

“Only by understanding my love of music can you really understand me” – Anne Fisher

On the day of my last
sunset
When the last call is heard
and met;
When that last day is
done
On the hour the last battle's
won;
I'll not be lost when it comes
to the end,
No, I'll rise up, to take
flight again.
I won't die under the sign of
The Bull or The Ram,
No, I'll rise up again and again
like the Phoenix I am.
On my circle life cycle
I live,
No start to take, no finish
to give.
– Whitney Fisher

**If you would like to contribute,
checks can be made payable to:**

**Fresno State Foundation
Memo line please designate:
Whitney Fisher Memorial Scholarship
Anne Fisher Memorial Scholarship**

**Address:
California State University, Fresno
College of Arts and Humanities
2380 East Keats Avenue MB99
Fresno, CA 93740
Phone: 559-278-1877**

Whitney Alan Fisher
Memorial
Scholarship

&

Anne Elizabeth Fisher
Memorial
Scholarship

California State
University, Fresno

2016 - 2017

Anne Elizabeth Fisher

January 4, 1955 – December 14, 2011

Anne was an avid lover of books, film, poetry, photography, and, most of all, music in all forms. Anne's love of music began early in life – with the study and practice of piano, participation in the First Congregational Church Junior Choir and a large collection of albums and 45 vinyl records. She was a strong supporter of the Fresno Philharmonic – from her teens well into adulthood.

Anne and her sister Caroline “escaped” on many occasions to the Fresno State Music Department and the CSUF Student “quad.” Together, they would listen to students in practice rooms – and school bands in the public areas.

Anne deeply studied musicians' lives, music theory and variations of favorite musical compositions. She avidly and carefully crafted CD's for loved ones – downloading music and burning CD's with detail and attention, designing just the “right” compilation of music for the recipient. In the early 2000's, she considered going back to Fresno State to take music history and theory classes.

Despite suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and fibromyalgia for over 15 years, Anne did not shrink back. She is a hero to those who truly knew her. She was and remains an inspiration to live fully, every day.

Whitney Alan Fisher Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing

This scholarship is presented in memory of Whitney to support students within the California State University, Fresno College of Arts and Humanities who are pursuing their degree within the field of creative writing. Whitney would be pleased to know that his love of poetry has helped others pursue dreams similar to his own. Friends and family members feel honored and privileged to offer this scholarship.

CSUF Creative Writing Department

The creative writing faculty is dedicated to fostering the growth of a vital community of writers, and to offering a variety of experiences to help the emerging writer embark on a successful writing life. Students are encouraged to participate as editors, organizers, and workshop leaders in the annual Young Writers' Conference; they are encouraged to serve on the editorial staff of The Normal School or the San Joaquin Review; they are asked to give at least two public readings of their own work while they are here; and they are encouraged to enroll in a publishing and editing course in which they help to select the winner of the Philip Levine Prize in Poetry, a national poetry book contest sponsored by the MFA Program and Anhinga Press. Many also take part in the annual CSU Summer Arts Program, Respite by the River, the Rogue Festival, and the various student organizations, such as the San Joaquin Literary Association, Students of English Studies Association, and Rasquache: A Collection for Writing of Difference.

Whitney Alan Fisher

Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing

Recipients

Alysha Hoffa
2016-2017

Alysha Hoffa's personal essays, poems, and reviews have appeared in *Atticus Review*, *The Broken Plate*, *Sliver of Stone*, and *Southern Indiana Review*, among others. Her essay "Colorless Life: An Essay in Grayscale" was named a Notable Essay in the national *Best American Essays 2014* anthology. Upon graduating with a BA from Ball State University, she traded cornfields for the Central Valley and made the move from her home state of Indiana to California, where she currently resides. She is an MFA candidate at Fresno State, where she serves as president of the San Joaquin Literary Association and as the Senior Associate Creative Nonfiction Editor for *The Normal School* literary magazine. When she is not on campus, she is writing her thesis manuscript on missing memory, trauma, and the connections we make between the intangible stories of our lives and visual representations of life in painting, photography, and film.

John Power
2015-2016

John Power is a first year MFA poet. Recently transplanted to the Central Valley, he lives with his wife and two boys in Visalia under the shadow of the Sierra Nevadas. John is the second oldest of eight children and grew up on the Central Coast of California where, in 2009, he graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a BA in English. He has had his work published in Cal Poly's literary annual, *Byzantium*. His poetry is rooted in the surrounding landscape and in the ties of kinship. John enjoys writing with a portable 1960s Brother Charger typewriter. His life goals are to publish, teach, homestead, and to someday build a hobbit hole.

and David Garrett of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. As a working cellist, Hannah has played with many orchestras throughout the central valley, including the Corcoran Symphony, the Kings County Symphony, Fresno City College Orchestra, and the Friday Philharmonic. She has been with the Tulare County Symphony directed by Dr. Bruce Kiesling for the past six years and the Fresno State Symphony Orchestra for three; sitting as assistant principle. She is also an avid chamber musician always eager to perform new and old treasures. Hannah also works through Clovis Unified as a strings coach for various intermediate schools and high schools. In addition to her classroom teaching she also retains a small private studio of beginning to intermediate cellists. Hannah aspires to be a leader in strings pedagogy both in private study and in the public schools.

Jeffrey Fritz
2014-2015

Jeff is a graduate student and violinist, who is making his name in the valley. He lives in Visalia and in addition to being a member of several orchestras in the valley, including the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and the Tulare County Symphony Orchestra among others, he is also working with youth and is conducting the Tulare County Youth Orchestra. He is the principal of the second violin section in the Fresno State Symphony Orchestra and has contributed to the growth of the ensemble tremendously. Jeff is also a family man who recently had a baby.

Emily Megan Johnson
2013-2014

Emily is a twenty year old Music Performance Major at Fresno State, with an emphasis on String Bass. She is originally from Riverside, California, where she graduated from Riverside Polytechnic High School in 2011. In high school, she was the principal bassist in the orchestra for four years. She learned to read music before she learned to read the written word.

Patricia Fonda
2012-2013

Music was always a part of Patricia's life. She studied voice with Velda Boutte and later, with Judith Dickison. At fifteen years old, she took up cello. Being a part of the Filipino community in Fresno, she was often invited to perform at local events, and in high school she toured with her chamber choir.

Anne Elizabeth Fisher

Memorial Scholarship for Music

Recipients

Elaine Shrestha
2016-2017

After graduating from California State University, Fresno in 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition, Elaine worked as a choral accompanist in many local school districts. In the summer of 2012, she traveled to Nepal and taught music and English. These experiences inspired her to go back to school and pursue a teaching credential, which she received in 2014. In 2014, she was hired as one of the music directors at Fresno High School and currently teaches chamber choir, orchestra, concert choir, piano, and International Baccalaureate Music, which includes music history and music theory. While at Fresno High School her orchestras and choirs have won awards from local festivals. In addition to her public school teaching, she is also a private music instructor and maintains a studio of piano students. Elaine began the Master's program at California State University, Fresno in the fall of 2016. This scholarship will help her continue her graduate studies without interruption. After she receives her M.A. degree, she plans to pursue opportunities such as conducting and adjudicating for local and regional honor youth orchestras. She would, for example, like to conduct one of the FMCMEA Honor Orchestras. She also hopes that the graduate level work will improve her skills and make her an asset to the thriving musical community in Fresno.

Hannah Johnstone
2015-2016

Hannah is a cellist and music educator residing in Clovis, California. Obtaining an Associate of Arts degree in MLA and Composition from College of the Sequoias and a Bachelor of Arts in Instrumental Performance graduating Suma Cum Laude from California State University, Fresno. She is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Instrumental Performance from her Alma Mater. Hannah began studying cello at age eleven under the direction of Dr. Valerie Walden and currently studies under Dr. Thomas Loewenhiem. Throughout her years of study she has been blessed with the opportunity to work with many esteemed artists including; Emilio Colon of Indiana University, Thomas Landschoot of Arizona University, Karen Kocharyan of the Khachaturian Trio,

Jordan Dakin
2014-2015

Jordan is a third year Creative Writing MFA student focusing on fiction. He is an avid collector of hometowns, which include Santa Rosa, California; Grandview, Washington; West Monroe, Louisiana; Ouray, Colorado; Oakhurst, California; Branson, Missouri; Bonney Lake, Washington; and now Fresno. He is currently at work on his first novel.

Michael Jonathan Gray
2013-2014

Michael is an MFA candidate at California State University, Fresno and an editorial intern for The Normal School. He attended the 2012 Raleigh Review Writer's Studio Workshop. Honors include a 2012 AWP Intro Journals Project Award.

Amber Cecile Brodie
2012-2013

Amber grew up in Sebastopol, California and Sonoma County with her mother. She attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where she received her BA in English with an emphasis in poetry writing.

Jamie Barker
2011-2012

Jamie began her studies at Fresno State when she was thirty-four and worked on her degree for twenty years. During that time, while raising four children, she founded and directed Dakota House, a community center in "Dakota Corridor," a dangerous and impoverished Fresno neighborhood.

Gavin McCall
2010-2011

Gavin was one of the top scholarly recruits for the MFA in Creative Writing program at Fresno State. He grew up on a farm on the Big Island of Hawaii, but spent the majority of his writing career in Honolulu.

Whitney Alan Fisher

August 12, 1949 – March 3, 1975

Whitney was born to Ray and Ruth Jean Fisher in Pasadena, California, but lived most of his life in Fresno, California. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from what was then called Fresno State College. He had a younger brother, Randy, and two younger sisters, Anne and Caroline. He had many and varied interests, both in the sciences as well as the arts. When younger, he was sure that he would one day be a paleontologist, maybe even discover a previously unknown species of dinosaur. Later he was completely enthralled with astronomy, often spending entire nights gazing at the heavens and explaining their wonder to all who would join him. He built a six-inch reflecting telescope, grinding the lens himself.

His appreciation of, and participation in, the arts was all encompassing. At various times he explored his potential in drawing and painting, pottery, composing music on the piano, sand sculpture, and many other types of art. His greatest artistic love, however, was the written word. His favorite poet was Fresno State's Philip Levine. He found writing to be not only his favorite creative outlet, but also his favorite form of therapy. His grandest dream was to be a published poet. In this age of desktop publishing, this may not seem like a great ambition. But in the pre-electronic age, to be published was a true accomplishment, an acknowledgement of one's artistry.

Anne Elizabeth Fisher Memorial Scholarship for Music

This scholarship is presented in memory of Anne to support students within the California State University, Fresno College of Arts and Humanities who are pursuing their degree within the field of music. Anne's passion for music and her appreciation of music's impacts are reflected in this scholarship. She would be pleased to encourage and contribute to the musical aspirations, dreams and achievements of this scholarship recipient.

CSUF Music Department

The Department of Music is one of California's most successful providers of state-credentialed music educators in winds, brass, percussion, and choral music with 100% placement rate after graduation. Approximately 95% of the region's music educators received their degree from California State University, Fresno. Students, faculty, and guest artists present over 150 performances a year for the community with an average yearly attendance of 30,000.

The Music Department offers two degree programs, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Over 220 Music majors are pursuing their Bachelors of Arts or Masters of Arts degrees in Music Education, Composition and Performance.

Graduates enjoy careers locally and internationally as professional performing artists, composers, public school music teachers, college and university professors, recording technicians, artist representatives and managers, organists, and choir directors. Among the distinguished alumni is Leslie Bassett, who received his BA in Music 1947 and the Pulitzer Prize for Composition in 1966.