing a dual Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Environmental Communication. He led the University’s divestment effort, which has evolved into an interdisciplinary student, faculty, and administration working group. The group’s goal is to learn about the field of ESG investing, and to apply its learning to shift UNC Asheville’s investments towards incorporating ESG into its investment practices. He writes, “I hope to become more involved both on an individual and institutional scale as this investing movement expands.”

Scott Tibert graduated with a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Bryant University in 2018, where he managed the $1.4 million Archway Investment Fund, a student run equity portion of the University endowment, and co-chaired the fund’s ESG committee. He writes, “I have developed a passion for the SRI industry that has led me to want to make it my career.” Scott began working as an analyst at Cambridge Associates this year, where he intends to have an ESG or Impact role.

Anmol Vasandani is studying for her M.S. in Finance at Brandeis University and working on the CFA designation, after earning a Bachelor of Management Studies degree at the University of Mumbai and working in consulting and human development in India. She has recently become a teaching assistant and is doing financial due diligence at the Boston Impact Initiative. She writes, “The SRI conference...would help me connect with professionals in the ESG and Impact investing space and interact with investors who want to be change makers while making money!”

About The SRI Conference Scholarship

The emeritus representatives of FAFN founded the SRI scholarship in 2015 to ensure that the culture, commitment, and competence of the pioneer SRI movement be sustained into the next generation. We believe the values-driven, multi-disciplinary community of practice that has built the social investment movement is a unique and vital part of the business model. As people who brought SRI 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 and then "blind" the applications before sending them to our readers who score them based on specific criteria and the readers’ many years of client-facing experience in SRI. We require the winners to communicate what they are learning to their networks as a condition of the scholarship. We use the time at 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 winners across class years. We treat all donors as equal contributors, regardless of the size of their donation, to maintain the communal and collaborative culture of the project. Finally, 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 our fiscal partner The Crane Institute of Sustainability, home of the Intentional Endowments Network at: www.intentionalendowments.org/sri_conference_donate.

For more information, contact srischolarship15@gmail.com.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **Our many Donors including:** Arc Advisers, LLC; Georgette Frazer and Don Beyer; Ron Cohen; Andrew Crim, past SRI Scholar; Bob Dreizler, Chartered Financial Consultant; First Affirmative Financial Network; Alan Gammel; Ashley Gardner, past SRI Scholar, Hansen’s Advisory Services; Cissy Hu, past SRI Scholar; Impact Investors; Peter and Claudia Kinder; Ann-Marja Lander, CFP; A B Lawson Analytics, LLC; Ada Lio, past SRI Scholar; Richard Liroff; Justin Martello; Gary Matthews; Mel and Marie Miller; Robin Miller, past SRI Scholar; Harry Moran, Sustainable Wealth Advisors; Celia Mueller, Progressive Asset Management; Natural Investments; New Outlook Financial, LLC; Newground Social Investment; Kevin O’Keefe; Bob and Mary Pajak; Simonetti Sandmel Family; Steve and Darla Schueth; Krista Strohoffer; Holly Testa.

- **Our Readers:** Danielle Burns, Charles Sandmel and Steve Schueth

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