

August 20, 2012

The Colorado College
Department of Economics & Business
14 E Cache La Poudre
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Mr. Van Skilling and The Colorado College,

I would like to extend to you my sincerest thanks and express my gratitude for the creation and continuation of the award that bears your name. As a proud first-generation CC graduate and the first and only member of my family to even attend college, I not only appreciate the Business and Economics Department of Colorado College for the knowledge I gained while studying and attending, but the purpose of this letter is to sincerely thank you, Mr. Van Skilling, for the lessons I learned that were not taught in those CC classrooms. These lessons originated in the form of a single selfless act of generosity to an unmet stranger and blossomed into a lifelong example to live by.

Currently working as sole Financial Specialist for a drug, alcohol, and domestic violence outpatient treatment center, I am reminded of the aforementioned non-monetary lessons instilled in me by Mr. Van Skilling, each and every day. Belief in another for the things they can produce without the financial limitations and social boundaries that often restrict or bind them is immeasurably valuable. Mr. Van Skilling's award inadvertently taught me that faithful giving without outlying strict terms of repayment can come back to all parties involved exponentially. After five years of exercising the power to issue short-term, zero-interest loans to those in need, I am also often reminded of the generous financial aid package I received from CC and of the kind generosity that the Van Skilling scholarship embodies and offers to recipients such as myself, when in need of financial assistance. Whether you work for a non-profit organization, own a private corporation, or are unemployed, finding richness beyond printed paper, applying yourself to meaningful work and following your beliefs and goals, all make the accomplishment of the task at hand that much more rewarding; especially when someone has faith in your potential and is willing to selflessly offer their support, as Mr. Van Skilling does.

How else, might you ask, has Mr. Van Skilling's generosity helped me in my personal endeavors? The feeling I received as an honored recipient built my self-confidence and is still an award highlighted on my resume. The high standards and stringent senior requirements implemented by the CC Economics Dept. for its undergraduates, still serve as my personal guideline for future acts of superior achievements and expectations. Presenting my senior thesis to my peers and professors and being asked to present to other prestigious institutions such as the U.S. Air Force Academy and women's rights unions, is an accomplishment I won't soon forget. Mr. Van Skilling's award single-handedly gave me the ability to conduct a genuine, break-through research project for my senior thesis as it paved the way for face-to-face interaction during interviews and funded my travel outside of Colorado, resulting in one the most educational and entertaining pieces of literature ever written on the topic, even to this day! Giving back to my community and my alma mater is still important to me and I hope others may continue to enjoy and reap the benefits of such charitable gifts. Thanks again, Mr. Van Skilling.

Regards,
Angela Soto
(Colorado College Alum, class of 2005)

Dear Professor Van Skilling;

In the fall semester of 2006, I applied for and received a Van Skilling Award to support my senior thesis research. My senior thesis project was on "The Arkansas Valley Super Ditch: An Economic Impact Study".

The award allowed me to attend a conference at the Colorado State University Water Resource Research Library opening, where I was able to meet other people working in the same field. Some of these people, a professor (Dr. James Pritchett) and a PhD student (Jennifer Thorvaldson) had conducted research on a similar geographical area, using the same economic modeling software that I intended to use. Connecting with them at this conference allowed me to gain their insights into how I should conduct my research and some additional inputs into how to modify the model so that our results were consistent. At the same event, another professor, the highly esteemed water resource economist, Dr. Robert Young, gave me valuable advice on localizing my model.

Additionally, the award helped me conduct my field research in the Arkansas Valley, and attend several water roundtables in the area. Through this field research, I developed a background case study that I verified with literature before developing my economic model. At the round table, I networked with more people to gain more insights on the agriculture and water situation in the area.

The award helped open a lot of doors for me. My career since, has been fairly water resource economics-centric, including a water research related Fulbright Scholarship to Nepal and later opening a water management company in Nepal (One Planet Solution Pvt. Ltd.), and this award was one of the first stepping-stones into the sector. I continued working in this sector and on my thesis after college and my thesis has now been accepted to the *Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA)*, for publication tentatively in February 2013. I have also been part of a consulting project around the topic, and am currently working on developing new research proposals surrounding Western US water, for the research organization I also work for, the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET).

I have benefitted extremely from the Van Skilling Award and know how much it can help students. It helped me throughout my thesis project and the results have contributed significantly to where I am today. I sincerely appreciate you offering this award to the students of Economics at CC, past, present, and future, including myself.

Sincerely,

Tyler McMahon
Colorado College Class of 2007

LISA SUNDEEN

5503 Pollard Road, Bethesda, MD 20816 • Lisa.Sundeen@gmail.com • (301) 807-4414

October 4, 2012

Colorado College
Economics and Business Department

Dear Mr. Skilling,

I'll never forget what it felt like when I arrived in La Ceiba, Honduras in the middle of the night, during a tropical monsoon. I have always thought of myself as a worldly traveler, but when I found myself sitting all alone and listening to raindrops pounding on the tin roof of the rustic Hotel Catracho, located in the center of Honduras' fourth largest city, I realized that I had never before embarked on a journey quite like this.

The Van Skilling Grant enabled me to travel abroad in order to work with the Fundación Adelante, a small microfinance organization headquartered in La Ceiba, Honduras to collect qualitative data for my economics thesis. My ten days walking through urban neighborhoods and rural towns, gave me a new perspective on micro-loans, economic development, and business management. I returned home with dozens of interview recordings, hundreds of photos, and several new Honduran friends.

Believe it or not, I have been using all that I learned in Honduras and at CC everyday at my new job with the Coalition for Green Capital. Given that this nonprofit organization focuses on setting up banks and providing loans to renewable energy companies, my knowledge of microfinance and economics has been instrumental in my work thus far. More importantly, I remember how it felt to be an independent traveler in a foreign country and look forward to finding work abroad in the coming years.

I will never forget my experience in Honduras and all that it taught me. I would like to personally thank you, Mr. Skilling, for giving me that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sundeen



Van,

The economics department at Colorado College is incredibly blessed to have you as one of their biggest supporters. Your continued commitment to the College and its students is as big an inspiration to the alumni as your teaching and career history were to us as students. BuyWell Coffee was built on the dreams of a few college students running blindly forward into a world we could not come close to comprehending. Jess and Kyle (the founders) were an inspiration to an entire student body for the duration of their time at Colorado College. Their voracious appetite for learning, their commitment to fair trade, and their incredible work ethic eventually ended in the launch of a full-scale coffee company that provides organic fair trade coffee worldwide. Jesse Marble and I applied for the Van Skilling Award after having played a small role in the founding of BuyWell, the refining of its business plan, and tireless amounts of research into the coffee industry.

Colorado College cultivated our minds in such a way that not only did we dare to dream this was possible but we had the tools necessary to bring this idea to fruition. Jesse and I were honored to receive the Van Skilling award for our work on this project and you might be pleased to know the funds were invested right back into ourselves (Colorado College Tuition) and thus far have generated fantastic returns.

I had the pleasure of taking your Business Policy and Strategy class and it remains one of my favorite courses I took while at Colorado College. This was the first course in the entire Economics Department where I felt my true skills were able to shine and it empowered me to continue on with my Economics major at a time in my life where I was considering moving back to a single major. (I finished with a double major in Economics and Religion.) I was never mathematically gifted and therefore many of the higher level economics courses were incredibly difficult for me. It was in your course with Larry Stimpert I was reminded that the reason I struggled through those other courses was so that I could take courses like Business Policy and Strategy. Larry became my advisor, my friend, and eventually helped me write my thesis as well. His impact on my life was extraordinary and again it all started in a class you taught.

I am glad I was invited to write this letter because I do not thank enough those who have selflessly given so much, to so many. Thank you for your dedication to Colorado College, to the pursuit of education, and to helping feed the dreams of students lucky enough to win the Van Skilling Award. You made a tremendous impact in my life and I know there are many others like me singing the same song of gratitude in their hearts'.

Trevor Isham

October 12, 2012

Mr. Van Skilling
c/o Nancy Heineke
Colorado College Department of Economics
Palmer 114C
116 E. San Rafael St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Mr. Skilling,

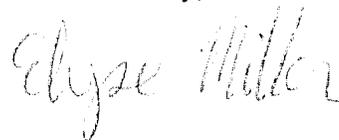
Thank you for your generosity in awarding me the 2012 Van Skilling Award for my project entitled "Help in a Time of Need: Foreign Aid Institutions in a Struggling Haiti."

I became passionate about Haiti's persistent state of economic crisis after I visited Port-au-Prince in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake. Indeed, it was this experience which cemented my love for the study of economics.

Thanks to your support, I have been able to turn my passion into a viable topic for research, which has provided not only a foundation upon which to build my senior thesis paper but also expertise which I hope will carry me far into the field of development economics.

As I conclude my time at Colorado College, your generous contribution of your time and money will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elyse Miller".

Elyse Miller '13

October 3, 2012

Christie Renner
812 E. Monument St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
christie.renner@gmail.com
719-650-5124

Mr. Van Skilling

– Sent via e-mail to the Colorado College Economics Department

Dear Mr. Van Skilling,

It's a privilege to be able to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and for sharing your adventurous spirit.

I remember feeling thrilled to receive a Van Skilling award to support my undergraduate thesis research. My work examined the economic impact on Colorado's San Luis Valley of the Great Sand Dunes' transition from National Monument to National Park. I built an input-output model to calculate the multiplier economic effects on the valley of a projected increase in tourism.

The Van Skilling award supported my field work. Traveling to the San Luis Valley gave me the opportunity to collect property tax data from a rural office in Saguache and to visit the Sand Dunes. I met with park officials and community members during my work, adding depth and relevancy to the theoretical parts of my thesis.

In my first job after CC, I was able to apply this grounded perspective to my work in the socially responsible investment field. I worked with investors nationwide and internationally on shareholder advocacy initiatives and facilitated dialogues to address corporate responsibility issues. This work drew heavily on the research and analytical skills I developed in college.

My path has more recently shifted to food systems. Among other projects, I've volunteered time with the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, where I've again spoken with diverse stakeholders, gathering a variety of perspectives on challenging issues regarding food security, health, economic development, and the environment.

What I learned at Colorado College continues to inspire my path. Thank you for supporting an institution that values creative thinking, collaboration, and challenging the status quo.

With deep gratitude,
Christie Renner



John Courtland Wold
690 Ivanhoe Street
Denver, CO 80220
(303) 908-9788 / Court.wold@gmail.com

9-10-12

Dear Van,

Six and a half years have passed since you greeted me in Palmer Hall in April 2006 on Day one of your business leadership course. And after all of these years, two things haven't changed; your mentorship and service to young people and my hunger for business knowledge. Your uncanny wit, personal charm and growing wisdom continue to help youngsters like me to face the business world head on and to aspire for greatness. Your impact on Colorado College as a trustee and a teacher certainly has improved the school. You should be so proud of the many accomplishments, both obvious and discreet, that you have made through your relationship with Colorado College and its students, teachers and alumni. The friendship that you and I built since our time together in the classroom is special and meaningful. Sharing days together on the trout stream and the golf course are a reminder of fond memories. Thank you for your Skilling Grants, for your leadership in our society, and most importantly for your efforts in maintaining friendships with young people.

Respectfully,

Court Wold
class of 2006

Dear Van Skilling,

I want to thank you for the opportunity you provided me through the Skilling Award. When I first arrived at Colorado College I began working with at-risk youth, specifically gang-affiliated kids, in south east Colorado Springs. On an anthropological level I found Colorado Spring's criminal culture fascinating. And after taking econometrics I realized that an economic model can answer my many questions on quantitative criminal characteristics. Mainly, "What childhood characteristics increase or decrease the probability of criminal behavior?"

Receiving your Skilling Award gave me the capability to collect data from Colorado Springs criminals through safe networks. I was able to commute to surveying locations and give incentives to my surveyors who had to work in dangerous conditions. Overall, the study was a great success and proved to have great significance. It not only helped me with my study, but gave insights to the gang prevention workers I worked with. Without the fund, none of this would have been possible. So thank you very much Mr. Skilling. I appreciate it more than you know.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fuwa

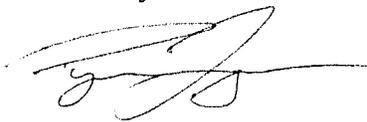
Dear Van,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for your tremendous help in furthering my education at Colorado College. Because of the Van Skilling Award I was able to travel to Los Angeles and complete a qualitative study focusing on distribution in the motion picture industry. My studies in Los Angeles put me in touch with many very important executives and powerful industry professionals, not only providing me with an in depth review of the market structure, but beginning the foundations for my professional network. Without your award I would, without a doubt, not be in the position I am today.

Currently I am working at Gurney Productions, a reality television production company based in LA. I am serving as the executive assistant to the executive producer and co-owner of the company. This is largely due to my studies focused around the industry and your generous donation to make my educational experience unparalleled. I have had the opportunity to develop a social media presence for the company as well as handle meetings with top network executives and talent. This has been a dream come true and I am excited to see where the future may take me.

Ever since my first day in Business Policy and Strategy sophomore year, you have been instrumental in furthering my education. This holds true to today and I will never forget all of the valuable lessons you have taught. I cannot thank you enough for what you have provided myself and countless other students in the economics and business department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Jaeger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Jaeger

Ryan.jaeger22@gmail.com

(970)729-3877

Dear Mr. Skilling,

I am excited to have the opportunity to once again thank you for the Award I received while attending Colorado College. I put together a project for my degree and completed an internship in Udaipur, IN to gather information and experience the Indian education system first hand. It was an unforgettable learning experience and I am not unaware of what a unique opportunity I was given.

Since completing my degree at Colorado College, I became a successful vagabond, commercial fisherwoman, and then started working in Seattle on environmental contamination lawsuits. In the last 3 years, I completed my immigration to Canada where I live on Vancouver Island. I now work at one of the most reputable on-line marketing companies and spearhead the international expansion efforts in Europe and Latin America.

The Van Skilling award without a doubt has helped contribute to whatever successes I've had in my career development. When you graduate from university, it's the culmination of your experiences that sets you apart from the sea of other graduates. I haven't met anyone that has graduating from university with such unique hands-on and grant writing experiences. Thank you for contributing to not only my educational experiences, but so many others as well.

Best,

Ashley (Albright) Green

Allison Wold

307 Jersey Street • Denver, Colorado 80220



Date: August 22, 2012

Mr. Van Skilling
PO Box 1620
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331

Dear Van:

Now that I am working full-time and have experienced business in retail and energy, I have realized the full value of my Colorado College education. Far too often students from my generation take education for granted, but now that I am applying the skills I developed at CC, I am thankful and fortunate for having had access to a stable college administration, knowledgeable faculty members, and a supportive alumni group.

Two things stand out when I think back on my CC experience. Firstly, the Business Policy and Strategy class that I took with you and Julie Chesley was by far the best class I took while at college. The class gave me access to two premier professors, in addition to intelligent alumni with experience and a willingness to teach. I remember listening to you, Sue Allon and John Fleming speak to us, and it was a morning class with John Fleming that opened the door to my first professional job at Walmart in Bentonville, Arkansas. I also recently met with Sue Allon to discuss the opportunities at Tuck Business School. Business Policy and Strategy got our minds out of the conceptual and theoretical textbooks and gave visibility of how economics is applied in business settings. This class made me enthusiastic about starting my first job in the business world.

Secondly, my senior economics thesis was a culminating product of my college education. It allowed me to further pursue a topic in which I was passionate. I chose to write about family ranching operations in Wyoming and with the help of your funding via the Van Skilling Award, I had the opportunity to travel to family ranches and obtain firsthand accounts to study the behavioral economics affecting the decisions of Wyoming ranchers to produce grass-fed beef instead of conventional grain-fed beef. Undergoing the thesis research and writing process is a valuable skill that I will continue to use in the upcoming years.

I aspire to support the college in a similar fashion to how you have supported the Economics Department. Your creation of the Skilling Fund in combination with your desire and willingness to teach, gave me access to extensive learning resources and a supportive alumni network. Thank you for your dedication and time.

Sincerely,


Allison Wold

Dear Mr. Skilling,

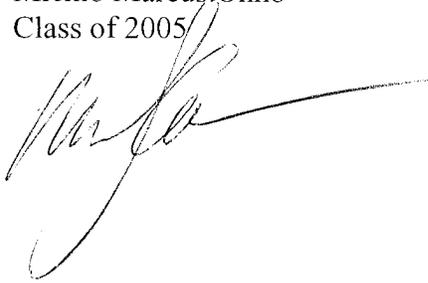
I am writing to extend my gratitude for extremely generous gift to Colorado College and the students thereof, like myself. In 2005, I had the honor of being awarded the Skilling Award for my work on the competitive balance in the Nippon (Japanese) Baseball League. At the time, I had very little money and had graduated a semester early to save tuition. I moved back home and was considering whether I could come back to attend graduation when I received the notification that I had won the award. Your gift made it possible for me to come back to Colorado and walk with my class.

Additionally, I have listed your award on my resume as one of my achievements and it has been a good conversation topic that allows me to highlight my experience at Colorado College and with the Economics program.

Now, I am pursuing a career in business law and have felt that my background in economics is an extremely useful skill to possess and one that is uncommon amongst most recent law graduates.

Thank you very much for this award and recognition.

Sincerely,
Michio Marcus Ohno
Class of 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michio Ohno', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dear Van,

This letter is to sincerely thank you for your generosity towards the students of the Economics and Business Department. As a recipient of the Van Skilling award I have experienced first hand the difference your generosity can make to a research project like thesis. My data was expensive and I could not have managed to access it were it not for the award. My thesis, "The Economic Efficacy of Banking Mergers: 2006-2008" is an award winning thesis (Bruni Award), and will also be published in the Journal of Applied Business Research. I also had the opportunity to present my findings at a The Clute Institute annual conference held in Rome this summer.

I am currently employed as a financial consultant with Scouler & Company, a turnaround and restructuring firm here in Los Angeles. (The concepts from Business Policy and Strategy are still fresh in my mind as I encounter them everyday). My success with thesis has also given me the opportunity to immediately add value to the company from a marketing perspective, and needless to say that has been an honor.

Again, a big thanks! Please find my contact details below for future reference.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Vitale', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rachel Vitale
SCOULER & COMPANY, LLC
1801 Century Park East
Suite 2400
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Office: (310) 207-2244 x324
Cell: (719) 329-4230
Email: rvitale@scouler.com



Dear Mr. Van Skilling,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Colorado College Economic Department. The Van Skilling award is a truly unique gift that has fostered the academic curiosity of CC students year after year. As a past recipient, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to share with you how your grant influenced both the success of my research at Colorado College and subsequently my path since graduation.

In the spring of 2010, I was fortunate enough to be awarded the grant for my study on "Business Philanthropy and the 'Cool.'" At the time, I was a junior at CC and was kicking off the research for my senior thesis. As I learned about what makes businesses "cool" for donating, I identified a very large gap between what consumers say and do in regards to corporate donations. I also found that this particular discrepancy was not being accounted for in the academic studies to date. To address this, I created a model that tested for the extent to which corporate philanthropy influences consumers, while also controlling for brand loyalty. My results showed that when brand loyalty is accounted for, corporate philanthropy only impacts 5% purchases. Since this figure was significantly lower than the published literature had suggested, I reviewed the business implications of my results.

When I graduated in 2011, my thesis was awarded the Robin Statterwhite award from the CC Economics department for outstanding research. I'd like to thank you for encouraging my research when it was just an idea. The support of you, Larry Stimpert and Dan Johnson really drove me to do my best work.

But it doesn't stop there. My research also helped me to land a job with an advertising agency in San Francisco that focuses on natural, healthy and purpose driven brands. As a Brand Planner at my agency, I am responsible for planning the consumer research that my team and I then develop into the communication strategy for Kashi (cereal, snacks, & frozen foods) and Nature Made (vitamins).

My story is just one example of how your generosity has encouraged the success of Colorado College students. And for that, I thank you.

Jessie Hughes

Class of 2011

Jessie.L.Hughes@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Van Skilling-

I am very pleased to hear that you are being honored at Colorado College this year. Your generosity has had a tremendous impact on my post graduate life. I received a Van Skilling award in 2008 for my senior thesis work on the effects of wine marketing on consumer decisions. The project was very successful and was an inspiration for me to begin a career in the wine industry.

I am currently at a small winery in Tuscany, where I have been working for the past three weeks and will remain for the next month or so. Prior to Italy, working with wine has brought me to Argentina, California, and Australia. It has been wonderful to follow my passion around the world and have some incredible experiences along the way.

I would like to extend a sincere appreciation for the opportunity that you continue to provide for me and my fellow classmates. Thank you and I wish you all of the best.

Cheers

Dan Greer
Economics Major, Spanish Minor
Class of 2008

Dear Mr. Skilling,

In spring 2012, I was awarded the Van Skilling Award to research *The Effect of FDI on the Growth of the Indian Economy: A Two Sector Growth Model Analysis*. I am writing this letter to thank you for the generous gift that you have given me and to inform you about the progress I have made on this research topic.

I am studying economics and mathematics at University College, London (UCL) this semester and am attempting to complete the literature review for my research here. I am fortunate enough to be able to access not only the resourceful UCL library, but also several other University of London libraries. The availability of abundant resources have helped me to review the literature on this topic from two sides- the theoretical literature on two-sector growth models and the empirical literature on the effects (or possible effects) of FDI on emerging markets. As my literature review on these topics draws to an end, I will be developing a thesis on which I can build a model.

My research until this stage has enhanced my knowledge in the economics of growth and the macroeconomic empirical issues faced by emerging economies. I am assured that the next stage of research will help me with my model building and testing skills, an aspect of studying economics that I have rarely done before. I plan to complete my research project before the annual Van Skilling Award presentation in spring 2013. I would like to thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to research growth models in the context of FDI in the Indian economy.

Kind Regards,

Aradhya Sood

Colorado College'14

August 27, 2012

Dear Van Skilling:
Department of Economics
Colorado College
14 E. Cache la Poudre St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

I would like to express sincere gratitude for starting Van Skilling award at Colorado College Economics Department. I received the award during the spring semester of my junior year (Spring 2009) to perform an in-depth investigation on the Japanese pension system. This award incited me to work harder and develop a game theory model to study the social security system of the Japanese government. You will be happy to know that I was able to write a paper based on this topic that I ended up using for my advanced game theory class at Colorado College. While I am currently pursuing a doctoral program in economics, I aspire to hone this paper further someday that your award motivated me to come up with.

The award will both remind me of my fond memories at Palmer Hall and inspire recent Colorado College alumni, including myself, to follow your path of generosity. I am grateful to you for giving me with an opportunity to present my research findings in front of CC community. Although I will not be able to see you at CC this Homecoming, I would like to express sincere thanks for your generosity from the bottom of my heart. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Jayash Paudel (email: jayashpaudel@gmail.com)
Colorado College Class of 2010

Yannick M. Schindler
Kieler Strasse 360A
Hamburg, 22525
Germany

Van Skilling
125 Netas Court
Palm Desert, CA 92260
USA

Hamburg, Germany - September 8th, 2012

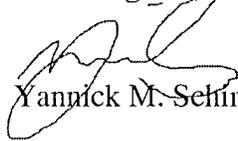
Dear Van Skilling,

I write to you thousands of miles from The Colorado College but with an ever so great appreciation for your generous gift. I was one of the fortunate recipients of the Van Skilling award last academic year and used the funds to purchase data for my senior thesis research work. With your support—and of course the help of my thesis advisor—I was able to produce a thesis that was recognized as the most outstanding in the department last year. I cannot avoid the cliché of stating that I could not have experienced such success without the Skilling Fund. I also had the great privilege of being invited by Professor Judy Laux to represent The Colorado College and my research at the *International Academic Conference* held in Rome. In the spirit of frankness: your kind gift had a profound effect on my senior research and the culmination of my studies at The Colorado College.

I would also like to speak on behalf of some of my peers who as well benefited from the Skilling Award. During my senior year I worked closely with individuals who had received the award and produced enviable research. It is together with these students that I would like to firmly express not only our gratitude for your generosity but also our appreciation for a gift that allows the economics students at The Colorado College to conduct very respectable and insightful research. I echo the opinion of my peers when I say that conducting independent research with funding at the undergraduate level has been an incredibly rewarding experience that adds a valuable touch to an already polished education received at The Colorado College. As a personal anecdote I would like to retell of the surprise some of the attendees at the *International Academic Conference* expressed when realizing that a colleague and I were merely undergraduate students. We couldn't have impressed these astonished attendees had it not been for the Skilling Fund.

I thank you sincerely for your gift and hope that I may someday contribute to the Skilling Fund and support future generations of bright, relentless, and eager young researchers in the economics department at The Colorado College. I am discomforted that I cannot thank you in person this year but hope to see you again in the very near future.

Warm regards,



Yannick M. Schindler

Dear Mr. Van Skilling,

I was somewhat of a black sheep in the Colorado College Economics department. I declared rather late, and by that time I had already defined the groups that would carry me throughout college. At that point, working three jobs and singing with an a cappella group, I simply didn't have any time I could spend to really become a part of the Econ community. I always regretted this detachment but never had an opportunity to correct it. It didn't help that sometimes I simply wasn't sure I had made the right choice; perhaps Economics wasn't for me.

I wish I could say your grant changed everything and I graduated with honors in Economics after a rewarding and emotional connection with my classmates. Let's not delude ourselves. My GPA in Economics courses was less than a 3.0 and that's about all I want to disclose. I still didn't fully grasp macroeconomics, I kept having to look up what all of the acronyms meant, and I have never had a great head for mathematical details.

But working on a Van Skilling project helped. In fact, it helped a great deal. It certainly reminded me why I had chosen Economics in the first place: I saw in this field of study a way to help make sense of the world through a lens built through a desire for objectivity. It was like Psychology but I didn't have to take two blocks of Neuroscience, or Sociology without the, well, sociology aspect of it. In short, it was a great tool to help someone still struggling with their identity try to extract some meaningful data from a soup of statistical noise. More than that, I had fun. I enjoyed the graphing and the research and the mindless data entry into endless spreadsheets. Finally arriving at a conclusion backed up by evidence was, well, awesome.

I'm not working in the field of Economics now. My thesis had nothing to do with HIV Incidence in India--I took a different track and researched Social Media and Consumer Choice Theory. I'm looking for jobs as a marketing and communications specialist, not an economic analyst or in the financial industry. But I take the things I learned in the Econ department--an eye for statistics, an insistence on empiricism, a tendency towards bad jokes about incentives--and I believe they help me regardless of what profession I end up in. Most importantly, I keep a deep sense of curiosity about our society, a desire to know how things function once you peel away the "common sense" of what everybody knows and examine what is really happening.

Honestly, I'm still not a particularly talented economist, but I know what I learned in Econ--and with my project partner while working with the award money--are valuable in more than just a concrete way. I suppose your award held a great deal of marginal utility for me, and I'll be reinvesting that into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Skilling. I wish you all the best.

Daniel Kwan
Class of 2012

Dear Van,

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for everything that you do for the Economics Department at Colorado College, and specifically for your funding of the Skilling Award that I was fortunate enough to receive in 2004. I used the funds that I received from the Skilling Award to travel to Vancouver in the Summer of 2004 to present research that I completed as part of my thesis at the annual meeting of the Western Economics Association. It was an amazing experience for me, and I would not have been able to afford the trip had it not been for the Skilling Award. The opportunity I had as a student at Colorado College to do original research and present it at an international conference was rare for an undergraduate, and I feel incredibly lucky to have had such opportunities.

I know that you do a lot for the Economics and Business Department at CC, in addition to your funding of the Skilling Award. I remember taking a Business Policy and Strategy Class that you helped teach, and I learned a lot from you in that class. I welcomed your presence in the department each year, and you were an inspiration to me and a lot of other students. I give a lot of credit to the CC Economics Department for my success in life, and you, along with the rest of my professors, deserve some of that credit. I am one of the few people that I know that is actually using my undergraduate training in my career working as an economic consultant, and the education that I received at Colorado College is second to none. Thank you again for your support of the Department in general, and me in particular.

Best,

Erin Hutchinson (née Spenner)

Dear Van Skilling,

It is with much appreciation that I write to thank you for the Van Skilling Award in Economics. Five years ago Van Skilling funds helped me conduct Dependency Theory research in Costa Rica. With your help I had the opportunity to interview dozens of Costa Rican banana workers and capture the neglected voice of those we label as dependent. Costa Rica's comparative advantage shifts from coffee, to bananas, to tourism is one model for developing nations struggling under the resource curse. Again thank you for opening my eyes to a more optimistic view.

Sincerely,
Philip Glaize



Alex Day

1221 1st Ave

Seattle, WA

98101

Dear Van,

I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to thank you again for your generosity in awarding the VanSkilling Award to me, and all of those involved. I still think back to our long conversation in your office about life/business. I hope to see you again soon.

Best,
Alex

Dear Mr. Van Skilling,

I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your generous contribution about a year ago. While my thesis sparked my interest in regards to social business, it was your support that ultimately opened the doors for me. I was able to work hands-on with a non-profit organization that has taught me valuable skills for life. I see great potential in organizations that blend philanthropy and commerce, and it was your help that allowed me to delve deeper into this fascinating world. It's people as selfless and kind as you that give me hope for a better future. I wish I could be taking your Policy & Strategy class this year!

Sincerely,
Thomas Modern

October 3rd, 2012

Mr. Van Skilling
Economics and Business Department
Colorado College
14 E. Cache La Poudre
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Mr. Van Skilling –

As a past Van Skilling Award winner, I have been asked to write a letter to you for your celebration on October 12th. I feel that I owe you so much more than just a letter.

Mr. Skilling, before speaking to the award, I want you shed a little light on the image that I and many of my fellow CC friends have had of you. Your name is very well regarded not just in the Economics and Business Department, but across the school. You are one of CC's most generous contributors – beyond monetarily speaking, the time and commitment that you have dedicated to our school is praiseworthy. I am well aware of the classes that you have taught, the personal career advice that you have given to many of my colleagues, your participation on our Board of Trustees, and the numerous dedications that you have made to CC. As a 4 year varsity football player (including playing on CC's final team in 2008), your name frequently came up as a potential ally for the reinstatement of our beloved program. Thank you for all that you have given beyond the Van Skilling Award.

I received my Van Skilling Award in the fall of 2008. I was seeking grants to fund travel through Central America to research the potential of a sugarcane ethanol industry for my senior capstone piece. In college I became extremely interested in immigration reform. I ultimately concluded that economic development in Latin America was integral for abating the massive flow of undocumented immigrants pursuing livable wages in the United States. By providing well-paying jobs in Latin America, fathers and husbands could stay with their families and maintain a quality life - they wouldn't need to go to foreign lands and inch out a living to send remittances home to their families. My Van Skilling Award funded my travel in Central America to meet with scientists, sugarcane producers, and economists to explore the potential of creating a biofuel industry that would supply well-paying jobs. I traveled through Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica for 2 weeks in January of 2009 to carry out my research.

My paper, titled *Sugarcane and Ethanol Production: Biofuels for Economic Growth in Central America and the Caribbean*, earned me distinction and honors within the International Political Economy concentration. It also helped me to identify my true interest in working in development in Latin America.

Today, I am an Associate Consultant with The Boston Consulting Group in Mexico City, Mexico. After completing a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship at the Universidad Nacional Autonomy de Mexico from 2010-2011, I decided to stay in Mexico and pursue a job where I felt that I could really learn about development and job creation in Latin America. I am literally living the passion that your Van Skilling Award helped me to develop. In the next few months I should find out what Business School I will be attending to pursue my MBA. I plan to continue working on development in Latin America following grad school.

Mr. Skilling, thank you for all that you have done for CC and all that the Van Skilling Award permitted me to do. If I can ever be of service to you or your family, do not hesitate to let me know. The least that I can do is extend my friendship and camaraderie.

Sincerely –

Billy Blaustein – Class of 2009

Dear Van,

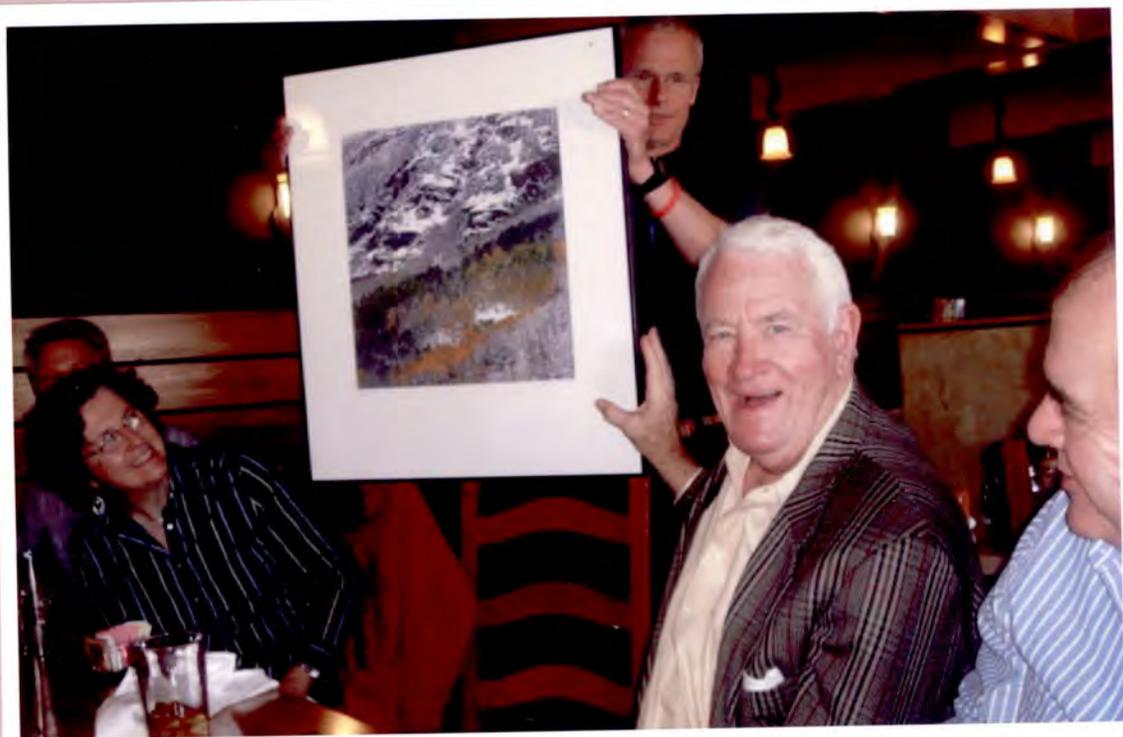
I am fortunate to be one of the many students that the Skilling Award has benefited over the years. When I think back on my time at CC there is no doubt that the highlight of my experience was my senior thesis research. The award provided the crucial additional funds needed for my travel to the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, an adventure and education in itself. Thank you for your generosity. The opportunity nourished my passion for travel and the environment that I continue to chase today.

Currently, I am developing my independent research skills further by pursuing my Masters in Environmental Economics at Rhodes University in South Africa. I also run a small non-profit, 3 Fathoms, that focuses on innovative shark research, an aspect of my Masters. While it is difficult to determine exactly how one gets from one place to the next in life, I do know that the chance to pursue my own interests and research at CC was a significantly positive influence.

The Skilling Award is an enormous asset to the Economics department and to the recipients. Thank you. I look forward to someday having the resources to reciprocate such a gift of opportunity and independence to CC students as well.

Warm Regards,
Clare Keating-Daly

Fall 2006, Skilling Title: Cost-benefit analysis of the Cheetah Conservation Fund



Dear Van,

Greetings from Baltimore, Maryland! Five years ago I received my bachelors from CC, capping off a wonderful four years. As I move forward in my career and take on new challenges, my appreciation for the CC experience continues to deepen. Having spent my first three years post-CC in the non-profit sector, I used the occasion of an MBA from George Washington University to resurrect dormant math and economics skills. I am now working as a consultant for the business analytics division of IBM, an area that helps organizations leverage data to improve outcomes. It is a great position for a Colorado College graduate, for somebody who is comfortable moving quickly from one industry or challenge to the next, for somebody who can work with numbers, and with people, for somebody who, when push comes to shove, really knows how to immerse him or herself in a problem and understand it from the inside out.

Colorado College, and opportunities I had there such as the Van Skilling award, prepared me for this new challenge. The award helped me focus my studies following a rigorous but immensely rewarding junior-year block in dynamic macroeconomics. It enabled me to acquire software that pushed me to go deeper on a subject that captured my imagination and begin my thesis work a full year before its due date. It certainly contributed to a better final product, and has served as an accomplishment that I can point to when pursuing new opportunities.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity you granted me, and for your continued support of student research and initiative in economics and business. Unfortunately, I was unable to make the trip out to Colorado Springs this year; however, I am thrilled to be part of the effort to honor you and all you have done, and will certainly be there in spirit this Friday afternoon in Gates!

Warmly,
- John Dillman

October 8, 2012

Dear Van Skilling,

I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to receive a Van Skilling Award during my time at The Colorado College. I graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts in International Political Economy with a minor in African Studies and a certificate in Community Engaged Leadership. The research experience made possible by the Van Skilling Award stands as one of the most rewarding experiences I had during my time at The Colorado College.

In my four years at CC I received two Van Skilling Awards. In the first the original goal was to study how changes in the way that India collects HIV statistics affects HIV prevalence numbers. After doing a lot of research, my partner Dan Kwan and I realized that the numbers just weren't available, so instead we pivoted our question to data that we could find and looked at how economic recessions affect HIV funding, both from the United States to India, and The United States to the rest of the world. We found, predictably, that funding did significantly decrease with recessions, but interestingly that there was a one to two year lag before the decrease in funding took place, often starting after the recession was over. Through this experience I learned that research challenges often can't be foreseen when starting a project, and flexibility is important.

The Second Van Skilling Award was to use new data to update a paper written by Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler on how well the government funds for domestic violence in the US are distributed. Working with Logan Dahl and Michael Cooley, we were able to construct a really interesting data-set, finding that many of the predictors from Tiefenthaler's previous paper had changed. While some people might have had more recreational experiences in their final blocks, I view doing this research with two good friends as one of the best things I could have done with my final months at CC.

I am currently studying public policy at The Hertie School of Governance, in Berlin. I am continuing to study public health and policy through the lens of economics and I have my experience at CC to thank for inspiring me towards the field.

At the moment, I am working with two friends on a website start-up, and developing a non-profit consulting firm at my graduate school. My Skilling Awards have helped me realize that I am capable, even as a student, of tackling big problems, contributing analysis and solutions, and that education and teaching can be structured creatively. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Benjamin A Snow