

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

Excerpts from letters of 2013-14 Charlotte W. Newcombe scholars

“I am writing to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the scholarship. It was very timely and allowed me to remain a student for the rest of the year.

I finally was in a position to continue my education and fulfill a lifetime goal of completing my degree. Unfortunately, two months after enrolling in Saint Joseph’s University, I lost my job to downsizing and no longer had an income. Whatever savings I had was depleted in paying for my first term, so I hoped and relied on a scholarship for the second term. You’ll never know how grateful I was to have been selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

I do not consider the generosity of the donors who have supported this scholarship to be a small thing. I hope to one day be in a position to give back to the scholarship. Thank you, and thank you again for the hope you have given me toward the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.”

- Saint Joseph’s University

“Thank you for providing me with a scholarship that will help me come closer to my goal of obtaining my BSW. When looking at my financial account for LaSalle University Fall 2013, I realized that this semester I owed the University money. I did not know how I would pay this. I am a single mother of 5 children (1 grown) and I am barely able to make ends meet. Recently, an associate of mine left her two children in my care and never returned for them. I was not able to obtain any assistance for them because legally they were not mine. I did not know what to do and financially, emotionally, and physically it was draining. However, I did know that no matter what, I would not put these children into the care of DHS. I have been struggling and sometimes I have to make hard choices that will best fit my family of now seven.

At times, I thought I just would not be able to finish my degree. This scholarship came just in time and I truly believe that it was not only a blessing from the Newcombe Foundation but also from God. This will help my family and me out tremendously and in addition will help me make strides to get me closer to my degree. I want to continue on to receive my MSW so that I can become a Behavioral Specialist Consultant and work with children with disabilities like autism. I want to give back to society and make a difference, just as LaSalle and the Newcombe Foundation has done in my life. Thank you again. Your gift brightened my day, my year, and continues to brighten my heart.”

- La Salle University

“It is with my deepest gratitude that I send this letter of thanks for the extraordinary gift your Foundation has bestowed on me. I am honored to be chosen as a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation Scholarship of \$1,000. My scholastic journey has been long and full of its ups and downs, but without a doubt receiving this award marks one of the highest points of my academic career.

My college journey has had many triumphs but it has also had its share of difficulties. The biggest obstacle has been finances. I have put in the work, I have pulled up my grades, but unfortunately balancing my living expenses with my tuition was a struggle from semester to semester. Then I began to apply for scholarships, even though I was sure I wouldn’t win any awards. However, receiving a scholarship would greatly enhance my chances of taking more classes and receiving my degree sooner. My prayers were answered towards the end of August when I was granted your generous scholarship. No more worrying about how I was going to cover my tuition balance, no more scraping change together for textbooks, and I finally have the means to travel to and from school. Without the constant worry over money and bills, I finally can put my undivided attention towards school, which is such a relief and a pleasure.

I feel unfettered, I feel refreshed, I feel recognized, and I credit the Newcombe Foundation for this. I am genuinely humbled and forever grateful to you.”

- University of Maryland at College Park

“To express my gratitude to the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation in short form would be a challenge, to say the least. First, I must tell you how incredibly proud it has made my family that I was chosen for this award. We are a family dominated by women: I am a single mother who was raised by a single mother, whose sisters are all single mothers, and so on. Neither my mother nor my grandmother holds a bachelor’s degree. This scholarship, for that reason, is such an honor.

As the mother of young twins, everything about the higher education system presents a challenge. There are the obvious financial hurdles as well as logistics regarding class schedules and attendance policies. It’s enough to make my head spin on a good day. To complicate this, I am self-employed and the owner of a fledgling small business. This means that any financial opportunity I am to have, I must

generate for myself. It also means that the financial pressures of single parenthood and the time constraints of being a full-time student are almost always at odds with each other. The end result is often a game of robbing Peter to pay Paul, and falling short on both deals from time to time.

As a Newcombe Scholar, I now have a significant advantage and more breathing room with which to focus on academia, which makes me anticipate one of my best years at WCU to date. Professors at the university have been incredibly supportive and, without their constant encouragement and advisement, I may not have found the gumption to stay on course.

The work of the Newcombe Foundation is critical in allowing students like myself to become success stories. I can't thank you enough for all that you so."

-West Chester University

"Thank you for granting the Newcombe Scholarship for Mature Women Students to me for a second year. This scholarship was a blessing for my family throughout 2012-13 and I am excited to complete my final years at UMBC as a Newcombe Scholar. Not only does the Newcombe Scholarship relieve me of financial stress, but being a Newcombe Scholar also allows me to connect with and relate to other returning women students.

My college career began ten years ago at a private, Catholic university. As a young adult, I never considered the cost of education and three semesters later I found myself in a great deal of debt to a school that did not fit my academic goals. I made the difficult decision to take time off from school to pay off my debts and looking back, it was the best choice that I could have made for myself. Thankfully, the years that I spent away from academia allowed me to reevaluate my interests, priorities and goals. Eventually, this path led me to UMBC, where I have developed my passion for history, have become involved in the History Department as the treasurer for the History Student Council and have pursued my desire to learn the Russian language.

I grew up as an Army brat, living throughout the US and abroad. My interest in history was formed, I'm sure, by those many experiences. During my final year at UMBC, I plan to gain further experience in the field of history through an internship and I hope to pursue graduate school in Washington, DC following graduation. Ultimately, I would like to be equipped for a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department in the hopes of continuing my childhood adventures with my own family while promoting diplomacy abroad.

Thanks again. I am so honored to be a part of the legacy of Charlotte W. Newcombe."

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County

"I want to express my gratitude to the Newcombe Foundation for this scholarship. I am a recent widow and because of school demands and childcare issues (I have three young children) I am working only on a limited basis. The scholarship will allow me to have less to pay back in the loans I have taken to finance my education. That will be so helpful to me in the future.

Completing my degree in nursing will open doors for me and provide a way to care for my children. I hope to begin a graduate nurse internship program at Lehigh Valley Hospital after graduation. I am so excited to begin this career. I have Cedar Crest College and you to thank for making it possible."

- Cedar Crest College

"I am honored to be a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. Thanks to your support, I will be the first in my family to graduate from college.

Growing up in a less privileged community has not only created financial and academic challenges, but more importantly, it has made me realize the value of a college education. I attended Camden City public schools my entire life, finally graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School. In all honesty, I do not remember a time when I was encouraged by anyone to pursue a college education. In addition, I am a first generation college student. Therefore, there was an overall lack of understanding as to how essential a secondary education would be for my future. I struggled for many years personally, and especially financially, working at menial jobs for minimum wage and barely being self-sufficient. After making a number of bad decisions, I finally came to my own realization that the only way to me to achieve success was by acquiring a college education.

I will begin my senior year at Rutgers University and can report several significant academic achievements. I am a double major in Information Technology & Informatics and Women's and Gender Studies, with a minor in Social Justice. I was on the Dean's List last semester and have a cumulative GPA of 3.53. Your scholarship and your belief in me have taken me from the streets of Camden to the possibility of eventually earning a Ph.D. I am so happy."

-Douglass Residential College/Rutgers