The year 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the Robert T. Jones, Jr. Program, so it was no coincidence that the 2017 observance of Jones’ birthday on March 17th would be special and particularly focused on how the Legacy of Jones as a truly legendary figure permanently lives in the achievements of the Bobby Jones Scholars and Fellows from three academic institutions that Jones loved: Emory, St Andrews, and Georgia Tech.

It is the custom on the date of Jones’ birthday, and days surrounding, for The Friends of Bobby Jones to create events and celebrations in memory of Jones. The 2017 Friends celebration began on the evening of March 17th with a gala reception at the Atlanta History Center to re-open the permanent exhibit on Bobby Jones, originally known as Down the Fairway and now, in its inspiring renovation, re-named Fair Play: The Bobby Jones Story.

With the gathering of the Friends for the Exhibit as a prelude, the first ever Jones Legacy Golf Tournament unfolded on the following day, March 18th, at the East Lake course where Bobby learned to play. The tournament field of 60 keen golfers arrived as the day opened under a gray, cloudy sky, appropriately enough for “The Auld Gray Toon” of St Andrews and its 600+ year-old University. They came from far away — Arizona, California, New York, Minnesota, Illinois, Ireland, England and Scotland — and locally, to experience a most memorable, fun, exciting day on the course, with bright sunshine breaking through at exactly the tee-off time.

The teams of the “Arizona Group”, led by Dr. Jeff McKenna, appeared to be invincible and dominant — yet a team known as the “Evergreen Society” captured the first place victory, with other players earning prizes for long drives, putts, and close to the hole, including the winning stroke closest to the hole at the dangerous island 15th green by current Jones Scholar Natalie Jones. The Putting Cup prizes were claimed for the Scholars by newly selected Scholar Jason Ehrenzeller and for The Friends by Wright Caughman and Linton Hopkins (a tie by two medical men known for golfing lore and great support of the Program).

The golf play was followed by an exuberant reception and dinner, led by Emory University President Dr. Claire Sterk, to introduce the newly-selected Jones Scholars and Fellows, who will soon begin their St Andrews studies and adventures...the Bobbies as they are known among themselves and the Alumni of the Program.

This was indeed a “Glorious” 24 hours, a special time to celebrate and support this unique global Program ….. the way that the Bob Jones Legacy of Friendship, Integrity, and Leadership truly inspires the Future - a Future possible through the lives and achievements of Jones Scholars and Fellows.

The Jones Legacy Golf Tournament is not to be missed. The 2018 event is already planned and registrations are coming in now to claim the playing spots. 2018 will encompass a full week of Jones celebrations, beginning March 17th with special Jones Dinners, golf play at courses throughout the week, a unique reception at Emory’s Jones Library on Friday, and the Legacy Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 24th, again on the magnificent East Lake course, concluding with the Spring Scholars Reception ---- it will be another Glorious Day indeed.

The entire association of The Friends of Bobby Jones would like to thank the staff of Emory, East Lake and Atlanta History Center and our special Legacy Golf sponsors and patrons, Jones Global Sports, Coca-Cola Refreshments North America, Holder Construction, and Emory Health Sciences for our 2017 celebrations; we invite all to join us in 2018 for another special time to create wonderful memories and applaud the Bobby Jones Scholars and Fellows.

Fore!

Gene McClure, an Emory graduate and national lawyer in Atlanta and Washington, is the current Chairman of The Friends of Bobby Jones. McClure has served on the USGA Executive and Rules of Golf Committees, is a recipient of the USGA’s recognition for service to golf and is a