

## **George Balch Scholarship Committee Report 2016 USJF Annual Meeting**

Harun Bogdanic (\$900.00) and Daniela Gomez Zubieta (\$1000.00) were repeat recipients of the USJF George Balch Scholarships for the 2014-2015 fiscal year,

Their letters of thanks are below.

Due to insufficient earnings these scholarships were entirely funded by the Michigan Judo Development Association (<http://www.mijudodevelopment.org/>) a 501(c)(3) non-profit (MJDA).

This year our plan is to again fund scholarships for Mr. Bogdanic and Ms. Gomez Zubieta, as it is our policy to strive to provide scholarships through the grantee's entire undergraduate tenure.

For reference, attached is a history of George Balch Scholarships. Since the inception of the fund in 2002 we have funded almost \$20,000 in grants to young people.

This year the scholarships will be funded by MJDA and the USJF Balch Endowment. The final amounts will be determined by the success of our fund raising. We hope to continue to fund the current recipients, and add a new beneficiary, if funds permit.

Thanks to all the members of USJF as well as others, who, in their generosity have honored the memory of Mr. Balch by contributing to this scholarship endowment fund. Please consider contributing to MJDA to help fund this year's scholarship needs

Pete Catlos  
George Balch Scholarship Fund

Encl. (2):        Letters of Thanks  
                     Balch Fund Grant History

## George Balch Scholarship Committee Report 2016 USJF Annual Meeting

Letters of thanks:

---

I would like to thank the George Balch Scholarship Committee for awarding me the Balch Scholarship. With the help of this scholarship I have been able to focus more on my school work while practicing judo as well.

I currently attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn where I am a Microbiology major with a minor in Hispanic Studies. My academic activities including working as a Teaching Assistant for a Cellular Biology lab course as well as working as a Supplemental Instructor for Organic Chemistry. In addition to work I also volunteer in an organic chemistry lab where I am working on synthesizing a carbohydrate used in breast cancer research.

This year I have been able to achieve high marks in my classes as well as go to judo regularly. This summer I also had the opportunity to attend Jimmy Pedro's World Championship training camp. I was able to get thrown around by world class athletes which, in addition to helping my break falls, exposed me to a higher level of judo.



I would again like to thank the George Balch Scholarship committee for granting me this scholarship. I plan to continue my participation in judo. Though I have not been able to compete this year, I hope to be able to compete more this coming summer.

Thank you.

Daniela Gomez Zubieta

## George Balch Scholarship Committee Report 2016 USJF Annual Meeting

---

I want thank the Balch Scholarship Committee for the opportunity to receive this scholarship. I also want to thank my sensei Mr. Noboru Saito for the chance to receive this scholarship.

I am currently wrestling and continuing my studies at Grand Valley State University, I am pursuing my degree in Supply Chain Management and Economics. I am currently applying for internships in Grand Rapids and have had interviews with companies such as Bosch. I am on the wrestling team which finished runner-up at the Team National event as well as the Individual Nationals. I finished as an All-American and took 5<sup>th</sup> at the tournament.



This scholarship has helped me immensely with paying for books, food, and other necessities that has made living and studying much easier. I am also training for the Senior National Judo Championships and to bring a medal back to my dojo as well as the state of Michigan.

I would like to just thank the entire committee, my sensei and my other instructors at my dojo for the opportunity to train Judo and compete at many tournaments. Without judo I would not have met many friends, mentors and rivals. Scholarships like this help young adults in college continue their education and pursue Judo.

Sincerely,  
Harun Bogdanic

## USJF Balch Scholarship Recipients

(Established by USJF Board of Director as part of the USJF Endowment Fund in April, 2002)

Year	Name	School	Amount	Yudanshakai
2015	Daniela Gomez Zabieta	U of Michigan	\$1,000 *	Konan
	Harun Bogdanic	Davenport Univ.	\$900 *	Konan
2014	Daniela Gomez Zabieta	U of Michigan	\$900	Konan
	Harun Bogdanic	Davenport Univ.	\$900	Konan
2013	Kyle Tsubota	U of Hawai Hilo	\$900	50 <sup>th</sup> State
	Arman Kapbasov	Univ, of Cal-Davis	\$900	Central Cost
	Daniela Gomez Zabieta	U of Michigan	\$900	Konan
2012	Kyle Tsubota	U of Hawai Hilo	\$1,000	50 <sup>th</sup> State
	Arman Kapbasov	Univ, of Cal-Davis	\$1,000	Central Cost
2011	Kyle Tsubota	U of Hawai Hilo	\$1,000	50 <sup>th</sup> State
	Arman Kapbasov	Univ, of Cal-Davis	\$1,000	Central Cost
2010	Kyle Tsubota	U of Hawai Hilo	\$1,000	50 <sup>th</sup> State
	Katie Sell	Colorado	\$1,000	Chicago
2009	Katie Sell	Colorado	\$1,000	Chicago
2008	Katie Sell	Colorado	\$700	Chicago
	Alex Murray	U of Chicago	\$700	Konan
	Michael Eldred	Boise State	\$700	Daiheigen
2007	Katie Sell	U of Colorado	\$700	Chicago
	Chris Cody	U of Texas	\$700	Shufu
	Alex Murray	U of Chicago	\$700	Konan
2006	Michael Oshima	Harvard	\$1,000	Rokushu
	Katie Sell	U of Colorado	\$1,000	Chicago
2005	Michael Oshima	Harvard	\$500	Rokushu
2004	Michael Oshima	Harvard	\$500	Rokushu
2003	Michael Oshima	Tokai Univ.	\$500	Rokushu

Total Funding since 2003 \$ 19,300 (As of 3/24/2016)

\*2015 Scholarships funded by Michigan Judo Development Association due Scholarship Fund earning level.