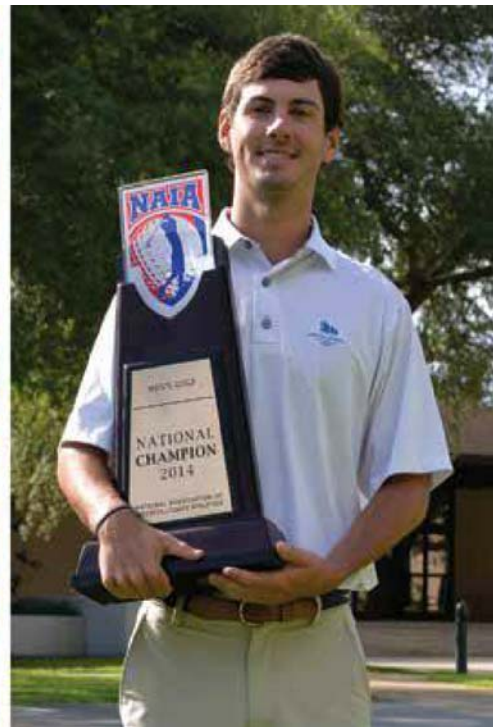
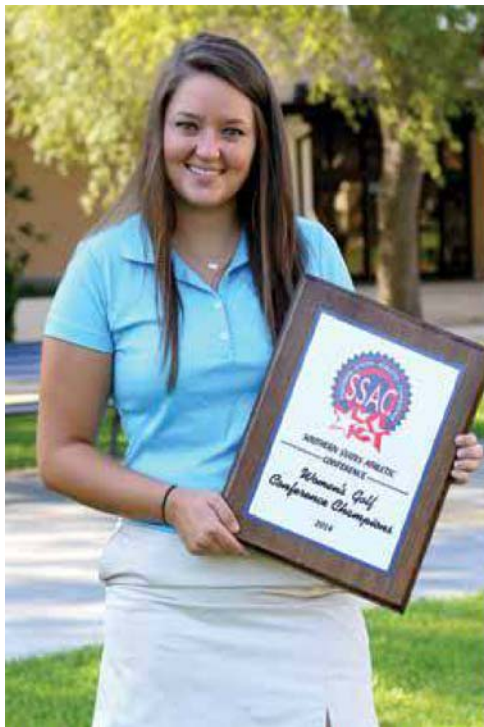




# Communities of COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION

## GIVING: JUST THEIR CUP OF TEA

by Valerie Hepburn, President & CEO Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation



**(FAR LEFT):** NAIA All-American Christian Liggin, Mary Dinos Scholarship Recipient

**(LEFT):** NAIA All-American Dylan Freeman, Jack Dinos Scholarship Recipient

Photos by John Cornell

**W**hen they moved to Sea Island permanently in 1991, Mary and Jack Dinos had already established a distinguished philanthropic record. During their many years in their hometown of Atlanta, the Dinos family had been heavily involved in growing important education and health organizations. They continued their significant work in strategic philanthropy when they made Coastal Georgia their home.

Following Naval Service in the Korean War, Jack returned home to work with his father and brother in the family coffee business. It didn't take long for Jack and his brother, Tony, had added other product lines and launch Southern

Tea Company, which became the second largest tea packer and distributor in North America. Mary served as a steadfast supporter of the Dinos family's entrepreneurial endeavors while she was raising their four children, all of whom continue to reside in Atlanta and Coastal Georgia. In 1990, the Dinos family sold their company to Tetley, Inc., and Mary and Jack established a charitable fund at The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta.

The family initially got involved supporting educational programs – Lovett and Brandon Hall Schools in Atlanta and Jack's beloved alma mater, The University of Georgia. Most significant was their endowment of two Eminent Scholar Chairs at Kennesaw State College (now, University), *(continues)*

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helping its business school secure national recognition. These faculty positions made it possible to attract some of the finest academic business talent in the nation. The former dean of the Coles College of Business held a Dinos Chair, and the current provost of the University is a Dinos chair. Recognizing the impact of his philanthropy, Kennesaw State awarded Jack an early Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

With similar zeal, the Dinos family embraced health services for those-in-need, providing support for a waiting room honoring the family patriarch, John Dinos, at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and helping to construct family housing at the Shepherd Center. Though Jack and Mary continued to be engaged with their Atlanta interests, over time they became more and more interested in supporting programs in their new home – with same goal of catalyzing meaningful change through their philanthropy. They had seen, and been a part of, impactful philanthropy and they wanted to help replicate that success in Coastal Georgia.

Because of their experiences with the Atlanta Community Foundation, the Dinos family became part of a small organizing group that incorporated The Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation in 2005. Not surprisingly, Jack and Mary were among the founders and first fundholders with the Foundation. In this, the Foundation's Tenth Anniversary year, the Mary and Jack Dinos Fund becomes one of first pledged to a new group of Sustainers.

By sharing their experiences in helping grow Kennesaw State University, now Georgia's third largest, the Dinos family deserves much credit for launching the transformation of the College of Coastal Georgia. They helped local leaders visit the Kennesaw campus and they arranged for University leaders to visit the Coast. The Hites-Dinos Scholarship Fund provided early support to Coastal Georgia students pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

Longtime supporters of collegiate golf, Jack and Mary established the first two athletic scholarships at the Coastal Georgia. The Jack Dinos Men's Golf Scholarship and the Mary Dinos Women's Golf

Scholarship allowed the fledgling athletic program to recruit top talent. NAIA All-American Dylan Freeman, the first Jack Dinos Golf Scholarship recipient, led the young golf team to its first men's national title after only four years. All-American Christian

For years to come, their good deeds will make a lasting difference in the lives of students and teachers, health care providers and patients, and a host of community organizations

Liggin, the Mary Dinos Scholar, had similar impact for the women's team which competed for its own national title.

In July 2012, Mary passed away and Jack lost his partner of 58 years to a sudden and devastating brain tumor. She left behind her many wonderful works of art, happy stories of bridge, golf, life and laughter – and a continued spirit of transformative giving. To honor Mary and thank those who worked so valiantly in her care, Jack established the Mary B. Dinos Glioblastoma Brain Tumor Research Fund at Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University. He also established the Mary Dinos Endowed Nursing Scholarship at the Southeast Georgia Health System Foundation. This scholarship assists outstanding registered nurses employed by the health system to further their education at the College of Coastal Georgia. And, to honor Mary and the young woman golfer who made her so very proud, Jack established a second golf scholarship at Coastal Georgia in honor of Christian Liggin.

Mary and Jack Dinos have lived the American dream – focused on hard work, a strong family, the rewards of risk-taking, and community stewardship. For years to come, their good deeds will make a lasting difference in the lives of students and teachers, health care providers and patients, and a host of community organizations. Entrepreneurial spirit is at the core of the Dinos' philanthropy – always game changing and transformative.

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