

Jones Advisory Committee Spotlight

An Interview with Mr. Gene McClure

You can often find Gene McClure at golf tournaments, golf clubs, and Bobby Jones Program related events. One thing remains constant: McClure is always delighted to invite you to be a “Friend of Bobby Jones” and offer a commemorative pin. A man whose respect for Bobby Jones and love for the Bobby Jones Program seems everlasting, his history of involvement only seems natural.



Although Gene McClure only joined the Jones Advisory Committee in 2017, he is no stranger to Emory, golf, or the Bobby Jones Program. He has been involved with the history and legacy of Bobby Jones for years and is a longtime supporter of the program. In 2015, the Laney Graduate School asked McClure to serve as the Chairman of [*The Friends of Bobby Jones*](#). Organized by the late John Imlay, the FOBJ association was created to promote and support the Robert T. Jones, Jr. Scholarship Programs and uphold Bobby Jones’s legacy of friendship, integrity and leadership.

McClure considers serving on the JAC as a great honor and lists seeing the remarkable students fulfill their dreams as one of the most meaningful aspects. “Every generation wonders who will be the future leaders, and when you become acquainted with the Scholars and see how they embrace the integrity, leadership, and achievement of Jones, we know that these Scholars will be the leaders of society,” says McClure. He goes on to acknowledge that while Jones’s legacy as a golf player might fade over time, the Jones Scholars by their achievements, will continue to deliver the values of Jones’s life into the future.

When asked what makes this scholarship exchange program unique from other organizations and groups that honor Jones, McClure replied by highlighting the unique community of Scholars, alumni, and friends that reflect the memorable elements of Jones’s life: global friendship, integrity and leadership. He is proud of the community’s nature to support and encourage its members, giving examples of how past Scholars have been welcomed with open arms.

He also highlights the quality and importance of the people that comprise the JAC. **“The Advisory Committee members have a passion for this unique Scholarship and its unique students...they all embody qualities of Bobby Jones,”** he shares. McClure goes on to commend the dedication of JAC Chair, Catherine Lewis, the friendship of Bill O’Callaghan, the passion of Jeff McKenna and the long involvement of Charlie Yates and Charlie Yates, Jr., as well as, the leadership of Emory staff, Lisa Tedesco and Joanne Brzinski to name a few. There are so many outstanding individuals involved with the Program and the list continues to grow each year.

Dedicating his time to meet each year’s cohort of Scholars, McClure has often been the first to introduce students to the world of golf and life of Bobby Jones. He has accompanied students to the TOUR Championship and also taken students to visit Jones’s gravesite in Oakland Cemetery. He recounts memories of Scholars rolling golf balls onto the grave to honor Jones and reflects on how students grow to respect Jones and appreciate their opportunities as Scholarship recipients.

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An Interview with Mr. Gene McClure continued

Always willing to collaborate and connect with staff and students, McClure is excited to continue his involvement with the Bobby Jones Program. **“I serve on the Jones Advisory Committee to perpetuate the Jones legacy through these remarkable Scholars who will become the leaders of our society.”** McClure believes it is his responsibility as a member of the committee and a Friend of Bobby Jones to increase awareness and support of the Jones Program and he does so at every opportunity.



A friendly face and recognizable name in the golf scene, McClure was President of the Georgia State Golf Association (GSGA) and a member of the United States Golf Association (USGA) National Executive Committee for a number of years. His passion for golf and dedication to service is demonstrated by several accolades. In 2008, McClure was the recipient of the Joe Dey Award, given by the USGA for his service to the world of golf, and in 2015, he was inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

McClure has been a practicing lawyer in Atlanta and Washington D.C. for over 50 years. A two-time Emory alumnus, McClure received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in 1963 and his Juris Doctorate in 1970. McClure resides in Atlanta with his wife, Sharon. The couple has three accomplished children: Meredith, Holly, and Devon, and one grandson, Jack.

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