Meet the 2019 SRI Conference Scholarship Winners!

The Emeriti of the First Affirmative Financial Network are proud to present the 2019 SRI Conference Scholarship awardees.

**Adwoa Asare** is the Program Manager for MIINT (The MBA Impact Investing Network and Training). She earned her BA in Psychology from Wake Forest University and her MBA from Brandeis University where she helped grow the University’s impact investing curriculum. Adwoa worked in community development and engagement for Habitat for Humanity before starting graduate school. Adwoa is very passionate about diversifying the pipeline for careers in the socially responsible and investing sectors. She sees this scholarship as one of the ways to do that.

**Hanna Carr** is a senior at Tufts University majoring in Economics and Environmental Studies. She has interned in shareholder advocacy at Green Century, in fixed income ESG research at Neuberger Berman, and in environmental policy with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She writes, “I have been preparing for a career in sustainable investing since before I even knew that it existed as a career option. I want to learn from experts in the SRI field about lessons learned from the past 30 years of sustainable investing as well as help build the roadmap for the next 30 years and beyond.”

**Alexandra Chamberlin** is Manager, Private Impact Investments and Analytics at CapShift. She earned her Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and her Master in Management from HEC Paris. At Tufts, she was CFO of the Fletcher Social Investment Group and won the 2017 MIINT runner-up prize and 2018 UNC Invest for Impact Competition. Originally from France, she dedicated her capstone to compare pay-for-success ecosystems in France and the U.S. Alexandra writes, “Passionate about impact investing and innovative financial mechanisms, I aim to orient private capital towards initiatives achieving positive social change and revolutionize finance to incorporate externalities alongside risk and return.”

**Alexander Cote** is an MBA candidate at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business where he obtained undergraduate degrees in Finance and Accounting. He was first exposed to ESG as an intern at Envestnet. His interest in ESG propelled him to intern at First Affirmative last summer, where he continues to work remotely over the school year. Alex writes, “Investors are now able to express their social interests by shifting capital to companies that are concerned with moving the economy and society towards a brighter future. The conference is an opportunity to see the direction of this industry and discover how I can contribute in making the world a better place.”
Wendy Foo is a second-year MBA candidate at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business concentrating in Entrepreneurship and Finance. She has participated in MIINT and Invest 4 Impact competitions. She earned her BA in Economics and Chinese Language and Culture at Wellesley College and has worked at Ernst and Young and Google. Wendy writes, “People who are on the ground, with a deep understanding of certain issues, are the ones challenging the status quo and creating integral solutions… I want to direct capital and support entrepreneurs in their solutions, addressing the social issues and economic inequalities that low income and communities of color face.”

Devon Gethers is a senior at the University of Utah where he is an Impact Investing Analyst in the Sorenson Impact Center. He worked in the University President’s office to create the Income Share Agreement which is designed to fill funding gaps so students can finish their degrees and launch their professional careers faster. After earning his Associates Degree, he oversaw the functions of a large consumer product company across the Asia-Pacific region. He also launched a poverty alleviation initiative in Ghana. Devon writes, “I would love to listen to thought leaders who are also pushing ESG efforts across the globe and to create a dialogue that will help enrich the lives of everyone.”

Katharine Hawthorne is an MBA candidate at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, where she serves as a Principal on the $3 million student-managed Haas Sustainable Investing Fund. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Stanford University. Katharine has worked in impact investing with Patamar Capital and Tiedemann Advisors and previously managed a $50 million portfolio of global health programs at UCSF. She writes, “I am interested in investing in emerging markets through the lens of positive environmental and health impacts and am excited to learn about cutting-edge SRI research and practice.”

Zeyuan Jiang is an MBA candidate at MIT Sloan School of Management where she is pursuing a Sustainability Certificate and leading MIT’s Impact Investing Initiative. She started her career at J.P. Morgan Corporate Investment Banking and then co-founded B Corp’s China Taskforce to promote social and environmental impact evaluation with for-profit companies. This past summer, she worked in venture capital in Southeast Asia, investing in circular economy technologies that tackle sustainability challenges in the region. Zeyuan writes, “I aspire to… bring my experience of doing SRI in Asia both in public and private markets to the table and come up with innovative ways to unlock the positive impact of capital in local contexts.”

Karan Kishorepuria is a junior at Northeastern University studying for his Bachelor of Science in Business. He is President of NUImpact, the university’s Impact Investing Initiative and Fund. He has interned at Grantham Mayo Van Otterloo working on the shareholder services and risk control team. He is Captain of the university squash team and has competed internationally. He writes, “I would like to attend the conference to learn from my peers and thought leaders, meet potential donors to NUImpact, further our fundraising efforts, discuss our investment strategy, and also scout potential mentors and speakers.” Karan is actively looking for summer internships and full-time opportunities in the SRI/Impact Investing space.
Trevor Nelson graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University majoring in Accounting and Finance where he served as President of the Financial Management Association and participated in the Student Managed Investment Fund. Trevor now works at Rock Ventures in Detroit supporting diverse entrepreneurs at all stages. He writes, “My career aspirations... are geared toward opportunities that promote social impact. My real passion involves deriving ways to both encourage positive social impact and to create sound financial returns.”

Sylvester Okeleke earned his Master of Business Administration at Bowie State (MD) University in 2019 and currently works as Business Data Analyst at the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology at the University of Benin in Nigeria and worked in sales for Diamond Bank in Lagos. Sylvester writes, “I want to attend... to learn about a whole lot of new ideas and techniques... Meeting like-minded people not only inspires me but creates an opportunity to build partnerships and joint venture opportunities as I advance in my chosen career.”

Simone Shaheen is an MPA candidate at the New York University’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service focusing on Social Impact, Innovation, and Investment. She is Student Advisory Board President of NYUs Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) and a Director on the Social Innovation and Investment Alliance. She brings four years of experience working in microfinance in Kenya and Uganda. In this role she was responsible for managing institutional partnerships and supporting the first-ever Development Impact Bond in Africa. In the summer of 2019, she interned at a hedge fund focused on African investments. She is “passionate about impact investing and emerging markets.”

Nick Urban recently graduated with honors from Central Michigan University with a B.S.B.A focused in Personal Financial Planning and went on to pass his CFP® exam two months later. Nick is currently working as an Associate Advisor at Advanced Wealth Strategies, a financial planning firm based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was awarded the Registered Financial Associate designation after placing in the top three nationally through the IARFC® National Financial Planning competition in April of this year. He is a member of the FPA® primarily as a NexGen Financial Planner representative for the Michigan chapter.
About The SRI Conference Scholarships Program

The emeritus representatives of First Affirmative Financial Network founded the SRI scholarship program 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. 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/Intentional Endowments Network at http://www.intentionalendowments.org/sri_conference_scholarship. For more information, including information on when and how to apply, contact srischolarship15@gmail.com.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

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