

STEVE ACKLEY FUND NEWS

Newsletter from Friends of Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund

May 2016

Colleen Feldewert to Receive the First Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship

Colleen Feldewert, a first-year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student, was selected to receive the first Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Award. Selection was made by the members of the Gallaudet Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences (HSLs) Department, after careful evaluation and discussion of Steve's legacy and character. The award will be presented at the Graduate School Awards and Hooding Ceremony on May 12, 2016.

Ms. Feldewert has demonstrated warm personality and devotion to humanitarian projects. She is often seen helping others. Much like Steve, she has an infectious laugh and motivates those around her. She has expressed commitment to working in underserved minority communities, increasing cultural sensitivity, and ensuring all individuals have equal access to language.

The Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2014, by the Faculty of HSLs Department. With outpouring support and donations from numerous family, friends, former students and colleagues, the Fund raised over \$25,000 in just one year to be fully endowed in Fall 2015, and it continues to grow.



Dr. Steve Ackley was a beloved friend, colleague, and mentor to many. Within HSLs and Gallaudet, Dr. Ackley served in numerous roles, including Audiology Program Director, Department Chair, Faculty Senate representative, and student organization advisor. His teaching and mentoring was student-

centered, focused on life-long learning and humanitarian ideals. With a natural ability to connect with

those around him, he often acted as a motivator for other's research and professional development. He is fondly remembered for his warmth, humor, devotion to his family and to his students, and commitment to audiology and deaf education.

Donation to the scholarship fund can be made at: giving.gallaudet.edu/Ackley.

Introducing Colleen Feldewert



My name is Colleen Feldewert and I am a current AuD student at Gallaudet. I am hard of hearing in both ears and was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I learned the values of family and culture. I graduated with a BA from Saint Louis University in Missouri where I majored in CSD with a minor in Urban Social Analysis and learned the values of religion and education. After graduation, I joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps where I lived and worked for a year with and for the poor and learned the values of community and social justice. Following this, I worked as a grade school educational paraprofessional with a student who had bilateral cochlear implants and I learned the values of technology and American Sign Language.

I decided to attend Gallaudet University where I would be able to improve my ASL and incorporate my own experiences as a hard of hearing individual into my education. In one of my first classes, I learned about Dr. Ackley's humanitarian and 'people first' philosophy. It was here that I realized that I came to the right place where I can incorporate all of my values I have learned throughout my life into the field of Audiology. Knowing this, I feel grateful for all that I have learned and I look forward to seeing what the next step in my journey will be!

Sharing Memories of Steve Ackley—stories shared at the 2014 Steve Ackley's Legacy Conference—

On a snowy Minn. night, by cabin fireside, Ackley exclaims:

"You know why I hate bullies? Because they take your dignity away."

I learned to value family from a man who brought his children to class, to parties, to any gathering. ... Kate sitting in a desk, Jonathan lying on the floor, running his truck along the mortar of the bricks, and all of the students far more interested in the next turn of the truck. Ack paused for a moment, smiled and realized that his son was teaching the class at that point. Thanks Ack.

More memories to be shared in the next issue....

Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund

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The Stars of the Steve Ackley Legacy Conference

*These contributions were made to-
ward the conference held in 2014,
which, in turn, helped to deposit more
funds into the scholarship fund.*

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