



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

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# NEWS & Views

November 2010

The Founders Fund, Inc. • 707 Gulf Park Drive • Naples, Florida 34108 • 239-593-0124

## The Founders Fund, Inc. MISSION

The mission of this charitable activity of the members of The Club Pelican Bay is to provide financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training. Recipients are selected on the basis of need and merit from the ten high schools of Collier County.

The Founders Fund was created in 1991 by the Founding Golf Members of The Club Pelican Bay, a private golf club. The Internal Revenue Service has classified The Founders Fund as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization.

The Founders Fund is supported by both Golf and Social Members of The CLUB, as well as many corporate sponsors which include prominent local and national businesses that are very generous in their support of The Founders Fund. Income from reserve assets and fundraising activities supports annual scholarship grants of approximately \$180,000 per year. Fund scholarship awards have totaled more than \$1,800,000.



## Video project complete and now online

In September, The Founders Fund, Inc. was proud to announce the completion of a video project showcasing the mission of its non-profit scholarship organization along with event highlights and student achievements.



Featuring footage from the Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament and the Annual Scholarship Reception, the video explains the various events and functions The Founders Fund holds each year, as well as, the scholarship application and review process, and the importance volunteers, benefactors, and sponsors have in helping to further the cause. The video will be used for public awareness and fundraising presentations.

"I'm very pleased with how beautifully the video was put together," said Sue McNaghten, newly appointed Chairman of The Founders Fund Board of Trustees. "It really captured the essence of what The Founders Fund is all about – providing financial assistance to young men and women in their pursuit of post high school education. Our mission statement appears at the start of the video, and through all the footage, you can see the poignant influence of that mission."

The video script was written and produced by E. Sue Huff & Associates and shot and edited by Alpha Media Inc. and can be viewed on the Founders Fund website – [www.TheFoundersFundInc.org](http://www.TheFoundersFundInc.org)

## Golf Tournament raises over \$250,000

The Club Pelican Bay was teeming with activity on Monday, April 12th as The Founders Fund held its 2010 Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament to raise scholarship funds for deserving local students. The golf tournament raised over \$250,000 in an effort to continue the support of the 90 students currently using the scholarship to help finance their college educations.



Dick, Jim, Judy Brennan and Kelly Collins

"The sponsors, donors and benefactors really got behind the event this year to help send the brightest of the next generation on their way," said past Chairman Ray Crisci. "It is a cause everyone can relate to and one that we plan to keep working for many years to come. I can't say thank you enough to those businesses and individuals who chose to support the event,

continued on page 3

# Make a lunch date!

## Mark your calendar!

The Founders Fund Annual Get Acquainted Luncheon for Scholarship Recipients

at

The CLUB Pelican Bay

Thursday, December 30, 2010  
11:30 to 1:00

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

The CLUB Pelican Bay

Thursday, Dec. 30 2010





## 2010/2011 Trustees

Sue McNaghten, Chairman  
Frank Morley, Vice Chairman  
George Gibson, Treasurer  
Chris Carlson  
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Coe Gutowsky  
Wayne Kent  
Tom Lear  
John Levy  
Tom McCarty  
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Gerald O'Connor, Club Pelican  
Bay Board representative

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## Message from the Chairman of the Board

*Sue McNaghten*



The Founders Fund is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2011 and we are extremely excited about our many accomplishments. Many thanks to all who have worked so hard these past two decades to help over 450 young people achieve a dream of higher education. We're marking this milestone with several exciting events for 2010-11 that you won't want to miss.

First, we look forward to the Annual Scholars Luncheon on December 30. It's a wonderful time to catch up with our students and hear about their progress. Our sponsors and

Club benefactors always come away with a sense of satisfaction that they have made a profound difference in the lives of these exceptional young people.

Then, on February 7, 2011, Preferred Travel will bring its gala travel show to Club Pelican Bay and has named the Founders Fund as the beneficiary of all donations from those attending. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our anniversary while enjoying fine food and drink combined with a chance to explore potential travel adventures around the world. When you receive your invitation to the show I urge you to plan to come and enjoy an entertaining evening which has the potential to fund six or seven scholarships if fully attended.

My goal as the new Chair of the Founders Fund is to continue our efforts to heighten awareness of our mission in the community and among the members of Club Pelican Bay. When I was asked to join the Founders Fund Board six years ago, I knew nothing about the organization. To my delight, Founders Fund service turned out to be a perfect match for my lifelong involvement in education as a career and as a volunteer. We need the continued support and involvement of Club members so that the Founders Fund can enjoy many more years of success.

## Thank you, donors!

All American Dance Studio	Naples Grande
All That Glitz	Naples Zoo
American Bistro	Olde Collier Golf Club
Bay Hill Golf Club	Olde Florida
Bleu Provence	Ooh La La
Botero Galleries	The Palms Restaurants
Bravo/Bon Vie/Brio	Papers Plus
Brio's Tuscan Grille	Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Calusa Pines	Saks Fifth Avenue
Chef Joe Gross	Spikes Golf & Casual
Chef Steve Jones	Sole Desire
Class Act Ladies Boutique	Steen Studios
Carrabba's	The Club Pelican Bay
Chip Beck	The Club Pelican Bay Pro Shop
Cibao	The Ritz-Carlton
Class Act	The Surf Club, Miami Beach
Dana Designs	The Paper Merchant/The Little Merchant
DIRECTV Systems	Total Wine
For the Love of Golf	Uno
Limoges	Wild Flower
Love that Spot	Williams-Sonoma
Merle Norman Cosmetics	
Myra Daniels	



### From our Scholarship Recipients

"I graduated from Gulf Coast High School in 2009 and was a fortunate recipient of The Founders Fund scholarship this year. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Central Florida and am a Nursing major. I only have one more semester until I apply to the limited-access Nursing program here at UCF.

"I am proud to say that I currently have a 4.0 G.P.A.! I am working very hard to keep my grades up. I am currently taking Human Physiology, Human Nutrition, Assessing Human Development, and a World Religions elective course. Needless to say, I have been very busy this semester! I will be applying to the program in February 2011.

"Aside from schoolwork, I am a member of the College Republicans at UCF. This group has been very busy as well, especially with the upcoming November election. Also, I am currently working part-time for Undergraduate Admissions at UCF. I am a student ambassador, give tours and work at Open House events for prospective students. I have also begun working with a group called H.E.L.P, Helping Every Little Person. This group goes around the Orlando area and helps needy children.

"I would, again, like to thank you so much for your contribution to my education. I am so lucky to have been chosen to receive The Founders Fund award. I hope this update finds all of the members well, and I look forward to seeing you sometime in the near future!"

— Sincerely, Catherine Eble

"My college experience at the University of Florida is going well thus far. I am in my second year and recently switched my major from Telecommunications to Accounting. It was a big change but many of the classes that I was taking for fun (Calculus I and II), ended up counting towards my Accounting major, so I am right on track. I like my new major and it seems to fit my love for math and people very well. I am also involved within my University; I am a current brother of Alpha Kappa Psi Co-Ed Professional Business Fraternity and an official Ambassador for the Office of Admissions. Both of these organizations have given me immense opportunities to grow and develop, as well as give back to my University. I love my college experience and a big part of why I am able to fully enjoy it is because of the Founders Fund. I am so thankful for everyone's generosity and contributions, as they have been a huge help throughout my studies. Thank you to each and every single one of you, as you have made a difference in my life and the lives of many students! Go Gators!"

— Regards, Andrea Ramos

"When I arrived at Fort Myers airport, I knew there was no turning back. Finally, the moment had arrived. I was soon embarking on an experience of a lifetime.

Growing up in Naples I would have never fathomed that I, Yoldine Valery, would be granted the opportunity to study abroad in China. Growing up, my perception of the world only consisted of those I came in contact with; people at school, church, and my community. Studying abroad in China has broadened my scope on life and my perception of what it means to be a part of our global community.

"As an anthropology major, China has been nothing short of a playground. On a daily basis, I have a chance to dive into a different culture by partaking in their rituals, observing the interaction of the native people, and enjoying a plethora of sites overflowing with historical significance. In addition to my personal adventures, my academic schedule consists of Elementary and Integrated Chinese, anthropological courses on women in China and Tibetan society and culture, and Tai Chi.

"Ten weeks have gone by and already I feel as if I have gained experiences to last me a lifetime. Climbing The Great Wall, visiting the many palaces of emperors from several dynasties, and seeing live pandas are all things I would have never pictured myself doing. All of this would have never been possible without the help of The Founders Fund (particularly the assistance of Mrs. Davenport) -- thank you."

— Yoldine Valery

"College life is going well at the University of Florida. Classes are challenging, but with proper preparation and discipline, the workload is manageable. The biggest difference I have encountered academically is the proactive aspect of learning. The resources are all around, but I have to make the effort to utilize them if I want the extra assistance I need; no one will help me if I'm not sincerely interested in receiving the help in the first place. Nevertheless, college life is teaching me to take initiative. In addition to the academic life, the University of Florida has stunned me with its overwhelming amount of student organizations and involvement opportunities, whether joining a club or participating in social events.

"Personally, I have taken an interest in Engineers Without Borders, a charity organization dedicated to utilizing the talents of engineers in order to better the lives of people all over the world. My hope is that this group will provide me with opportunities for hands on experience as well as an opportunity for service. Despite all the hustle and bustle of college life, my life in Naples has not been forgotten. Just recently, my parents came to visit, and weeks prior to this, I went home to see them as well as old friends. With the demands to balance academic, social, and family life, college was initially difficult; however, I'm adjusting to the change, making college life more enjoyable with every passing day."

Natasha Lai



# Annual Scholarship Awards

Twenty-six exceptional high seniors were selected for this year's Annual Scholarship Awards. The reception and presentation ceremony was held on May 4th at The Club Pelican Bay.

The event opened with a greeting by outgoing Founders Fund Chairperson Ray Crisci, followed by remarks from Rocky Caldwell, First Chairperson of the Founders Fund and John Cauley, representing the Board of Governors. Dr. Michael Rollo, Vice President of Student Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University, spoke about higher learning as the "dream machine" and the critical importance of education in shaping our society. The awards presentation

was conducted by the incoming 2010/2011 Chairperson, Sue McNaghten. Two students, Carl Fertil and Claudia Navarro, completed the ceremony by sharing stories about their backgrounds and their dreams for the future. Both are the first in their families to attend college and they expressed their gratitude to the Founders Fund for giving them the chance to pursue their goals.

Present at this celebratory reception were students, families, friends, board members, committee chairs, benefactors, supporters, and high school guidance counselors, with over 90 people in attendance.

Congratulations to our 2010/2011 Scholarship Recipients!



Lisa Casin, Keyler Casin-Vidal, George Vidal



Yolanda Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez



Kelli Murphy, Megg Murphy



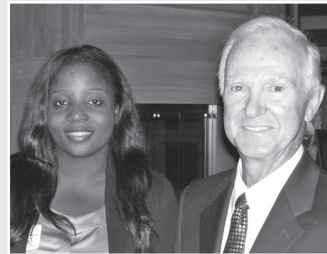
Rebecca Mack, Carter Mack



Gene Lai, Natasha Lai, Ann Lai



Rosa Gonzalez, Lezly Camacho, Hilano Gonzalez



Georgetmanie Adolphe, Ray Crisci



Julio Mora, Kim Beyer



Megg Murphy, Andrew Lem



Scholarships were awarded to students from eleven area schools. Congratulations, all!



Corina Rionda, Deilys Navarro

Barron Collier - Catherine Caylore, Carter Mack & Gabriela Ramos • Everglades High - Leah Minton  
 Golden Gate - Maria Briceno, Carl Fertil, Huy Nguyen and Diana Castillo • Gulf Coast - Alejandro Ramirez, Yaissy Solis  
 Immokalee - Georgetmanie Adolphe, Anita Baltazar, Claudia Navarro, Daniel Hernandez and Melissa Rodriguez • Lely - Lisa Frimberger, Andrew Lem, Cody Mendel  
 Lorenzo Walker - Lezly Camacho • Naples - Iysha Aldikacti, Giovanni Forcina • Palmetto Ridge - Deilys Navarro, Keyler Casin-Vidal, Corina Rionda  
 St. John Neumann - Natasha Lai • The CLUB - Megg Murphy

# Golf Tournament *continued from page 1*

through sponsorships, being a player, and giving donations to the auctions and raffle."

The competition was tough yet friendly as players putted for a good cause and even a hole-in-one chance to win a car from event sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Naples. The overall winners for the day were the students who will receive the benefits of this year's tournament.

The action-packed day included golf, cocktails, a lovely dinner provided by Chef Joe Gross of The Club Pelican Bay, a silent auction and a lively live auction led by a professional auctioneer. Thirteen members of the Brennan family were present for the event named in honor of Ed Brennan, founding member of The Founders Fund.

Thank you to the 2010 Sponsors & Donors of this event who were very generous in their support of the Founders Fund:

### Sponsors

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 Ruth's Chris Steakhouse  
 Saks Fifth Avenue  
 Spikes Golf & Casual  
 Sole Desire  
 Steen Studios  
 The Club Pelican Bay  
 The Club Pelican Bay Pro Shop  
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 The Surf Club, Miami Beach  
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 Total Wine  
 Uno  
 Wild Flower  
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 Botero Galleries  
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 Calusa Pines  
 Chef Joe Gross  
 Chef Steve Jones  
 Class Act Ladies Boutique  
 Carrabba's  
 Chip Beck  
 Cibao  
 Class Act  
 Dana Designs  
 DIRECTV Systems  
 For the Love of Golf  
 Limoges  
 Love that Spot





## Interviews with Our Founders

### Sandy Sarni



Sandy Sarni literally grew up on the golf course. Her father was a teaching pro at Latrobe Country Club where she learned at a young age to play and love the game. "I've lived on golf courses most of my life," she said. "As the youngest of four children, I arrived fast. My mother didn't quite make it in the hospital door before I was delivered. My father used to say that he was going to get charged greens fees for me being born on the lawn!"

Sandy worked for a period of time at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, Pennsylvania in a variety of capacities-- assistant to the Tournament Director for the Senior Open in 1988, on-site Director and then as Corporate Party Planner. Tennis became her main sport while she was raising her family and working. She told us that golf takes a lot of time, and that tennis was something she could do for an hour each day.

Sandy and her husband Vincent are both tennis enthusiasts. As supporters of academic and athletic programs at Penn State, the Sarni family got the ball rolling at the University for the creation of The Sarni Tennis Center, a \$2.3 million facility that features seven lighted Plexi-cushion courts, a stadium and team clubhouse.

Her love of golf and her devotion to community was a natural fit for the Founders Fund.

"My husband and I came to Naples in 1994. Initially, I became involved in the Founders Fund selling raffle tickets at first, then each year I got more involved," she remarked. "In the mid-90's, I was asked to serve on the Board and then the work with the Fund expanded."

While Count Darling was Chairman, Sandy was in charge of the golf event. Friends and supporters responded enthusiastically to her fundraising efforts.

"Many golf clubs focus their attention on the grounds and other improvements. Pelican Bay does that and more. It does lot for the community, and that's the neat thing about it."

She is a strong advocate for the work of the Fund. "Charities are all struggling in this economy," she said. She credits outgoing Chairman Ray Crisci for helping bring the Fund up to speed in the Internet age. She feels it is important to get the word out so that we can continue to refresh the list of people who can help.

A tireless worker her entire life, Sandy is modest about her accomplishments.

"You never think you do enough," she added.

### Count Darling



Two years after Count Darling moved to Naples in 1990, his neighbor, Bob Gillman, asked him to lend a hand with the Founders Fund golf tournament. His neighborly gesture made him aware of the need to help kids get to college, and he continued to promote events for the Fund. He joined the Board and was Chairman in the mid to late 1990s, during which time he went on the interviews at area high schools.

Count realized that there was a need to develop a consistent format for everyone to use in the interview process. His background in marketing and management consulting helped him zero in on the pulse of the Founders Fund. He understood that the Fund was looking not only for need-based applicants with good grades, but also for applicants who showed more than academic promise. In other words, he wanted to help the Fund identify the movers and the shakers who might have that "something extra."

His most memorable interview was with a young woman from Haiti. Her family's annual income in the mid 90's was \$10,500 -- for a family of five. She had a winning smile, a warm handshake, and was on the All-State track team. When asked, "What is the most fun you have had during your senior year in high school?" she replied, "taking presents to needy children at Christmas." Here was a young woman with very little family income, yet she felt great joy when helping someone else. There it was -- that "something extra."

"The most satisfying thing I've ever done in my whole life is interviewing these kids," remarked Count.

His work helping kids get to college paved a new life path for Count after his term as Chairman ended. He worked for Habitat for Humanity for some time, and his current passion is Neighborhood Health Clinic.

He explained, "The Clinic is for people who work, but have no medical insurance. They have nowhere else to go. The Clinic's volunteer health providers speak eight different languages, serving patients from many countries and cultural backgrounds."

Count Darling thrives on his encounters, finding richness and value in each and every one. "It does amazing things to you," he says, "to be involved in this work."

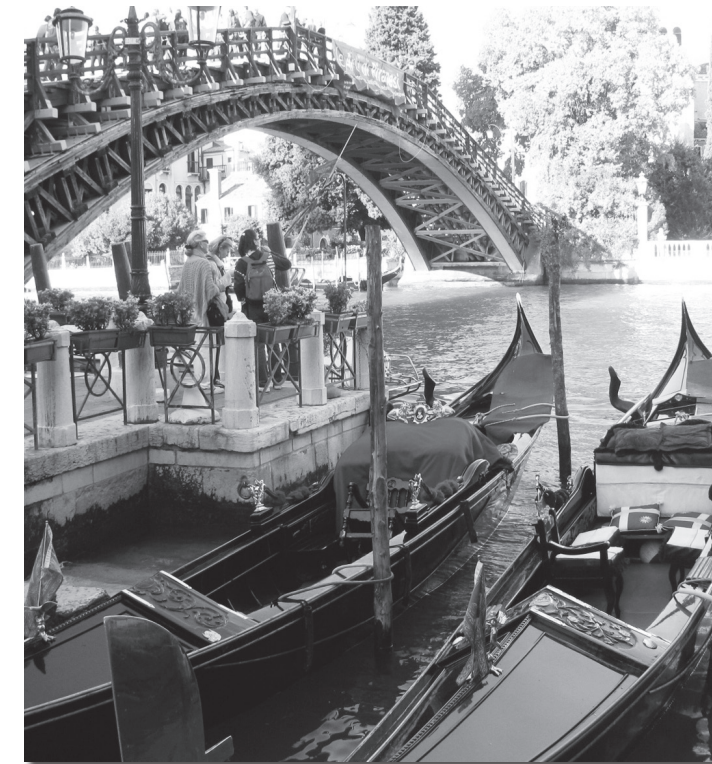
## Save the date – let's celebrate!

### Fifth Annual Travel Gala

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Wilma Boyd, President of Preferred Travel of Naples is pleased to announce that the Founders Fund, Inc is the recipient of the proceeds from the agency's fifth annual Travel Gala, "Explore Your Dream Destinations". Previous beneficiaries have been Step by Step, Neighborhood Health Clinic, Boys and Girls Club and the Immokalee Foundation. "Each year at our annual planning session, our staff submits suggestions as to the organizations we should consider to be honored at the next annual event. Our special focus is on charities that benefit children's causes. The Founders Fund, Inc. was an overwhelming favorite because of the quality of the purpose of its fundraising efforts, the 20th anniversary of the organization, and the tremendous support Preferred Travel receives from its membership," according to Mrs. Boyd.

This year the entire Club Pelican Bay will be used for an expanded roster of 30 travel partners including Abercrombie & Kent, Silversea Cruises, Ltd., Cox & Kings, Micato Safaris, Lakani Tours, Red Carnation Hotels, Tauck World, AMA Waterways, Rocky Mountaineer, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. The \$45.00 donation per person goes directly to the Founders Fund, Inc. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, food stations, and an open bar in addition to travel presentations, live entertainment, and tables of information hosted by our travel partners. Maximum attendance must be limited to 400 attendees. For more information, please contact Connie Moody at 261-1177.



Venice was the last port of call on the Club Pelican Bay 30th Anniversary Cruise. (Photo by Ned O'Malia)

## Why College Students Drop Out

For some students, getting accepted to a university is only the first in an uphill battle toward a degree. Persevering long enough to graduate can be just as challenging.

The National Center for Education Statistics indicates that dropout rates are particularly high for African American and Hispanic students. Other student populations at greater risk of dropping out include those who are the first in their family to attend college, those who have limited English proficiency, and non-traditional students such as returning adult students.

Financial pressure is the primary reason that college students drop out, according to the National Financial Educators Council (NFEC). Few students who drop out eventually finish their education. Those that do return to college usually don't do it immediately. Many college students—especially dropouts—are burdened with debt accumulated from loans that could have been avoided or minimized by choosing other education and training options. Debt from student loans hurt those who never finish college. Most dropouts are left with big debts and mediocre job prospects.

Founders Fund scholarships are obviously critical for our students since they are also renewable each year.

(Sources: National Center for Education Statistics, National Financial Educators Council)

## Colleges 2010/2011

Following is a list of colleges where our students are currently in attendance.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ave Maria University            | Ringling College of Art & Design |
| College of the Holy Cross       | Smith College                    |
| Edison State College            | Stetson University               |
| FGCU                            | University of Central Florida    |
| Flagler College                 | University of Florida            |
| Florida Atlantic University     | University of Miami              |
| Florida Institute of Technology | University of North Florida      |
| Florida Int'l University        | University of South Florida      |
| Florida State University        | University of Tampa              |
| Hope College                    | Valencia Community College       |
| Mercer University               | Vanderbilt University            |
| Princeton University            | Yale University                  |



**Make sure to check out our website!**  
**Photos from all of our events are posted online.**  
**[www.thefoundersfundinc.org](http://www.thefoundersfundinc.org)**