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Cancer survivor excels at academics

A Wilmington High School senior, Brad Fuller, has been awarded a trustee scholarship from Wilmington College and he is a finalist for the 2010 Anthony Munoz Foundation Straight "A" Student program sponsored by PNC.

The Wilmington College scholarship is in the amount of \$15,500 per year for four years. Fuller will also have the opportunity to participate in the honors program at the college.

Fuller is one of 18 finalists in the 2010 Anthony Munoz Foundation Straight "A" Student program who will receive a \$2,000 scholarship or have the opportunity to be selected to win one of two \$5,000 scholarships.

He was nominated for by Tim Martin, a Wilmington High School (WHS) teacher, for his academic excellence, athletic achievements, strong ambition, winning attitude, the ability to overcome adversity and for having an active role in the community. Martin is a social studies teacher at Wilmington High School where he is also involved in the career based education program.

Fuller is also invited to the awards luncheon on April 27 at Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse in downtown Cincinnati.

To receive the honor, Fuller competed with students in more than 190 schools in the tri-state area and hundreds of applicants.

In competition for the \$5,000 scholarship, Fuller had to write a 500 to 600 word adversity essay. In the essay Fuller said at the age of 15, he was diagnosed with an extremely rare form of bone cancer. He underwent a limb salvage in 2007 which involved removing his left tibia and a cadaver bone and metal plate was put in its place. His right fibula was also removed and put into his left leg for more support.

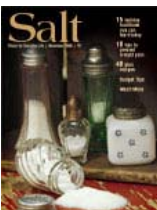
"It was a drastic, life-changing procedure; 18 hours in the operating room, 10 days in the hospital, 13 months on crutches and still in the recovery process to this day," Fuller said in the essay.

As a result of the surgery, Fuller can no longer participate in contact sports, but golf has become a passion. He played on the varsity golf team his freshman year at WHS. After missing his sophomore year because of the surgery, he was able to return to play golf his junior and senior year at WHS. After suffering leg pain when he was a junior, following the golfing season he went to the doctor who discovered four stress fractures in his left leg.

"I learned that you can never take anything for granted and that you never know what you have until it's gone," Fuller said. "I also learned very quickly that having an optimistic view of life is the only way to live. I can use my fight to tell others that nothing is impossible. If there is will power, anything can be achieved."



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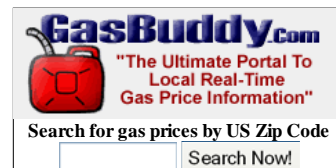
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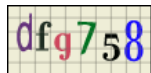
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