

To Our Ouimet Fund Family,

I am writing first and foremost to wish the best to you, your family and friends. The past several weeks have been a challenging time for all of us and this seems like an appropriate time for an update on the Ouimet Fund and all who make this legacy fund so impactful.

I have been impressed with the outreach from our donors, volunteers, Alumni and Scholar families wishing us well and following up about Ouimet Fund programs. We feel so fortunate to have you and thousands like you in our community, and it has been special to see the outpouring of support for our organization and our hundreds of Ouimet Scholars who, up until a few weeks ago, had been attending 147 schools across the country.

As an organization, we feel for our Scholars - who had been working hard and enjoying their spring semesters and abruptly told to head home to help contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While it was the correct decision from colleges and universities across the country, it is nonetheless a disappointment for these young men and women. Our feelings of sadness are perhaps felt most acutely for the 136 senior Ouimet Scholars who were looking forward to their senior activities, graduation and final goodbyes to their beloved schools. We all, as you do, feel for our seniors who were unable to have that proper "victory lap." Our thoughts remain with all current Ouimet Scholars, and hope their remote classes are going well in preparation for next year, a summer internship or potential job.

The situation and implications of COVID-19 continues to evolve daily, and our communities are feeling the effects from both health and economic perspectives. The many golf and country clubs across the state that support us, have scaled down significant portions of their operation. Our partnership with all our clubs and all of you is a cornerstone of our history and organization and we are thinking about all of you. The Ouimet Fund joined with its peers in the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations (AMGO) to ask the Governor to consider the potential implications of golf course maintenance shutdowns, a request which turned out to be successful yesterday.

The Ouimet Fund is also doing its part to mitigate the spread of the virus as much as possible. Over the past few weeks, we have postponed our remaining spring Scholar applicant interview sessions as well as our Annual Banquet. These are both special events that typically bring our club and corporate donors and the Ouimet Scholar recipients together. While we are exploring alternatives, we will certainly miss the in-person camaraderie and connections during these season kickoffs.

Our staff also began working remotely to safely keep the Ouimet Fund business operation earnestly moving forward for the appropriate time, understanding our constituents and Scholars will continue to look for our help well after the COVID-19 crisis is under control. Our Scholars and their families are experiencing a dramatic educational transition back at home and, for many, an economic situation that is very much in question. The Ouimet Scholarship will continue to be there for them in part because of years of loyal support and advocacy from people like you.

The Ouimet Fund can remain operational and poised for the remainder of 2020 during this tumultuous time in part because of your support. We can't thank you enough and want you to know we are thinking of you. Be well and again, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on our staff.

Best,

Colin McGuire
Executive Director

