The contributor for this edition is *Deb Woythal*. Deb has been a coach in Iowa, is the former Iowa Affiliate Director and is a former president of the Board of Trustees. Deb has 30+ years of experience and dedication to the Future Problem Solving Program, and now serves as an international GIPS and Scenario Writing evaluator.

Five dollars! Ten! Twenty-five! Excited sounds of bidding for the druzy quartz pendant fill the hall, and the eventual top-bidder happily claims her pendant from the auctioneer. What’s this excitement all about? This newsletter will basically provide information about the Scholarship Auctions. But first we will give a little information about the Scholarship.

The “Creating the Future” Scholarship was established in 2010 in honor of Dr. E.P. Torrance, to honor a current FPS student who has exhibited exceptional dedication and participation in Future Problem Solving. This student is a graduating senior from an Affiliate’s secondary school. Submission requirements include: Information about FPS participation, service to FPS, and an ALoU essay detailing Advantages; Limitations/overcome and Unique opportunities made possible through participation in the program.

The Scholarship Information, including previous winners and the application, can be found on the FPSPI website, fpspi.org., under GET INVOLVED. Click and read about these outstanding young people. It is truly awe-inspiring!

The Awards committee, chaired by David Connor, Alabama Affiliate Director, selects each year’s Scholarship winner. We have a bonanza number this year to consider, which is a GREAT opportunity for each of us to become more aware of what these scholarship winners have been doing.

Now about the Scholarship Auctions...

Soon after the Scholarship was created, some fervent FPS adults, coaches and evaluators, talked and decided that FPSPI needed more than one scholarship awarded to our very deserving graduating senior FPSers. (The applicants are FPSers who’ve spent a good part of their school careers as problem solvers with the Future Problem Solving Program.) In addition to being participants in the various components, these graduates-to-be were also evaluators, board members, mentors, activists and other very involved and creative FPSers, benefitting and introducing the Program to others. cont.
So how DO we raise our funds? We formed the Scholarship Committee. Many FPS coaches and evaluators are teachers, with somewhat limited funds. What they DO have is expertise and talent. That’s where we started. We asked our adults who would be attending IC’s Appreciation Dinner—ADs, volunteers, coaches, evaluators, to donate one or more items that they had created. We would then hold two auctions to showcase these donations to raise funds for the next year’s Scholarship Fund.

We found that some of our adult FPSers were shy about sharing their “creations” so we changed our donation request to “anything you think someone else would like.” That worked really well since we have had a myriad of beautiful donations, from antique and vintage items to cultural and traditional handicrafts from our international communities. Each year brings wonderful surprises! One year, Jennine Jackson/former AZ AD, brought some of her FPS tee-shirts and EVERY ONE was bid on! Everything is usually bid on, and donors and bidders always leave happy!

We started out small and the donations were somewhat meagre the first year. But enthusiasm was high and we’ve had fun every year. Marianne Solomon, our former Executive Director, graciously allowed us to “share” in the Appreciation Dinner. (And of course, we were “appreciating” our seniors as well!)

Cyd Rogers and Brenda Darnell were the emcees and provided a substantial amount of hilarity for the first several years of our Auctions. We were aware that the “seat-time” had become longer than most guests were thrilled about, so each year we problem-solved on how to shorten the Auctions while still raising the additional funds. At that time, we were holding a Silent Auction and a long Live Auction. That was when Karen Dadisman and Sharon Dwyer created an online auction prior to IC. This was our effort to let others who wouldn’t be coming to IC have the opportunity to bid on selected items which had already been gathered. We had the online auction for a couple of years but we decided the time, effort and financial outcome were not worth it, so it was discontinued. (I still think it could work…)

We now have streamlined the Auctions into two auctions, a large Silent Auction and a much smaller Live Auction. We are very grateful to Ed Selby for his Auctioneering skills as well as his ability to get most of us to bid and “empty our pockets” for these very deserving FPSers.

So, please consider joining this committee. You can let someone on the committee, Cyd Rogers, Brenda Darnell, Janet Fite, Jennine Jackson, Karen Dadisman, Joyce Anderson, Sharon Dwyer, Paula Myatt, Deb Woythal, and April Dennis, our Executive Director, know of your interest. We will be thrilled to have you with us!

Please consider donating an item for the auction, or donating financially! Join us in celebrating our graduating senior students!
Parents,

I hope this message finds our FPS families doing well! I am just completing back-to-back workshops in both Utah, USA and in Singapore. A common thread at both of those sessions is the role of parents in problem solving, creativity, and critical thinking.

The FPS session in Utah was designed for students, yet many families asked to stay and we welcomed their participation! The parents were thrilled to learn SCAMPER, Edward De Bono’s thinking hats, and experience the topics of Megacities and Mission to Moon, Mars, and Beyond! I truly enjoyed watching the parents experience the problem solving process alongside their children and collaborate on challenges together!

While in Singapore, May Tan, Singapore Affiliate Director, shared many of the models of FPS implementation in schools. Along with classroom activities and after school sessions to promote FPS, there is growing participation from parents – parents who are attending coach training and working with the children’s teams. Not only do the parents report enjoyment for learning the process, they are thrilled with the bonding experience with their family!

There are so many ways that parents are connected to FPS and we applaud them all! Cheers to all you do to promote problem solving!

Much appreciation,

April Dennis
Executive Director, FPSPI

“Since new developments are the products of a creative mind, we must therefore stimulate and encourage that type of mind in every way possible.”
~George Washington Carver~