WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION INC.

Catching Up With 2008 Scholarship Recipients

March 2022

We tracked down a few of our 2008 scholarship recipients to find out what they've been doing since receiving their scholarship awards 14 years ago. Like a proud parent, you will be impressed with their accomplishments. Each recipient thanked the Foundation for making their journey through school less stressful.

Katie Giaccone

What was your major at Yale? Did you graduate with any honors or awards?

I was a Sociology major with a concentration in network statistics, focused primarily on "corporate board interlock" or the interconnectedness of boards of directors. At graduation, I won the departmental award for my thesis investigating whether or not corporate board interlock networks could promote socially responsible business practices (they can!).

Did you attend graduate school?

I was fortunate to return to Yale for business school and received my MBA in 2017. I am in the process now of doing foundational coursework in my spare time to apply for a Masters degree in Art History.

Briefly describe what you are doing now.

I am currently a Strategy & Operations manager at Google, supporting advertising sales teams.

Katie Giaccone (Continued)

If you feel it tells a more complete story, please feel free to describe any prior work experiences.

Prior to Google, I was a consultant at Bain & Co. and held analyst positions at Goldman Sachs. I also had the opportunity to intern for the President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art when I was in business school and hope one day to hold that job myself!

Do you still play or have any involvement with golf?

I don't get to play golf as much as I would like, though I am looking forward to picking up my clubs again in the spring.

Please describe in a few words how the scholarship funds you received from the Foundation helped you while you were in school.

The WMGA scholarship was vital during my time at Yale. I was able to purchase books and materials for class, work fewer hours at my on-campus job at the arts and architecture library, and even replace my laptop when my old one died...right in the middle of writing my senior thesis! The scholarship allowed me to focus on getting the most out of my education and college experience and I remain very grateful to have been a recipient.

Are you involved in any charitable work?

I have been building my skills in the kitchen for several years. During the pandemic, I started a regular series of cooking fundraisers, where I auction off something (like a 4-course dinner, baked goods, a virtual cooking class), with all proceeds going to charity. So far, these auctions have raised over $5k. The most recent, a dinner of Betty White's favorite foods, raised $500 for animal welfare and conservation.

WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION INC.
Catching Up With 2008 Scholarship Recipients

March 2022

Caitlyn Dewitt

What was your major at NYU?

I actually went to Cornell University for undergraduate studies and then NYU for graduate. At Cornell I received a BS in Civil Engineering with a minor in Business. Then at NYU Stern School of Business I received an MBA with concentrations in Real Estate and Finance.

Briefly describe what you are doing now.

I am a Project Manager at Tishman Speyer. I work in their Design & Construction group on development projects (currently a new condo building in Brooklyn called 11 Hoyt).

If you feel it tells a more complete story, please feel free to describe any prior work experiences.

After graduation from Cornell, I worked for a general contractor in NYC and learned about construction management. My boss eventually encouraged me to return to school to get an MBA: something he had wanted to do before he had children and became too busy. Business school led me to my current position which I truly enjoy.

Do you still play or have any involvement with golf?

I still play golf with my family, my husband's family, and our friends. Golf has been a great help to us during the pandemic as it has encouraged us to get outside and socialize safely and clear our heads (and sometimes frustrate us ☺).

Caitlyn Dewitt (Continued)

Please describe in a few words how the scholarship funds you received from the Foundation helped you while you were in school.

Cornell University certainly would not have been an option for me without financial aid, the Foundation's help, and other support I received financially. My parents would not have been able to afford that type of education for me, especially when my dad lost his job (during the recession) while I was at Cornell. To take out loans to cover that kind of cost would have crippled me for likely decades after graduation. Receiving financial assistance from the Foundation and others allowed me to go to Cornell, to focus on my studies while only having to work part time, to have an amazing college experience including a study abroad year, and graduate without debt. Having Cornell Engineering on my resume opened many doors for me and not having debt allowed me to take a risk and take on debt for graduate school (which I have since been able to pay off thanks to a salary increase when I got a new job after business school).

Are you involved in any charitable work?

I volunteer 2 hours a week during the school year as an SAT tutor through NYCares (this is my 4th year and 3rd year as the team lead). I also, through my company, am the team lead for an ACE student team - for students interested in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (this is my 7th year and 4th year as team lead).

Are there any other fun facts or other things we should know about you?

That I am very grateful for the support you offered me and continue to offer students.

Maria Dias Verde

What was your major at Sacred Heart University?

I graduated with a BA in Social Work and a minor in Psychology.

Did you attend graduate school?

I attended Fordham University in New York to continue my social work education. I graduated with a Masters in Social Work.

Briefly describe what you are doing now.

I currently work as a social worker in 3 elementary schools in a rural area in South Carolina. I work with our homeless population, connecting students to resources and providing them with basic needs, such as clothing, school supplies etc. I also have a caseload of students who needs support, due to mental health. Prior to this, I was a coordinator of a Hispanic substance use program and a local substance use facility. I had to resign after my recent car accident that led to medical issues that unfortunately continues to affect me today.

If you feel it tells a more complete story, please feel free to describe any prior work experiences.

I do a lot of work in the community with the Hispanic population. Being tri-lingual, and having the diverse background I have, allows me to serve a wide range of individuals. I am also very involved with diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings, as I have a passion for educating individuals on being more culturally aware and competent. I hold an LMSW license and I am currently working to attain my LISW (LCSW).

Maria Dias Verde (Continued)

Do you still play or have any involvement with golf?

I have two young girls, ages 5 and 6, and unfortunately, no time to play golf. I am still learning how to make time to play golf and bring my children, so that they can learn as well.

Please describe in a few words how the scholarship funds you received from the Foundation helped you while you were in school.

The scholarships I received while I was in undergrad, helped me buy books that were required for my classes, helped pay for some of the tuition, which was required by the school to even begin the semester. Thank you for all the generous gifts, who allowed this lady, from an inner city, earn her degrees and licenses that allow her to live on those who need love, to speak for those who need a voice and to be a part of the change this world needs.

Are there any other fun facts or other things we should know about you?

My husband, Carlos, and I got married in 2020! Covid wedding, and on Halloween, my favorite holiday! Our daughters were able to witness such a wonderful expression of LOVE!