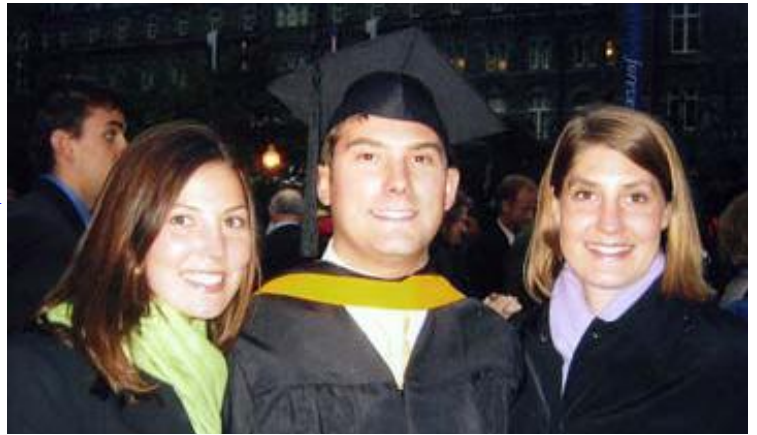


## CLASS SPOTLIGHTS

### Featured Class: Class of 2003

Some members of Georgetown's class of 2003 have dedicated their life as alumni working to honor the life and spirit of a classmate, John Jackson (B'03), who died in a tragic accident only a few months after graduation. Their determination has resulted in the [John T. Jackson Foundation](#), which to date has raised over \$200,000 in direct contributions and event money, of which over \$174,000 is earmarked for scholarships at Georgetown.



After graduating in the spring of 2003, Jackson accepted a position with a real estate firm in Chicago. Tragically, shortly after moving there in June 2003, he and 12 people were killed when several decks at an apartment building collapsed. Ninety Georgetown friends flew to John's hometown of Kansas City to set up camp and attend his funeral. John's father, Dr. Robert Jackson, says that "in our period of grieving, these young people set their mind to honoring their friend's legacy and came up with something positive."

The majority of money raised through the foundation is earmarked for scholarships, which, in the board's opinion, represents the best way to honor Jackson's broad range of friendships and experiences at Georgetown. James Jacobs (C'03) says that "creating a living memory of John at Georgetown" is the primary goal of the foundation since that's where "most of our great memories with him come from." Jacobs also states that "John was extremely outgoing, had many friends at Georgetown and had a contagious laugh that could be heard from anywhere."

The foundation's success, which is the result of the collaboration between John's family and friends, lies in honoring and celebrating John's memory. The close bond between John's friends and the Jackson family is apparent—Dr. Jackson admits that his wife and he have been traveling all over the country in recent years to attend the weddings of John's friends. The board and family meet once annually to agree on a common direction and goals for the foundation. The charitable causes the foundation supports, including, of course, scholarship support to Georgetown, are representative of John's life. With increased experience and seed money, the foundation was recently also able to help another victims' foundation get started. James Jacobs recognizes the past achievements of the friends' efforts, but like many other board members, "looks forward to the foundation maturing."

The foundation's signature event, the annual John T. Jackson Fundraiser, which is traditionally held in November, was attended in its first year by 450 people and has since boasted numbers of up to 900 guests. The fundraiser, which according to Mike Yaeger (B'03) is meant to be celebratory and an event that allows everyone "to have a good time" is representative of "what John would be doing, as he was always the life of the party in the best possible way."

Dr. Jackson says that through some distant contact to the other victims' families it has been clear that the response his family received was different and he credits this to Georgetown. "I can't say

enough. The foundation is a testament to Georgetown for accepting and matriculating extraordinary young men and women," he says. "And the story of John's friends who have worked hard for his legacy and to represent their school so positively, is a story that needs to be heard proudly by Georgetown's senior administrators and community."

Georgetown alumni on the John Jackson Foundation Board of Directors include: Chris Callahan (C'04), James Cognetti (B'03), William Cooling (C'03), Tarah Donoghue (C'04), Todd Figler (B'03), Kate Figler (C'03), Wyatt Harris (C'03), James Jacobs (C'03), Dom Maggio (B'03), Eliza Ryan (C'04), and Mike Yaeger (B'03).