



## **YPLF Program Update**

**September 2016**

The YPLF Program was founded by the American Philatelic Society in 2009 to identify and support the best and brightest aspiring philatelists. Since that time there have been a total of 24 Fellows (this number does not include the three Fellows who have recently been selected for the YPLF Class of 2017). Currently, 21 participants have graduated from the program and are considered "Alumni Fellows". Of the 24 Fellows, 15 remain members of the American Philatelic Society (each Fellow received a free, one-year membership during his/her Fellowship year).

### YPLF Alumni Fellows "Give Back" to the Hobby

Fellows have been an integral part of American Philatelic Society stamp shows since the program's inception. Current and Alumni Fellows contribute by: selling stamps and covers in the YPLF booth, supporting "Stamps in Your Attic", and sharing their love of philately with youth in the "Discovery Cove" education area.

At least seven Fellow Alumni members have supported beginning collectors by teaching or co-teaching beginner seminars. At NY-2016, Sarah Chenevert, James Chenevert, David McKinney, Truth Muller, Evan Schlosser, and Austin Foo assisted Don Chenevert with at least one of four different 4-hour beginner seminars reaching 97 individuals new to the hobby!

Alumni Fellows continue to give back to the hobby through mentoring; in fact at least 10 Fellows have offered their services to provide guidance to current or future YPLF Fellows. One member of the YPLF Class of 2017 has an "Alumni Fellow" as her mentor, the first in hopefully a long line of YPLF Alumni Fellows serving as YPLF Mentors.

Many Alumni Fellows are highly sought-after to provide presentations and speeches. Twelve former Fellows have provided their passion for and knowledge of philately at: first day ceremonies; international, national, state and local stamp shows; local club functions; and society and affiliate meetings. First Day Ceremony speakers include; Austin Foo (Botanical Art), Evan Schlosser (Snowflakes and Marshall Islands Peace Doves), David McKinney (World Stamp Show – NY 2016 stamp), Sarah Chenevert (Colorful Celebrations), and Tim Hodge (Songbirds in Snow). Truth Muller provided an interesting talk for the Columbia River dedication event.

Additionally, many Alumni Fellows continue to volunteer at the local level, planning stamp shows and educational programming.

### YPLF Alumni Continue to Develop their Philatelic Knowledge and Skills

In 2016, three Alumni Fellows continued their quests to develop exhibiting skills by entering exhibits at four different shows, one of which was an international award winner (*The "3-Star" Issues of Latvia* by Dzintars Grinfelds) and another which was displayed in the Court of Honor at StampShow 2016 (*Diurnal Raptors* by Tim Hodge). Four other Fellows conducted research and had philatelic articles published in such publications as: *The American Philatelist*, the *United States Specialist*, the *Chronicle of U.S. Philatelic Classics*, *Across the Fence Post* of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, the *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, the *Ephemera Journal*, *The Kicking Mule* of the Indiana State Stamp Club, *Stamp Insider*, and the *U.S. Stamp News*.

Currently, YPLF Alumni Fellows, in addition to belonging to the APS, hold memberships in the following organizations: American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, American Topical Association, Baltimore Philatelic Society, California Collectors Club, Charlottesville Stamp Club, Collectors Club of San Francisco, Guayaquil Philatelic Club, Indian State Stamp Club, Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club, Malaya Study Group, Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Philatelic Society of Malaysia, Royal Philatelic Society London, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, U.S. Stamp Society, and the Youth Collector's Club of NYC.

Ten Alumni Fellows and the three current Fellows attended NY-2016. In fact, at least one member from each YPLF Class was at the international show; including, James Chenevert (2010), Ryan Wellmaker (2011), Andrew Shaw (2011), Daniel Pfaff (2012), David McKinney (2012), Alex Gill (2012), Tim Hodge (2012), Casey Cook (2013), Sarah Chenevert (2014), Charles Epting (2015), Austin Foo (2016), Truth Muller (2016), and Evan Schlosser (2016). Charles Epting, Casey Cook, Owen Chun, and Katie Vasicek attended MonacoPhil in 2015 as representatives of youth in philately. Dzintars Grinfelds is currently developing new exhibits. In 2017, Tim Hodge will be

presenting a paper at the International Symposium for Analytical Philately in London, England.

### Accomplishments of YPLF Alumni

Three Alumni Fellows have been recognized with Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Awards as Outstanding Young Philatelists; John Phillips (2011), David McKinney (2013), and Casey Cook (2016).

Additional noteworthy accomplishments include; three Alumni Fellows are currently running their own stamp businesses, another has worked as a dealer assistant, Tim Hodge designed a first day cachet for the 1 c bobcat stamp, and Charles Epting has entered the professional world of philately as he now works full time for HR Harmer Philatelic Auctions in Tustin, California; an occupation he had never considered prior to his involvement in YPLF.

Fellows continue to attract other young people to the hobby by actively recruiting family and friends. Most Fellows are still active in the hobby, especially with their own collections, while being very busy high school and college students with sometimes overwhelming demands upon their time. The true results of the YPLF program will not be known for many years to come, when these exceptional young people finally have the time and resources to devote to the hobby.



The Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship  
is a program developed by the  
American Philatelic Society.

For more information:

<http://stamps.org/Young-Philatelic-Leaders>

## Who are the YPLF Alumni Fellows?

### Class of 2016

- Truth Muller, Dealer Track, Donald & Bonnie Lee Fellow
- Evan Schlosser, Author Track, U.S. Philatelic Classic Society

### Class of 2015

- Ethan Chiu, Exhibitor Track, Donald & Bonnie Lee Fellow
- Charles Epting, Author Track, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Fellow

### Class of 2014

- Sarah Chenevert, Author Track, Michael Miley Memorial Fellow
- Owen Chun, Dealer Track, Wade Saadi Fellow
- Sabrina McGill, Author Track, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Fellow
- Cassandra Stahl, Exhibiting Track, David Feldman USA Fellow

### Class of 2013

- Casey Cook, Dealer Track, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Fellow
- Autumn Hanley, Exhibiting Track, William Raible Fellow
- Katie Vasicek, Dealer Track, Schuyler Rumsey Fellow

### Class of 2012

- Timothy Hodge, Exhibiting Track, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Fellow
- Alex Gill, Dealer Track, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Fellow
- David McKinney, Author Track, Shreve Fellow
- Daniel Pfaff, Dealer Track, Central Atlantic Stamp Dealers Association Fellow

### Class of 2011

- John Phillips, Exhibitor Track, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Fellow
- Andrew Shaw, Dealer Track
- Ryan Wellmaker, Author Track

### Class of 2010

- James Chenevert, Exhibitor Track
- Melissa Stanton, Author Track, U.S. Stamp Society Fellow
- Jimmy Tian, Dealer Track