

THE POWER OF GIVING

For almost 100 years, Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships have grown into one of the most prestigious programs in the Society. This year was one of the most momentous in Society history. In August, Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships were increased from \$345,000 awarded each year to \$615,000. That's a 78 percent increase.

"It's no wonder I like to say 'Awards are what we do,' " Executive Director Mary Todd said.

The increased funding, which starts in 2019, will support fifty-eight fellowships for students in their first year of graduate or professional study. Fifty fellowships will be awarded at \$8,500. Six Marcus L. Urann Fellowships, named for the founder of Phi Kappa Phi, will be awarded at \$20,000. And there will be two new fellowships — the 1897 Fellowship, named for the year the



Society was founded, and the Sherrill Carlson Fellowship, which honors lifelong scholar and donor Sherrill Carlson, at \$35,000 each.

Carlson's donation was a big reason the Society was able to make such an ambitious expansion. She was an editor who worked at Washington State University, as well as with children's books. Carlson also founded a magazine, *Washington's Land and People*, and owned and published *Northwest Living!* Her father served as president of the Oregon State University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Carlson's gift of nearly \$950,000 upon her death in 2016 was the second-largest bequest made to Phi Kappa Phi.

"I wish I'd had the opportunity to know Sherrill Carlson and to learn more about what Phi Kappa Phi meant to her," Todd said. "Since her initiation

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as a student, she remained an active member and a faithful supporter of our mission of excellence."

Donations like Carlson's and yours support the Society's mission of spreading the love of learning and honoring excellence in scholarship. Fellows in 2018 investigated climate change, explored identity in artwork, investigated the self-made woman, supported families of scholars, helped advance work in neurobiology, and more.

"It's an honor to receive the Phi Kappa Phi Dissertation Fellowship award to represent Portland State University and the Systems Science Graduate Program," said fellowship recipient Alexandra E. Nielsen, who studies opioid abuse treatment and public policy. "The award will allow me to focus on my degree completion and my sons so I can finish strong."

