



Spring 2019

NEWS & Views



The Founders Fund Holds 2018 Annual Holiday Scholars Luncheon

The Annual Holiday Scholars Luncheon was held on Friday December 28 at Club Pelican Bay. Scholarship recipients, sponsors and the Founders Fund Board of Directors gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the students who are currently receiving scholarships. Out of the 102 Founders Fund students currently attending college, 27 students who were home for the holidays attended the luncheon.



Scholarship students home for the holidays

Adam Crescenzi, Founders Fund Chair, in his welcoming remarks emphasized the importance of changing lives through higher education and gave words of encouragement for students to always reach for their goals.



Thais Martinez, Olga Placeres



Jennifer Herrera, Susan Brown

The students individually spoke about their college studies and career goals. Their aspirations included careers in law, medicine, science, engineering, teaching, finance, music composition and more. Each year, we are more and more impressed with our Founders Fund scholars.

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SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI EXPRESS GRATITUDE

I graduated in Spring 2017 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Communication and Child Development. The Founders Fund was literally the reason why I was able to eat and have shelter while an undergrad; I am forever grateful!

~ Ethiana Previlus – Graduated College 2017 (FF Alumni)

(See entire story on page 6)



MESSAGE FROM 2019/2020 CHAIRPERSON Adam Crescenzi



To all of our donors, I wanted you to know that we are truly changing the lives of many Collier County high school children through your generous support of the Founders Fund Scholarship program. If you weren't aware, last April we awarded 35 scholarships with each student receiving a \$10,000 scholarship commitment; \$2,500 per year for four years as long as they maintain their academic status. Next month, we will be awarding more scholarships which is being made possible by your donations.

We are currently funding 102 scholarships for students who are attending 13 different Florida colleges and 12 other colleges around the country. Two years ago, we established the Karen Pulte Endowment Fund which reached the \$1.6 million level, along with our annual donations, we have over \$400,000 to support the scholarship awards for 2019. Keep in mind, the need is great and the value we offer the students is greatly appreciated. You can read the testimonials from graduates and students in this newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS CONTRIBUTING.

MISSION: The Founders Fund, Inc. of Club Pelican Bay has stayed true to its mission since 1991 — to provide financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training. Over \$3.9 million dollars has been awarded to over 680 local students from Collier County (FL) high schools who have demonstrated both the need and the outstanding merit required to receive the scholarship award from The Founders Fund.



Please visit the Founders Fund website at:

TheFoundersFundInc.org

for a full list of our calendar of events.

239-593-0124 or foundersfund1@gmail.com



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

The Founders Fund, Inc.
707 Gulf Park Drive
Naples, FL 34108

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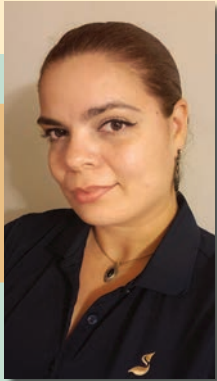
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**We've
Got
MAIL**

Our Scholars



Each semester, we reach out to our Founders Fund scholars to find out how school is going and how their scholarship is helping. We've heard from 14 students recently and each one expresses their gratitude in a very special message.



I'm known at Club Pelican Bay as Daniela; I've worked as a golf attendant at CPB for over 13 years. Fortunately, I was awarded the scholarship from the Founders Fund; it was one of the most wonderful feelings knowing that I can change something about my future and become a professional one day.

It was a difficult process to finally get admitted to college because I finished high school 20 years ago in Romania. It took me a year of prerequisites including translations, transcripts, classes and tests before I finally got admitted.

Today, I am in my second year at Florida Southwestern State College; my major is Business Administration and my minor is Paralegal Studies. I am a straight A student with a 4.0 GPA. I work full time and I have full custody of my son; it might take me a little bit longer getting my degree, but I'm determined.

I am so grateful that I am in the United States and that I've met so many wonderful people at the Club that are giving me a chance to better my future.

The Founders Fund is a life changing organization bringing happiness and hope to people like me that never dared to see beyond the lines because I used to believe that I am not good enough to dream and achieve more. With all my respect and appreciation, thank you for helping me.

~ Donna Sue Taylor - Florida Southwestern State College

ACHIEVE

I'm currently attending the University of Florida and majoring in philosophy and economics. So far, college has been academically challenging because I have been taking five to six classes each semester, but I'm focused on my academics. I use my spare time to study for the LSAT because after I graduate in the spring of 2020, I plan to attend law school in Florida. My passion for law stems from wanting to understand and immerse myself in the United States legal system. I realize that it may seem too ambitious to graduate college in three years and immediately attend law school, but I strongly believe that if I put in the necessary amount of work, I will be successful.

I was graciously awarded the FF scholarship as a graduate of Naples High School in 2017. It goes without saying that this scholarship has allowed me to attend the University of Florida as a near debt-free student, and for this I will be eternally grateful. With the lack of financial stress on my shoulders, I feel that I have been able to focus more on school. In the future, I look forward to returning the favor by giving back to prospective students, the same way the Founders Fund scholarship has given to me.

~ Oscar Rodriguez - University of Florida



FOCUSED



I'm currently a Sophomore at Florida State University majoring in Nursing. I graduated from Lorenzo Walker Technical High School in May of 2017. This scholarship has impacted my performance in school and currently, I have a 3.581 cumulative GPA, and a 3.8 nursing GPA. Without financial stress, I have been able to continue excelling in school and maintaining above average grades.

The scholarship has been extremely helpful, especially since attending college would have been merely a dream without financial assistance. This scholarship has helped me pay for my nursing classes, simulation lab fees, and miscellaneous nursing school fees. I look forward to graduating and receiving my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Florida State University in the Spring of

2020. All of my success I owe to the help of the Founders Fund Scholarship and federal assistance.

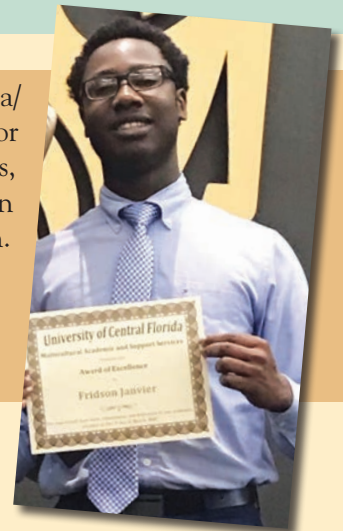
~ Milagros Jerez - FSU

EXCEL

I'm currently a freshman at the University of Central Florida and majoring in Emerging Media/ Emerging Animation. Thank you once again for this scholarship as it's playing a valuable part for me in pursuing my dream of creating my own television show focusing on minorities, disabilities, single-parent households, and other personal situations that I encountered growing up. I have been introduced to a variety of resources and opportunities that would be difficult to find on my own. Thank you for being another set of stairs that lead me and many more on the pathway to success.

~ Fridson Janvier – University of Central Florida

CREATE



School is going great! I am currently a Sophomore in the Honors College at George Mason University in Northern Virginia. I'm majoring in Forensic Psychology with a minor in Criminology. I am a Resident Advisor for freshman students who live on campus in the Honors College Living Learning Community and am currently a Lab Manager in the Social Skills, Imagination, and Theater lab which is a part of the Applied Developmental Psychology department.

The opportunities here at Mason have helped with steering my future career goals, and also with pursuing my passions for contributing to my community. During my time here, I've become increasingly grateful for the Founders

Fund scholarship. Out of state tuition is quite expensive, the funds I have received help significantly with that financial struggle of paying out-of-state tuition every semester, and for that I am truly grateful.

I intend to graduate with my Bachelor of Science in 2021 and hope to attend law school soon after graduation. I would like to once again express my gratitude for the support I receive from the Founders Fund and to everyone who makes this possible.

~ Tiffany Morina - George Mason University



DREAM

I'm in my second year at Florida Atlantic University as a nursing major. The past two years have been some of the best in my life and I'm so excited to be starting clinicals in the fall. I will be graduating May 2021 and hope to work in a teaching hospital and be a travel nurse before settling into an ICU or ER unit. Eventually, I want to further my education to become a DNP. Thanks to the Founders Fund, I have been able to continue my education without fear of finances. I am forever grateful for the generous donors and coordinators of this program that have enabled me to follow my dreams of becoming a nurse. I plan to use that same caring approach in my practice for years to come!

~ Cecilia Peregrin – Florida Atlantic University

SKILL

Scholar Success

EXCITED

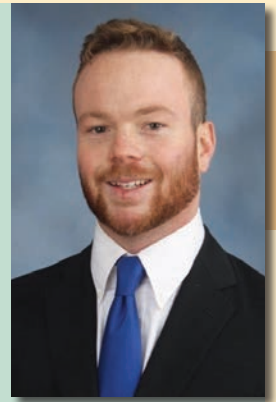


I am a senior at the University of Richmond; my major is Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law (PPEL) with a concentration in Economics and a minor in Business Administration. The Founders Fund scholarship makes the cost of attending my university much more manageable.

I will be graduating May 2019 and I am extremely excited. During my time at college, I have been involved in many different organizations and clubs, most notably, I was the President of my sorority. I served as the VP of the National Panhellenic Council and I was an executive member of the Richmond Rowdies. Additionally, I work as a resident assistant for the University Office of Residence Life and Housing. With a few months left until graduation, I spend the majority of my time exploring the city with my friends and interviewing for jobs. Thank you so much for granting me this opportunity and being of service to the greater Naples community.

~ Brianna Holmes - University of Richmond

I will be graduating in May 2019 in the inaugural class of the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship with a B.S. in Commercial Entrepreneurship. I'd like to thank the Founders Fund for helping ease the financial burdens of school which has allowed me to focus on extracurriculars that have maximized my college experience.



In my time at Florida State University, I was able to serve as the Security and Operations Coordinator for FSU's Dance Marathon, had the privilege of being the President of my 130-man fraternity, and currently manage a sales team that is projected to generate roughly \$750,000 in gross revenue this year for a Goldman Sach's subsidiary. All of this was made possible because the generous donors of the Founders Fund chose to invest in my success, and for that I'm forever grateful!
P.S. Go 'Noles

~ Sean Nash - FSU

EXPERIENCE

College is in full swing and my time here is winding down as I enter the second half of my senior year at Harvard College.

I'm currently working on my senior thesis in population genetics as part of my studies in organismic and evolutionary biology. In anticipation of graduating this May 2019, I want to express how extremely grateful I am to the Founders Fund for believing in me and providing financial support for my college career these past four years. I'm forever grateful.



~ Liz Roux - Harvard College

Grateful



I attend Florida Southwestern State College and am majoring in communications. I'm very fortunate for the Founders Fund scholarship; it motivates me to work hard in my academics every day. It's surreal to think that I don't have to stress about college expenses; I'm able to focus on my school work and engage with my fellow schoolmates. I will be transferring to FGCU in the fall and will be graduating in 2021.

~ Jason Francoeur - Florida Southwestern State College

BELIEVE

ENGAGE



I am currently attending Florida Gulf Coast University and plan to major in Nursing - part of the class of 2022. Being in my second semester of school, I have learned so much and have had many new experiences. From taking my general education classes to starting more nursing related courses, I have been able to expand my knowledge to another level in just my first year.

The Founders Fund Scholarship has granted me the opportunity to continue with my education and soon I'll be able to achieve my career goal. It has not only helped me with tuition fees but also in the most essential aspects, such as having the required course textbooks. Thank you for all your help!

~ Galilea Pedraza – FGCU

LEARN

I graduated in Spring 2017 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Communication and Child Development. I'm now working on my masters in Exceptional Student Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Since graduating, I have worked a couple jobs but I believe I have found my passion at Florida Autism Center where I work as a Registered Behavior Technician. I will be graduating next year with my masters and hopefully pursuing my PhD afterwards!

The Founders Fund was literally the reason why I was able to eat and have shelter while an under-grad; I am forever grateful! So many organizations give scholarships and forget about their recipients and don't touch base on the student's academic progress or their mental health... but, the Founders Fund did this every semester and I cannot thank the organization enough for this! I hope one day I will be able to bless students who are pursuing their dreams the same way the Founders Fund blessed me!

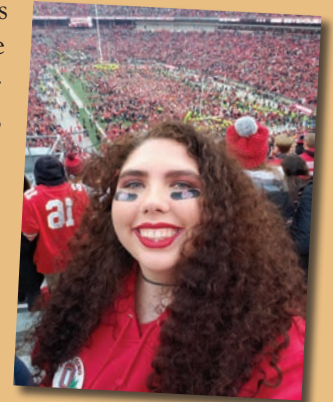
~ Ethiana Previlus – Graduated College 2017 (FF Alumni)



BLESSED

POSSIBLE

I am a student at The Ohio State University and majoring in Zoology. I also hope to double minor in Environmental Science and Religious Studies, and I'll be graduating in the spring of 2022. It is only possible for me to attend my first-choice university, out-of-state, because of the financial support from scholarships. I am extremely grateful to have received a scholarship and support from the Founders Fund because I might not be where I am today without your help. Thank you.



~ Jordan Vann – The Ohio State University

Thank you



I am attending the University of North Florida and intend on graduating May 2022. I'm halfway through my second semester as a Psychology major, and I am loving every second of it! Since starting school. I have joined Alpha Chi Omega and the School Psychology Club. My involvement in these organizations has fostered lifelong friendships. This scholarship has been a true blessing. Without the Founders Fund, I would not be in a place financially to attend school so far from home. The scholarship has allowed me to join a sorority and even given me the opportunity to get involved with school activities without having to worry about student loans. Thanks a ton!

~ Angela Cloonan - University of North Florida

INVOLVEMENT

2018 Annual Holiday Scholars Luncheon

(continued from page 1)



Jim Henderson, Elizabeth Bird



Angela Cloonan, Bob Tyre, Cameron Bonk



Adam Crescenzi, Cesar Hernandez, Pat Chadwick



Marlene Ruiz-Perez, Sue Luconi, Maddie Gross



Mardochee Bellevue, Tom Butz, Isabel Hernandez-Marques



Rachel Pena, Rick Ermler, Sara Cardona

The Founders Fund Holds 2019 High School Counselors Breakfast

The annual High School Counselors Breakfast was held on January 18 for Collier County school counselors at Club Pelican Bay. Several Founders Fund board members, along with nine Collier County high school representatives, took part in the informational breakfast.

Each year, the Founders Fund meets with the counselors to discuss current student needs, economic trends and the number of graduating students at each school. The breakfast meeting better prepares the counselors to guide students through the upcoming scholarship application process.

Susan Brown and Meg Tyre, Founders Fund Board members, discussed the scholarship requirements with the counselors and talked about the ever increasing needs of financial assistance to local students.



Ella Fravel, Laura Cox, Abby Lambley



Sandra Perez, Adam Crescenzi



Meg Tyre, Maureen Marvin



Susan Brown, Connie Pollina



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ED BRENNAN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & BANQUET

The Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament is held every other spring at Club Pelican Bay and serves as the primary fundraising event for The Founders Fund. Play, sponsor a hole, donate auction items....

Just get involved. ASK US HOW!

**MARCH 30 & 31, 2020
CLUB PELICAN BAY**