

STEP FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Year of Growth and Transition



Dear Governors Club Members:

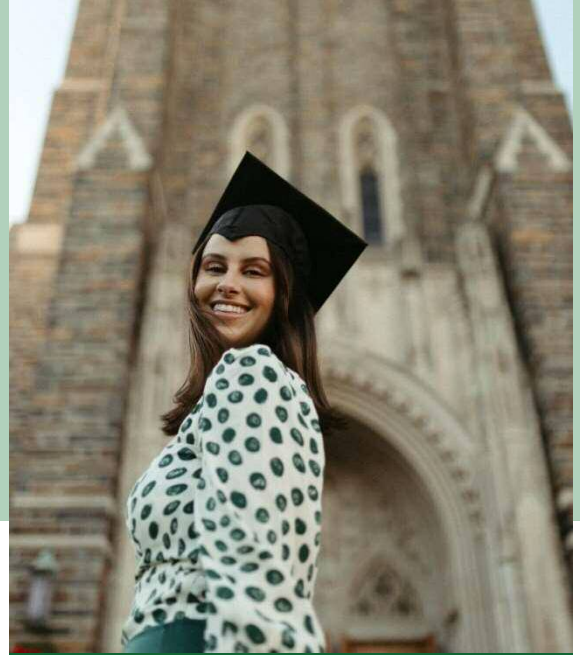
I am delighted to share highlights from my first year as President of the Step Forward Scholarship Fund (SFSF). This year has been filled with excitement and activity, marked by significant achievements and promising transitions that I am eager to report.

First, as we anticipated that two of our esteemed Board members would complete their terms this year, the SF Board embarked on a diligent search to find successors who could continue their legacy of excellence and founder Bill Wallace’s vision for this program. Wallace and long-time Board member and Vice President John Zaremba officially left the Board at the end of June but both continue to work on committees in the organization. We know transitions often involve adaptation and adjustment, but teamwork, camaraderie, and the desire to change lives through education are making this changeover smooth.

I am happy to announce the addition of three exceptional individuals to our Board of Directors: Karen Degner, Dr. David Hopkins and Larry Manaugh. You can read more about them in an article in this newsletter. These new members bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and diverse perspectives to our team.

As the year progressed, we had the privilege of hearing from inspiring speakers who shared stories of determination, resilience, and joy. In September, UNC Women's Tennis Coach Brian Kalbas kicked off our annual celebration dinner.

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Celebrating the 2024 SFSF Scholarship Recipients and our Generous Donors

Friday, September 6, 2024
Governors Club Ballroom
6:00 - 8:00 pm



Entertainment:

Violinist Tyler Butler-Figueroa
“America’s Got Talent” Finalist

**Complimentary Dinner to the
First 100 Registrants**

**A Glass of Wine Upon Arrival
as our Gift to You**

Dinner Donated by
The Bold Companies
Gretchen Castorina of Compass Realty
Sean Murray Grading Inc.
Bland Landscaping Co.

Reception Piano Music by Mike Adams

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT


Continued from Page 1

His personal coaching journey and his team's work to achieve victories inspired us. In February, we were honored to welcome award-winning author and television journalist Tracy Wilson at our fundraising luncheon. Tracy's tales of strength and underdog triumphs, interwoven with the experiences of two of our own SFSF scholarship recipients, motivated us all to persevere through difficult times.

This summer, your contributions and those of others have enabled students like Haley to study commercial real estate in Charleston; Samantha to pursue equine veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania; Oliva to delve into family and estate law in Chapel Hill; Bland to explore criminal justice in Durham; Tani to study marine science in Beaufort with Duke; and Andrea to begin her journey in nursing school at Duke. It is truly inspiring to witness the profound impact these scholarships have had on these young peoples' lives.

Additionally, your generosity has provided paid internships for many students, allowing them to gain invaluable work experience without the financial burden of unpaid or low-paying positions. This year, we are delighted to see students thriving in various career paths with the aid of SF intern scholarships, GC resident-supported businesses, and other school-funded work opportunities.

Finally, in June we awarded 25 scholarships totaling \$161,000; 15 of these scholarships were awarded to children of employees and 10 employees received scholarships.

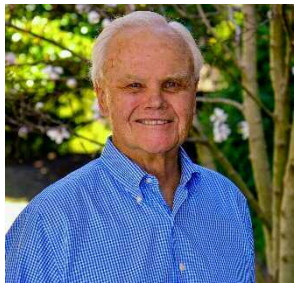
As we “step forward,” we remain steadfast in our dedication to empowering students and supporting their educational journeys. Your generosity and support have been the cornerstone of our efforts, and for that, we are immensely grateful. Together, we have made great strides, and with your continued support, we look forward to achieving even more in the coming year. Thank you for being an integral part of our community and for believing in the potential of our students. 



SFSF BOARD OF DIRECTOR CHANGES

Farewell

Step Forward Scholarship Fund (SFSF) co-founder Bill Wallace has ended his tenure as a member of the program’s Board of Directors after five years – four as Board chair. Also leaving the Board is Dr. John Zaremba who has served as the organization’s vice president and headed the Scholarship Committee for the past four years. Both Wallace and Zaremba reached their mandated term limits



Wallace, along with former Governors Club member Larry Potter, founded the SFSF in 2019 with six other Governors Club members. The SFSF has awarded more than 100 scholarships totaling more than a half million dollars. He will

remain involved with SFSF as a member of the Investment Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

“Bill has been the main driver behind the SFSF and its face to both members and scholarship applicants,” said Nancy Broaddus, current SFSF president. “His vision and tenacity built the program and has seen it expand to include mentoring, internship support and an English as a Second Language program. His dedication to GC employees and their children – especially those who are the first in their families to attend college – is unmatched.”


“Starting any organization from scratch is both a challenge and tremendously rewarding,” Wallace said. “Having an opportunity to start our own not-for-profit and grow it to a point that I hope it will perpetuate itself for a very long time is very satisfying. It would not have happened without the dedicated and enthusiastic support of a small cadre of directors that shared in that passion and the generosity of the GC community.”

Zaremba has seen a significant increase in scholarship candidates and interviewed and reviewed applications of more than 90 recipients during his tenure. He was instrumental in developing many of the policies and procedures that have ensured that the program awards scholarships to the most qualified and needy applicants.



“We are very proud that nearly all of our recipients have excelled in their academic endeavors,” said Broaddus. “This is in great part because of the extensive review that John and his committee undertook in making the awards. With John and his committee, it was not a ‘one and done’ situation. We take great pride in the fact that the overwhelming majority of our recipients have excelled in their academic pursuits,” she said.

“Serving on the SFSF Board is an incredible volunteer opportunity. You learn firsthand how generous our GC residents can be,” Zaremba said. “Meeting our amazing staff members in a completely different light and being able to help them achieve their higher education goals was my salary. But the greatest joy was in helping the dependents of our employees who will be the first in their families to graduate from university.”


Zaremba remains as a member of the scholarship and investment committees. Janet Shaw is now the SFSF’s vice president while Dr. David Hopkins is the head of the Scholarship Committee. 



SFSF BOARD OF DIRECTOR CHANGES

Welcome to our New Directors!

As with any organization, change is part of “doing business,” and SFSF is not different. President Nancy Broaddus says that “the Step Forward Scholarship Fund is experiencing its first cycle of Director full-term expirations with our Board members, Founder Bill Wallace and long-time member John Zaremba. Bill's passion and dreams built this organization into the success story it has become, while John's educational wisdom and shrewd decisions enabled more students to receive scholarships each year.”


As we bid Bill Wallace and John Zaremba farewell, we are excited to introduce our new Directors; Karen Degner, Dave Hopkins, and Larry Manaugh. Their diverse expertise will undoubtedly guide us to even greater heights. 



Karen Degner will head Information Technology (IT) for the organization in a newly-created position. She comes to Step Forward with a B.S. in computer science summa cum laude in addition to Project Management Institute (PMI), Project Management Professional (PMP),

and Performance Measurement Manager certifications. She has a history of IT success in both public and private sectors, assisting clients with best practices and lessons learned in her years of work. Karen believes in ensuring that each step is taken within the client’s overall strategy and in alignment with their organizational goals. Working through the technical and senior management ranks of large global companies including Oracle and Business Objects, Karen has developed an ability to connect with both technical and non-technical clients.

Karen and her husband Mark come from Honolulu and have lived in Governors Club five years. During her time in our community, Karen has worked on the Property Owner Association’s Information Technology committee.

Karen was drawn to be a part of Step Forward because, paraphrasing Bill Clinton, “the service it offers does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.” 



Dr. David Hopkins will assume the duties of the Scholarship Chair, replacing Dr. John Zaremba. David holds a degree in mathematics and two additional degrees in kinesiology.

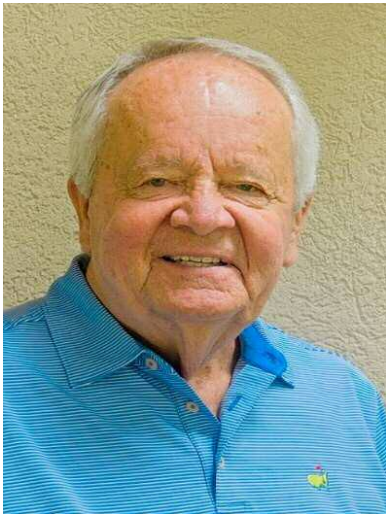
Throughout his career in academics, he published more than sixty articles and served on various Boards, including the NCAA Division 1 as well as seven others. His career involved several high-level academic affair positions at Indiana State University. Later, he served as the 6th president of Wright State University for ten years. David feels that part of his legacy from those ten years was increased student enrollment and the success of underrepresented populations. In total, David served forty-four years in higher education at public universities with an emphasis on serving first generation and underrepresented students.



Welcome to Our New Directors! (Cont.)

David is married to Angela; the couple has six grown children and eleven grandchildren. David and Angela are relative “newbies” to Governors Club, coming from Bluffton, South Carolina just seven months ago.

David had breakfast with Nancy Broaddus and Bill Wallace a few months ago and said, “They were amazing and I was so impressed by the impact SF was having on people and the Club in general. I knew I wanted to help in any way I could.” **S F**



Larry Manaugh will focus on Governance for Step Forward. He began his career in education as an undergraduate at Purdue University and later earned a master’s degree in education from Indiana University. He worked summers at American Can

plant to pay his way through school. After teaching for five years, Larry was offered a position at American Can, later moving to American Packaging where he worked for the next forty years, becoming Vice President and General Manager of its largest division. When Larry retired in 2018, he had the largest sales territory in the company. With his educational background, Larry feels that “I have had a great deal of experience in the educational area, along with pushing our children through a number of ‘educational journeys.’”

Larry lived for years in the Philadelphia area. He and his wife Sally met during Larry’s move to the Southeast. They married and have been at

Governors Club since 1990, building the ninth home in the community. The couple has seven grown children between the two of them and a whopping thirteen grandchildren!

Larry has been involved in area activities for many years. He was part of the initial group that started the Great Decisions group at the club, an active discussion forum now for several years. He also helped two years with the Learning Trail, a not-for-profit after-school tutoring program.

Larry has some very specific reasons why he’s involved with Step Forward. He said, “My initial career was in high school teaching. I loved the experience and have a true connection to that part of my life. I also like the increasing interest in trade school options. Too many college grads have a huge college debt to start their adult life. The best option for many is to get established in a trade that can offer a great income from the start. No huge college debt, plus the help of the SF scholarship option can make all the difference in the world for the recipient and for the family.” **S F**



SFSF CELEBRATION FEATURED PERFORMER

A Young Violinist Tugs on Heartstrings

Tyler Butler-Figueroa burst into living rooms all over the country on a June evening in 2019. If you missed him then, please mark your calendars for September 6, 2024.

That’s when Raleigh’s own talent-show favorite will perform at the Step Forward Scholarship Fund’s annual celebration of scholarship recipients, sponsors, and donors at the clubhouse.

In 2019, 11-year-old Tyler, violin in hand, took to the stage during his taped audition for NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.” He told how he took up the instrument to cope with the bullying he endured during his treatment for a childhood cancer.

“I just didn’t want to be the kid with cancer,” he said. “So now I’m the kid who plays the violin.” And he began to play ‘Stronger,’ by Kelly Clarkson, whose refrain includes “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

Longtime AGT panelist Simon Cowell began the review. “By the way, before I start, how are you feeling now?”



2019 American’s Got Talent

the bullies,” and pressed the show’s golden buzzer, which sent confetti to the stage and Tyler to the show’s quarterfinals, and then on to a “Champions” edition of the show, an appearance on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” and countless other performances.

Tyler responded: “I’m feeling really proud of myself.”

Cowell then said that he would like to say something “on your behalf to

In the five years since, Tyler’s face has thinned and his repertoire and accomplishment have expanded. He has played before thousands at a travel convention in Las Vegas, at halftime at UNC basketball games, at weddings and at remembrances; written and released a song, as well as recorded and produced two extended-play albums; joined the Eastern Regional Orchestra of North Carolina, the Triangle Youth Symphony, and the Triangle Youth Philharmonic; and mastered musical genres including Pop, Classical, Country, Hip-Hop, R&B, Soul, and Latin.



2024 UNC We Are One Conference

By the way, Tyler finished his sophomore year at Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh a few months ago. He is still a few weeks shy of 17.

“Tyler’s journey is a testament to resilience and passion,” said SFSF president Nancy Broaddus. “We eagerly anticipate a night of diverse and captivating music.” **S F**

The September 6 dinner is open to all current and former donors to the SFSF.

Reservations are available through the Governors Club [website](#).

<https://members.governorsclubnc.com>



RECENT EVENTS

When a Lunch Is More Than a Lunch...

The first-ever scholarship recipient luncheon was held on July 16th, featuring Step Forward award recipients, Board members, and Mentoring Committee members.


About thirty-five individuals gathered at this event coordinated by Bhavna Patel and Janie Butler to celebrate the hard work and resilience of the SF scholarship recipients. The students connected with each other and with Board members, discussing their work, their educational needs, and their classes at school. Many of the scholarship recipients mentioned how much the SF financial assistance helps their families and allows them to concentrate on what's important—school and work.

The luncheon also provided the perfect opportunity for the scholarship recipients to learn more about the Mentoring Committee, chaired by Janie Butler. A scholarship award comes not just with financial assistance, but with other services equally important:

resume writing; applying to grad school; locating career contacts; and developing interviewing skills. Current Mentoring Committee members include Kate Brekke, Marc Ingelbinck, Sandi Lehrman, Larry Manaugh, Jim Morrow, and Leslie Strohm.

Reflecting on the luncheon, Janie Butler said, “The more we support each other, the more we build a positive community, which benefits all members in Governors Club.” Bhavna Patel added, “It was so wonderful to meet the scholarship recipients and see their excitement just before classes start.”

Following the gathering, President Nancy Broaddus said “The SFSF luncheon for our 2024 recipients was a important event, marking the first time our new scholars gathered together. This inaugural luncheon provided a valuable opportunity for them to meet and potentially build a support network, as many are navigating similar educational and career paths.”

Looking at the smiling faces in the photos, we think you'll agree. 





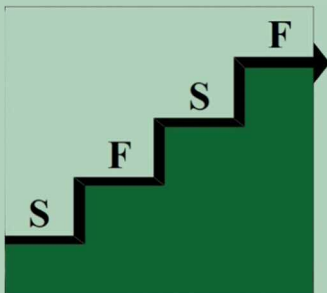
DONATE TODAY!

Three Ways to Donate

- 1 Donations can be made via PayPal or credit card through the SFSF website at:
<https://www.stepforwardgc.org/>
- 2 Donations can be mailed to:
*Step Forward Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 4631
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2631*
- 3 Donations can be dropped off in the Governors Club lobby
Drop your donation off in the SFSF mailbox

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	<i>Nancy Broaddus</i>
Vice-President	<i>Janet Shaw</i>
Treasurer	<i>Udo Koopmann</i>
Secretary	<i>Eduardo Sanchez</i>
Directors	<i>Janie Butler Karen Degner Dr. David Hopkins Larry Manaugh Bhavna Patel</i>



GIFTING MADE SIMPLE

Looking for a Unique and Meaningful Gift?

Your great-uncle Harry is about to turn 95, and you're pretty certain he doesn't need another pair of green socks. Adding to this dilemma is that your wife is about to have her "big 60" (45 she says), and last time you got her a bottle of Eau de Tontes de Gazon. And the time before that. Would she like green socks? The worst thing is, you've just looked up the translation of this lovely perfume and she's been wearing the fragrance of . . . grass clippings.

What to do?

Don't panic. Simply type in www.stepforwardgc.org and go to the sub-menu "Ways to Give." You can make a simple donation or provide a restricted or non-restricted legacy gift. What a great way to honor a person or remember those who played a part in your life in the past.

A donation is a thoughtful, timeless gift and truly a way for you to "step forward" into helping our GC employees with schooling and career growth. 