Comments from Music School Scholarship Winners:

Dear Women's Advisory Board,

I wanted to take a moment and thank all of you for the incredible opportunity and gift you have given me through the women's advisory competition. It was an honor playing alongside all of my fellow musicians as we have had the opportunity to learn and grow side by side for the last three years. The competition was an exciting way to begin the end of a long but fruitful year and the scholarship will help immensely in the year to come. Thank you for those of you I was allowed to perform for and I hope to be able to meet and play for many more of you in the year to come. Once again thank you for this truly gracious gift. Have a wonderful rest of the year.

Sincerely,
James Austin Allen

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Dear Duquesne University Women's Advisory Board,

Congratulations on the Board's 60th year Diamond Jubilee Anniversary! I am honored to accept the scholarship this year. As an international student, being acknowledged overseas has a great impact on me. It gives me more confidence in developing my career. Currently I am applying for graduate schools in New York and California. In the meantime, I will participate in various piano competitions. Again, I am very grateful for the scholarship. I have a passion for music, and I will never let go of my big dream.

Sincerely,
Yuting, 2013 Scholarship Winner

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EMILY MOHAN:

I really can't say more about the positive impact that this award had on me both personally and professionally. At the time, I was a married college student barely making ends meet with a joint income of about $1000/month. My parents were unable to support me financially at all and my husband and I were working multiple jobs while taking a full load of classes just to pay rent. I relied entirely on scholarships and grants to fund my college education and this scholarship provided me with the ability to complete college, period. As a singer, I was dumbfounded to have received the award amongst a group of incredibly talented vocalists and instrumentalists. (I think I cried so much they couldn't use my picture because of my horribly smeared mascara!) Not only did this provide me with a sense of accomplishment and motivation to continue the pursuit of my musical dreams, but also provided the entire vocal department a much deserved place of recognition for musical excellence.
I have kept up my singing, however have found myself engaging my organizational and leadership skills more towards an arts administration career. I currently work at The Music Center; Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County designing and managing partnerships between schools, districts and networks of schools across LA County including short and long term teaching artist residencies, teacher professional development, parent engagement and teen career development programs. I also serve as President of Museum Educators of Southern California, overseeing a board of 17 Museum Education Directors providing networking and professional development opportunities to informal educators and museum professionals throughout the Southern California. Below is a link to my LinkedIn page so that you can have a more comprehensive idea of my path from college to career.

www.linkedin.com/pub/emily-mahon/a/458/3b9/

Thank you so much for reminding me of this wonderful and exciting time in my life. I think I'll go home tonight and sing the aria that won me the award, the "Bell Song" from Lakme, to my 1 ½ year old daughter and 3 year old son. I'm not sure if I can still hit the high "e" but I'll try. (Hopefully they'll enjoy hearing the vocal acrobatics as much as I enjoy doing it.)

Thanks again,
Emily

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Thanks to the generosity of the Women's Advisory Board grand prize scholarships (awarded 1980 and 1983), my 30 year career of piano solo, concerto, and chamber music performances throughout the US, Canada, South America, and Europe was launched. The scholarships helped provide opportunities for me to connect and share the gamut of musical expression and thought found in the great works of musical literature with audiences and colleagues from around the world. I am currently in my 28th year as a piano professor at Chatham University and continue to concertize.

Best Wishes to you and DUWAB for continued success, Paul Sisco

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The award I received from the Women's Advisory Board was critical in my development as an artist/scholar. Studying at Duquesne with master musicians such as John Wilson and Joseph Wilcox Jenkins enabled me to develop the artistic skills I utilize daily as a performer and as Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. I continue to be thankful to all concerned for the opportunities this award made possible. Thank you!

Don Aliquo
I received the letter from DUWAB. I very much appreciated being awarded the DUWAB scholarship. It enabled me to complete my undergraduate study with minimum debt, which, in turn, enabled me to continue to pursue further career development. After I completed my undergrad in music performance, I continued and completed a PharmD at Duquesne. I am a clinical pharmacist at Mount Carmel Health in Columbus currently. I really enjoy my career, the opportunities to care for patients. It was made possible partly by the scholarship. Thank you very much.

Bo Cheng

The Women's Advisory Board Scholarship gave me a chance to grow as a musician and performer. Winning the award gave me confidence in my performing abilities, and helped me to recognize my own strengths and weaknesses in my piano playing. College life in Music School can be very competitive and sometimes very discouraging. It's nice when a student gets a "boost" and recognition by their peers. My Senior Year at Duquesne University began with winning the Women's Advisory Board Scholarship, and it certainly helped to guide me in preparation for what was to be my Senior Recital.

I am currently residing in New York City where I perform regularly at the famed Carlyle Hotel. Performances at the Hollywood Bowl and world tours with Liza Minnelli. Some recording credits include an international release on the Max Jazz label entitled "A New Kiss" that features Branford Marsalis. Also, the J.S. Bach Sonatas for Piano and Flute with world renowned flutist Hubert Laws. I have performed in Carnegie Hall with violinist Regina Carter.

Respectfully,
David Budway