

We are pleased to announce the foundation of a new named endowment fund at Seattle Prep: the Amanda Knox '05 Scholarship Endowment. The fund, established by past parent Tom Wright, will provide tuition assistance to students in need. Here, Tom talks about why tuition assistance is such a critical priority and why he chose to honor Amanda with the scholarship fund.



Left to right: Tom Wright, Amanda's mother Edda Mellas, Amanda Knox '05 and Kent Hickey.

Please tell us about your relationship with Seattle Prep and your experience of the school as a parent.



Good friends Sara Wright and Amanda Knox at graduation in 2005.

"My daughter Sara was in the class of '05 and thrived at Prep throughout her time there. She ran cross-country, sang in musicals and pursued a rigorous course of studies. Most importantly, she was immersed in the spiritual values of a Jesuit education, among teachers who engaged her in a personal, caring way.

She was plenty ready for university life when the time came and went on to do well at Harvard University as a result of the excellent foundation she received – in academics, athletics and the arts – during her four years at Seattle Prep."

How did you come to the decision to start an endowment fund at Seattle Prep? Is there a reason you wanted to focus on financial aid in particular?

"I've always believed a school flourishes most when there's a diverse student body. Subsidizing a portion of rising tuition costs can provide greater opportunity for kids of differing backgrounds. With each entering class, some new student may have the potential to make a unique contribution –

enhancing the high school experience for all – if only he or she can afford to attend. That's the scholarship recipient we're looking for."

Please share a bit about naming the fund in honor of Amanda. Why did you choose to honor her in the naming of your endowment fund?

"Sara and Amanda were good friends at Prep. They played Von Trapp sisters in *The Sound of Music* and orphans in *Annie* and took a lot of courses together. With this fund, our family wants to honor the courage of Amanda and her family. They displayed great dignity and fortitude enduring a wrongful prosecution on foreign soil. During years of unjust incarceration, the school supported Amanda through prayers and letters of support. Prep acted in the Jesuit spirit by seeking social justice and helped to win a fight for freedom worth remembering. This endowment fund is meant to commemorate the lasting bond of friendship formed at Prep as well as the lifelong commitment the school makes to its graduates."

What are your hopes for the fund? What type of students do you want to see benefit?

"I would hope the fund grows over time and always supports talented students who might not otherwise be able to attend Prep. These students, like Amanda, may have demonstrated moral courage, strength of character under duress and a sincere desire to help others in need."