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FIRST® is the vehicle by which young people of all backgrounds can discover a love of learning, hone their creativity, and unlock their full amazing potential. Participants and alumni of FIRST programs gain access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to exclusive scholarships and employers, and a place in the FIRST community for life. The Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund and the Woodie Flowers Memorial Grant are unique members of the FIRST Scholarship Program as the only FIRST-managed scholarships in the Program.

These memorial scholarships were developed in memory and support of the legacy of two incredible FIRST family members whose influence lives on in the FIRST Community and within the lives of the scholarship winners funded in their names. As we reflect on the impact and legacy that this year’s scholars will carry on, we thank you for your support of these scholarships and of the FIRST mission.
ABOUT DR. WOODIE C. FLOWERS
The late Dr. Woodie Flowers loved FIRST, and in return was loved by the FIRST community. He was a gifted and beloved professor who championed and implemented a hands-on learning philosophy that reshaped engineering and design education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he taught for thirty years. And it was his ethos of Gracious Professionalism® that shaped the ethos of FIRST.

Woodie, as he was affectionately known to FIRST students everywhere, collaborated with Dean Kamen to develop the FIRST® Robotics Competition and was key to establishing the ethos of FIRST by coining the term Gracious Professionalism and modeling its meaning in his every action. Encouraging all to enjoy a meaningful life, Woodie empowered us to fully contribute to our world and was exceptionally skilled at communicating how we can all work together to meet our common goals – even as competitors.

ABOUT THE GRANT
The Woodie Flowers Memorial Grant seeks to further the legacy of Dr. Woodie Flowers by providing funding to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) field. It supports FIRST students who embrace the Woodie adage of “in effort, there is joy” and who work with others to contribute to the world as a Gracious Professional.

The Woodie Flowers Memorial Grant awards one initial, renewable grant of $10,000 to a student selected from the prior year’s FIRST® Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition Dean’s List Award winners.
MEGAN VOLKENING

2022 Woodie Flowers Memorial Grant Recipient

Megan is a six-year participant of FIRST® LEGO® League, FIRST Robotics Competition, and FIRST Tech Challenge. A Dean’s List winner from FIRST Tech Challenge Team 18367 “GRAFFITI” in Wisconsin, Megan is a passionate FIRST advocate, participating in both the Wisconsin and FIRST Advocacy Conferences.

Megan intends to pursue a degree in Mechanical engineering with a certificate in Sustainable Energy and is looking forward to supporting local FIRST teams as a mentor/coach and event volunteer.

“Knowledge can lead to wisdom and influence can lead to power to make changes in our world. The judges were very impressed with all of the candidates’ accomplishments and plans for the future. We believe that with her education, Megan will acquire further wisdom which she will use to build upon the influence she has already exercised for FIRST to make changes at the local, state, and national level to raise funds, train mentors, create awareness, and encourage young women to join. Megan’s energy, passion and attention to detail will be a force for good for FIRST for the years to come so that more may enjoy a meaningful life.”

– Margaret Flowers, Scholarship Committee member
ABOUT DR. BARTON A. KAMEN
Dr. Bart Kamen was known by his colleagues as a brilliant scholar, compassionate physician, dedicated mentor, and gentle man whose unfettered enthusiasm for learning, teaching, talking science, and challenging the mainstay with his out of the box thinking for betterment of care was unmatched.

He truly loved being a physician and pediatrics. Dr. Kamen was one of those magical doctors who could completely engage and comfort an ill child with a three-minute fun game, while simultaneously completing a thorough neurological exam. He also conducted leading-edge research for more than three decades around folate biochemistry with the goal of reducing the negative side effects of cancer-fighting drugs. Dr. Kamen’s clinical and research interests were driven by the overarching goal of “translational research”— taking best science to bedside.

ABOUT THE FUND
By selecting students who have excelled in a FIRST program, the Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund seeks to honor the legacy of Dr. Kamen by providing renewable monetary grants to undergraduates pursuing biomedical engineering or pre-medical degrees. Students who have, through their participation in FIRST programs, demonstrated the potential to develop Dr. Kamen’s brilliance at, and extraordinary passion for, improving the lives of patients.

The Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund awards up-to four initial, renewable grants of $10,000 to selected students. Initial grants are renewable for up to three additional years provided the student continues to meet the eligibility criteria for the grant.
YASH DULLA

2022 Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund Recipient

A formidable FIRST Tech Challenge competitor and established athlete and scholar, Yash Dulla is one of four recipients of this year’s Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund. Yash’s hard work and diligence in FIRST Tech Challenge has led him to receiving 1st Place at the Illinois State Championship; 1st in Illinois for Inspire, Think, and Connect awards, as well as qualifying twice for the FIRST Championship. His competitive nature, unparalleled enthusiasm and leadership translates to his on-field success as well. Being the team captain for his varsity golf team and the hype-man and strategist for his varsity lacrosse squad, he’s a respected competitor in the world of athletics and academia alike.

Yash plans to take his talents to the next level, where he’s planning on pursuing a degree in bio-medical engineering.
Ege Turan
2022 Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund Recipient

Ege Turan is an outstanding scholar and salient member on his FIRST Robotics Competition team. Being at the top of his class and the lead engineer for his FIRST Robotics Competition team, it’s no wonder he excels everywhere he goes. Ege, being the son of two doctors, has developed a passion for the human body. He’s specifically taken an interest in innovative bio-medical engineering, seeing how some of today’s modern medical breakthroughs are very costly and not readily available to low-income communities. Although he has already conducted research at the Ozyegin University Biomechatronics Laboratory and the Research Science Institute, he’s not done there. Ege’s unselfishness, determination and unlimited academic potential makes him the perfect recipient of this year’s Bart Kamen Scholarship Award, as Dr. Kamen embodied all the same things.

Ege’s profound research was recognized by MIT and Harvard, who encouraged him to continue his research at the next level - which is exactly what he plans to do.
SHREYA MAHESH

2022 Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund Recipient

Shreya, a FIRST Tech Challenge legend and decorated scholar is one of the four Bart Kamen Scholarship recipients this year. During Shreya’s time at FIRST, she has received two 2nd place Think Awards as well as receiving a 1st place Think award during her FIRST Tech Challenge tenure. To amass these great accomplishments, she has also received 1st in Protein Modeling as well as 1st in Experimental Design and 3rd in Ornithology for Science Olympiad Awards. Her experience working at the intersection of engineering and medicine during a STEM cells project opened her eye to the infinite possibilities of the two fields. Shreya embodies FIRST and Dr. Kamen with her insatiable nature for education, innovation, and achievement.

Shreya plans to further her education in neuroscience and vowed to never shy away from a challenge as it, “only enriches our understanding of medical treatments and discoveries worldwide.” She plans to further her education in neuroscience.
Daniel Kozlov
2022 Dr. Bart Kamen Memorial FIRST Scholarship Fund Recipient

Daniel, a participant of FIRST Robotics Competition and exceptional scholar, is one of four recipients of this year’s Bart Kamen Scholarship. When Daniel isn’t busy working hard to ensure he’s at the top of his class, he’s taking on an exorbitant number of extracurricular activities to further his education as well as better himself and the people around him. From developing a wire cutter during COVID for a local manufacturer, to volunteering at the emergency department at a local hospital, his generosity, creativity, and leadership is reflective of FIRST and Dr. Kamen in every way imaginable. Daniel plans to continue his education in the pre-medical field where he strives to obtain his MD-PhD and guide his research using what he sees as a physician, just like Dr. Kamen did.

As part of FIRST robotics, Daniel has developed his fascination with innovation, leadership skills, community engagement, and career goals, as he hopes to promote technological progress in medicine.
WOODIE FLOWERS MEMORIAL GRANT
Total amount donated since its inception fiscal year 2020.

$298,670

“Woodie was one of the most gentle, thoughtful, kind, peaceable people I have ever encountered: an attentive listener, a thoughtful respondent, quick to laugh, impossible to anger, and radically human-centered in everything he did. I had admired him while a FIRST student in high school; when I got to know him well while working at MIT, he surprised me by being exactly the kind of person he had always seemed to be from afar, just more so. They say never meet your heroes, but I am here to tell you that Woodie is one of the single-digit number of heroes I have had who not only survived first-contact, but actually got better the longer and better you knew them.”

- Chris Peterson, FIRST Alum, Director of Special Projects, MIT Admission
DONATIONS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

**DR. BART KAMEN MEMORIAL FIRST SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Total amount donated since its inception fiscal year 2013.

$2,355,630

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**Applicant Gender (2021)**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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**Applicant Ethnicity**

- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 33% Asian (Including Indian Subcontinent and Philippines)
- 48% White (Including Middle Eastern)
- 6% Black or African American (Including Africa and Caribbean)
- 5% Undisclosed
- 7% Hispanic (Including Spain)
DONORS

WOODIE FLOWERS MEMORIAL GRANT CONTRIBUTORS

2020 - Present

John Abele
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Bowers Consulting Co, LLC
Nikolas Charos
Lawrence and Tami Cohen
DEKA Foundation
Anthony and Judy Donovan
Walter and Judith Havenstein

Glenn Lee
Aaron Raphel
Kevin W. Ross
David Siegel
TripAdvisor LLC
Robert and Lynn Tuttle
Paul and Judy Ulland
Vincent and Jean Wilczynski

“In today’s social environment, FIRST has a chance to re-define the larger economic and moral playing field. Our students can be their own economic stimulus packages by leveraging their skills into self-sustaining careers and help with the issues we face in the 21st century.”

– Dr. Woodie Flowers
“There are some pediatric practitioners who need to distance themselves personally from their patients, in order to not ‘bring their work home with them.’ It’s something I just can’t do. Each one of my patients and their families are a part of me. And while I educate them and laugh with them, there are times where I also cry with them. By allowing myself to be human and interact with them in this way, I can truly treat them as an individual instead of just another case. I firmly believe that makes a huge difference in a child’s outcome.”

– Dr. Bart Kamen
DR. BART KAMEN MEMORIAL FIRST SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTORS

2013 - Present
The Argosy Foundation
Armac Inc.
Bowers Consulting Co, LLC
DEKA Foundation
Frank DeLorenzo
Jay Duchin
Margaret Frankian
Bahi Ghazal
Lively Group
Tuan Hoang
Marc Hodosh
Robert Iles
Evelyn Kamen Trust
Kaplan Simons Family Foundation
George Lanigan
Richard Lanigan
Lloyd Lee
Minh Nguyen
Van Nguyen
Anne Ortwerth and Mary Gunter
Judith Peritz
Lois Sayrs
Dana and Kathy Seero
Marcia Smith Fleres
Linda Stone
Gary and Diane Tooker Family Foundation
Maria Edith Tuiza
Toohey Law Group, LLC
Robert and Lynn Tuttle
James and Nancy Utaski
Josh Weston
Vincent and Jean Wilczynski
Sandi Willsey
Robert Worsham