



March 2017

NEWS & Views



Scholars were home for the holidays AND THE Annual Scholars Luncheon



Anna Rice, Rob McNaghten,
Sarah Rice



Miriam Granja, Jim Henderson, Lesly
Chavez-Alvarado, Hunter McDaniel



Founders Fund Scholarship Students attend holiday luncheon

The Founders Fund held our Annual Scholars Luncheon on Thursday December 29 at the Country Club of Naples while the new Club at Pelican Bay is under construction. Scholarship recipients and benefactors of The Founders Fund gathered together at the annual event to celebrate the accomplishments of the scholarship students.

Out of the 111 Founders Fund students currently attending college, there were 28 students home for the holidays who attended the luncheon.

Rob McNaghten, Founders Fund Chair, welcomed guests and emphasized the importance of changing lives through higher education. He thanked the several sponsors who were in attendance and encouraged the students to reach for their goals.

After lunch was served, each student was invited to speak about their college studies and career goals. Their aspirations included careers in medicine, science, engineering, teaching, psychology, music composition and more. Student goals become more impressive each year.



Leslie Ramirez, Rick Ermler,
Kimberly Nguyen



Sydney Record, Dick Censits,
Lea Smith, Carson Brial

MESSAGE FROM 2016/2018 CHAIR

Rob McNaghten



First of all, I want to welcome Stacy Lee-Williams to The Founders Fund as our new Administrator. You can read more about her in our "Welcome Stacy" article.

The next topic I want to update you on is the change in our scholarship award and some insights on how the scholarships are perceived by high school counselors and student scholars.

It's common knowledge that the cost of a college education continues to rise. According to statistics compiled by the College Board organization, the average cost today of a college education (room, board, fees and tuition) in a public four-year, in-state institution is \$20,092. When The Founders Fund was started in 1991 the average cost was \$9,364, and in 2009 was \$15,663, both expressed in 2016 dollars. To maintain the pace of the ever increasing cost of a college education, The Founders Fund Board recently elected to increase the scholarship award to \$2,500 annually from \$2,000, or \$10,000 over four years from \$8,000. The increased scholarship award applies only to those Collier County high school seniors graduating in 2017 and beyond, not to those already receiving our scholarships.

At January's annual counselor breakfast, hosted by The Founders Fund scholarship committee, the high school counselors who help the Board select students for scholarships offered an important insight into the value of Founders Fund awards. All agreed that The Founders Fund scholarships were not just popular, but coveted by student applicants.

Unlike many other community organization awards that are a one-year grant, The Founders Fund monies are renewable for four years if students maintain a 3.00 average. Also The Founders Fund scholarships can be used to cover ancillary costs of college such as computers, books and transportation to and from college. Because virtually all of the scholarship recipients from The Founders Fund are financially challenged, the additional cash provided through the scholarship is critical in their college journey.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Adrian Pratt, our Scholarship Administrator, for her service to The Founders Fund over the past two years. She elected to leave at the end of March largely due to time constraints with her schedule. Adrian will continue in her full-time position at the Club.



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 600 students have been awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships.

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The Founders Fund

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Susan Brown
and Jennifer Correa



2017 High School Counselors Breakfast *Gives important insights!*

We held our annual *High School Counselors Breakfast* on January 25 for Collier County counselors. Several Founders Fund board members, along with 10 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.

Karen Pulte, Founders Fund Scholarship Committee Chair, discussed the scholarship requirements with the counselors and talked about the ever-increasing needs of financial assistance to local students. They also reviewed special circumstances, academic merit along with financial need.



Rob McNaghten with
special guest
Christopher Smith,
Collier County Public Schools
Counseling Coordinator



Schuyler Peck
and Kelli Gamez



Abby Lambley
and Angela Spangler



Welcome

Stacy Lee-Williams
The Founders Fund Administrator

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Stacy Lee-Williams as the new Administrator of The Founders Fund and welcome her to our team. She began work on February 20 and will replace Adrian Pratt

who has elected to leave The Founders Fund at the end of March. As mentioned in the "Message from the Chair," Adrian is still the Administrative Assistant at The Club Pelican Bay.

Stacy has many years of experience successfully working with and leading other charitable organizations in Southwest Florida. She brings a blend of experience and personality that is infectious.

Stacy is married with two children in college and is leaving a life of full time work to take a part-time position with The Founders Fund. She will work, both, from her home and an office at the Club. Temporarily, her office will be on the second floor of the cart barn next to the entrance to the planned fitness/spa facility and near the reception desk.

Stacy was recently honored by Hodges University as a woman of character, courage, clarity and commitment. She is very involved in diversity and inclusion training in the community.

Needless to say, we are pleased and proud that Stacy is joining The Founders Fund. She is quite excited about our mission and is looking forward to working with all of the students along with exploring new opportunities for The Founders Fund.



W E H A V E M A I L



My college experience has been untraditional to say they least! School has been going great. I'll be attending Florida State again in the fall and keeping my GPA at a 3.5 too. I have been a part of some great teams and organizations at both schools such as AED (a Medical Honor Society), NUSA (Neuroscience Undergrad Student Association) and Medlife (an organization for medical mission trips). Beyond course work, I was on the wakeboard team while here in Colorado; I joined an MMA (mixed martial arts) team and I'm looking forward to my first MMA fight.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Sydney Luciano
Florida State University – Class of 2019

Other than all the tests and homework, college is really awesome. I just try to be on top of my school work and prioritize my time. All my professors are great and really care about the quality of my education. I've managed to find time to join the swim club at school and still volunteer here and there when I can fit it in.

Juan Medina – FGCU – Class of 2020

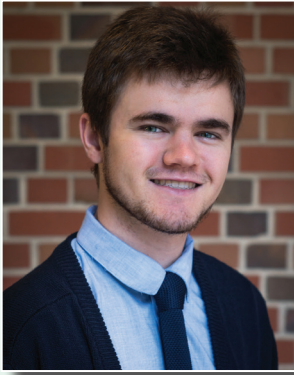


The University of Tampa is a beautiful campus, and I have been blessed with the opportunity of being able to attend this school with the help of the Founders Fund. The subject that I feared the most, chemistry, is the subject that I am doing very well in. I am on my way to becoming a pediatric nurse! Although I did not continue my lacrosse career into college, I manage to catch a couple of games with my friends. Go Spartans!

Miriam Alexandra Granja
University of Tampa – Class of 2020



W E H A V E M A I L



Hunter McDaniel
Sophomore - BM Music Composition
Florida State University – Class of 2019

Every day here at FSU has been enjoyable! Living off-campus this year has been an incredible growing experience for me as a person and as a student. It makes the time that I spend on our beautiful campus even more exciting. I began studying Music Composition with Dr. Ladislav Kubik last fall, and I have grown immensely as a composer ever since. I have had several of my classical compositions performed this year at FSU, and I just finished my first large-scale work for Woodwind Quintet which I hope to have premiered later this semester by students in the College of Music. Reverb, the 'A Cappella' group that I am the Music Director of, was just nominated for four Contemporary A Cappella Recording Artists awards and I will be flying to Boston in April to (hopefully) receive some awards! Thank you Founders Fund for your incredible support!

Considering this is the last semester I will be receiving the Founders Fund scholarship, I wanted to extend my sincerest gratitude to those who have made my undergraduate career possible. Due to their kindness throughout the years they have taken a massive financial load off of both, my family's and my shoulders allowing me to focus on my studies and pursue a career in medicine.

Because of The Founders Fund scholarship, I am happy to say that I will be graduating in May 2017 from the University of Central Florida, and will begin my Doctorate at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in August in hopes of becoming a physician that can one day help others the way you all have helped me.

Sara Carranco, University of Central Florida – Class of 2017



I am graduating from on May 13th, 2017 with a Bachelor's of Science degree and a major in Health Sciences with a minor in Public Health. I will then be attending State College of Florida beginning on May 15th 2017 to further my education in the dental field.

Nicole Garrabrant
Stetson University – Class of 2017

During my senior year at the University of North Florida, I am able to co-lead a pro-environmental campaign on campus called 'Divest UNF for Climate Justice.' We are asking our University Foundation to remove their investments in the top 200 fossil fuel companies, and reinvest in sustainable, renewable resources.

Kara Dudley
Major: Social Change and Sustainable Development
University of North Florida – Class of 2017





W E H A V E M A I L



I am currently traveling while taking online courses for my Bachelors Degree in Public Safety and Administration at Florida Southwestern State College. I finished my mini-A semester a couple weeks ago and now waiting to start my mini-B semester. In Berlin with time on my hands these past few weeks that I decided to visit my cousin in Austria. It was some of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. It felt as though my two eyes alone were not enough to take it all in.

Studying and traveling has been out of this world and I'm so appreciative of The Founders Fund for supporting my direction; however, I also very much look forward to my career in the fire department when I come back to the states. Thank you.

Marlon Equitz
Graduated High School in 2014
Attending: Florida Southwestern State College

I'm a sophomore at Harvard College studying integrative biology. I'm really engaging with my classes and extracurricular(s) - I'm currently a captain of the club running team, volunteer with Alzheimer's patients, and am learning pottery and the ukulele. Most importantly, the people in college are amazing, and it's such a privilege to be able to study and pursue the world and all it has to offer. Much thanks to The Founders Fund for helping me do just that!

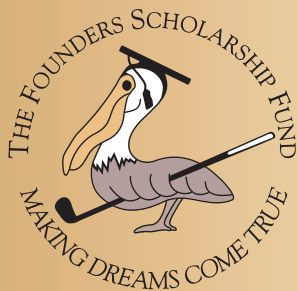
Liz Roux
Harvard College – Class of 2019



The Founders Fund scholarship has been an essential component in my college education. I am currently a fourth year psychology major attending the University of Florida. Through this scholarship, I was able to explore and learn which particular field in psychology I want to pursue. I was fortunate to take a course in Counseling Psychology and find my career of choice. Thus, I will pursue a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology.

P.S.: I will receive my undergraduate degree on April 29, 2017 and I will forever be grateful for your continuous love and support for higher education!

Eveline Desvaristes
University of Florida – Class of 2017



About The Founders Fund

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Our scholars are some of the brightest students
you'll find attending college today.
Their majors range from music composition to neuroscience.



The Founders Fund averages 108 to 112 students
attending colleges or technical institutions each year.
They represent some of the most prestigious schools in the United States.

Here are the colleges that our students are now attending.

American University
Bucknell University
Carleton College
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Elon University
Emory University
Fayetteville State University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Florida Southwestern State College
Florida State University
Franklin & Marshall College
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard College

Lincoln College of Technology
Nova Southeastern University
Ringling College of Art & Design
Saint Mary's College
Santa Fe College
St. Vincent College
Stetson University
Tallahassee Community College
The Culinary Institute of America
Tufts University
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Florida
University of Richmond
University of South Florida



The Founders Fund, Inc.
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Planning Ahead – EVENT 2018 –



This will be a fun 2-day event in 2018!

APRIL 9 & 10, 2018
Monday and Tuesday

Dinner/Banquet will be held in the
new Club Dining Room on April 9th
Golf Tournament will be held on April 10th



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



*The Founders Fund Annual
Scholarship Reception
& Ice Cream Social*



Thursday, April 20, 2017

7:00 PM at Country Club of Naples

*Please make plans to attend and meet our
new scholarship recipients.*

Board members, benefactors, supporters,
sponsors and area high school guidance
counselors are encouraged to attend.

RSVP to Stacy at FoundersFund1@gmail.com