



1958

ALUMNI SOCIETY

SUMMER 2024





1958

ALUMNI SOCIETY

2024 Alumni Leadership

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Frankie Bria, '25 and Brittany Lang at the 2024 Shop Rite LPGA Classic.

On the cover: 2023 Caddie of the Year, Drew Christensen, '24





Alex McPherson, '13, Matt Barrett, '17 and Billy Reube, '13

Dear Alumni,

I hope summer is off to a great start for everyone. Since the introduction of the 1958 Alumni Society (and this publication last spring), alumni engagement is stronger than ever before. Donations through the Alumni Society alone eclipsed \$100K during last fiscal year, which is in line with the top clubs in GAP! Additionally, participation in several events like the cocktail party at Whitemarsh Valley last June and Five Iron Golf gathering in March was impressive.

But we shouldn't rest on our laurels. More than ever before, it's critical to the health of the trust for alumni to participate more actively. For the upcoming school year, we're welcoming 90+ new scholars - the largest class since the inception of the trust. As alumni, I would argue we have an obligation to support these students both financially and professionally through programs like EMPOWER.

Two events that I'm looking forward to this fall are the Lifetime Alumni dinner at Lark in Bala Cynwyd and Alumni Outing at Stonewall on

Oct. 21 (see additional information on pages 6 and 7). During the Stonewall event, a silent auction will be held to benefit our alumni programming. If you are interested in donating an unaccompanied foursome or accompanied threesome at your course, please reach out at barrettm711@gmail.com.

With the recent growth of the Trust, I can't help but be excited for the future. I look forward to connecting with more of you soon, and thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards

Matthew Barrett

Matt Barrett, '17

In Spring 2023, we published an article from Vince Walls, '72 that detailed his caddie experience (<https://plattscholar.org/alumni-publications/>.) In response, the letter below was sent to the Trust.



Dear Vince,

I so much enjoyed your story in the Platt newsletter. It brought back many memories and it was amazing how many of mine overlapped with yours.

I also started college in 1968. It wasn't LaSalle University but Eastern Baptist College in Wayne, very close to Villanova University. I, too, had a paper route and invested the profits in stocks while in high school.

Just as you starting your journey, mine started when my best friend, a waiter at Squires, told me there was an opening. I applied and got the job. Talk about culture shock. Going from collecting 40 cents a week with a dime tip I was now getting much bigger tips for waiting on members and even more driving their cadillacs from the upper parking lot to the front door of the club.

My first three years of college I worked Thursday dinners and weekends and then six days a week over the summer. My senior year I decided to caddie to spend more time with these very successful men then just a few minutes serving them a meal. They encouraged me to apply for a Platt scholarship, which I did that helped with my senior year tuition.

You took a different approach by using your early stock buying to launch a career in securities. I graduated with an elementary education degree and came back to teach in my alma mater Hatboro-Horsham District for 12 years. The last five years I learned the ropes of buying multi-family properties and had enough cash flow to retire from teaching to do the real estate full time.

Just like you, I have fond memories with many members. I served lunch to Leonard Toss and Jim Murray the day after he bought the Eagles. When George Fazio was not in an airplane he would stay with Squire pro, Jack Gately in his home on the course. Many times young Tom Fazio would join Uncle George for a round of golf.

One morning, George, Tom and member John Dynewski, Philadelphia Amateur Champion (1954-55, 1962) had a game planned with a special guest, Bob Hope. They were drinking coffee waiting for the rain to stop when Mr. Hope called me over and asked if any caddies were still around. I found three playing penny poker between two benches. When Bob heard this his eyes got big and said, 'I want in the game.' Off we went with most of the members following. He introduced himself as Bob, learned their names, and ask if he could join the game. Mr. Hope was non-stop asking the kids questions. What grade are you in, which members do you like to caddie for, did they have any good jokes they would like to share. The rain stopped but before leaving he pulled out a magic marker and ask each boy for a card from the deck. He wrote on the cards their name then "Fun playing poker with you" signed and dated.

Frank Chirkinian was a Squires member but wasn't around very often especially during the summer with his busy TV schedule. One memory was when he was playing Squires on the day of the final round of the British Open. He took me aside and handed me a piece of paper with a name and a phone number. He said to call this friend early afternoon as the Open would do done by then with the five hour difference. He wanted me to write down what each player in the final group did on the last three holes. I called the friend, got the information and handed my notes to Mr. C. when no one was around as instructed. When the telecast came on, Frank started making bets that this player would

make a 15-foot putt, which of course he did. He then let them win a few but had cleaned up by the time the Open was over. When the last putt went in, he put all the money on the table and told them to take back what they had bet and what he had done. They all had a great laugh and talked about that afternoon for weeks.

One late afternoon after other members had left, Ed Sabol of NFL Films, was waiting for his car to be delivered after being inspected and shared with me his story of how NFL films got started. He filmed son Steve with an 8 mm camera playing high school football at Haverford High. He also took shots of the bench, the crowd, cheer leaders and then added audio and music. He showed it to Pete Rozelle and as they say the rest is history. Lots of Philadelphia connections with both Ed and Steve Sabol and John Facenda doing the commentary.

I also caddied for Cardinal Krol. He was playing Squires with priests who were good golfers just like he did with you. On a par three, he hit a duck hook that landed across the street in Oak Terrace Golf Club. I handed him another ball but he waived me off. The next thing I know he grabs his sand wedge, walks across the street, finds his ball and hits it onto the green. He two putts and says give me a four. As we walked down the next fairway he told me the Archdiocese had recently purchased Oak Terrace for a new cemetery so it was not out of bounds for any in his foursome. Later the land was bought from the Archdiocese, stayed a golf course and is now Talamore Country Club.

Another caddie highlight was being on the bags of two City Amateur champs. Bill Hyndman, III (1935, 1958, 1965) and Alan Susell (1969). They were playing against 20-plus handicaps. Both shot four under par and lost the match!

I was honored to serve as a Platt Trustee as well as becoming a lifetime member to continue to give back to this great caddie scholarship program.

It was the easiest loop of my caddie carrier. I was never in the rough or in trees looking for balls.

Yes, to pay it forward is so important. When I joined Old York Road I always took a caddie to mentor just like others had done for me. I organized a J. Wood Platt in house tournament to raise contributions, since we had more outgo then income for our caddies from Platt funds. For a few years OYR was within the top 20 clubs in GAP with Platt contributions which I am very proud to have accomplished.

After starting this tournament, I received a call from Platt president Dr. David Junkin to see if I would be interested in serving as a trustee. I was honored to accepted and served from 2001 to 2009 as well as becoming a lifetime member to continue to give back to this great caddie scholarship program.

While a Trustee, the Dawn to Dusk concept was developed and I suggested the first one be held at Old York Road, which it was. Tina Gregor was the driving force getting this off the ground and enjoyed working with her. So glad with her leadership it has continued to get bigger and better each year.

So it's been 50 years for me as well as a J.W. Platt Scholar and thought you summed it up perfectly that we received Bachelor Degrees from Universities but the Bachelor of Life Degree we learned from the people we caddied for, who mentored us, and are for forever grateful.

It's great to see there is an active alumni committee. Maybe we should go to the alumni gathering at Whitemarsh Valley on June 15. Us to two old farts could tell stories of our memorable loops 50+years ago 😊

We are also close in our years of marriage. You at 45 years and Debbie and I are at 44. She is a golfer and we have won OYR Mixed Championship four times, lost in the finals twice, but that was decades ago. We have been blessed with two very successful children who both live close by. Our daughter didn't take up golf but our son did and has been OYR club champ the last three years. Just recently he was tied for the lead out of 144 golfers in the Middle-Amateur after the first day shooting even par. The kids each gave us our first grandbabies 25 days apart. Both boys have just started walking so exciting times. My Christmas present to both, even before they could walk, was a putter.

— Don Beck

IT'S BACK!



The J. Wood Platt Alumni Tournament

all proceeds to directly benefit alumni/scholar programming

Monday, October 21

Stonewall, The Old Course
375 Bulltown Rd, Elverson, PA

10:30 am lunch and registration
noon shotgun start
Cocktails and lite fare to follow

\$350 pp

Open to all JWP Alumni

(Due to increased popularity, non-alumni guests can only be accommodated for the post event festivities. We appreciate your understanding)



NEW THIS YEAR

1958 Premier Sponsor

(two available)

\$5,000

- Foursome (*non alumni guests permitted for sponsors only*)
- Overnight on-site accommodations
- Logo/name on all event merchandise
- Outing Recognition and Signage
- JWP Social Media Exposure
- Impact Report Highlight (circ. 10,000)
- GAP Magazine Highlight (circ. 60,000)



***Please inquire regarding available opportunities to
Lindsay Myers, Director of Scholar & Alumni Engagement at lm Myers@gapgolf.org.***

The J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust is a registered 501(c)3, tax id #23-6296989

J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust | 1974 Sproul Road, Suite 400 | Broomall, PA 19008 | (717) 380-0774

DID YOU KNOW

THE NUMBER OF
accepted Scholars
FOR THE 2024-25 CLASS
is up 100%
OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



THE NUMBER OF
female Scholars (26)
IS NOW AT ITS
highest in the history
of the Trust.

It's new - Save the Date!



LIFETIME APPRECIATION EVENING

*to recognize and
thank our generous Alumni
Lifetime Members*

Thursday, November 14 | 6 pm



611 Righters Ferry Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

*Spouses/guests welcome.
Invitations will be sent in September.*

Follow us on social!





1958
ALUMNI SOCIETY

2023–24 Donors

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Matthew Barrett, '17	Eric Chmiel, '20	Dennis Durkin, '74	Thomas Greenberg, '81
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 Seth Shoher, '11
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 Frank J. White, '83
 Kevin White, '00
 Cole White, '21
 Michael Williams, '84
 Thomas Wilson, '91
 William P. Wilson, '80

A HUGE Alumni Thank You!

On March 21, JWP hosted our first **Networking Reception for Alumni & Scholars** at 5 Iron Golf in Center City.

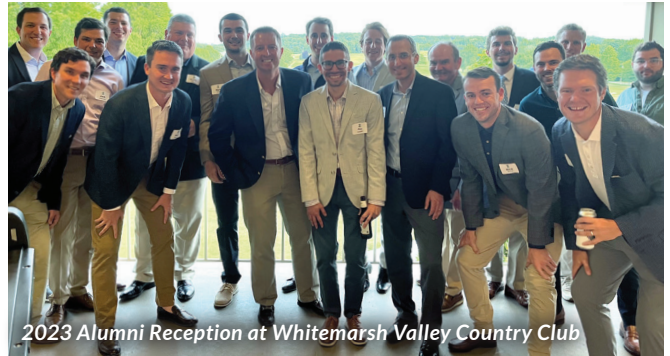
Many personal and career connections were made; companies represented included: Apogee Insurance, Marcum LLP, PwC, Vanguard, Amateur Golf Society, Morgan Lewis, Pantzer Properties, General Motors, RT Specialty Group, Littler Mendelson, Siegfried Group, Amateur Golf Society, Black Rock, Freedom Mortgage, Giant Face Video Streaming, Graffen Technology, Grant Thornton, Hunter Durant, Lyons Companies, Nalco Water, Vanguard, and ZS Management Consulting.

We will look to expand these events in the upcoming year – they will be directly supported by the returning Alumni Tournament (*see page 6*).



How can you get involved?

Mentoring We have an online platform to facilitate both longer and short-term connections with Scholars. Over half of our current mentors are alumni, and we would value your participation! Sign up today at plattscholar.org or visit the QR code below.



Career Portal We maintain an online list of full time job and internship opportunities for our Scholars. Please visit Plattscholar.org for submissions or email **Lindsay Myers** lmeyers@gaggolf.org.

Alumni/Scholar Events As we expand the calendar of alumni events, watch for networking evenings that will include our junior and senior Scholars.



Mentoring Portal



Leadership Summit



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