



Focus On...

Friends of Woodstock School, Inc.

An independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the educational mission and purposes of Woodstock School

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An Occasional Newsletter

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HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

2018 Annual Meeting & Reunion
July 20 – 23, DePaul University
Lincoln Park Campus, Chicago, Illinois

Check-in on Friday, 4:00 p.m.

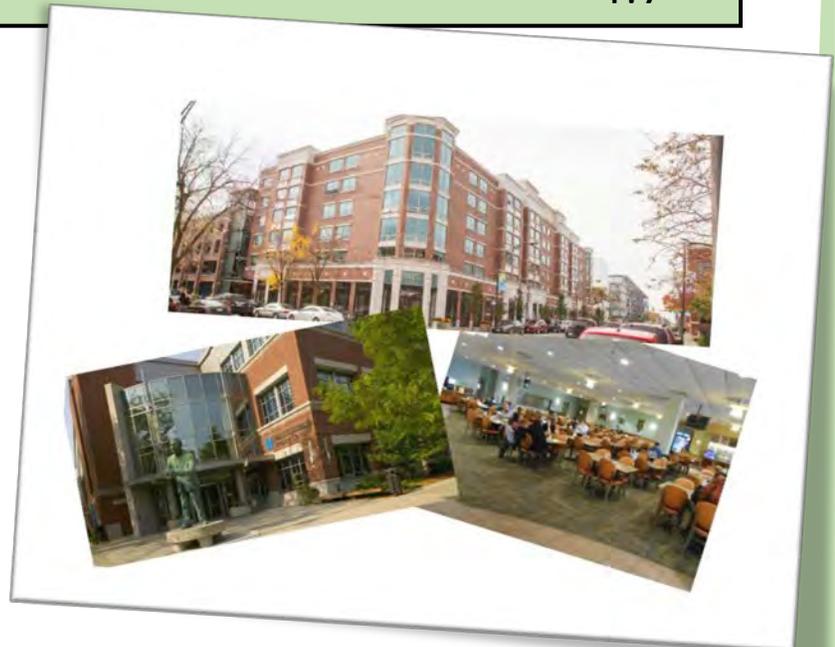
Check-out on Monday, noon

**Registration closes on
Saturday, June 30, 2018**

Register online or by mail!

Check out FWS Website's Events page

for both options and to see what activities have been planned.



THIS YEAR'S THEME

Building for the Future

CLASS REUNIONS!

The Classes of '58 and '68 are having class reunions in Chicago. Look at the "Who's Coming" section in Events of FWS' website to see who has registered. We hope you will join your classmates!

QUESTIONS?

Email or call David Wheeler at: dwheeler@fwsfoundation.org (425) 353-8422.

Meet our Scholarship Recipients

FWS offers Merit Scholarships, SAGE-Woodstock Scholarships, Endowment Scholarships, and now with Li Chu's generous endowment, Li-Chiang Chu Scholarships for Non-USA and Non-Canadian university students studying at North American educational institutions.

Three Woodstock students received Merit Scholarships and five students were given Endowment Scholarships. This is our first year awarding Li Chu Scholarships and we had four recipients. We are very proud to highlight four of our gifted scholarship students' accomplishments (three Li Chu Scholarship recipients and one Merit Scholarship student). They were asked:

1. What it meant or means to be a Woodstock student and FWS scholarship recipient.
2. How that experience has or will carry you through university studies.
3. For the Li Chu Scholarship recipients, how Li's "pay it forward" philosophy is helping you with those studies.
4. The "good works" you are doing.

In their words...



Pranit Garg, Colorado College
Li Chu Scholarship

"Just as is true for any Woodstocker, Woodstock was seminal in molding me into the person I am today. In terms of the facets that my identity is comprised of, being a Woodstocker is definitely amongst the top of the list; I deeply identify as a Woodstocker. I cannot imagine that changing in the future.

Living with such a diverse community at Woodstock since 6th grade has definitely made me a more open-minded person. This open-mindedness has also contributed to both my academic and social curiosity. This has led me to participate in activities that I could have never have imagined I would have the opportunity to.

One of the main reasons that I have been able to study in the US, or even at Woodstock for that matter, is because someone has helped open doors for me that I would never have access to otherwise. This is extremely humbling to remember.

Pranit Garg (continued)

I try and remember this every time I have the opportunity to help someone because it truly is incredible to know that you are helping people accomplish dreams that they never realistically imagined were plausible.

At Colorado College, I am the Co-Chair of the South Asian Student Association and the Refugee Alliance. I am also a Peer-Tutor at our Writing Center. I have also been able to spend two semesters studying abroad in Athens and at Oxford. I have also designed two independent projects to do volunteer work in The Hague, Netherlands."

Yeonsol Lee, Eastern Michigan University Li Chu Scholarship

"I came to Woodstock School in August 2008. The unfamiliar scent, people, color and sky became what I call my family, my home. Woodstock was the place I loved. I loved the place, but it was also the place where I learned to love different things. I would say that's what it meant for me to be a Woodstock student. I learn to love people, serve them. I knew I had to learn Hindi to connect better with those all over the mountain. I cannot explain how much happiness was brought to me going to FIRS where the boys called me "didi." I love all my friends and teachers. I have found people who care about my education, family, and health. Another way of love that I learned is to be thankful. What I was most thankful for was the beautiful environment. No day was the same because somehow the mountain managed to surprise us every single day.

With the experience of being in a diverse community, I find that it is easy for me to adapt to changes. Coming to the United States, I am encountering a more diverse population than in Woodstock. It was strange because people in Woodstock were diverse, but there was a great sense of inclusion. Nobody was discriminated because of their identity and nobody was labeled "international students." In college, I am personally experiencing different treatment. With my experience in Woodstock, I am working to create a more inclusive environment in my community.

I am so thankful for this scholarship because I know the heart of Li Chu. Being an Asian woman, I think about my stand in the world with my academic path. It reminds me of the unique life of being an immigrant and a minority. One day I hope to work with hospice patients who are immigrants."





Eriko Shrestha, Swarthmore College
Li Chu Scholarship

"A Woodstock student is committed to a taxing walk up and down the mountain at least twice a day while dodging monkeys on the path, a schedule saturated with classes and activities, and a creative flair to make the ordinary extraordinary: whether it be adding Bournvita to toast (something I didn't do), savoring the Independence Day feast as if there's no tomorrow, or feeling so gripped by the beauty of the Winterline that you decide to drop everything and sit by the khud to absorb the majestic view. It is an experience that teaches you to treasure not just your education but also relish moments with other community members that you know are special.

University was a shock – everyone was highly self-motivated and so accomplished that I initially felt out of

place – but Woodstock ingrained a few healthy habits and equipped me with several useful skills to overcome this challenge. I produce better quality work when I keep my body and mind healthy in contrast to the times when I feel a time crunch and I have been physically inactive. Living a balanced life in university depends to a great degree on your ability to keep yourself organized, something I gained from keeping up with my academics in school while being deeply involved in extra-curricular activities. The flexibility to design your course schedule to some extent in Woodstock also helped me garner the curiosity to learn and diversify my interests, which made the transition to a liberal arts education feel natural. Through Li Chu's generous donation, I am able to finish my final year of university. As a recipient of her scholarship, I also feel accountable not just to her education philosophy but also to Woodstock. I definitely must contribute to Woodstock through financial and advisory means in the future.

I'm excited to launch a pilot project this summer on electronic waste advocacy and education, which includes opening collection centers, organizing workshops with key stakeholders to consider short and long term management strategies, and teaching a brief introductory course about electronic waste to high school students in Kathmandu.

Eriko Shrestha (continued)

Following my interest in political science, I have also begun research with a university professor on China's behavior in multilateral institutions, especially how their approach to the Arctic Council is anomalous to the way they behave in other multilateral institutions. The research is fascinating and is directing me to consider working in a similar field after graduating from Swarthmore. Lastly, I will be starting Swarthmore's President's Sustainability Research Fellowship next academic year and moving my university closer to becoming a zero-waste campus.*

**Zero waste does not mean producing no waste, rather, it means that all biodegradable, compostable and recyclable materials are sent to the right channels and that the remaining material is disposed. In advanced countries, only 20% of the total waste cannot be recycled or used to create compost, so 80% of all waste can be diverted from final disposal."*

Sophia Von Hippel
Woodstock Class of 2018
Merit Scholarship



"You have changed my life. My admission and scholarship at Woodstock picked me up from a tiny public school in Alaska and dropped me into a vibrant Himalayan community that has embraced me and changed me. At Woodstock, I have enjoyed a safe and exciting learning environment that allows me to absorb and withdraw into the wild and to enjoy the vast range of experience and opinion within the community. Woodstock, beautiful as it is, sits at the feet of significantly larger and more impressive structures: The Himalayas.

The ability to explore these mountains in various trekking expeditions as a student at Woodstock has been one of my most fulfilling experiences to date.

While I do love solitary exploration of the mountains, I am also very grateful for my friendships at Woodstock. When I came to Woodstock, I experienced a violent and harsh culture shock. As time wore on, I started to understand my peers' cultural perspectives, and they started to understand mine. Understanding fostered acceptance, and acceptance fostered friendship. The relationships I have built at this school are the strongest and most varied in my life. Generally, I feel that Woodstock is a vibrant community that has given me many inconceivably cool opportunities and shaped me as a person. If not for my scholarship from Friends of Woodstock, I may not have ever come to Woodstock at all.

Sophia Von Hippel (continued)

Being at Woodstock forces a person to change, fast. To begin with, I live in a dorm with several hundred other girls; this means learning diplomacy for survival. Dorms also taught me to be comfortable with discomfort. I do not need centralized heating, actually. Neither do I need delicious food anymore, or hot drinks before school. I find that I get along fine without my family at hand, and can usually solve problems without their help. These elements will be quintessential to my university survival. I will not need to live in an expensive dorm, nor will I waste all my money and time on frivolities. Instead, I will focus my attention on what matters: my academics and relationships.

Academically, Woodstock has allowed me to explore my passions and become a better student. I love bones and aerials and history and hiking without a trail; Woodstock helped me realize this. On top of that, challenging AP classes (way better than IB by the way) have taught me (through trial and error) which study methods are effective for me, and which are not. For the first time, I need to make a huge effort to maintain academic success; this makes me a less entitled and more responsible person. In university, I will require a strong work ethic and a perseverant attitude to succeed in the medical field (I want to be a neurosurgeon).

Lastly, Woodstock has shown me how to be a good friend. Before I came to Woodstock, I was a day scholar who could afford not to be socially invested in her peers. At Woodstock, however, we are all 'stuck' with each other. I cannot go home and spend time with my dog, other friends, or family; I need to make the best of the situation and people I'm with. This realization has allowed me to be curious about my friends, and to take the time to discover their idiosyncrasies. Investment in others and the courage to face struggles has also risen from this; I cannot turn away from the people and problems of my community because I never have the chance to leave it. Instead of turning away, I must do my best to muddle through and improve. At university, I will have many choices for friends (about 30,000 people, actually), but I will only have meaningful relationships if I apply the lessons that Woodstock has taught me. I'm sure there's a lot of wisdom I don't have, but the amount that Woodstock has given me is priceless, and will be treasured forever."

Science Shipments

Did you know that FWS coordinates science equipment purchases and shipments to Woodstock? Stephen Anderson, Head of Science provides detailed spreadsheets for science equipment orders and David Wheeler, FWS Business Manager purchases the equipment which is delivered to FWS, inventoried, and then consolidated and shipped to the School.

Your Science Fund dollars at work!



David working on box inventory and consolidation.
One of many science equipment orders!



Interested in becoming an FWS Board Member? Joining our Alumni Committee?

We still have several openings on our Board and Alumni Committee with the approach of July 2018. If you are interested, please contact David Wheeler at the FWS office:

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