Hello, my name is Caroline Zolis and I'm a fourth year psychology major in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences, and the recipient of the Alun Joseph Tribute Scholarship. I was honored when I was asked to share a message on behalf of my fellow 2020 student award recipients.

I'd like to start by congratulating my fellow winners and peers on the recognition they have received for their many impressive and diverse accomplishments. In a time of ongoing challenges brought on by a pandemic, I can say that receiving an award has offered some light and positivity in my life.

Receiving an award not only provided some much needed financial support, but it also made me feel empowered to focus on my goals. It made me feel validated and reminded me that people care about my success and about building my confidence, and that people believe in me.

Personally, receiving additional funding as a student has been crucial. Having extra support to pay tuition allowed me to focus on my studies and continue to get involved within the community through volunteerism. I'm one of 175 students who have received an award this year in this college.

I know that every student award winner has their own story and unique circumstances to share about how this award has helped, opened doors and overcome obstacles. Despite our unique stories and goals, I'm sure my fellow students would agree that we wish we could thank our donors in person, and let you know that you matter to us.

You have inspired us with your generosity. Thank you for supporting the next generation and doing good in this world. I hope that we'll make you proud, and some day, pay it forward.