

Scholarship Background

In December of 1999, the Thomas E. Desjardins Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the New England Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (NEITE), and to date, over \$92,000 has been raised to honor Tom's memory and support this scholarship program.

About Thomas E. Desjardins

Tom Desjardins was an active member of the section and was well-liked by his peers. He loved his family, his friends, and the engineering profession. Tom's heart was as big as his smile, and he possessed a passion and a competitive spirit that were infectious. Tom grew up in Westminister, Massachusetts, where he captained both the football and baseball teams at Oakmont High. He graduated from Northeastern University in 1990 with a BS in Civil Engineering and he immediately started working full time in the Boston office of Vollmer Associates. His passing at such an early age left our members and families with a void that was hard to fill.

The idea of coupling Tom's love of sports with support for engineering students led to the establishment of the Thomas E. Desjardins Memorial Scholarship Fund. The primary source of support for the Desjardins scholarships is derived from the annual summer golf tournament, which has become a New England Section tradition. It is followed in September by the awarding of two scholarships (one for undergraduate student and one for graduate student) to qualified transportation engineering students from the region.

Tom's family provides prodigious support for these endeavors. In the spring, Tom's family makes the trip from Western Massachusetts to join us at the annual golf tournament and in the fall to attend the annual meeting, present the scholarships and meet the recipients. Members of the NE section are grateful for these opportunities to share fond memories as mentors and colleagues and to hear stories from Tom's family about his life growing up in Westminister.