



Fall 2017

NEWS & Views



Mark Your Calendars - It's an event year!

The Ed Brennan Memorial **GOLF** Tournament & Banquet 2018



We hope you will join us this coming spring for our exciting biennial fundraising event. As you may remember, we have our Founders Fund major fundraising golf event every other year and 2018 is the year! Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament and Banquet will be held on Monday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 10. The two-day event will prove to be bigger and more exciting than ever before. We will begin the festivities with a cocktail reception and banquet on MONDAY evening - April 9 at our new and stunning clubhouse. The evening will include dinner plus a silent and live auction. Our goals are set high and with your help we know we can reach them with ease.

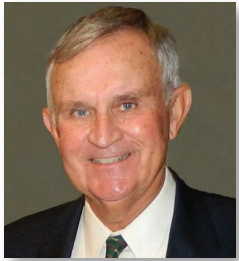
The golf tournament will be held on TUESDAY - April 10 at Club Pelican Bay golf course with morning and afternoon rounds. A continental breakfast will be available before the morning round and a luncheon between rounds will be served.

Edward J. Brennan was a founding member of The Founders Fund and served on its first Board. He and other board members organized their first golf tournament and banquet which was held in 1994. The event has been a tradition ever since and in 2000; the event was dedicated to Ed Brennan who passed in 1999. The Brennan family made a substantial gift to The Founders Fund in his honor. The Brennan family continues to support the Founders Fund.

Our 2016 event brought in over \$450,000 for scholarships and we hope to surpass that amount this coming year. With each dollar raised, more students will have the opportunity to receive a Founders Fund scholarship. We hope you will be as excited about this year's event as we are. We're always in need of corporate sponsorships and auction items. If you can suggest a sponsor or know of a unique auction item, please let us know.

*MORE information will
be mailed to you SOON!*

MESSAGE FROM 2017/2018 CHAIRPERSON Rob McNaghten



This past May, The Founders Fund awarded college scholarships to 37 Collier County high school seniors, an all-time record. Each student now receives \$2,500 per year, or \$10,000 over four years provided they maintain a 3.00 grade point average.

Trustees of The Founders Fund visit the schools each year, interview the students and select those who will receive scholarships. Those Trustees in their final year of service on the Founders Fund Board agree that the most memorable and challenging experiences have been interviewing and selecting students for the scholarships. Resources only allow selection of one third to one half of all the scholarship applicants from a pool of 65 to 70. Every applicant makes a compelling case for the scholarship but sadly we have to draw the line and make the hard choices. Most students come from families struggling to make ends meet, yet the students have reached academic and extra-curricular heights unimaginable given their circumstances. Most have part time jobs to help the family or save for college. Many are the first in their family to attend college. See their names and photos on page 3.

Many persons have taken part in the widespread impact the Founders Fund has had on young lives. The generous financial and in-kind support from Club Pelican Bay, individual members of the club, our volunteer Board and community business partners in greater Naples have made a huge difference for the scholars and their families.

On another subject, please note our major fund raiser The Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament and Banquet, held every other year, will be on April 9 and 10 at the new Club Pelican Bay. For the first time in many years this traditional event will be spread over a more relaxing two-day time frame. The banquet, silent and live auctions will be the evening of Monday, April 9 followed by the golf tournament on Tuesday, April 10.

Finally, I am happy to report that our newly created Endowment Fund has grown to \$713,000. Considering pledges outstanding, we expect the Endowment Fund to reach nearly \$850,000 by the end of 2017 ~ well on the way to its goal of \$1 million by the end of 2018. We thank all who have generously supported the Endowment Fund. If you are interested in supporting the Endowment Fund, please contact Stacy Lee-Williams, Fund Administrator, for more information at foundersfund1@gmail.com or call the office at 239-593-0124.

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The Founders Fund

239-593-0124 or foundersfund1@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Founders-Fund-Inc

A Moment of Recognition for Sue Davenport

Recognition of the many years of devoted service of Sue Davenport, as the part-time Administrator of The Founders Fund, is long overdue. She started with The Founders Fund in 1999 and resigned from her position in 2014. Her full-time job during this period was as Administrative Assistant to Bob Bittner, Director of Golf Course Operations for Club Pelican Bay.

Sue had many responsibilities over the 15 years working for the Founders Fund; her favorite was working with the students who were awarded scholarships. She admirably balanced her full time duties for the Club with her part time work at The Founders Fund. Even after resigning her role, she has been frequently consulted about issues concerning the Founders Fund and happily shares her knowledge, experiences and memory from her many years of service.

After 22 years in golf course operations, Sue continues to work for Club Pelican Bay with her recent responsibility as that of Human Resources Administrator.

Sue actually began full-time work at the Club in 1992. Shortly before that, a young man from Ohio, Tomas Paul Davenport, started work at the Club in 1991 as Golf Course Assistant Superintendent. He also reported to Bob Bittner. He worked for the Club until 2002 when he became Golf Sales Representative for Site One Landscape Supply.

Tomas graduated from The Ohio State University in 1989 majoring in natural resources.

As a result of their budding friendship as employees at the Club, Sue and Tomas were married in 2006. Sadly to all, Tomas passed away unexpectedly on September 4, 2017, at the young age of 52.

In recognition of Sue's long and devoted service to The Founders Fund, our Board of Trustees, with the approval of Sue, elected to fund a scholarship in memory of Sue's husband. To date, members of The Founders Fund Board and friends have donated nearly \$4,000 toward the scholarship fund in Tomas's memory.

If you also wish to make a donation to The Founders Fund to benefit the Tomas Davenport Scholarship please make the donation payable to The Founders Fund using the choices below. Please indicate your donation is in memory of Tomas Davenport:

- 1) By mail: send to The Founders Fund, 707 Gulf Park Drive, Naples, Florida 34108 and note: attention Stacy Lee-Williams
- 2) Hand delivery: same address with attention noted to Stacy Lee-Williams (or at the main desk in the new clubhouse)
- 3) On Line with credit card or PayPal: visit The Founders Fund website at thefoundersfundinc.org, then click on Donate button and complete information



The Founders Fund Awards Scholarships to 37 Collier County Students

2017



Janine Tracey, Michelle Schubert



Louiseny Joseph, Erick Joseph, Patrick Joseph, Jean Joseph



Melissa Hernandez, Robert Garcia



Jason Randall, Linda Zell Randall, Rob McNaghten



Juanita Alvarado, Zuleima Toro, Brunos Toro



Melissa Zizzo, John Zizzo, Mary Zizzo, Amanda Zizzo

2017 was a record year for granting scholarships! During our annual ice cream social, 37 Collier County students were awarded Founders Fund new scholarships on April 20.

Renewable scholarships of \$370,000 were awarded during the annual reception which honored the recipients along with their families. Each student was presented with a renewable scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 per academic year totaling a \$10,000 overall.

Each year, scholarships are awarded to Collier County students

seeking financial assistance in order to pursue a higher education. The scholarships are non-restrictive and are given to help students with college and post high-school educational expenses.

With the addition of this year's 37 students, the total number of students receiving Founders Fund scholarships this coming year will be 96. This year, the scholarship award amount was increased from \$2000 to \$2500 per year along with the number of students awarded scholarships increasing from an average of 25 each year to 37 for 2017/2018.



Alejandro Martinez, Maria Martinez, Imelda Reyes



Everybody enjoyed the ice cream bar



Schuyler Peck, Milagros Jerez



Tiffany Morina



Scholarship Recipients



Fiona Pashollari, Sue McNaghten, Teuta Miska

2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Barron Collier High School:** Jason Randall, Fiona Pashollari, Kala Ashlee Parkinson, Cecilia Sofia Peregrin
- Community School:** Tiffany Morina, Corey Hixson
- Golden Gate High School:** Michelle Lauren Schubert, Lisa Tseng, Maria Martinez Reyes, Marlene Ruiz-Perez
- Gulf Coast High School:** Nicole Garcia, Federico Martinez
- Immokalee High School:** Azariah Howard, Rosalinda Matayer, Erick Hidalgo
- Lely High School:** Zuleima Toro, Patrick Joseph, Erick Joseph, Watson Marcelin, Robert Garcia, Jason Francoeur
- Lorenzo Walker:** Aurora Medellin-Gutierrez, Milagros Jerez, Brady Lee Marshall Sharbaugh
- Naples High School:** Cameron Mary Bonk, Leo Gonzalez, Oscar Rodriguez, Camila Cal
- Palmetto Ridge High School:** Andrea Vargas, Angie Emily Joseph, Ariel Marie McCrary, Taylor Sorrell
- St. John Newman:** John Zizzo
- Club Pelican Bay:** Thomas DeMallie, Maddeline Gross, Brendan Fieger, Donna Taylor



W E H A V E M A I L



Hope all is well with my friends at The Founders Fund! I would like to share a story with you. Last week, I got an acceptance call from one of the top Masters in Physician Assistant Studies schools in the country – Northeastern University! It was a moment that I could not believe. Over the years, it has seemed as if all the odds were stacked against me with being a minority, first-generation college student, and coming from a low-income single-parent home. But through it all, I've been perseverant and optimistic.

I am so grateful to have had such an amazing organization such as The Founders Fund supporting me in my efforts to strive towards a brighter future. Because of the aid you have given me, I was able to focus more on my academics and extracurricular activities which has helped me grow more as an individual and future healthcare provider. I hope one day that I can help others in a special way, just like you have helped me. Thank you once again,

Daniela Herrera – Class of 2018, Florida International University



I'm attending The George Washington University and have adjusted to the urban life quite well. I'm able to find my way around D.C. pretty easily although, it was tough the first week finding classes as I had to use Google maps to find the buildings.

I am on the Club Lacrosse team and will be getting a significant amount of playing time. We have had a lot of practices and one scrimmage with a couple more to go before fall ball ends in November.

I also just joined the NROTC unit at GW and after the first day, I can tell that it's where I'm supposed to be. I was already in the Naval Science course but I still have a lot of catching up to do. It's really special to be a part of the NROTC unit here in D.C. with the other Universities around the area.

All in all, college has been a good experience. Classes are hard but I have friends that help me and I go to office hours whenever needed. My roommates and I have a great bond as we are all on the lacrosse team.

Thank you for all you do and for the opportunity to share my story.

Thomas (Tad) DeMallie – Class of 2021, The George Washington University



My heartbreaks as I prepare to leave my home away from home, Saint Mary's College. Although I will miss the strong, confident women I am lucky enough to call my classmates and my quirky and intelligent professors, I am confident that SMC has given me the voice I will use for the rest of my life. Currently, I am working on my senior comprehensive projects in both Psychology and Theatre. Although I won't begin my Psych project until Spring semester, I have already begun my theatre project. I will be directing a full length play called "Women Playing Hamlet" by William Missouri Downs. It is a comedy that focuses on the struggles of women in theatre, a field (like many others) that is mostly male dominated.

I have also begun my grad school search. I'm looking at several schools right now and am struggling to pick one. It's not that I can't find one I like, it's that I want to do so many amazing things in my life – I can't decide what I want to accomplish first. I want to direct plays, fly planes, deliver babies, travel the world, and get my PhD in Psychology. One thing's for sure, Saint Mary's has prepared me well for every obstacle ahead of me.

Thank you Founders Fund. ***Makena Henell***



Save The Dates



The Ed Brennan Memorial GOLF Tournament

2-DAY EVENT IN 2018

Monday & Tuesday
- APRIL 9 & 10

Dinner/Banquet will be held in the new Club Dining Room at 6pm on April 9

Golf Tournament will be held on April 10

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

SAVE THE DATE!

THE GREATEST TRAVEL SHOW ON EARTH

Presented by



PREFERRED TRAVEL OF NAPLES INC

**February 12, 2018 • Monday - 5 to 8 PM
at Club Pelican Bay**

The Founders Fund is excited to be the benefactors of Preferred Travel's travel showcase this year. We have been selected as the charity for this event and will receive 100% of the proceeds. The event will feature a world of travel thrills, surprises and adventures including entertainment, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. More than 50 travel partners of Preferred Travel will be represented including top ocean and river cruise lines.

Please plan on attending Preferred Travel's annual travel showcase with this year's theme being - *THE GREATEST TRAVEL SHOW ON EARTH.*

A \$60 donation per person to attend the show will support the Founders Fund scholarships.

- Online registration is available on our website: www.TheFoundersFundInc.org.
- Reservations may also be made by mailing check payable to The Founders Fund, Inc. and mailing to 707 Gulf Park Drive, Naples, FL 34108 (Attention: Stacy Lee-Williams)

Tell your friends!



The Founders Fund Mission:

The Founders Fund, Inc., founded in 1991, is a non-profit/tax-exempt charitable organization that provides financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training.

Since its inception, over 656 students have been awarded more than \$3.6 million in scholarships.



The Founders Fund, Inc.
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Naples, FL 34108

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for TWO great fundraisers in 2018!



THE GREATEST TRAVEL SHOW ON EARTH

Presented by



PREFERRED TRAVEL
OF NAPLES INC

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 • 5 to 8 PM
at Club Pelican Bay



The Ed Brennan Memorial GOLF Tournament

MONDAY & TUESDAY - APRIL 9 & 10