



### ***Statement from Ernie Els***

*First of all, I want to thank the team at the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund for this honor. Like most golfers, I know the incredible story of Francis Ouimet, a poor 20-year old local caddie who beat two of the game's greatest players in a playoff to win the 1913 US Open. It probably is the greatest upset in the history of all sports.*

*Mr Ouimet then went on to achieve great things off the golf course. He was a true gentleman, a kind man who never forgot his humble roots. So this scholarship is a fitting legacy - golf changed his life and this fund in his name does the same thing, providing opportunities for young people to obtain a college education. It's something we're passionate about too and, indeed, it's the cornerstone of our work at the Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation in South Africa. I congratulate the team at the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund on everything that they're doing.*

*So this award means a lot to me. And to be joining a roll call of past recipients that includes some of my own personal heroes such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player...well, that's the icing on the cake. Liezl and I are very much looking forward to the annual banquet in April; it sounds like it's going to be a special evening.*

*Thank you again.*

***- Ernie Els***