enous funding from Jack and Jodi Johnson through the David and Eula Wintermann Foundation brings big smiles and grateful hearts to our scholars as they work tirelessly in their labs to achieve their Ph.D.’s. Starting in their second year each of the BRASS scholars receives $3,000 to use in their labs however they feel will be best suited to their research endeavors. Lab equipment, computers to enhance their research, or specially bred control mice for their experiments, whatever is needed, they are welcome to use these funds as they see fit. To date the Wintermann Foundation has given more than $800,000 to help fund the valuable and important accomplishments that are milestones in the success of our BRASS scholars’ research.

Our BRASS scholars are a tremendous asset to the mentors who run their labs because these extra funds bring much needed support to their best students, when the labs do not have the funding specifically needed by our scholars to help them continue on with their research.

The BRASS scholars have bestowed the moniker of BRASS SUPER STARS on the Johnsons and voted five years ago to honor them by making our annual scholars’ Research Award. To date, the Johnsons and BRASS for enhancing her research and given by BRASS scholar Charlene Emerson.

Dr. Matthew Baker
Baylor Liaison
Lisa Chandler
Scholar Selection Committee Member
Shelley Buffington
2016 Scholar Selection Chair
Dr. James Bonar
Vice President
Elsie Eckert
President
Founder
Elsie Eckert
President
Dr. James Bonar
Vice President
Don D. Jordan
Research Secretary
Jo-an Petersen
Scholar Liaison
Peter VanDerlofske
Research Award Liaison
Ed McMahon
Brass Angel of the Year.
Mr. Paul Simon
Director of Admissions
Mr. Paul Simon
Professor
Dr. Matthew Baker

A Message from the BRASS President

Dear BRASS Members and Supporters,

Welcome to fall and another season of celebrating the work being done by our BRASS scholars, the best and the brightest students at the Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Notable highlights since our March newsletter include a very special thanks to Barney and Jean Keger who hosted and underwrote a very successful Tea & Toddies at their beautiful home on April 6, 2016.

Dr. Peter Hotez was presented the Diana Brown Memorial 2016 BRASS Mentor of the Year award and Linda Kaykaydil was very surprised to receive the much deserved Angel of the Year Award. You can read more about this wonderful evening inside. Special thanks also goes to Jo-an Petersen and Rod and Mary Ellen Crosby for helping with the hosting!

On Saturday, April 16th, BRASS sponsored and hosted the annual M.D./Ph.D. second look breakfast at the Medical Center Marriott. This event is attended by applicants to the Baylor College of Medicine MD/PhD program from all over the U.S. who have been offered admission to BCM but haven’t made their decision on where to attend graduate school. BRASS was honored to be a program director, Dr. Sharon Plon, and used as an example of a unique benefit of attending BCM. BRASS Scholars Lin Zhu, Amy Pohodich and Michael Gundry each gave a brief talk on how they have benefited from being a BRASS Scholar.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one for the BRASS scholars and BRASS members. Please join us in welcoming Elise Eckert as our new 2016-2017 BRASS president. Elise is a founding member of BRASS and served on the executive committee for many years, she brings to the position a sincere passion for the BRASS mission and the scholars.

As always, the BRASS board and I truly appreciate all of you and your continued support of BRASS.

Best wishes,
Pete
On April 6, 2016 Baylor Research Advocates for Student Scientists (BRASS) celebrated its 21st annual BRASS Tea & Toddies fundraiser, raising funds and awareness in support of the BRASS mission of “providing funding and support for the best and brightest students in biomedical research.”

The exquisite grounds and gardens of Lynn and Barney Kogen was the perfect setting for 110 BRASS members, guests and scholars to enjoy a very fun and festive evening of delicious food, tasty toddies and camaraderie!

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**Dr. Peter Hotez Selected as the 2016 BRASS Mentor of the Year**

Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D. was awarded the Diana Brown Memorial 2016 BRASS Mentor of the Year award at our annual 2016 Tea & Toddies event.

Hotez is President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, headquartered in Washington, DC, and leads the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development. He is also university professor at Baylor University and is the Fellow in Disease and Poverty at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

Dr. Hotez’ wisdom, integrity and compassion have had an unparalleled impact on the confidence and success of his students, especially our BRASS scholars. His committed guidance and mentorship have truly made a difference in their students’ lives.

Dr. Hotez set his dedication to Baylor College of Medicine and in our BRASS scholars.

Meagan Barry, M.D., Ph.D, our 2011-2012 BRASS scholar, told of her wonderful experiences and incredible opportunities afforded her by being a part of Dr. Peter Hotez’ Lab. Her groundbreaking research and discoveries in Chagas disease was greatly advanced and enhanced by the wisdom and encouragement provided by Hotez. She thanked him for being the MOST AMAZING MENTOR a scientist could ever ask for!

Dr. Meagan Barry and Steve Brown made the presentation of the Diana Brown Memorial 2016 BRASS Mentor of the Year award to Dr. Hotez.

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**The BRASS $10,000 Club – Lifetime Benefactor Salute**

A very special thank you to Steve Brown for making a generous donation of $10,000 in memory of his wife, Diana Brown, our late 2013-2014 BRASS president. This is Steve’s second $10,000 donation to this prestigious club. BRASS salutes his kindness and generosity, Steve!