

# STEVE ACKLEY FUND NEWS

Newsletter from Friends of Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund

June 2018

## Abigail Harkey received the Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Award

Abigail (Abby) Harkey, a 2nd year AuD student at Gallaudet University, received this year's recipient of the Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Award in front of peers and members of Gallaudet Hearing, Speech, and Language Department (HSLs) on May 1, 2018. This is the third year in which this award was given.

Selection was made by the members of the Gallaudet HSLs Department, after careful evaluation and discussion of Steve's legacy and character. Abby was enthusiastically endorsed by the AuD Program faculty and clinical educators.

Abby embodies the core principles valued by Dr. Ackley. She has a natural ability to connect with others, a passion for providing services as an ally for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, and a drive for academic excellence. Her inquisitive nature, humble personality, and joyful disposition are often contagious and a positive influence on those around her. She has sought out experiences for professional and personal growth in the areas of multicultural, diverse, and interprofessional practice. It is with no doubt that Abby will impact the field of audiology with the warmth and virtues of Dr. Ackley.



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. *Tax-deductible donation can be made at: [giving.gallaudet.edu/Ackley](http://giving.gallaudet.edu/Ackley).*

### Getting to know Abigail Harkey



*Hi! My name is Abby Harkey and I am a rising third year Audiology student from Austin, Texas. When I'm not working, studying, or conducting research, I love to read, paint, drink hot tea, and hangout with friends!*

*Gallaudet was my dream school, because of its dedication to providing culturally sensitive services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in both ASL and English. My favorite thing about audiology is that I can get to know each of the patients on a personal level, while supporting their communication and auditory needs. I love that we are able to work with a variety of patients, from children to adults, individuals with and without accompanying disorders, syndromes, or pathologies across a variety of settings.*

*After graduation, I hope to continue to work with a wide variety of patients and eventually start an international nonprofit that provides hearing services, education and information about hearing loss, and speech services. I am grateful for the generosity of the Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Award and I hope to continue his legacy of compassion, warmth, humanitarian ideals, and passion for learning throughout my career.*

### 2017 Award Recipients Sharing Memories of Steve Ackley

Dr. Ackley cautioned our class to be humble. He explained that while on internships "there is always something to learn from every individual...even if you think you know it, listen instead."

Ashley Zaleski-King

One of my favorite [memories] was when we traveled to visit the Ojibwe Tribe in Minnesota... Dr. Ackley was warmly welcomed by the tribe members and we were invited to take part in several ceremonies to establish the relationship between Gallaudet University and the Tribe for future research collaborations.

Melissa Kokx-Ryan

### Some more memories shared at the 2014 Legacy Conference

On a snowy Minn night, by cabin fireside, Ackley exclaims: "You know why I hate bullies? Because they take your dignity away."  
*Luc*

Fondest memory of Steve—Steve messing up our conditioning with babies because he was more interesting the reinforce.  
*Anonymous*

Steve's memories are numerous for me—most often sitting outside with a beer or glass of wine and seeing his eyes sparkle when he talked of his children and grandchildren.  
*Deanna Meinke*

2007—Driving 10 pounds of green chile from Colorado to DC to help me not feel so home sick. How he found a stand off the road is amazing.  
*Anonymous*

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.  
*Linda Herzberger-Kimball*

## Steve Ackley Memorial Scholarship Fund

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*These contributions were made after the fund was endowed. They help grow the fund!*

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#### May 2016-April 2017

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### STARS THAT STARTED IT ALL

*These contributions were made prior to April 2016. They helped establish the endowment fund!*

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### The Stars of the Steve Ackley Legacy Conference

*These contributions were made to make the Ackley Legacy Conference in 2014 a success. Individuals here gifted their talent as presenters, or provided travel and lodging support to the presenters. These contributions helped to deposit more funds into the scholarship fund.*

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Tax-deductible donation to the scholarship fund is appreciated at: [giving.gallaudet.edu/Ackley](http://giving.gallaudet.edu/Ackley).