



Winter 2021

NEWS & Views



Looking Back *Looking Forward*

It goes without saying that 2020 created challenges for everyone. There were disappointments for many, but life goes on for the Founders Scholarship Fund scholars and our fundraising efforts. Our 2020 scholarship recipients are making the best out of difficult situations; some are attending classes from home as others are back on campus trying to stay safe while maneuvering through the pandemic. The graduating class of 2020 did not get to walk in a graduation ceremony last Spring and did not get to celebrate their accomplishments at our April scholarship reception. However, they have shown resilience and determination to get through this unusual time even more ready to prepare for the world ahead of them.

We wanted to give you a look back at 2020 from our students. Their stories and comments will give you a glimpse into their lives, challenges, and their hopes and dreams for 2021.

Thoughts from 2020 Scholarship Recipient RAQUEL FERREIRA



2020 was a challenging year to say the least, but college life was one of the highlights of my year. Of course, there were challenges, but it was overall a delightful experience. The pandemic allowed me to work on a college education while having more time with my family before I fly out of the nest. In many of my classes, students were put into smaller breakout rooms for a variety of different reasons. For me, I loved getting to know some of the students, especially in my theater class.

As a theater and advertising major, it has been very fascinating to hear from renowned speakers who are from all over the world via Zoom. We would have never been able to listen to them otherwise. For example, in my Introduction to Advertising class, the producer of the TV show, *The Voice*, was a guest speaker. We had the pleasure of hearing from the four-time Emmy award winning producer, Ted Valenti, on his journey from being a college student to a producer of one of the most popular reality television shows. It is experiences like these that I am profoundly grateful, and I am so proud I can attend such a fantastic educational institution.

Of course, I wish I had the opportunity to get to know other students better on the Pepperdine campus, but I am grateful for the positive experiences I have had despite the pandemic. These past months of study and experiences will help further my academic career for sure.

I am thankful to the donors of the Founders Fund for contributing to this scholarship that has made managing the financial aspect of college easier for me and my family. I'm looking forward to a great 2021.

MESSAGE FROM 2020/2021 CHAIRPERSON Adam Crescenzi



Dear Patrons, Sponsors and Friends,

It has now become a cliché to say our world has been turned upside down by COVID-19, therefore, I will not speak to it, instead I would like to share some good news about the Founders Scholarship Fund.

Last May, we held our annual Scholarship Awards ceremony via ZOOM. Twenty-two of the twenty-four scholarship recipients participated and in addition, some of the board of trustees were joined in along with special guest speaker Colonel Jim Bloom of the Collier County Sheriff's Office. WINK TV news covered our event and broadcast it on the nightly news plus posted a video online for anyone to view.

The 2020 recipients were an outstanding group of individuals who showed a remarkable capacity of resilience in the face of COVID-19 which robbed them of their senior year activities and celebrations. They expressed optimism to overcome the difficult situation and had a positive attitude for career dreams and their future as college students.

Stacy Lee-Williams our Founders Fund Director, with support from the trustees, closed out the fiscal year and is working to upgrade the entire accounting and reporting system. The updates in technology will create a more effective and efficient process. The changes will allow FSF to improve information reporting; have asynchronous communication with our recipients; create an alumni association; market and expand our donor base; and plan the next Event.

Missing our 2020 fundraising event has created challenges but I am confident that with your continued support, we will be able to continue to fulfill our important mission of granting scholarships.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, a special Thank You to trustees Susan Brown and Michele Farrell for their dedication, support, and guidance over the past six years. Both retired from the Board as of May 2020. Help me in welcoming two new members - Jane Hoffman and Donna Issenmann.

With warmest regards and thank you for your support to the Founders Scholarship Fund.

Thank you.



MISSION

The Founders Scholarship Fund 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.

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From our Students



In the beginning of the Spring semester of my third year, I had a heavy course load with classes such as Biochemistry, Diseases/Disabilities, and Pathophysiology. When COVID pre-cautions enforced our return home in March, I fortunately adapted to the online format smoothly and enjoyed my time at home around family with limited distractions to study. I finished that semester better than expected. After my summer break, I headed back to UF for Fall which has been going swell! Thank you, Founders Fund, for helping me make my academic journey successful. I missed seeing you over Christmas break!

~ **Fiona Pashollari, University of Florida – Class of 2021**

This semester, I had the opportunity to take an editorship class for UCF's literary magazine, Cypress Dome, where I was elected as the Creative Nonfiction Editor and Copy Editor. We created an Editor's Edition of the magazine in which one of my creative nonfiction stories was published. I have also been working hard (and remotely) at my internship as a Communications/Editorial Intern for the Florida Apartment Association where I write for their magazine, Multifamily Florida. Although this semester has been difficult, it has been exciting to work on so many projects that I am passionate about! Thank you.

~ **Camila Cal, University of Central Florida - Class of 2021**

I was accepted into my second-choice nursing program and it has been a drastic change since I am in a new university. Having to learn which new study strategies worked best and adapt to my environment since classes were mostly online was challenging but, so far, I am in love with my major and I cannot wait to start clinics next semester.

~ **Jennifer Herrera, Nova Southeastern - Class of 2022**

For the 2020-2021 school year, FAFSA calculated my estimated family contribution to be higher than it was for my first two years of college because my Mom had to start working a third job. Based on this change, my college did not offer me the need-based Pell grant that I'd been receiving. Having the Founder Scholarship this year has been especially helpful in paying for school without having to take out another loan. Since the calculation does not accurately represent what we can afford to pay, the bill was significantly higher without the grant. Thank you for my scholarship.

~ **Elizabeth Bird, Middleberry College – Class of 2022**

The past eight months of college life have been different, to say the least. This is a type of college life I have never experienced before and even though I was allowed back on campus, there was still a lot of adjusting to do. Even though it was difficult, I am grateful I was allowed back into my campus housing and able to take one class in person with the rest of my courses being online.

~ **Natalia Schulz, Florida Southern College - Class of 2022**

This year, I am the editor for the Chronicle, and I host a college radio show. In my role as an Arts and Lifestyle editor for the Chronicle, I am responsible for ensuring the SEO and readability are right before publishing. I follow the AP style, edit my writer's articles, create content, and provide creative story ideas. Additionally, I have writing experiences for WONC FM 89.1 which is a college radio station. I write college content, go on air to talk, and interact with listeners. For my broadcast airtime, I prepare news, content, play music, and pick topics for my session. It has been a busy year. Thank you for this opportunity.

~ **Fredlyn Pierre Louise, North Central College – Class of 2023**

LOOKING BACK

The Founders Fund awarded College Scholarships to 24 Collier County Students during Zoom Celebration on May 28, 2020

College scholarships were awarded to 24 Collier County students by The Founders Scholarship Fund in May. With the help of our Founders Fund team, a special Zoom presentation was held to honor the scholarship recipients and their families.

Adam Crescenzi – Chairman of the Founders Scholarship Fund opened the online event by welcoming the scholarship recipients and their parents. He then welcomed Col. Jim Bloom of the Collier County Sheriff's Office who was the special guest speaker. Col Bloom delivered a message of encouragement and bid a warm congratulations to the students during the opening of the online presentation. He spoke of their futures in Collier County and beyond and encouraged them to become active citizens and take leadership roles in their community.



Col. Jim Bloom

The Founders Fund was honored to have Col. Bloom join the event; he has served the Collier County Sheriff's Office for 27 years and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, has a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master's Degree of Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). His message was delivered to encourage the students to become active and productive citizens of their communities and to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Each year, scholarships are awarded to Collier County students seeking financial assistance to pursue a higher education. The scholarships are non-restrictive and are given to help students with college and post high-school educational expenses. Students receive the renewable scholarships with the agreement they are a full-time student and maintain a B average or better in their college studies.

The commitment and annual budget needed to distribute scholarships is approximately \$250,000 each year. Funds needed to grant the scholarships are raised through a fundraising golf event held every other year, donations from Club members, and the generous support of local business sponsors. Although there were no in-person interviews, annual reception, or awards ceremony, the scholarship committee of the Founders Scholarship Fund selected the following students to receive scholarships.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BARRON COLLIER HIGH SCHOOL:
Michelle Cardenas-Arias, Adelyne Olson

COMMUNITY SCHOOL:
Raquel Ferreira

GOLDEN GATE HIGH SCHOOL:
Alaysha Greene, Reuben Delgado Rosa,
Nicanor Etienne, Cherlande Cheribin,
Nehemie Cyriaque

GULF COAST HIGH SCHOOL:
Alejandro Hernandez

IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL:
Alex Soriano, Natalia Garcia-Lopez

LELY HIGH SCHOOL:
Taite Miller, Wood Lindor

LORENZO WALKER:
Isis Roque-Perez, Emisael Vega-Avila,
Widjinalie Palissier

NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL:
Elizabeth Orstad, Olivia Saguto,
Grace Williams, Daniela Bendo,
Maria Cuellar

ST. JOHN NEUMANN:
Elise Bouchard, Julia Hofacker

CLUB PELICAN BAY:
Roberto Reyes

LOOKING FORWARD

Education and scholarships DON'T STOP during a pandemic and neither does the Founders Scholarship Fund. We have been funding scholarships and making dreams come true since 1991 and will NOT STOP now!

As you know, we were not able to have our big fundraising event which is our major means of donations for the scholarships, however, 24 Collier County students were still awarded scholarships for 2020, and the Founders Fund Board of Trustees will grant more scholarships in 2021. Students depend on us and we will not let them down; scholarships will be granted to deserving Collier County students in spite of not having a fundraiser.



Future scholars are relying on us to help them reach their educational and career goals.

FOUNDERS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Year	\$ Awarded	Scholarships
1992	\$7,500	3
1993	\$13,500	11
1994	\$25,368	17
1995	\$35,488	16
1996	\$70,477	32
1997	\$89,250	25
1998	\$113,875	30
1999	\$122,290	26
2000	\$108,250	22
2001	\$133,750	26
2002	\$136,000	28
2003	\$156,000	27
2004	\$161,000	30
2005	\$157,000	27
2006	\$232,000	29
2007	\$200,000	26
2008	\$200,000	26
2009	\$216,000	27
2010	\$208,000	26
2011	\$208,000	26
2012	\$232,000	29
2013	\$232,000	29
2014	\$224,000	28
2015	\$216,000	27
2016	\$216,000	27
2017	\$370,000	37
2018	\$350,000	35
2019	\$280,000	28
2020	\$240,000	24



The Founders Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$4.7 million dollars in scholarships since its founding in 1991 to over 700 students from Collier County, Florida.

Each year, The Founders Scholarship Fund averages 100 to 110 students receiving scholarship funds.

THANK YOU to our members, supporters, sponsors and benefactors for this outstanding accomplishment!

We will rely on donations to fulfill our mission this year. The need is great and the burden on families to fund higher education has increased beyond reasonable means. We are grateful for every donation as those dollars help educational dreams come true for so many students.

Since its inception in 1991, the Founders Scholarship Fund has awarded nearly \$5 million in scholarships to more than 720 deserving financially burdened Collier County high school seniors who have been accepted into a college or professional development school. Our students are attending colleges throughout the nation including such schools as American University, Bucknell, Columbia, FGCU, FSU, Georgia Tech, Harvard, and North Carolina, to name a few. Students are studying to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, artists, engineers, and more. Their stories are sometimes heartbreaking, and their successes are often heartwarming.

Whether students are seeking a college degree or technical training, an advanced education increases their chance of succeeding in a competitive career marketplace. The Founders Scholarship Fund helps local Collier County students achieve their academic dreams and prepare them for their future careers.

One fact that is clear, education is more important today than ever before. Currently, we have 126 students receiving scholarships who are depending on us.

Please look forward with us. Share our mission with your friends, business acquaintances, and neighbors. Together, we can help change lives and give hope to future scholarship recipients.

Current Founders Scholarship Fund Benefactors

THANK YOU for your support!

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS

Although we were unable to have our 2020 EVENT, we want to thank our sponsors for their dedication and continued support. They have been wonderful supporters of the Founders Scholarship Fund mission. When you see them or patronize their businesses, please tell them they are appreciated. *An entire list of sponsors can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. The below spotlights are from our major sponsors.*



Preferred Travel Naples has been on the move these past few months! They have opened a second office in Bonita Springs and relocated the Naples office to the building next door. Olga Placeres, President of Preferred Travel, along with her leadership team, realized the need to better serve clients in Southwest Florida and decided to expand their offices to two convenient locations rather than one. Two offices now allow for smaller numbers of staff working in each office at the same time as well as ensures that client meetings are safer and follow distancing guidelines effectively.

Travel advisors are seeing clients by appointment only and some working remotely when not in the office. The advisors at Preferred Travel are ready to help clients navigate their travel plans in keeping with protocols and safety guidelines. No trip is too small or too big for Preferred Travel's team of experts. Advisors are assisting clients with local staycations, travel destinations in the USA to explore and learn, and all travel destinations open to Americans. Advisors are ready to assist, help and inspire.

The new offices are located at 5811 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 201 and in Bonita Springs at 3960 Via Del Rey in the Vanderbilt Office Park. For information about Preferred Travel of Naples, please call (239) 261-1177, toll free 800-523-3716 or visit www.preferrednaples.com.

Preferred Travel is always happy to support the Founders Scholarship Fund and has been a sponsor since 2005.

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To find out more, please call Wealth Advisor Jorge Calleja at 239-449-7892. 8889 Pelican Bay Blvd. Naples, FL 34108-9904

The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC. CRC3308036 11/20



We would like to thank Club Pelican Bay for all they do and have done for the Founders Scholarship Fund. With the continued support of David Mangan and Gene Faglier plus their incredible staff, we have been able to have memorable and successful events year after year. We salute the entire Club Pelican Bay team.



Yamron Jewelers is proud to sponsor The Founders Scholarship Fund in support of educating Naples' youth.

For more than 40 years, Yamron has served the Naples community, offering an exclusive collection of the world's most prestigious timepieces and designer jewelry. Sophisticated, intimate and elegant, Yamron Jewelers resides in the prestigious Waterside Shops, where they will soon open LA MAISON YAMRON offering pre-owned luxury jewelry and timepieces for discerning collectors, specializing in rare and important pieces by the most prestigious houses including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Bvlgari, Tiffany, Graff and more.

Visit in-store or online at www.yamron.com (239-592-7707) and www.lamaisonyamron.com (239-596-2732).



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The Naples team, led by Adria D. Starkey, is honored to serve the residents of this great community. We have a beautiful office in Pelican Bay, on the corner of US41 and Laurel Oak Drive.

For more information, visit the Naples office Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or call 239-963-0700 to speak to a professional.

Occasions of Naples

"Occasions of Naples Florist has been proudly serving Naples and Bonita Springs for 14 years. We are committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gift baskets, backed by service that is friendly and prompt. Because all of our customers are important, our professional staff is dedicated to making your experience a pleasant one. That is why we always go the extra mile to make your floral gift perfect. We are proud to be a supporter of The Founders Fund."

~ OCCASIONS Florist - Sean Feeney

For more information, call 239-592-6878 or visit us at: 28380 Old 41 Rd, #2, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.



Mercedes-Benz of Naples

We are honored to be a part of the wonderful initiatives the Founders Scholarship Fund provides, and we are honored for the loyalty the Pelican Bay community continues to show. Here's to many prosperous years to come.

Mercedes-Benz of Naples
239-643-5006
MBNaples.com

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! Thank you to the Ed Brennan Family

The first Golf Tournament and Banquet fundraiser was held in 1994 with Ed Brennan suggesting the event and serving as Chairman. That same year, Ed succeeded Rocky Caldwell as The Founders Fund Board Chairman. In 2000, the event was dedicated to Ed Brennan who passed in 1999 as the Brennan family made a substantial gift to The Founders Fund in his honor. The 2020 EVENT has been rescheduled to 2022 but the support of the Brennan family continues. The Founders Fund is most grateful to the late Ed Brennan for his foresight in fundraising, and to his entire family.



The Founders Scholarship Fund
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UPDATE

The Ed Brennan Memorial GOLF Tournament & Banquet Will Be Held in 2022!

With much discussion from our committee, the decision was made to cancel the 2020 EVENT due to the COVID outbreak.

The next Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament & Banquet will be held in the Spring of 2022. This is the first time in our history that the fundraiser had to be cancelled.

With the help of the CLUB, plans are underway to create a wonderful event in the Spring of 2022. The committee will be hard at work these next few months and will send new invitations in the fall.



The Founders Scholarship Fund
is **ALWAYS**
there to
BRIDGE the GAP!

