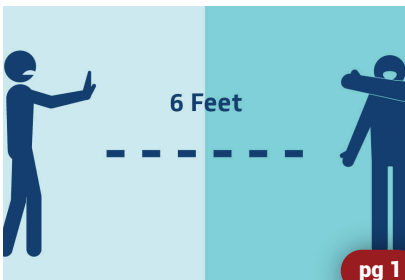




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# *Cougar Tracks Newsletter*

April 2020 Edition



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*Sahuaro boasts one of only 20 Flinn Scholarship Award Winners*

## Golf Tournament Postponed Until September

### COVID-19 Crisis forces the Foundation's only fundraiser to reschedule



**Jeffrey Gardner (2002)**  
President, Sahuaro High School  
Cougar Foundation

Cougars, I certainly don't need to tell you that we are all living through some uncertain times. With reactions to and preparations for the COVID-19 virus in full effect, it was decided that this year's annual Golf Tournament would be postponed until September.

The safety of our members and players is paramount; while this was an unpleasant decision to make, it was not a difficult one. As social distancing orders are in effect, this is the only logical action we can take at this time. **The tournament is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, September 5th.**

Although this year's tournament has been rescheduled, the goal for next year's tournament is to take place in April once again. Although this creates a very tight turnaround for the Golf Committee, the funding needs of the Foundation are still present; the tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, financial aid, school improvements, training, and more will need to be raised regardless of the status of the tournament.

I want to thank the Forty Niner Golf Club for their flexibility in rescheduling our event; their partnership is appreciated, especially now.

We will make sure we let you know when we have more updates. Until then, please think of your fellow Cougars and the Sahuaro Community at large during these times. If there is anything the Foundation can do, please reach out to me at [jeffry@sahuarocougars.org](mailto:jeffry@sahuarocougars.org).

Please consider donating to the Foundation so that we may continue to fund student activities, scholarships, campus improvements, and more. Donations can be made at our website at [sahuarocougars.org](http://sahuarocougars.org). Wash your hands and take care of each other - we'll get through this!



Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

## Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday September 5, 2020

Forty Niner Country Club

## Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft

### Primary focus may be on the crisis, but it's important to recognize goodness



**Dr. David Ashcraft (1970)**  
Co-Founder and Founding  
President of Cougar Foundation

Social distancing is a term I refuse to adopt. It is contrary to everything being said and written regarding staying healthy and happy in the wake of the current pandemic as it affects each and every one of us. Rather, physical distancing is what is logical, reasonable, prudent, and the smart thing to do.

I have found that in these past weeks, my efforts to reach out and communicate have proliferated. My family, though most gracious, is probably weary of the daily contact. One of the positive by-products of the modified quarantine is the use of video conferencing and other ways by which to connect with friends and loved ones. As kids, "zoom" was what we said when we raced our tiny little cars, or went down a hill on our bike. It has taken on a whole new meaning.

Education has always been innovative and at the forefront in terms of finding unique ways to deliver a product. While institutions, stores, businesses and the like have been forced to

close, teaching and learning have not. In short order, educators have banded together (remotely) to invent, share and disseminate materials that will keep young minds engaged.

As the great American philosopher...my Dad...used to say, "When in doubt, punt!" Teachers are adapting new methods to keep the learning process alive. As an example, choral ensembles of all types are utilizing Zoom and Skype video conferencing to rehearse and perform choral music. Music teachers are conducting private vocal and instrumental coaching via computer. Video conferencing in all academic arenas allow an entire class of students to see each other and provide input while receiving quality instruction.

While the primary focus tends to be on the crisis, it is important to recognize the goodness that occurs. Sacrifice is ever present. Folks are stepping up to assist their neighbors, and those unknown to them. We

must be thankful for all those who continue pushing ahead so that the rest of us might stay safe, healthy, nourished, and supplied with our daily needs.

Not a week goes by that I don't encounter Sahuaro grads fulfilling those roles. It could be the triage nurse at a local hospital emergency room, a lab tech, fire fighter, police officer, or a pharmacist. Yes, I have met all of these former Cougars serving in and around Tucson. And, what about the great numbers we have sent into school classrooms?

As our community rebounds from this seemingly endless episode, let us be mindful of supporting the causes that improve our quality of life - the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation, the theatres, religious institutions, and our favorite charities.

In closing, a financial advisor friend repeatedly states: *The best times tend to follow the worst times.*

### Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board of Directors

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# Cougar Tracking: Alumni and Student News & Notes

## Thanks to donation, the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation announces the Diane Small Scholarship

The Diane Small Scholarship is a new scholarship established this year by the James Small family.

James Small graduated in 1993 and went on to attend ASU. He is married with two children and is the managing director of Sante International a real estate firm with holdings in Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Colorado, and California. One of his major interests is helping fund research for Rett Syndrome, an extremely rare genetic mutation affecting brain development in girls.



His scholarship is in honor of his mother Diane and is based on his favorite quote "Defy the Odds". The Cougar Foundation is indeed excited to welcome a new scholarship in this time of great need. [Submitted by Jan Boyd]

## Security Resource Officer Wilbur "Bur" Bateman, class of 1985, returns to Sahuaro campus for work



Sahuaro High School had a new special addition when it opened its doors in August this past year. Sahuaro was assigned Security Resource Officer **Wilbur "Bur" Bateman** as the new SRO (assigned by

Tucson Police to Sahuaro). Officer Bateman attended Sahuaro and graduated in 1985 as a proud Cougar.

Officer Bateman, who likes to be called "Bur" grew up in Tucson. He attended Marshall Elementary school, Naylor Middle School and Sahuaro. While a Cougar he ran Cross Country and was a member of the track team. After

graduating from Sahuaro he took a few years off and then went to Point Loma Nazarene College. Bur graduated from Point Loma and stayed there as a resident director so he could earn his Masters Degree in Educational Guidance and Counseling. He jokes that his degree has helped him deal with many situations as a Tucson Police officer and really comes in handy now as a Resource Officer at Sahuaro.

After returning to Tucson he applied for the police academy. He was put on patrol on the south side midnight shift for quite a while. He then worked bike patrol for over 10 years patrolling all over Tucson. He is close to retirement but loves the challenge working at Sahuaro. Each day is something new and each day he works to build relationships with the students to help them in and out of school. He is happy to be back at his alma mater. "Sahuaro has really changed but the traditions and basic students are the same" he said. He is a great support for the teachers, administration, and students. [Submitted by Sandy Novak]

## Sahuaro boasts a Flinn Scholarship Recipient, Christina Niyigena

Class of 2020 Senior **Christina Niyigena** has been named to the 35th class of Flinn Foundation Scholars.



This highly competitive scholarship is awarded annually to 20 Arizona high school seniors and is valued at more than \$120,000 in undergraduate funding to any of Arizona's three public universities. The extensive award process consumes much of an applicant's senior year, beginning in August and ending in March. "It was a long process," says Christina, "but I have a lot of ambition, I am very motivated and this scholarship offers me the opportunity to pursue my dreams."

Christina hopes to make an immediate impact by advocating for the Flinn Scholarship at Sahuaro and encouraging other high-achieving

students to apply in the future. "I didn't even know this Scholarship was a thing until I was an aide in the counseling department, and they had this one flyer on the wall. It was already August, and everything was due in September but I thought 'This is so much money. You never fail unless you don't apply at all.'"

Christina will attend The University of Arizona where she plans to study Cognitive Sciences and Neuroscience. "My ultimate goal is to be a neurosurgeon," she says. [Submitted by Amy Fitch Heacock]

## Junior Forward Alyssa Brown named Arizona Gatorade Player of the Year

Fresh off a history-making 28-2 season for the Cougars Women's Basketball team, Sahuaro Junior Forward **Alyssa Brown** was named the Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year, an award which recognizes outstanding athletic excellence and high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. Brown's GPA this academic year was an impressive 3.8.

Alyssa is the second recipient of the award from Sahuaro. In 1990, **Suzanne Zahasky** won the award. Alyssa was also the Offensive and Defense player of the year for the Kino Region and the Offensive Player of the Year and the Player of the year for the entire 4A conference in the State of Arizona. She helped to lead our girls basketball team to a Boyd Baker Tip off Classic Tournament Championship, Flowing Wells Holiday Tournament Championship, Kino Region Championship and Runner up in the State Tournament. [Submitted by Steve Botkin]

## Cougars Lead the Way!

Do you know a Cougar whose stories and accomplishments should be honored here?  
Email [jeff@sahuarocougars.org](mailto:jeff@sahuarocougars.org)!



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PO Box 18181  
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This year, we will distribute over  
**\$25,000.00**  
in scholarships and financial aid



Scan the QR code above or visit [sahuarocougars.org/scholarships](http://sahuarocougars.org/scholarships)

**This year, the Cougar Foundation will distribute over \$25,000 in scholarships and financial aid to deserving Sahuaro seniors.**

There are several opportunities for deserving soon-to-graduate Seniors to get funding for their continuing education or other education-related expenses. Seniors and their families should reference the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation website at [sahuarocougars.org/scholarships](http://sahuarocougars.org/scholarships) to see all available funds.

