

## Friendship Memorial Scholarship Fund

*By Phillip C. Pratt II, Fund Chairman*

As indicated in the Winter 2017 FSS Newsletter we had a very strong show of support from individuals and organizations donating to the Scholarship Fund in celebration of its 50th year, surpassing the goal of raising \$40,000. I want to add an enormous thank you to Dick Salter and the newly christened “Friendships of December” Christmas party group. Dick has organized an FSS Christmas party in Danvers, MA, for decades. He made an exciting announcement this past year that an FSS member insisting on anonymity, wished to donate \$1000 to the Scholarship Fund in the name of the group. At that point, the group had no official name, so several ideas were considered and “Friendships of December” was born. Thank you again to Dick, our generous donor, and the “Friendships of December” group for their support!

The Trustees of the Fund meet in mid-May to determine the scholarship dollars to be awarded to each student recipient. In 2017 graduating seniors received a record \$1600 each, and continuing education students received \$1000 each. The Trustees hope to continue increasing the dollars awarded to Friendship students pursuing a post-secondary education. Gifts received in 2018 and beyond will be a key ingredient to growing the scholarship program.

Watch for your appeal letter this spring, which will reveal the dollar distribution amounts for the 2018 scholarship recipients. We are sure you will be happy with what you see!

Irv Lash, of the renowned boat building family from Friendship, has carved an elegant Friendship sloop half-hull, a Wilbur Morse design of a 37 foot sloop (pictured below), to raffle off in support of the Scholarship Fund. The vast experience Irv has had in the world of boat building shows clearly in every half-hull he creates. He has requested that the raffle be held at the FSS Homecoming in Rockland this summer. Tickets at \$5 each will be available for purchase during all three days of the event, and ticket purchases will be open to all, not just FSS members.

Please contact me with questions, or comments at 207-832-4335 or by email at [davisloop100@gmail.com](mailto:davisloop100@gmail.com).



Irv Lash's elegant half hull model will be raffled at the Rockland Homecoming this July. **Tannis #7** is believed to have been built from this model. The Lash Brothers yard eventually scaled the 37 foot design down to 31 feet, and built several more Friendships, including **Downeaster**, **Dirigo**, and **Rights of Man**. (photo Phil Pratt)