



*Three*  
***RENAISSANCE SCHOLARSHIPS***  
***@ \$2000 each***

*Endowed by Jan Z. Wiranowski (Yahn Z. Viranovsky)  
Professor of Mathematics (formerly of Foreign Languages)*

***Categories of scholarships***

- *Math* ■ *Math-based Science* ■ *Non-traditional academic background and/or out-of-the-ordinary life experiences* ■

**NOTE:**

***In general, most JZW scholarships are credited towards the tuition at MCC***



***DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ROCHESTER, NY***

### Note about Jan Z. Wiranowski Scholarships

- There is a total of three Jan Z. Wiranowski Renaissance Scholarships **available each** year, for the categories shown on the cover page. The distribution of the awards among the applicants will depend on the qualifications of the applicants. Hence, it is conceivable that in any given year all three scholarship recipients **could** be receiving the same type of scholarship.
- If **more than one** scholarship is applied for (math/science **and** non-traditional), the chart on **page 6** titled “Completed Courses Relevant to this Application” should be supplied for **each scholarship**. Also, **two letters** of recommendation are required for **each scholarship**. (This means that four letters of recommendation should be submitted if you are applying for both scholarships.)
- The scholarships have been endowed by Professor Wiranowski to express his care for students, his gratitude to MCC and to underscore his faith **in an enlightened** human potential.

## MATH OR MATH-BASED SCIENCE

### ELIGIBILITY

**Any full-time student currently enrolled at Monroe Community College meeting the following requirements:**

1. Must have successfully completed at least **12** credit hours.
2. Must have successfully completed at least 4 credit hours of mathematics at a level of Calculus I or higher, and must be currently enrolled in either a mathematics course or a mathematics related course at Monroe Community College.
3. Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher.
4. Must be planning an academic major in mathematics, mathematics education, or a mathematics related field.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

**Please submit only the following:**

- Scholarship Information Form (page 6)
- Applicant's essay:  
*Tell us why you think you are a worthy candidate for this award. Include in your typed essay an explanation of your career goals in mathematics education or a mathematics related field. Share experiences that inspired your enthusiasm for mathematics. Provide any additional information that you feel supports your qualifications.*
- Two letters of recommendation from Monroe Community College faculty, at least one from a mathematics professor (forms: pages 7 – 8)
- Transcripts containing grades for any mathematics or area of specialization courses **not taken** at Monroe Community College. Transcripts for MCC courses are **not** needed.

**Completed applications with essays and recommendation letters are due in the Mathematics Department Office (8-510) no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**NON-TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC BACKGROUND  
AND/OR OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY LIFE EXPERIENCES**

The criteria for this scholarship are broad and flexible to the point that almost “anything goes”, as long as it is convincing, authentic, enhanced by excellence and by impressive aspirations of the applicant. This scholarship is designed for the candidates with a non-traditional academic background and/or with the significant out-of-the-ordinary life experiences.

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Any full-time student currently enrolled at Monroe Community College meeting the following requirements:**

1. Must have successfully completed at least 12 credit hours.
2. Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.3 or higher.
3. Must be able to demonstrate a degree of tangible accomplishments in the areas of interest and the field of specialization.
4. Must be able to show that she/he possesses some of the attributes and/or life experiences as sampled here (or the like): creativity, passion(s), vision, determination; visible progress and a clear movement toward accomplishing his/her goals or satisfying intellectual curiosity; strong and demonstrable commitment to hard work; determination and ability to face adversities; meaningful life experiences, ranging from being subjected to persecution, discrimination, abuse, or the like, to performing acts of courage, or having significantly and positively impacted the life of other human beings; other noble acts, noteworthy deeds or attributes.
5. Must have a plan and a set of criteria for the continued education that are linked to his/her hitherto accomplishments and/or personal history. This does not exclude well justified changes of direction in life. In fact, if such a change is real, practical and useful, it is very welcome; in accordance with the basic fact of life that *change is a must, so we must change*.
6. Must have successfully completed (or is in the process of completing by the end of the current semester) courses that are relevant to his/her professional objectives, in order to qualify for the award. It is left to the applicant, to convincingly elaborate on this compliance.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

***Please submit only the following:***

- Scholarship Information Form (page 6)
- Applicant's essay (The essay should address requirement #4 above.)
- Signed statement confirming scholarship eligibility, as described in requirements #3 & #6 above.
- Two letters of recommendation from Monroe Community College faculty representing different disciplines (forms: pages 7 – 8)
- Transcripts containing grades for any mathematics or area of specialization courses **not taken** at Monroe Community College. Transcripts for MCC courses are **not** needed.

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## LETTER TO THE APPLICANT FROM PROFESSOR JAN Z. WIRANOWSKI

Dear Applicant,

Please accept my best wishes for the realization of your professional dreams and goals. Like you, I too had dreams and still do.

This letter explains how the scholarships I have endowed came about. My life experiences: World War II with its bombs, bullets, fires, persecution, concentration camps, fear, hunger, shortages, child abuse, travel in freight cars, on the roof of the train; personal mistakes, failures and victories in life; passion for becoming multi-lingual and for mathematics, for mountains and skiing; desire to see the World; rough times; support from two Colleges, and from good and intelligent people who believed in human potential; perseverance and hard work; development of a personal philosophy of the astro-planetary humanism or univeersal humanism of hope; confronting adversities by the rule: "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" All of these experiences have contributed to the fact that today students in two colleges receive annually over \$10,000 in my endowed scholarships. It has been and still is a daunting yet exciting multi-lingual, multi-career journey: "from rags to teaches" (book-memoir, in progress).

My story: The year is 1939. Hitler attacks Poland from the West, Stalin from the East. The Pact von Ribbentrop-Molotov (Between Germany and the Soviet Union) aims at erasing Poland from the map of Europe. I am barely seven. While fleeing the Nazis, we face deportation to Siberia by the Soviets. On a drizzly November night, the boat tips over and we fall into the river Bug – demarcation line between the Nazis and the Soviets – while trying to reach Warsaw. Enduring several years of Nazi occupation – with all the killings, savagery and the Holocaust unleashed by Hitler. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1944, the Warsaw Uprising erupts. Ensues the total destruction of the city, population becomes decimated. At one point the Nazis are herding us to a concentration camp, but my Father pushes me behind a culvert in a ditch and orders me to stay there until they disappear – I am eleven years old. A year later (1945), the War ends and the forty year domination of Poland by the Soviets begins. At the age of sixteen, I decide to flee to the West, but nothing happens for another ten years: the Iron Curtain is impenetrable. In the meantime, I become fascinated with the sound of language. I listen to the BBC and to the Voice of America in English, to Radio Paris in French. Foreign languages become music to my ears. I study English, French, German, and Esperanto on my own.

After having outwitted the secret police, I scale the Iron Curtain on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1959, with \$18 in my pocket and begin living by means of no means in the Free World. Ironically, in said Free World, not only am I free from the Communists, but I am also liberated from home, from money, from work, from food and... from the immediate future. Progressively, I do volunteer work in the Alps, pick grapes in Champagne, become a messenger on bike in Paris – initially living in a room without electricity, without water and with a small window limiting my horizon to a dirty stairway – and finally, in February 1960, I become a "chef d'équipe" in a French foundry, near Le Mans. In March and April of 1962, I teach skiing in the French Alps. In May, I travel to Italy to say "Arrivederci Europa", before leaving Europe for America. At the end of May (1962), I land in New York with \$300 in my wallet. With a degree of sadness it dawns on me that my three years of residence in France are now over, but I look eagerly forward to discovering America. I settle in New Britain, Connecticut, and work as a precision grinder. Concurrently, I am struggling in ENG 101, a night class in a local college (only three months after coming to USA). A year and a half later I look for a job as a ski instructor.

1963, late November. I am making a trip in my gigantic 1958 Pontiac Chieftain – the first car I ever owned – from Connecticut to the Middlebury College Snow Bowl in Vermont, a ski area owed by Middlebury College. I am hired as a ski instructor for \$70 a week. I will live on the highest floor of the Middlebury Inn, eat in the basement with the service crew, shovel snow around the Inn early in the morning, teach skiing at the Bowl during the day, entertain the Inn guests in the evening or work at the reception desk in the Main Lobby.

Towards the end of the skiing season, I am introduced to the Director of the Language Schools at Middlebury College. Middlebury College is one of the best graduate language schools nationwide, with a broad array of Middlebury Graduate and Undergraduate language schools established in many foreign countries. Parenthetically, the former President of Poland, Lech Wałęsa, who together with President Reagan and Pope John Paul contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Empire, was awarded by Middlebury College a Doctorate Honoris Causa, in the year 2000.

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Monroe Community College • Department of Mathematics  
Jan Z. Wiranowski Renaissance Scholarships

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*During my three years in France, before coming to America, I made every possible effort to learn French better than anyone else, through self-study, through the endless daily practice and through asking innumerable questions of the people around me. It was truly PASSION at work. Mastery of French became my idée fixe. I channeled all my energies towards that objective, and I succeeded.*

*Hence, I was now ready for the opportunity that suddenly presented itself to me in Middlebury. Based upon my B.S. Degree from Poland and on my remarkable fluency in French, I was immediately accepted to the Summer Graduate Program at Middlebury College (1964). Quite incredibly, a few weeks later I was offered a position as a French teacher in the local junior/senior high school, in Middlebury, and received excellent classroom evaluations from the start. Interestingly enough, I had never studied French in college prior to that Summer Session in Middlebury, which only underscores the fact that “where there is a will, there is a way”. The following year, I went with a Middlebury College Graduate Program to Paris (studies at the Sorbonne included) and earned my Master Degree in French, in 1966. I furthermore completed all graduate work for a Ph.D. in French at the University of Rochester, and did some teaching.*

*In 1967, I was hired as a French instructor at Monroe Community College, in Rochester, NY. Next, I broadened my language skills by studying in Spain, Italy and Mexico, in order to also teach Spanish and Italian.*

*But change is a must, so we must change. In 1982, after several years of intensive graduate studies in mathematics (my new direction and passion) in addition to my full employment at MCC, I became a member of the Mathematics Department. I have now been teaching mathematics for nearly thirty years, and have also published creatively in the field of mathematics.*

*During my many years of service to MCC, since 1967, I have been continually inspired and encouraged by many prominent members of the College Community whose vision and faith in human potential have significantly impacted my career. It is against this intellectually fertile, non-myopic but thoroughly exhilarating background at MCC that I was able to meet head on the challenges of my significant professional diversification and intellectual enrichment.*

*In 1984, I cofounded the MCC Winter Mountaineers Club. I subsequently organized and led MCC winter expeditions to the Adirondacks, several times each season, over the period of ten years. Having been repeatedly listed in the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, I have always remained in close association with my students.*

*Finally, because of the wonderful things that happened to me in both Colleges, at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, and at Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY, I am now repaying my debt of gratitude, by having created scholarships for the students in both Colleges.*

*Currently, hosted by the Math Department at MCC, there are three endowed J. Z. Wiranowski Renaissance Scholarships, \$2000 each, for students majoring in math, math-based science, or for students with varied academic backgrounds and significant life experiences, and also one endowed \$2500 Universal Humanism of Hope Scholarship. At Middlebury College, there is one endowed \$3000 J.Z. Wiranowski French Graduate Scholarship “In Remembrance of the Snows of Yesteryear”. This amounts to the total of over \$10,000 that students receive annually through my scholarships, to further their education. Additional substantial scholarship funds will kick in when I kick out – hopefully in good humanistic spirits.*

*By sharing with you the gist of my still incomplete (I trust) life story, I hope to further encourage you to vigorously pursue your intellectual and professional goals in spite of any “torpedoes” that might appear on the horizon. I also hope that someday you will be able to assist people who are in need and strive to learn. Thanks.*

*With my best wishes for your continued success,*

*Jan (Yahn) Z. Wiranowski*

Professor of Mathematics  
(formerly, also Professor of Foreign Languages)

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Monroe Community College • Department of Mathematics  
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SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FORM

APPLICANT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOLARSHIP: (Check only one per application)

MATH / MATH – BASED SCIENCE       NONTRADITIONAL

Banner Student Number   M   \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Completed Courses Relevant to this Scholarship**

| Institution | Course Title | Course Number | Credits | Grade |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------|
|             |              |               |         |       |
|             |              |               |         |       |
|             |              |               |         |       |
|             |              |               |         |       |

**Current Courses Relevant to this Scholarship**

| Institution | Course Title | Course Number | Credits | Average |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------|---------|
|             |              |               |         |         |
|             |              |               |         |         |
|             |              |               |         |         |
|             |              |               |         |         |

Area of specialization / program of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations requested from:

1. \_\_\_\_\_      2. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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*Monroe Community College - Department of Mathematics  
Jan Z. Wiranowski Renaissance Scholarships*

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Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation from MCC Faculty \_\_\_\_\_

**To the candidate:** This form is to be completed by a Monroe Community College faculty member. Two references from different educational disciplines are required; at least one of them must be from a mathematics professor if you are applying for the math and/or math-based science scholarship. Please enter your name on the line above and give this form to an instructor who knows you well. Tell the instructor the scholarship for which you are applying and mark the appropriate box below.

SCHOLARSHIP: *(Check only one)*       MATH / MATH – BASED SCIENCE       NONTRADITIONAL

**Dear Faculty Member:**

The student named above is applying **for one or more of the Jan Z. Wiranowski Renaissance Scholarships (Math, Math-based Science, and Non-Traditional Academic Background and/or Out-of-the-Ordinary Life Experiences)**. In order to help the Scholarship Committee obtain an accurate picture of the applicant's qualifications, we ask that you answer these questions as fully and candidly as possible.

Faculty Member's name and position \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Extension \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments on this student are based on:

- Length of time you have known the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
- Your relationship to the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
- The course(s)/semester(s) you taught this student:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

In comparison to the approximately \_\_\_\_\_ students I have evaluated in the past two years, I would place this nominee in (check one):

	the top 10 %		the top 25 %		the top 50 %		below average
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Narrative Comments: Please comment on the qualifications of the candidate and why you feel this candidate is deserving of the award. Try to comment on the following: aptitude for further study, enthusiasm, initiative, maturity, and the ability to relate to others. Feel free to use additional space if needed. (Please type.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your recommendation to the Monroe Community College Mathematics Department Office. Thank you for your cooperation.

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SCHOLARSHIP: *(Check only one)*       MATH / MATH – BASED SCIENCE       NONTRADITIONAL

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- The course(s)/semester(s) you taught this student:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

In comparison to the approximately \_\_\_\_\_ students I have evaluated in the past two years, I would place this nominee in (check one):

|  |              |  |              |  |              |  |               |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|---------------|
|  | the top 10 % |  | the top 25 % |  | the top 50 % |  | below average |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|---------------|

**Narrative Comments:** Please comment on the qualifications of the candidate and why you feel this candidate is deserving of the award. Try to comment on the following: aptitude for further study, enthusiasm, initiative, maturity, and the ability to relate to others. Feel free to use additional space if needed. (Please type.)

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