LYNN Sight
Building a better world with our students.

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Because of you

During commencement, students celebrate how far they've come and acknowledge those who helped.

Supporters who fund scholarships; parents and families who lend a kind ear when it's most needed; friends and teammates who challenge them to be their best; and teachers, who helped them exceed their own expectations.

In this issue, be warmed by stories of generosity that help students on campus and back home. Read about a professor and eternal optimist. Visit our latest events and productions, and meet the latest “True Blue” donors and the youngest alumni to make a planned gift.
For many students, a college education would not be possible without scholarships. Generous donors devoted to Lynn University provide funding so that deserving and talented students have a chance for success in the world.
Students who earn their degrees with scholarship support can focus time and energy on enhancing their learning through community service, volunteer opportunities and internships.

Scholarships come in all forms from a variety of sources—individuals, corporations and fundraising events. Many are merit-based and can serve as confidence boosters by recognizing student achievements.

Students who receive scholarships learn the importance of philanthropy and giving back. This article shares the stories of six grateful students who, through the generosity and kindness of others, have opportunities to realize their potential and become engaged global citizens. >
"Without the Friends' support, I would not have the opportunity to study at Lynn."

Zulfiya Bashirova '19

A lifetime of music

Friends of the Conservatory of Music help musicians devote their lives to learning.

Lynn University's Friends of the Conservatory of Music has raised more than $2 million to support full-tuition scholarships for all conservatory students. Started in 2003 with 183 donors, the organization today is 569 members strong.

"It's an extreme joy for us to see the difference that we can make in the young artists' lives," said Pam Coffey, co-chair of the Friends of the Conservatory of Music's Program Committee. "Their successes are satisfying confirmations of who we are as a support group."

Zulfiya Bashirova '19 is this year's recipient of the Friends of the Conservatory endowed scholarship. Born in Uzbekistan, she has been playing violin since she was 7 years old.

"She is an outstanding young woman," said Coffey. "She won first prize in an international competition of violinists and cellists in Paris when she was 19 years old. She is known for her outstanding performance of the 24 Caprices for Solo Violin by Niccolò Paganini during one evening performance in Uzbekistan."

Elmar Oliveira, distinguished artist-in-residence, is Bashirova's professor. "Zulfiya is one of my top violinists," he said. "She has a fantastic technique and is extremely musical. I think being at Lynn has opened up countless opportunities ranging from chamber music to orchestral repertoire, which has opened her ears to listening carefully to others."

"Music is my life, and I cannot imagine myself without the violin," said Bashirova. "It is very important for young musicians to be able to devote themselves to practicing hard every day. Without the Friends' support, I would not have had the opportunity to study at Lynn. Thank you so much for making this possible."
Travel scholarships broaden horizons

The Boice Scholarship supports Lynn's mission to create global citizens.

Renowned philanthropist and world traveler Yvonne Boice established the Boice Scholarship to help Lynn University students participate in academic programs abroad.

"Having traveled to 150 countries and visited all seven continents, I understand the importance of fostering cultural awareness in our youth," said Boice.

One of two recipients who graduated this year, Emma Riley '19, earned her B.S. in fashion and retail. The scholarship helped her gain experience in one of the world's fashion meccas.

"Winning the Boice Scholarship was such an honor," said Riley. "I studied in Florence, Italy, for January Term and the Spring 2018 semester."

"When I traveled to a country I had never been before, I was forced to step outside of my comfort zone in many different ways, mostly with things as simple as meeting new people, trying different foods and exploring foreign places. Every place, every culture is so different, and traveling opens your mind to that," added Riley.

The scholarship also enabled investment management major Kierra Coke '19 to study in Europe's top financial center.

"During my months abroad in London, UK, I was able to get in touch with another culture, network and learn to be completely self-sufficient," said Coke. "This helped me to broaden my knowledge because I was able to live and see the world from another perspective."
Haiti memorial scholarships honor legacies of hope

Three scholarships support humanitarian service.

On Jan. 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where 12 Lynn University students and two professors were on a humanitarian trip. Four students and two professors lost their lives.
The scholarships provide resources for Lynn students to participate in experiential learning and service at the local, national and global levels.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the tragedy, we remember those lost and recognize their spirit of service. In their memory, Lynn supporters established the following scholarships to fund ongoing humanitarian missions.

The Christine Gianacaci Journey of Hope Award was established by Christine's parents, John and Jean Gianacaci. It funds student travel for a humanitarian mission trip during January Term.

Recipient Wainright Acquoi, class of 2022, is studying social entrepreneurship.

"I have a deep passion and courage to create social change across my country [Liberia] and beyond," said Acquoi.

"I am genuinely grateful to the Gianacaci family for their tremendous support in ensuring young people, no matter our background and capacity, can dare to achieve our dreams," Acquoi added.

"This scholarship continues our daughter Christine's legacy of kindness for helping those in need," said Jean Gianacaci. "It gives students the opportunity for the life-changing experience that she had. It changed her outlook on so many things. Students come away from it with a true understanding and compassion of how other cultures live."

The Stephanie Crispinelli Endowed Memorial Scholarship was established by the Crispinelli family to assist students with tuition and travel costs for humanitarian courses approved and sponsored by Lynn.

Recipient Rob Schlaff, class of 2022, is working to earn his B.S. in international management. He traveled to the Dominican Republic.

"Being awarded the Stephanie Crispinelli Memorial Scholarship not only meant a great deal to me financially, but it allowed me the opportunity to learn ways to better humanity," said Schlaff. "I thank Stephanie's family for entrusting me with her memory. Through their loss, they have opened doors for many students."

The Lynn University Global Citizenship Memorial Fund provides opportunities for students to experience educational and service projects focusing on communities in need at the international, national and local levels.

Event management major Cole Nudel, class of 2022, said she was honored to receive the scholarship.

"My trip to the Dominican Republic was one of the greatest experiences, and without this scholarship it wouldn't have been possible," said Nudel. "I believe there is no better way to learn than to go out into the world and discover different cultures and communities. It was a fantastic way to learn about the world, giving back and ultimately about myself."
Scholastic Achievement Foundation scholars excel at Lynn

2015 recipient Noreydy Ortega earns bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Noreydy Ortega spent her high school years planning for the future. She wasn't certain she'd attend a four-year university, but she took dual enrollment courses and maintained a high grade-point average.

She learned about the Scholastic Achievement Foundation of Palm Beach County and the opportunity to earn full tuition to Lynn University through her guidance counselors. At the time, Lynn was one of two universities that offered a full-tuition scholarship through the foundation.

“The foundation’s goal is to honor the county’s high-achieving students and celebrate their accomplishments,” said Evelyn Nelson, executive director of student financial services at Lynn and foundation president as of June 2019.

“As I researched Lynn, I was happy to discover the international population,” said Ortega, whose family is from Mexico. “I thought, OK, I can meet people from different countries and be comfortable there.”

She completed the paperwork and crossed her fingers. When the presenter at the 2015 Scholastic Achievement Foundation dinner announced Ortega as the recipient of a full-tuition scholarship, she called it "a grateful moment."

“I was so happy for myself and for my parents, the most hardworking individuals I know,” she said.

Ortega majored in international business with a double minor in hospitality and event management. In 2019, she will complete her MBA. Her goals include employment with a global company and helping make higher education possible for students through scholarships.
“For those who don’t believe they can afford college, trust everything will work out, and get prepared. Network, stay involved and apply for as many scholarships as possible.”

Noreydy Ortega ’18, ’19
Supporting our Lynn family—and their families

Emergency relief scholarships help students from hurricane-damaged areas.

Originally published on lynn.edu Nov. 19, 2018

When a hurricane hits a student’s hometown, it doesn’t matter if they’re at college hundreds of miles away—they worry about their family and friends.

“Lynn University is a home away from home for our students; however, events affecting a student’s family may have a significant impact on their ability to remain focused on the university experience,” said Dr. Anthony Altieri, vice president of student affairs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in 2018, Lynn staff members contacted students from the Florida Panhandle to make sure they were aware of campus resources available to them.

“It’s important that the university pay attention to both individual and community-based incidents so we can provide support as needed,” Altieri said. “We want to help students maintain successful academic journeys while managing the emotion and impact those circumstances have on them.”

The university created emergency relief scholarships to assist freshmen students whose families were affected by the two recent Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria.
Hoping against hope

Ariadna Rivera's father warned her not to get her hopes up about attending Lynn.

The high school senior from Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, was just weeks away from her first semester at Lynn—she hoped. But Hurricane Maria had destroyed so much of her community that her father had been unable to work for six months. The family had also lost a house and a car to storm damage.

Rivera and her classmates took extraordinary measures to finish their final year of school.

"We had no power for four months," she recalled. Families went to her school every two weeks to hand in assignments and to get the next batch.

And, due to network outages, too, Rivera wondered whether she'd been accepted to Lynn.

"On Dec. 3, I was eating in a restaurant with my family, and I noticed other people looking at their phones. So I picked up my phone and I said, 'Dad, I got a bar!' Then I started refreshing and scrolling to see my messages."

The Office of Admission had sent her acceptance letter. "I said to my dad, 'I got in! I got in!'"

A one-two punch

Over in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gillian Bradley Hughes and her father also were struggling with the storm's aftermath.

Hurricane Irma and Maria hit almost exactly three weeks apart, delivering a one-two punch to the islands that disrupted life for the rest of her senior year.

During Irma, she and her father watched cracks appear in their front door as the 225 mph winds bowed the wood.

Because Hughes' father is an electrical and general contractor, she said, he was issued a pass to travel during the post-hurricane curfew. Minors couldn't be left alone, so Hughes also received a pass and rode along with her dad, viewing the destruction close up. The area was without power from Sept. 5 until early December.

She and her classmates spent the rest of the academic year making up the time they'd lost during the storms and the aftermath. "We didn't mind. We just wanted to graduate," she said.

"My class had to grow up within that month," she said. "We learned lessons we never would have learned without the hurricanes."

"When I visited Lynn, I just fell in love," said Hughes, who cited Lynn's small classes and personal attention as her main reasons for choosing Lynn.

"Being able to come to such a beautiful place, thanks to Lynn's donors ... it was a relief."

Rivera's scholarship came through just in time for her to pack her bags for her first semester.

"We want to help students maintain successful academic journeys while managing the emotion and impact those circumstances have on them."

Anthony Altieri
Vice President of Student Affairs
Gathering for the greater good

Event celebrates social impact on campus and inspires positive connections and business practices.

Lynn University created the third floor of the Christine E. Lynn University Center with a single mission in mind: to generate positive change across the globe. On March 25, nearly 200 social entrepreneurs, practitioners, investors, teachers and learners gathered to do just that.

"Business for Good: Profitable Solutions to the World's Greatest Challenges" was Lynn's first social impact forum. The university invited socially conscious organizations and experts to facilitate discussions, ideation and connections.

Generous gifts, such as the Birk Collaboration Hub and scholarships funded by the Cordes Foundation, make social impact programs possible at Lynn.

Photos
1. Emmy-nominated singer and songwriter Alexander Star
2. Attendees network in the Christine E. Lynn University Center coworking space.
3. Paul Rice, founder and CEO of Fair Trade USA, and Jerry Hildebrand, director of the Social Impact Lab
4. Eric Glustrom, CEO and founder of Watson Institute, and President Kevin M. Ross
5. Lynn students attend presentations on social impact.
"Business for Good: Profitable Solutions to the World’s Greatest Challenges" was Lynn’s first social impact forum.
True Blue 2019
Lynn's loyal supporters share their passions and advice.

As Lynn continues to expand its campus, elevate its student services and offer innovative new learning models, we took a moment to catch up with three loyal donors who've helped usher the university along its journey time and again. We wanted to know how they used their time, talent and treasure to do great work on behalf of our students and why they just can't get enough of our university.

Geri Burton, mother of Sam Burton (pictured)
Supporter of: Immediate needs

What's your connection to Lynn University?
My son graduated from Lynn in 2018.

Why is philanthropy important to you?
Philanthropy is our way of impacting the world—ensuring the causes important to us benefit from our attention and ideals.

What inspired your support?
First, it's my son's alma mater, and I want to sustain its future. Second, I believe our global view of higher education is changing. Lynn is the university of the future, and it's important we help it grow and achieve its mission.

A moment of pride?
I was at the farmers market and someone I went to high school with recognized me and told me the after-school club I started years ago to support Save the Children had inspired her to give—and she still does.

Your parting thoughts on giving?
Giving is the best version of who we are. Your impact is likely to inspire others and make a difference.

"Lynn is the university of the future, and it's important we help it grow and achieve its mission."
Sharon Arnett
Supporter of: Conservatory of Music, immediate needs

What's your connection to Lynn University?
I'm a resident of Boca Raton and appreciate what Lynn brings to the city. I've attended concerts and performances, and as a realtor, I've had the pleasure of working with faculty.

Why is philanthropy important to you?
Growing up, my parents supported our activities with donations and volunteering. It was a natural progression from watching them.

What inspired your support?
Lynn is a gem in our community: great sports, performances, innovation in academics—and the Social Impact Lab is a fabulous program.

A moment of pride?
I met the founder of a national nonprofit I've supported for years. That encounter still warms my soul and makes me smile.

Your parting thoughts on giving?
I'm part of a company with a philanthropic mission. We have a saying: Give where you live. I think it's important to support institutions and nonprofits in your backyard that speak to you.

"Lynn is a gem in our community: great sports, performances, innovation in academics ..."

Regina Theisen
Supporter of: Alumni Pay it Forward, Conservatory of Music, Gingerbread Holiday Concert, immediate needs, theater arts

What's your connection to Lynn University?
I finished my bachelor's degree in 2009 and master's degree in 2013. I also was employed by the Center for International Programs and Service, which is now International Student Services.

Why is philanthropy important to you?
My husband and I give to many charities. We have goals beyond our own needs to serve the universe and make it better.

What inspired your support?
I loved working at Lynn and attending school there. My other love is music, and the university has a remarkable conservatory. My inspiration comes from watching students from all over the world who come to the conservatory—their dedication and focus.

A moment of pride?
I feel good when I'm giving to my church, school and community. I like being a working partner in the community.

Your parting thoughts on giving?
Active communities make good business. I believe it helps to be part of something you love that's larger than yourself.

"My inspiration comes from watching students from all over the world who come to the conservatory."
All ‘dressed’ up

A local boutique helps bring the drama program to life.

Take a walk down Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, and you'll find trendy coffee shops, busy restaurants and chic boutiques, including Nina Raynor.

Nina Raynor outfits the people of the Palm Beaches for the most glamorous occasions, from galas to weddings. This year the Delray Beach staple provided Lynn University with a tremendous gift: over $100,000 in dresses to support its newest program, the Bachelor of Fine Arts in drama.

Keeping it in the family

Brother-sister team Bobby Wollenberg and Cathy Ann Sauer co-own the boutique, which they inherited from their parents, Joanne and Robert Wollenberg. The family has supported Lynn since its days as the College of Boca Raton. Its history goes back as far as Lynn’s original women’s club, the Excalibur Society, where annual fashion shows featured Nina Raynor ensembles.

Bobby Wollenberg felt inspired to give when he attended the drama program’s first production, The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. He believed his inventory of dresses could bring Lynn’s emerging B.F.A. program to the next level.

“My parents instilled the importance of supporting the local community,” said Wollenberg. “Our collection of dresses found the ideal home with Lynn’s drama program.”

Bringing Nina Raynor glamour to the stage

Lynn launched its drama program, led by Professor and Technical Director Adam Simpson, in the Fall 2018 semester. With specializations in both acting and musical theater performance, the program’s shows range from musical varieties to dramatic prose and comedy. The Nina Raynor gift kick-started the program’s costume department with exquisite dresses of which most can only dream.

“These gowns will be utilized in Lynn drama productions and events for years to come,” said Simpson. “We’re honored to be the recipient of such a generous gift and excited to use the designs on stage.”

The Nina Raynor ensembles debuted in the university’s production of Clybourne Park. But, don’t fret—theatergoers and fashion fans alike can look forward to seeing the many dresses sparkle on stage in the 2019-20 season.
The Leadership Society acknowledges donors whose gifts comprise the highest levels of giving on campus. For more information: give.lynn.edu/leadershipsoociety.
Paint Your Wagon delights guests

Event honors Leadership Society members and celebrates talented students.

Leadership giving is a tradition that spans more than four decades. What began with a handful of donors supporting Lynn University's vision has more than 199 donors in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The second annual celebration of our Leadership Society treated members to a special Live at Lynn production of Paint Your Wagon, which was accompanied by the Lynn University Conservatory of Music Philharmonia. Members also mingled with the Student Philanthropy Team during a pre-show reception.

“Giving is a very personal decision,” said Sherry Henry, associate director of annual giving. “We've seen that donors cherish one-of-a-kind events like this, which connect them with students who benefit from their generosity. We hope they leave inspired by the stories they hear and the talent they see.”

Photos
1. Nun Sara is on the run in Mexico and is saved from cowboys by Hogan, who is preparing for a future mission to capture a French fort. The pair become good friends, though he doesn’t yet know why she’s an outlaw.
2. Kathleen Assaf, Bryan Nakambonde, Ronald Assaf
3. Amy Strong, Jan McArt, Elaine J. Wold, Dr. Randy Sheen
4. Conservatory student Askar Salimdzhanov
5. Marina Farraris and Dazi Pomerance
In the spirit of sports
Ted Curtis inspires students with “let’s give it a try” mindset.

A Lynn University ice hockey team was something that Ted Curtis, a lifetime fan of the sport, would have only dreamed of cheering on four years ago. Today, the College of Business and Management associate professor is glad he said “yes” to four freshmen who asked for his help to build a team.

“I have a ‘let’s give it a try’ mindset because it’s our job to foster ideas and help students grow,” said Curtis. “Our hockey team started slow, but then every department, from legal to marketing to student affairs, supported us. I realized this could be big!”

Lynn ice hockey became an official university club sport in 2015. Within three seasons, it grew from competing in a local adult league to becoming an American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Division III member.

The team began its first full 20-game season in fall 2018 and won the East Florida Collegiate Hockey Conference Championship in February.

Rallying its fan base
The team’s quick success earned attention on campus. In August 2018, it became the subject of a university-wide crowdfunding campaign.

Currently, players pay fees of up to $2,000 per year, so Curtis jumped at the fundraising opportunity.

“Ice hockey is an expensive sport—a stick alone can be $400,” he said. “I never want to tell a student that they can’t play because they can’t afford it, so the opportunity to rally people for the team is special to me.”
He, five team managers and 20 players activated friends, family and ice hockey fans with a goal of raising $3,500. In just over one month, the team raised $12,050, exceeding its goal by over 244 percent.

“Although this is a small portion of what we will need to sustain the team, it is a massive step,” said Curtis. “This kind of support is rare for non-varsity sports, and it gave the players a sense of spirit and pride like any other student-athlete. I want them to be proud to wear Lynn on their chests.”

Curtis’ ultimate goal is to make it possible for any student to play fee-free.

Off the ice

Despite the team’s fast growth, Curtis makes sure that academics come first. As of fall 2018, the team held a GPA of over 3.0.

“We have study hall together every week, just like any other sport. If we can channel our students’ passions for ice hockey into their schoolwork, then we’ve done something right,” he said.

Over the last 10 years, Curtis helped transform Lynn’s sports management program into one that provides practical, hands-on experience. His students work with companies and events such as ESPN and the NCAA Final Four.

Teaching at Lynn for over 20 years, Curtis largely attributes his success to the support of university leadership and the bonds he has formed with colleagues. “This is the place that I feel professionally energized and the most intellectually gratified. This is my family.”

“I never want to tell a student that they can’t play because they can’t afford it, so the opportunity to rally people for the team is special to me.”

Ted Curtis
Lynn Club Hockey
Another record-breaking Robino Jr. Golf Classic

Golfers hit the links for the love of student-athletes.

Lynn University Fighting Knights hosted more than 180 golfers at the 27th Frank A. Robino Jr. Golf Classic. The April 15 fundraiser at the Seagate Country Club in Delray Beach raised over $95,000 in scholarship assistance for student-athletes who otherwise may not be able to afford a college degree. The event was made possible by generous donors like title sponsor Gerrits Construction and Christine E. Lynn.

Photos
1. Mixed Foursome winners: Team Lynn Women's Basketball, Josh Reid, Jodi Kest, Mike Ream, Bob Morton.
2. Ed Agnew, Southeastern Printing
4. Andrew Aukstkalnis and Alan Austin of Protek Systems, Inc.
5. President Kevin M. Ross greets golfers after play.
"Our values of spirit, service and strength are not only engrained in our athletes, but our supporters, who consistently allow us to enhance our offerings to student-athletes year after year."

Devin Crosby
Director of Athletics
A winning combination
Community supporters empower student-athletes to excel

Fighting Knights postseason play

- **Women's tennis**: 2019 NCAA Division II National Runners-Up
- **Men's basketball**: 2018-19 NCAA Division II Sweet 16
- **Men's soccer**: 2018 NCAA Division II South Region Runners-Up
- **Women's swimming**: 2019 NCAA Division II National Championship appearances by six student-athletes
- **Women's cross country**: 2019 NCAA Division II National Championship appearance by one student-athlete
- **Women's golf**: 2019 NCAA Division II National Championship appearance
- **Men's tennis**: 2019 NCAA Division II South Region Runners-Up

We are the champions—again!
Men's golf wins the NCAA Division II National Championship for the second consecutive year.
Ready and waiting
The brand-new women’s lacrosse locker room is ready for the team to move in this fall, ahead of the spring 2020 inaugural season. It was made possible by the generosity of longtime supporter Mary Perper.

Academic all-stars

Swimmer Catalina Berraud-Galea was named the 2018–19 Google Cloud Academic All-America Women’s At-Large Team Member of the Year for NCAA Division II. The 2018–19 Lynn University Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year also became one of only 29 student-athletes in NCAA Division II history to win back-to-back NCAA Elite 90 Awards. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA in sports management.

Golfer Helen Kreuzer garnered First Team Academic All-America, First Team All-America, First Team All-South Region and First Team All-Sunshine State Conference recognition. The junior logged a 3.98 GPA in sports management.

Lacrosse player Conrad Rhein was named a Second Team Academic All-American. He also earned recognition as 2018–19 Lynn University Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year for a perfect 4.0 GPA in his entrepreneurial management MBA program.

Golfer Kristina Ortiz earned Third Team Academic All-America, Second Team All-America, First Team All-South Region and Second Team All-Sunshine State Conference honors. She graduated with a 3.93 GPA in international business management.
Wise beyond his years

Joseph Pucci '11, a 29-year-old financial service manager in Philadelphia, recently became the youngest member of Lynn University’s Legacy Society. The honored group identifies donors who have made a planned gift to Lynn.

“It’s easy to never get around to giving,” he said. “But I believe that as you grow personally and professionally, you need to look back on who helped you get where you are.”

Pucci credits Lynn and Dr. Ralph Norcio with creating the foundation for his success.

Norcio, the Homer and Martha Gudelsky Professor of Business, encouraged Pucci and his classmates to think creatively and independently.

“He helped us realize there isn’t always a single right answer—just approaches that work and ones that don’t,” he said. “Today I enjoy thinking through obstacles and identifying potential opportunities. I’m able to ask good questions, find better solutions and add value.”

Pucci gives back in other ways as well. He recently served as an alumni ambassador, and he put his social media presence to work for Lynn’s day of giving in 2017.

“I believe you have to recognize the tremendous opportunity alumni have to help represent Lynn to the rest of the country—and the world. Lynn may be small, but it’s very global. It’s the same in the business community. We serve locally; however, our philosophy must expand globally.”

In January, he and other Philadelphia-area alumni volunteered at a soup kitchen to honor Lynn’s annual Knights Unite Day of Caring. They plan to continue their good work by organizing twice-annual alumni volunteer events in the future.

“Lots of people talk about giving back,” he said. “I encourage them to do more: Act on it. If you can’t give now, put something in place for the future.”