

Jones Advisory Committee Spotlight

An Interview with Mr. Chris Schoettle

“The Bobby Jones Scholarship changed the trajectory of my life.” Chris Schoettle has been involved with the Jones Advisory Committee (JAC) since 2015, but his love for the Bobby Jones Program spans back to 1985, when he was selected as a Bobby Jones Scholar.

Chris believes the Program is unique because of the life changing impact it has on its recipients, which he can attest to from his own experience. During his Jones year, he met his wife Sarah, a biochemistry student at St Andrews. Chris recounts traveling through Europe, timing his trip around sections from his art history class. The Scholarship allowed Chris to gain a global perspective, which influenced his early career path and amplified his respect for diverse cultures. Chris and Sarah lived and worked in London and Sydney before settling in the U.S.

Chris continues to pay forward the generosity and kindness that he experienced as a Scholar. He and Sarah offer to host Scholars at their home in Boston each year. Libbi Carruthers, Fiona Blackwood and Iain Millar experienced their hospitality when they traveled to the Northeast last October.

Always willing to collaborate with Program staff and connect with Scholars, Chris is excited to expand his involvement as a JAC mentor in the new mentorship program. His passion for the Scholarship and his insight make him a valuable member of the advisory committee. He shares, “I serve on the Jones Advisory Committee to carry forward the mission, spirit, purpose, and meaning of the Scholarship to continue the Jones Legacy.”

He also enjoys participating on the selection committee and meeting all of the bright and creative candidates during the interview process. “We’re looking for students with intellectual curiosity and a warm embrace for life. The community of Scholars, all of us hold our year in high regard and I think that makes the Scholarship and its recipients unique,” said Chris.

When asked to name one person that he believes epitomizes the Jones legacy, Chris said Charlie Yates Sr. He shares how Yates was instrumental in creating the Scholarship and a very present figure during his time as a Scholar. “In 1985, I admired the principles of the Bobby Jones Scholarship as an ambassadorship that requires qualities of academic excellence and exemplary character, integrity, and citizenship. Now in 2020, I can even better understand the meaning and the foresight of the Robert T. Jones, Jr. Trust which established the Scholarship to help carry forward the Jones legacy,” said Chris.

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Chris and Sarah Schoettle in St Andrews in 2008.



Chris speaking at the Masters Tournament Jones Scholar Reception in 1985. Charlie Yates Sr. seated third from his left. Alistair Cooke seated second from his left.

An Interview with Chris Schoettle cont'd

Chris graduated summa cum laude with a four-year BS/MS in Mathematics and Computer Science from Emory University. He pursued a 30+ year career in technology and found himself at the epicenter of some nontrivial shifts in the technology landscape: the Unix operating system wars, the advent of Internet access for consumers, Voice running over data networks, and the transformation of the Internet for business. He did this while at some of the more relevant companies from those eras: Bell Labs spinoff Unix System Labs, Novell, AT&T, Lucent, and Akamai. When Chris reflects on this journey, he is reminded of how a liberal arts MathCS education from Emory enabled him to succeed in a technology world full of top engineers and scientists.

Today, Chris is self-employed providing advisor and consulting services to scale technology companies, with one of his clients based in Paris. Chris and Sarah have resided in Boston for the past 20 years. They have two sons, Taylor (26) who lives in San Francisco and Cameron (24) who is in Boston after recently graduating from St Andrews.



Chris and Sarah Schoettle in St Andrews in 2019.

A Glimpse into the Jones Archives

Featured images from Emory University's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Bobby Jones Collection.



Bobby Jones and Frank Godchaux, Southern Amateur Championship, East Lake, 1922, Tye Sanders, photographer.