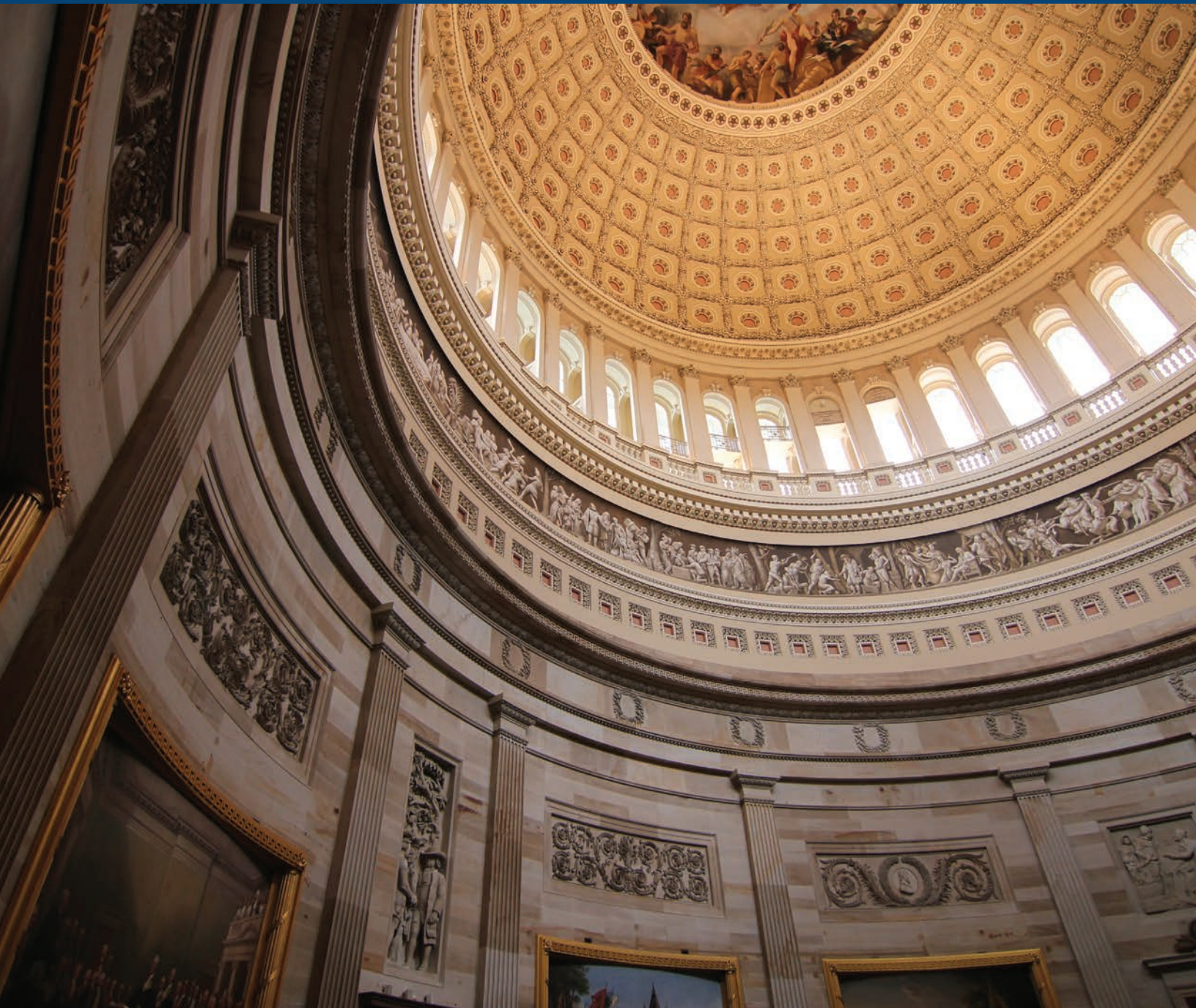


DECEMBER 2024

UNITED STATES SENATE
YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



POST OFFICE BOX 1798 | WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-1798

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (2022-2024)

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Vice-President.....	Erica Wozniak (MI 2009)
Secretary.....	Nicole Fintel (NE 2018)
Treasurer	David Zavadsky (WI 1990)
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Technology Director	Charles Megginson (DE 2016)
Alumni Programs Director	Victoria Cundiff (CO 1973)
Eastern Regional Co-Director	Johnson Elugbadebo (IL 1998)
Eastern Regional Co-Director	Giuseppe Di Cera (MO 2020)
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Southern Regional Co-Director	Victor Agbafé (NC 2015)
Southern Regional Co-Director	Marion Harris (NH 2017)
Western Regional Director.....	Francis Choe (HI 2007)
Immediate Past President.....	Amanda Patarino (CO 2012)
Executive Director.....	John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)

INCORPORATING MEMBERS

OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)
Wendy Jo Peterson (WA 1978)
Michael S. Sundermeyer (MO 1969)

FOUNDING MEMBERS

OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Wendy Jo Peterson (WA 1978)	David F. Zavadsky (WI 1990)
Jonathan Lee Morton (AL 1990)	Robert R. Middleton (DC 1966)
Megan Nelson (WA 1998)	Randy L. Brantley (NC 1981)
Scott Shapiro (WA 1988)	Chandini Margaret Bachman (AZ 1970)
Norman L. Fortenberry (LA 1979)	Christine Drager (AK 1988)
Craig W. Hulvey (ID 1968)	Nathan J.A. Humphrey (CA 1990)
Kirby Lee (IN 1993)	Christopher Trott (FL 1999)
Michael S. Sundermeyer (MO 1969)	John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)
Michael Buckley (MA 1985)	James T. Molloy
Dan Brown (MS 1987)	Gladys S. Hundley



PRESIDENTS

OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

1999–2004

John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)

2004–2006

Robert R. Middleton (DC 1966)

2006–2008

Randy L. Brantley (NC 1981)

2008–2010

Norman L. Fortenberry (LA 1979)

2010–2012

David F. Zavadsky (WI 1990)

2012–2014

Rachel M. Lowe (OR 2000)

2014–2016

Chad Robinson (DE 2001)

2016–2018

Michael Gonzales (NM 1973)

2018–2020

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)

2020–2022

Gil Valadez (DE 1997)

2022–2024

Amanda Patarino (CO 2012)

2024–2026

Taylor Oster (ND 2012)



★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ★

TAYLOR OSTER (ND 2012), USSYAA PRESIDENT



Dear United States Senate Youth alumni and friends,

I hope this message finds you and yours well. On behalf of the USSYAA Board of Directors, I wish you a happy holiday season and the best wishes for a joyful and prosperous 2025.

As this is often a season for reflection and expressions of gratitude, in that spirit, I'd like to reflect on the work of the USSYAA this year and thank all those who made our successes possible.

2024 was a busy year for the USSYAA. In March, we hosted our Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend, where we celebrated our association's 25th anniversary, honored our Rosalie Wynn Hearst and James T. Molloy Award recipients, participated in in-person mentoring tables with the 2024 delegates, elected a new Board of Directors, and hosted several networking and engagement events for alumni.

In June, we launched a new mentorship platform and an updated jobs board. The mentorship platform provides opportunities for alumni to connect on both specific and general requests for guidance in specific industries. A special thank you to the 25 alumni mentors who have assisted dozens of their fellow alumni through the mentorship platform. If you are interested in participating in the mentorship platform – whether as a mentor or mentee – or if you have public service-oriented job and internship opportunities to include in the jobs board, please reach out to me or **Giuseppe Di Cera (MO 2020)**.

This summer, we also launched our quarterly updates series to better inform alumni of the work of the Board over the last quarter and upcoming events and engagement opportunities in the coming quarter. These updates are sent to alumni via email and are also available to members on our website. If you have comments or suggestions about these updates or our other communications, please let me, our Communications Director **Aaron Cross (WV 2002)**, or our Secretary/Social Media Advisor **Nicole Fintel (NE 2018)** know.

We also continued soliciting and receiving responses to our Member Survey which we launched last year. Thank you to all those who have taken the time to share your thoughts and feedback on the work USSYAA has done over its 25 years and should do in the next 25 years. This survey is still open, so if you haven't completed it yet, we'd appreciate it if you would take five minutes to share your thoughts with us. You can complete the survey using the link on our website or by keeping an eye out for future USSYAA communications.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 3*

In addition to our Annual Alumni Weekend, we also continued to host in-person and virtual alumni events across the United States. Special thanks to the regional directors who made these events happen. As we move into the new year, we look forward to increasing the frequency and geographic reach of these events. With that in mind, if you're interested in hosting an alumni event or serving as a regional director in the coming year, please reach out to me or a regional director.

This year, in keeping with our mission to provide financial assistance for the professional educational needs of our alumni, we awarded scholarships to three incredible alumni: **Caroline Tervo (NC 2014)** received the \$5,000 Rosalie Wynn Hearst Scholarship, and **Carlee Goldberg (FL 2018)** and **Tim Wellman (MO 2022)** each received a \$2,500 Chandini M. Bachman Scholarship. If you are interested in applying for a 2025 scholarship or participating in the scholarship committee, please visit our website for more details or reach out to our Alumni Programs Director, **Vicki Cundiff (CO 1973)**.

Of course, these scholarships, events, and other key association activities would not be possible without the generous donations of our alumni. To all the alumni who've donated to USSYAA this year, including those who have set up recurring donations, thank you! If you would like to set up a one-time or recurring donation, please visit our website for more details or reach out to our Treasurer, **David Zavadsky (WI 1990)**. We look forward to rolling out updates from our Contributions Committee in the coming months on our efforts to grow our donor base and increase the number of recurring contributions. If you would like to participate in this committee and these efforts, please contact me or President-Elect **Ryan Gavin (ME 2009)**.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are already excited about our 2025 Annual Alumni Weekend in Washington, D.C. We'll be announcing future details, including our award recipients, in the coming weeks and months, but please plan to join us the weekend of March 1, 2025, for our Annual Alumni Weekend.

I'd like to end by extending a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the USSYAA this past year – whether that was through service on the Board of Directors, donating to the Association, participating in our new mentorship platform, providing feedback via our Member Survey, attending an in-person or virtual event, and staying engaged and connected via our website, our email communications, and social media. USSYAA exists, achieves its missions, and thrives because of all we've done – individually and collectively – this year and over the last 25 years. I'm excited to see all that we can accomplish in 2025 and beyond!

In service and with gratitude,

Taylor Oster (ND 2012)
USSYAA President



TREASURER'S REPORT

DAVID ZAVADSKY (WI 1990)

USSYAA operates on a cash basis and for the one-year period of December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024, expenses were \$25,078.13 and consist of scholarships, our annual dinner in Washington, regional events, communications costs, and various operating and administrative costs.

The investment portfolio of the USSYAA is held at Fidelity Investments, and consists of mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and common stocks. Between December 1, 2023, and November 30, 2024, the portfolio of the Association increased by 67%, with the vast majority of the increase coming from unrealized capital gains due to the exceptional performance of a single security. To mitigate the potential for adverse results due to this situation, the Board of Directors has adopted an interim investment policy that seeks to diversify our portfolio over the course of the next several quarters.

Tax returns are available online at <https://ussyaa.org/bylaws-tax-info/>.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

CHARLIE MEGGINSON (DE 2016)

In 2024, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA.org) continued to strengthen its online community. We saw significant growth in alumni engagement, with many more signing up for accounts on the website.

The USSYAA website now serves as a central hub for alumni, featuring an extensive jobs board, a comprehensive member directory to connect with fellow alumni, and excitingly, the newly launched mentorship platform. This platform facilitates meaningful connections between established alumni and those seeking guidance and opportunities in their careers.

We encourage all alumni to visit USSYAA.org to explore these valuable resources, update their profiles, and stay connected with the vibrant USSYAA network.

2024 USSYAA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

One of the most important goals of the Alumni Association is to continue to encourage commitment to public service. One of our primary tools for doing so is through our scholarship program for graduate study in support of service to the public. This year we are very pleased to present three scholarships:

The Rosalie Wynn Hearst Scholarship, in the amount of \$5,000, to **Caroline Tervo (NC 2014)** and Chandini M. Bachman Scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each to **Carlee Goldberg (FL 2018)** and **Tim Wellman (MO 2022)**.

We'd also encourage our alumni to take note that we had a particularly strong group of applicants this year. We had even more deserving candidates than we have scholarships to award. Now is the time for our alumni to consider making donations to the Association to fund even more scholarships in the future. As we all know, our alumni organization includes many members who have pursued creative and demanding paths to be of service to the community at large. We can offer a hand to support them.

We'd like to tell you a little more about our outstanding awardees for 2024.



2024 ROSALIE WYNN HEARST \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Caroline Tervo (NC 2014)

Caroline is at Duke Law School and in Duke Law's Public Interest and Public Service Law Certificate Program. She is committed to a public service legal career in North Carolina and is already well on her way to that goal. In college and in law school, she has been active in voter registration and voter rights. She has worked to support legal teams challenging racial and partisan gerrymandering. She has honed her advocacy skills, winning the Law School's moot court competition, and serves as articles editor for the *Duke Law Journal*. Caroline has written articles that have become part of the "tool kit" of other advocates. She has studied organizational networks across the partisan spectrum and has already put her theory and research to practice, including through working with a private civil rights organization, the North Carolina Department of Justice, and public advocacy organizations. She works to provide legal services to indigent clients as part of Duke's Civil Justice Clinic. Working to enable others to contribute to the larger community, Caroline is a Board Member of Duke Law School's Government and Public Service Society, which supports and mentors students interested in public service careers. She served the state government on North Carolina's COVID-19 response. Her recommenders note that she manages to combine academic excellence, service to the community and legal clients, and service to the school and other students, while always responding, most effectively, to requests from all sectors to do even more. Her long-term goal is to continue working at the intersection of litigation, research, public advocacy, and community organizing. Caroline's immediate next step after finishing her legal studies will be serving as a law clerk for the North Carolina Supreme Court. The scholarship provides support and recognition to help her achieve her long-term goals.



2024 CHANDINI M. BACHMAN \$2,500 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Carlee Goldberg (FL 2018)

Carlee is from Parkland, Florida, a fact that has shaped her goal to develop successful approaches to reducing gun violence. She has already been pursuing a holistic approach at the community and federal level, gaining further perspectives at the international level, and giving meaningful guidance to community organizations. She will be pursuing her J.D. at Harvard Law School in a program designed in collaboration with the Law School, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard Medical School's Injury Control Research, and Harvard Business School. In her work to date, Carlee has focused on bridging research and experience with law to understand and prevent gun violence. Her master's degree from Oxford in Evidence Based Intervention and Social and Policy Evaluation has brought a global perspective to universal issues and successful approaches to reducing violence. Working for the Commerce Department has given Carlee insight into implementation of policies as well as experience considering a wider variety of social issues. Carlee observes, "You become a victim of gun violence instantly. There isn't time to go to law school. Many survivors go on to be advocates and activists, but they need help bridging what they want to see with the legal know-how to do it." The scholarship will help her add legal know-how to her work and her ability to help others.

Photo by Anna Greenleaf



Tim Wellman (MO 2022)

Tim Wellman hales from a small rural town, Palmyra, Missouri. He will be enrolling in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Missouri State University, where he is currently studying political science. His goal is to teach civics, social studies, and government in a classroom setting to public school students. He notes that while "teacher" is not necessarily the initial occupation someone might have in mind when considering public service, he invites us to consider how many lives have been improved and how many valuable contributions to the community and careers have been launched by good teachers. Despite state licensing standards requiring political science students to obtain a master's degree in education to teach in Missouri public schools, he has not been dissuaded from his teaching goal or deterred from concentrating his substantive work in the field of political science. Tim is embracing the challenge. He hopes to help his own students become excited and interested in the inner-workings of government, the founding of our country, and the values and qualities that are found in the successful individuals who make important decisions every day – precisely the goals of Washington Week, the Alumni Association, and the Scholarship Program. Recommenders describe his "graceful purposefulness," his keen intellect, his outstanding writing and speaking abilities, and his ability to inspire the work of others even at an early stage. The scholarship will help him continue his already accelerated path and add to a roster of teachers his students will later reflect changed their lives and made them who they became.

We are very proud of our scholarship winners and know that the namesakes of the scholarships, Rosalie Wynn Hearst and Chandini Bachman, are confident that these awardees will carry forward their goals for the program.



★ 2024 ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER ★

DAVID ZAVADSKY

RECIPIENT OF THE TWELFTH JAMES T. MOLLOY ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



Born July 22, 1973, in the rural city of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, David Zavadsky developed an interest in politics and government at an early age. During his elementary school years, he saw his mother elected to the local school board in a write-in campaign. In his middle school years, he was the editor of the school newspaper, and in high school

he was elected to the student council during all four years, serving as Vice President during his junior and senior years. In January 1990, he participated in the United States Senate Youth Program as a high school junior, where his cohort was addressed by notable figures including General Colin Powell and Senator Al Gore. He graduated from high school as valedictorian of a class of 130 students, all while balancing a busy school extracurricular schedule with a part-time job in the engineering department of a local iron foundry.

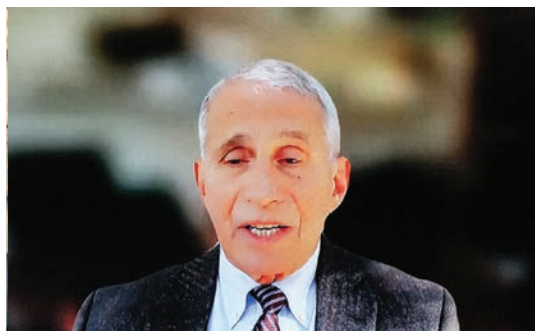
From 1991 to 1995, Zavadsky attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison, initially with an intent to major in chemistry, but graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics with a computer science systems emphasis. As part of the requirements of the United States Senate Youth Program scholarship, he took numerous political science and history courses, and due to the breadth of his studies was inducted into the national honor society of Phi Beta Kappa as a junior.

While studying at UW–Madison, Zavadsky was hired by privately-held printing company Econoprint, Inc., first

working in the typesetting and design department and then establishing the information systems department to handle the transition from an analog to a digital workflow. During his continuing tenure at Econoprint, he has led a team that designed and implemented an online ordering platform for customers with repeat printing needs, managed multiple business process transformation projects, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, developed the policies and procedures that allowed non-production staff to work from home and continue to serve customers effectively.

Ten years after participating in the United States Senate Youth Program, Zavadsky returned to Washington, D.C., to attend the annual meeting of the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association and ratify its by-laws. In 2002, Zavadsky was selected as the inaugural Northern Regional Director, and during his appointment he worked with the Senate Youth Program to raise awareness of the Program among underrepresented rural schools. In 2004, he was elected the association's Communications Director, and in 2006 he was elected Vice President. In 2008, he became President-Elect, and in 2010 he made the transition to President, working extensively with the Senate Youth Program to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2012. In 2012, he transitioned back to the Communications Director role, and in 2014 he became Technology Director. In 2020, he returned to the Communications Director position, and in 2022 was elected to his current role as Treasurer of the USSYAA.

Zavadsky currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin. Outside of his professional and organizational responsibilities, he enjoys travel and console gaming.



DR. ANTHONY S. FAUCI

RECIPIENT OF THE FIFTEENTH ROSALIE WYNN HEARST DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



Anthony S. Fauci, MD, is an American physician-scientist and a Distinguished University Professor in the Georgetown University School of Medicine's Department of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, an academic division that provides clinical care, conducts research, and trains future physicians in infectious diseases. He holds an

additional appointment in the university's McCourt School of Public Policy. Previously, Dr. Fauci served as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), from 1984 to 2022. As NIAID Director he oversaw an extensive research portfolio of basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose, and treat established infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, tuberculosis, and malaria as well as emerging diseases such as Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19. He also led the NIAID research effort on transplantation and immune-related illnesses, including autoimmune disorders, asthma, and allergies.

Dr. Fauci advised seven Presidents on HIV/AIDS and many other domestic and global health issues. He also served as the Chief Medical Advisor to President Joe Biden. He was one of the principal architects of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program that has saved more than 25 million lives throughout the developing world.

Dr. Fauci led numerous research initiatives to bolster medical and public health preparedness against emerging infectious disease threats such as pandemic influenza and COVID-19. As an HIV/AIDS researcher he joined the scientific effort soon after AIDS was first recognized in 1981 and conducted pivotal studies that underpin the current understanding of the disease and efforts to develop therapies and tools of prevention.

Dr. Fauci was the longtime chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation. He made many contributions to basic and clinical research on the pathogenesis and treatment of immune-mediated and infectious diseases. He helped pioneer the field of human immunoregulation by making important basic scientific observations that underpin the current understanding of the regulation of the human immune response. In addition, Dr. Fauci is widely recognized for delineating the precise ways that immunosuppressive agents modulate the human immune response. He developed effective therapies for formerly

fatal inflammatory and immune-mediated diseases such as polyarteritis nodosa, granulomatosis with polyangiitis (formerly Wegener's granulomatosis), and lymphomatoid granulomatosis.

Dr. Fauci made seminal contributions to the understanding of how HIV destroys the body's defenses leading to its susceptibility to deadly infections. Further, he was instrumental in developing treatments that enable people with HIV to live long and active lives.

In a 2022 analysis of Google Scholar citations, Dr. Fauci ranked as the 44th most-cited living researcher. According to the Web of Science, Dr. Fauci ranked 9th out of 3.3 million authors in the field of immunology by total citation count between 1980 and April 2022. During the same period, he ranked 22th out of 3.3 million authors in the field of research and experimental medicine, and 715th out of 1.4 million authors in the field of general and internal medicine.

Dr. Fauci has delivered major lectures all over the world and is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest honor given to a civilian by the President of the United States), the National Medal of Science, the George M. Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians, the Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service, the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, the Robert Koch Gold Medal, the Prince Mahidol Award, and the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. He also has received 62 honorary doctoral degrees from universities in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Fauci is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, as well as other professional societies including the American College of Physicians, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Association of Immunologists, and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. He serves on the editorial boards of many scientific journals and as an author, coauthor, or editor of more than 1,400 scientific publications, including several textbooks.



★ 2024 ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER ★



★ ALUMNI NEWS ★

Class of 1977

Alan Aldinger (OH 1977) retired in June 2024, following a 44-year career in sports publicity, news media relations, and corporate communications – including the last 18 years at PNC Financial Services Group where he was Vice President, Media Relations. Alan is looking forward to travel, family, and doing what he wants, when he wants.

Class of 1983

Rawle Andrews Jr., Esq. (TX 1983) will be inducted into the Hall of Honor at St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Rawle is the only USSYP delegate ever selected from St. Thomas High School.

Class of 1992

Janice Lee (PA 1992) has been living and working as a biologist in the pharma/biotech sector in Cambridge for the past 15 years.

Class of 1997

Steve Fitzpatrick (MT 1997) is currently a member of the Montana Legislature, serving in the Montana State Senate. In 2023, he was elected as the Majority Leader of the Montana State Senate. Because of term limits, he ran for the Montana House of Representatives in 2024. Recently, he was elected as the Majority Leader for the Montana House of Representatives. He currently lives in Great Falls, Montana where he practices law at the law firm of Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry, and Hoven, P.C. His practice is focused on civil litigation and commercial transactions. His wife Julia Fitzpatrick works as a nurse practitioner at Benefis Health System in Great Falls, Montana, and they have three daughters whose ages are 16, 13, and 9.

Class of 1998

Lindsey Brown (GA 1998) recently started a new position with the Georgia Department of Agriculture as the Division Director for State Farmers' Markets and Produce Terminals.

Class of 1999

Brad Green (AL 1999) founded his own law firm after 18 years of practicing civil litigation as an attorney and later partner with other firms in Alabama. Additionally, Brad has worked with the Alabama Boys State program for 25 years, where he now leads the law school and judicial program, working with hundreds of high school students each year by helping them learn how the government works. Brad, his husband, and their 5-year-old son live in Birmingham, Alabama.

Class of 2002

Aaron Cross (WV 2002) and his wife welcomed their second son, George, in March of this year. Aaron inactivated his Cavalry Squadron at Fort Carson, Colorado (2nd Squadron, 1st United States Cavalry Regiment) in August, moving to command the Rear Detachment of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team after. He was selected to attend War College in the summer of 2025.

Class of 2005

Patrick Martin (IL 2005) included the photo below from the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August. The four class of 2005 alums have stayed close friends over the years (*from left to right*) – **Stefan Holt (NY 2005)**, **Gabe Amo (RI 2005)**, **Vivek Viswanathan (NY 2005)**, and **Patrick Martin (IL 2005)**.

Patrick is an Executive Vice President at Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies. He and his wife live outside of Chicago, and they just celebrated the birth of their fourth child.

Stefan lives outside Chicago and anchors the evening news for NBC 5 Chicago. He and his wife Morgan have three sons.

Gabe represents Rhode Island's first Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Vivek most recently served in the West Wing as a staffer at the National Economic Council and as an aide to White House Deputy Chief of Staff Bruce Reid. He and his wife live outside of Washington, D.C.



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Class of 2007

Preston Sundin (WV 2007) has spent a decade working in education, and will soon be following his dream of attending law school. In May 2025, he will be graduating with a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he also served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Asian Law Review*. After graduating, he will start his legal career as a junior associate at Morrison & Forrester in New York City.



Class of 2010

Sarah (Day) Merry (SD 2010) and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their daughter, Nora Lynne, this year. Her dad **David Day (WI 1966)** and mom are thrilled about their first grandchild. Sarah lives in Grand Junction, CO, and currently works as an engineering advisor for the University of Colorado-Boulder in their partnership with Colorado Mesa University. She is also a part-time therapist at Thrive Marriage and Family Counseling. Along with their dog, Archibald, Sarah and family spend their free time exploring nature and reading books. She deleted her social media accounts several years ago (and is so happy she did!), so the best way to contact her is through email at sarahday312@gmail.com.

Class of 2011

Chase Blasi (KS 2011) was elected Senate Majority Leader of the Kansas Senate for the 2025-2028 Sessions. He is the youngest member of the Senate.

Class of 2013

Sarah Rudasill (PA 2013) recently completed her third year of general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and earned a National Institutes of Health F32 postdoctoral research fellowship through the National Cancer Institute. During this two-year postdoctoral fellowship, Sarah will conduct clinical research to optimize lung cancer staging and treatment decisions at the University of Washington before returning to complete her surgical residency at MGH.

Julian Pecora (WV 2013) has had a year filled with milestones and honors. He recently joined Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as an associate attorney, focusing on litigation across multiple sectors. He had the privilege of hosting the West Virginia Attorney General debate, fostering important discussions on state issues.

On an international level, Julian was honored to be selected for the prestigious Atlantik-Brücke New Bridge

Fellowship, representing the United States in Germany, the EU, and NATO. This incredible experience allowed him to collaborate with global leaders and strengthen transatlantic partnerships. He also had the opportunity to speak at international conferences in Miami and Los Angeles, addressing issues related to leadership, collaboration, and community impact.

In 2021, Julian founded Counsel Connections, an initiative aimed at creating a network that connects young professionals across West Virginia to decision-makers in key industries, including law, healthcare, and higher education. Through events like the Meet-Up 64 series, which recently brought together nearly 200 attendees to promote collaboration across the state, they are fostering partnerships that help retain and grow talent in Appalachia. Julian serves on the board of the WV state bar YLS committee.

In recognition of his work and leadership, he was named to *The State Journal's* 40 Under 40 Class of 2024 and highlighted as one of Five Under 35 Making a Difference by *Huntington Quarterly*. Additionally, he was deeply honored to receive the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Notre Dame High School.

Julian continues to mentor future legal professionals, including pre-law students at Marshall University, and recently delivered a keynote address to the Norval Carter Memorial Medical Society, addressing public health and community engagement.

These experiences have been both humbling and inspiring, and he is energized by the opportunity to contribute to his community and beyond.

Class of 2014

After finishing her Master of Science in Social Work (MSW) degree from Columbia University in 2023, **Sabrina Van Zuiden (CA 2014)** moved from New York City back to her home state of California. She now resides in Oakland, California, and is completing her second year of a Post-MSW Clinical Fellowship at her alma mater, UC Berkeley, as an associate therapist in their University Health Services program.

Class of 2015

Serene Singh (CO 2015) was selected as a 2024-2025 John Roberts Lewis Fellow (<https://www.easterneye.biz/oxford-university-sikh-student-serene-singh-awarded-john-robert-lewis-fellowship/>). She is continuing her DPhil/PhD in Criminology focusing on the conditions of confinement for women on death row in the United States at the University of Oxford through the Rhodes Scholarship.

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Class of 2018

Jaron Caffrey (KS 2018) graduated from the University of Kansas Medical Center with a Master of Health Services Administration in May 2024 and was recognized by the program faculty with the "Health Care Executive of the Future" Award. Additionally in 2024, Jaron was promoted at the Kansas Hospital Association to serve as the Director of Workforce and Health Care Policy where he leads the association's federal financial health policy portfolio with a focus on Medicare payment programs. Additionally, he oversees KHA's workforce efforts to increase the supply of health care workers in Kansas, while also strengthening the capacity of the current workforce. Jaron is passionate about creating a health care infrastructure and ecosystem that is robust, resilient, and adaptive to the evolving needs of our communities.

Class of 2019

Catherine Daniel (AL 2019) is preparing to graduate in December from the University of South Alabama with a degree in occupational therapy. This summer, she presented research detailing interdisciplinary perceptions of occupational therapy at student-run free clinics at an Alabama Occupational Therapy Association event and is currently working on publishing that research. She'll begin working with children with disabilities after taking her licensure exam in January.

Will Schrepferman (IN 2019) graduated from Harvard, founded a startup helping nonprofits and campaigns raise money (DonorAtlas), and raised a \$2.75M seed round this year.

Benjamin Currey (RI 2019) graduated from the US Naval Academy in 2023 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and completed The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, the following spring. In September of 2024 he graduated from the Marine Corps' Infantry Officer Course, earning the Military Occupational Specialty 0302 - Infantry Officer. He is now stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and serving with the 3rd Littoral Combat Team, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment.

Class of 2021

Meg B. (MacWhirter) McNeill (MD 2021) graduated from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, with experiences ranging from the Peace Corps and small business ownership, to federal human capital consulting and enterprise talent development. She has recently launched a leadership coaching practice, building on her certification from the Georgetown University Institute for Transformational Leadership. Meg's coaching focuses on high-achieving professionals in pivotal moments, helping them align their

leadership with their core values while fostering resilience, clarity, and balance. She has a particular passion for working with leaders in mission-driven sectors including healthcare and public service. Outside of work, Meg enjoys spending time with her husband and 4-year-old daughter, who is crazy about unicorns.

Kayle Lauck (SD 2021) said, "Two years ago, my friend and I shared a vision: to bridge the college preparation gap for South Dakota students." Today, South Dakota College Connections (SDCC) is not just a dream, but a nonprofit making a real impact on the journeys of students across the state of South Dakota. They've built a unique mentorship network that provides FREE, personalized college guidance to high school students across South Dakota. Kayle has always looked for ways to stay connected with her home state, and was incredibly honored to be named South Dakota's 2024 Truman Scholar. Founding and directing this nonprofit has given her so much joy and hope while she was away at school at the University of Notre Dame. Growing up in Salem and navigating her own college journey at the University of Notre Dame, she understands the transformative power of mentorship. Every student deserves support in pursuing their educational dreams, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.

Class of 2023

In February of 2024, **Matthew Stevens (NY 2023)** was appointed to the Planning Board for the Village of Central Square. He is believed to be the youngest known appointed or elected official in the village's over 100-year history.





★ THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS ★

Donations to the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association are used to support our three-pronged mission statement:

- Building and maintaining avenues of communication among program alumni through in-person and virtual events, including our annual alumni awards, informal happy hours across the country, the launch of our jobs board, and many others.
- Providing financial assistance for professional educational needs of program alumni. We have provided **\$10,000** in scholarships to alumni.
- Supporting the William Randolph Hearst Foundation's United States Senate Youth Program. We maintain strong relationships with the Hearst Foundations and host mentoring tables for USSYP delegates each year.

Between December 1, 2023, and November 30, 2024, the following individuals have made contributions to the organization, either through direct donations or through purchasing tickets to our annual dinner. We thank everyone for their contributions – without your support, the USSYAA would not be able to achieve its mission and goals.

Anonymous	Rex Gale	Jack Perenick
Salma Abdi	Ryan Gavin	Jay Philbrick
Andrew Abreo	Rachel Gurevich	Thena Poteat
Victor Agbafe	Rishi Hazra	Nayan Rao
Toby Arment	Nicholas Howard	Liam Reaser
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Maren Fagan	Rimsha Nazeer	Erica Wozniak
Rustin Fakheri	Susan Newman	Zane Yamamoto
David Fillmore	Taylor Oster	David Zavadsky
Cesia Flores Morin	Adam Pack	Keven Zhang
Norman Fortenberry	Amanda Patarino	





NEW MENTORSHIP PLATFORM & UPDATED JOBS BOARD

GIUSEPPE DI CERA (MO 2020)

This June, USSYAA launched both our mentorship platform and updated jobs board. Our mentorship platform ussyaa.org/mentorship has allowed alumni to connect with each other regarding opportunities in specific industries of interest, and our jobs board ussyaa.org/jobs-board lists various public service oriented opportunities for our alumni to explore.

Whether you're looking for a job/internship or seeking to learn more about a particular field/topic, you can fill out the form for our Mentorship Platform at ussyaa.org/mentorship. After filling out the form, your information will be sent to mentors in your selected industry/industries of interest, and they will follow up with you.

Thus far, we have received 47 mentorship requests from our alumni, and have 25 alumni mentors! Thank you to all who are investing time to help fellow alumni!



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

AARON CROSS (WV 2002)

It has once again been an honor to compile the 2024 edition of our association's newsletter. As I reflect on the association's reports, news of events, and the great things our alumni are doing for our nation, I am sure that Mom Hearst would be proud of our continued camaraderie and service.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to the continued work to keep you informed about the USSYAA in the coming years. I wish you and yours the best in this new year!