



*Kevin M. Eidt Memorial Scholarship Fund  
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June 17, 2017

Dear Friend,

Today would have marked Kevin's 39<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thanks to every one of our donors, we can reflect on something positive today and update you about Kevin's Fund, our 2017 scholarship recipients, and events since our April 8<sup>th</sup> benefit dinner dance and scholarship presentation.

For those who were unable to attend this year's April 8<sup>th</sup> scholarship presentation, we have included abstracts of Grace Bradley's comments in accepting this year's \$100,000 scholarship, as the most outstanding senior in the Norwalk High School class of 2017, as an attachment to this letter. Grace will be attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina in the fall. At the April 8<sup>th</sup> benefit event, we also announced Ryan Williams as recipient of a special Community Service scholarship presented in memory of Alexandra Sandor, our long-time Auction Committee Chair and supporter of Kevin's Fund, who passed away suddenly in May of 2016. Ryan will be attending Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts.

Over the past several weeks Kevin's Fund awarded seven additional scholarships recognizing outstanding achievements in the areas in which Kevin participated and excelled.

- On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Boston College Emerging Leader Scholarship was presented to the freshman in the Emerging Leader Program whose leadership skills and potential best represent Boston College's philosophies of "Ever to Excel" and "Being Men and Women for Others". The \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to Joan Kennedy, class of '20, from San Antonio TX.
- On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Hannah Say, Boston College class of '18, from Burlingame, CA received the \$18,000 Kevin M. Eidt Memorial Scholarship awarded to the outstanding junior in the Boston College Carroll School of Management Honors Program. This scholarship is presented to the junior who, in the opinion of the faculty and administrators of the Honors Program, has demonstrated the unique combination of academic achievement, character, leadership, and school spirit like Kevin.

- On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Norwalk High School held its annual awards assembly at which Kevin's Fund presented the following scholarships:
  - \$1,000 Scholar-Athlete Scholarship to Juliane Alfen for outstanding contributions to Norwalk High School both as a scholar and an athlete. Juliane will be attending UCLA.
  - \$1,000 Orchestra Scholarship to Isabel Nees for outstanding contributions to the orchestra program. Isabel will be attending Penn State University.
- On June 5<sup>th</sup>, at the year-end Norwalk High School band banquet, Kevin's Fund awarded the following scholarships:
  - \$1,000 Marching Band Scholarship to Hailey Agostino. This scholarship is presented to the four-year member of the Marching Band, in good standing, with the highest cumulative grade point average like Kevin's achievement. Hailey will be attending McGill University in Montreal, Canada.
  - \$1,000 Jazz Scholarship to Giovan Pesce. This scholarship is presented to the senior, in good standing, who has made an outstanding contribution to the Jazz program. Giovan will be attending the University of Connecticut.
- On June 11<sup>th</sup> Ryan Williams was awarded the \$4,000 St. Jerome Youth Group Scholarship at their year-end graduation banquet. This scholarship is presented to the individual who, in the opinion of the Youth Group Adult Ministry Team, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the youth program and community and religious service like Kevin. As previously noted Ryan also received the Community Service Scholarship in memory of Alexandra Sandor on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

There were no Boston College-Norwalk High School scholarships awarded this year as no one from the class of 2017 will be attending Boston College in the fall.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Boston College EMS, the student run Emergency Response Organization, held its annual awards banquet. Boston College EMS was founded in 1997 by Mark Ritchie, a classmate of Kevin's, to ensure future situations like Kevin's would be met with the skill and resources which could mean the difference between life and death. In 2009 Boston College EMS established the Kevin M. Eidt Excellence Award which is presented annually to the most outstanding member of the organization. The 2017 recipient of Kevin's Excellence Award is Caroline Repetti, class of '17, from Dover MA.

Congratulations to our recently graduated 2013 scholarship recipients who received financial support from Kevin's Fund for the past four years: Nina Robertson ~ College of the Holy Cross ~ (Norwalk High School Scholarship) and Meghan O'Callaghan ~ Western Connecticut State University ~ (St. Jerome Youth Group Scholarship).

Lauren Wedell, the 2016 recipient of Kevin's Boston College Carroll School of Management Honors Program scholarship, was named recipient of Boston College's 2017 Finnegan Award at the University's 141<sup>st</sup> Commencement Exercises on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Finnegan Award is the highest undergraduate commencement honor recognizing the senior who best exemplifies the University's motto, "Ever to Excel". All the BC articles covering Lauren's receiving the Finnegan Award mentioned she was recipient of "the 2016 Kevin M. Eidt Memorial Scholarship, awarded to the Honors Program junior

who has demonstrated a unique combination of academic achievement, character, leadership, and school spirit". Lauren will remain in Boston working in the technology division of William Blair, an investment banking and wealth management firm.

For the upcoming fall semester, Kevin's Fund will be providing financial support to 13 students matriculating at Connecticut (2), Holy Cross, Georgetown, Furman, Boston College (2), Sacred Heart (2), Rhode Island, Merrimack, UCLA, and Penn State.

Photographs of the April 8<sup>th</sup> benefit dinner dance and scholarship presentation were taken by Yvonne Marchese Photography. A montage of these photos can be viewed at <http://www.yvonnemarchesephotography.com/Private-Galleries/events/Kevin-Eidt-Dinner-2017/n-P3zc4C/>.

As some of you may be aware Xerox Corporation, a supporter of Kevin's Fund since the Fund's inception in 1997, ended this partnership due to their January 1, 2017 financial transformation. As well over 50 employees, spouses, and customers have participated and volunteered for Kevin's Fund, this represents a significant impact on our ability to fund the Norwalk High School scholarship which has been at least \$100,000 for the past 12 years.

Over the next few months the Board of Directors will assess the ability to maintain the Norwalk High School Scholarship at the \$100,000 level, or whether the scholarship is sustainable at a different level consistent with what the scholarship is designed to achieve. Further information will be shared in the Fund's November status letter.

Current information regarding Kevin's Fund activities will be posted on our website: [www.KevinsFund.org](http://www.KevinsFund.org). You can also follow us on Twitter @KevinsFund\_org and join the Kevin Eidt Memorial Scholarship Fund Group on LinkedIn. In the event you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact us at [KevinsFund@aol.com](mailto:KevinsFund@aol.com).

Save the date for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual benefit dinner dance and scholarship presentation to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at The Shore & Country Club in East Norwalk, CT.

Through your generosity Kevin and his legacy has now touched 143 recipients with gifts of education totaling \$1,871,000. Thank you for making the extraordinary achievements of Kevin's Fund possible and for allowing our scholarship recipients to be a living legacy of Kevin's enduring personality and glowing accomplishments.

With sincere gratitude on behalf of Kevin's Fund.

*Chris*

Christian H. Eidt  
Director

*The Kevin M. Eidt Memorial Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)(3) publicly supported charitable organization, was established in honor of the exemplary achievements of Kevin, who died from cardiac arrest during his freshman year at Boston College. The Fund recognizes outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, the arts, and community and religious commitment.*

## **APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> BENEFIT DINNER DANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION RECIPIENT REMARKS**

### **Grace Bradley**

I'm honored and humbled to be here tonight as the recipient of the 2017 Kevin M. Eidt Scholarship. This recognition comes as the culmination of my four years at Norwalk High School, a time that would have been much more difficult without a few important people's support and encouragement.

My family has been essential to my success as a student, an athlete, and most importantly to us, a person. From a young age, my mom would say "Mind your manners and be a good friend" every time before I left the house. Although after a while it became a joke because she became somewhat of a predictable broken record, her words had a lasting impression on me. Greater than anything, my parents have showed me how to truly care about others by the way they care about me. They are my biggest fans and I am so grateful to have the strong relationship with them that I do. Thank you, Mom, and Dad, I love you both.

Another person integral to my success, is my field hockey coach, Mr. Seaburg. Each year, Seaburg picks a team motto. My freshman year, the motto was, "Earn the right to be proud and confident." After that, Little things make big things happen. My junior year was, "Give a perfect effort from start to finish." and this year was, "Embrace the now; seize the moment." I credit so much of our success to these mottos, as we truly try to internalize them. I would like to thank Coach Seaburg for not only helping me to develop into a better athlete, but also for expecting and encouraging us to be good people.

I would also like to thank everyone who supports the Eidt Scholarship, monetarily or otherwise, to make the scholarship possible. When supporting the Eidt Scholarship, you are supporting so much more than just the one recipient. You are supporting the betterment of Norwalk High by motivating the community to be the best students, volunteers, athletes, and people they can be. The principals that this scholarship uphold, motivate students to be high-achieving and successful. Mr. and Mrs. Eidt have done such an incredible job of turning a personal tragedy into something so positive for the Norwalk Community in loving memory of Kevin.

During the interview process, I was asked to define success. I responded that to be successful is to be happy. I find success and therefore happiness in meaningful, positive relationships, and when I am able to lead by example to foster a positive sense of community in those around me. The happiness comes from earning the love from those I respect, and want to feel happy as well.

For my senior project, I chose to expand upon the already existing Unified Sports team at Norwalk High school. Unified Sports brings together high school students with and without disabilities to play on a combined sports team. Unified Sports strives to create an inclusive environment by fostering connections between unlikely people and celebrating their differences. I have found that there is a deep divide between general education students and special-needs students. Students with special needs communicate and behave differently, which sometimes makes people uncomfortable, which can create barriers for inclusion. Once I broke down these barriers, I was able to recognize that their differences are good. They offer a purity and honesty in their

relationships that is often hard to find in other relationships. Truly relating to the athletes on the team and recognizing what they have to offer brings me that sense of success.

I believe that to live out Kevin's legacy is to not limit yourself; rather engage with as many people, places, and experiences as possible. He promoted an inclusive environment by getting involved and excelling in so many areas. Kevin continues to serve as a role model for the community of Norwalk and specifically Norwalk High School.

All of the good in Norwalk, or any city on the map, comes from the people within it - the people who live engaged and dedicated lives, while inspiring those around them as well. Kevin's Fund fosters this positive community and brings people together in so many different areas. I believe that we may honor someone else's life by living ours with a purpose. I am so grateful to be selected as this year's scholarship recipient, and I will go forth in my life proudly honoring Kevin by living my life with purpose.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY BOSTON COLLEGE CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

### **Hannah Say**

Dear Mr. and Mr. Eidt,

My name is Hannah Say and I am beyond privileged and moved to have been selected as the Carroll School of Management Honors Program recipient of the Kevin M. Eidt Scholarship for the 2017 year. The financial impact this gift has for my family's ability to continue to pay for my education at Boston College is immense yet is overshadowed by the emotional gratitude I feel for your family to continue to give back to the communities that were so important to Kevin.

Since I was a freshman at Boston College, I have sat at the end of the year banquet and heard Kevin's story of the kind of character he was, the extracurricular activities he participated in full heartedly, and the values that he upheld. Every time, I am moved by both the contributions to his communities Kevin made during his time with us as well as the sincere dedication to honor his memory that you and your family have. Again, I am beyond privileged to have been chosen for this scholarship by the faculty of the Honors program and can only hope to continue to prove myself worthy of this distinction.

I am currently studying abroad in Madrid, which is why I, unfortunately, was unable to attend this year's end of the year banquet at BC and received news that I had been awarded Kevin's scholarship while I was with other honors programs members in Hyde Park in London, on a weekend trip. Although I was 3,000 miles away from BC's campus, I was still surrounded by members of the BC community who hugged me and congratulated me when I became visibly emotional in the middle of London. This is the strength of the community that Kevin's memory is continuing to support even so many years later, present at that moment and in so many others in the past 3 years of my life. I have served as chair of the Freshman Admissions Committee in Honors for the last 2 years, the best committee ever, because it allows me to play a role in welcoming new baby eagles into our community, supporting them through their transition to college, and

also running the process to select halfway admits to the Honors Program in January. Next year, my senior year at BC, I aim to continue my role as a mentor for freshmen in honors by continuing to be a chair for the Freshman Admissions committee as well as serving as a teaching assistant for Portico, the introductory business ethics course mandatory for all CSOM students at BC.

Just to share a little bit more about myself, my background, and what I have been involved in during my time at Boston College, my family immigrated to San Francisco from the Philippines when I was 6 years old. I grew up in a home in Burlingame, CA in a house I shared with my parents and my grandparents. My grandparents had severe medical difficulties for most of my life and I helped take care of them throughout all my years of school until they peacefully passed away my senior year of high school. My family background has taught me a sense of responsibility and independence from a young age and my parents have also instilled a real appreciation for what it means to always give back to those around you.

While I am hopeless on the court with a basketball in hand and did not participate in ELP my freshman year, I have been involved in a variety of activities at Boston College. I am a finance and computer science double major CSOM and have been involved in the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics Jenks Servant Leadership Program and the Arrupe International Immersion Program over my time at Boston College. Through Jenks, my group over the course of 3 semesters worked on the first annual field day for pediatric patients at Franciscans. My participation in Arrupe granted me the opportunity to immerse myself in a small rural community in Guayaquil, Ecuador and live in solidarity with them and learn from them for a week.

I have also taken the field study classes Tech Trek West and Tech Trek Ghana with Professor Gallagher where I went for a week back home to San Francisco and to Accra, Ghana respectively. There, I learned about the tech industry by visiting various technology firms and learning from their employees. In Ghana, we specifically looked at how technology impacts a developing economy. I have co-founded and am president of my own club, Women Innovator's Network whose mission is to foster and grow the amount of women passionate about working at the intersection of technology and business through skill development, mentorship, speaker series, and community building.

This semester abroad, I have run my first marathon in Paris, gone sky diving in Interlaken, Switzerland, and attended a Real Madrid soccer game. I've been taking classes in Spanish and have experienced more flights on Ryanair than I would ever like to again. This upcoming summer, I will be returning for my second summer internship at Citi in New York in investment banking.

In summary, I am so grateful for the honor of receiving this scholarship in Kevin's name and only hope to live up to the legacy of his memory. I would love to continue to keep in touch with you and the rest of the family. Thank you again, and I hope to speak to you soon.