Over the years, we’ve had the chance to get to know many seniors from Banning High School who apply for our Wisteria Scholarships. Through the autobiographies they submit as part of the process, we learn of their resilience, dedication, and strength of character, while hearing about the many challenges some of them face every day. Here are just a few of the goals that have been shared with us by past scholarship applicants:

“Establish a non-profit for individuals that are in need of becoming self-sufficient.”

“Earn up to a Doctorate degree in either Sociology or Engineering.”

“Become a physician to treat and help others.”

Friends of Banning Museum established our Wisteria Scholarship program to honor this spirit of achievement – and to recognize and reward Banning High School seniors for exceptional accomplishments. Winning a scholarship isn’t easy – students who choose to apply are truly the epitome of strength, spirit, and ambition – traits Phineas Banning himself displayed and admired.

This year, there will be **two four-year scholarships of $4,000 each**! The proceeds will be distributed in $1,000 increments for four years. In addition, there will now be four runners up, each of whom will receive $1,000. Reflecting two of FBM’s treasured missions, **Promote Education** and **Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit**, funds from these scholarships can be used for college, vocational school, or to start a student’s own business!

This is also a special year for the Wisteria Scholarships for another reason. Our beloved Banning Museum Volunteer, **Carol Sapp** (pictured above with 2015 Wisteria Scholarship recipients Lance Mendoza and Carla Ramirez), graduated from Banning High School and was a teacher and counselor there for many years. As a Volunteer, Carol remained devoted to the students and the scholarship program, and helped the students complete and submit their applications. Carol passed away in 2016 and bequeathed funds for the scholarship. This year’s scholarships are made possible by the Carol Sapp Scholarship Fund, California Sulphur Co., Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and the Banning Family. Thanks to their generosity and commitment to our youth, the Wisteria Scholarships are helping dreams come true!

Last year, we shared news of our exciting Banning family portrait and frame restoration project. We are delighted to tell you that thanks to the generosity of so many, the project was fully funded and is just about finished!

As you may remember, the project involved four portraits: Phineas Banning, his second wife Mary Hollister Banning and his two daughters, Mary and Lucy. The project entailed recreating the frame for daughter Mary’s portrait, which was missing, and cleaning and conserving all the portraits.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the professionals who brought their talents to this project and produced such wonderful results. We are now in the final phase, during which the pictures will be put together with their frames. We expect everything to be completed by early April. Then, for the first time in over 130 years, we will be able to display all four paintings together in the dining room of the Banning home. What a wonderful way to share the Banning family with you. Thank you for making it happen!
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Guided tours of the Museum are available —
Tuesday - Thursday: 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
and 2:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.,
2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Group tours may also be scheduled with advance reservation.

ADMISSION:
Guided Museum Tours:
We request a donation of
$5 for adults and
$1 for children 12 and under.

Did you know that The Banning Museum recently acquired a beautiful stereoscope (pictured here) for our permanent collection?

STEREOSCOPES were used to view stereographic images, or stereograms — which were created by using two similar images to create the illusion of a singular image with depth. They were very popular in the early days of photography, and we are so excited to give our visitors the opportunity to see one in person.

The stereoscope is currently displayed prominently in our new exhibition, The Progression of Victorian Souvenirs, in the Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Visitor Center. Visitors to the exhibition will have the chance to actually use the stereoscope to view some images.

After the exhibition closes, the stereoscope will be moved to and displayed in the Family Room of the Banning Residence. The Family Room is the less formal room in the house, where the children would pass the time playing music and games, and looking at photos through a stereoscope. The addition of the stereoscope to our collection will enable Museum guests to get an even better sense of how our favorite Victorian family spent their leisure time!

A few months ago, we asked our members to share with us their thoughts and ideas about Friends of Banning Museum. The response to our survey was just incredible — it was over 30 percent! This level of participation reinforces our belief that FBM is important to our members and that you support our mission to Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit. It’s also clear that The Banning Museum is a treasure that you want to see preserved for future generations.

We sincerely want to thank everyone who participated for your time, interest, and your feedback! Your input will help Friends of Banning Museum do even more to enhance your membership and visitor experiences. You gave us some great ideas for programs and events and how best to communicate with you. You also told us what makes The Banning Museum and what we offer to the community so special.

One thing that truly touched us, and which we appreciate very much, was that the responses which called for a written comment or suggestion were answered very thoughtfully. It’s wonderful to know that history, community, and education are very close to your hearts.

Our membership family is a very special group, and we feel very honored to have your support.

THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

100% of the people who responded to the survey would recommend us to family and friends as an organization worthy of support.
BIG LUCKY BAND has been wowing audiences and critics from their native Los Angeles all the way to Paris and Budapest. They have had guest spots on HBO’s hit shows, “Entourage” and “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” The ATOMIC CHERRY BOMBS are Southern California’s premiere all-female jazz and vintage dance troupe.

1920s ATTIRE IS ADMIRE BUT NOT REQUIRED.

ELEGANT DINNER • HOSTED BAR • SILENT AUCTION • 1920s BAND AND DANCERS • VALET PARKING

BANNING HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

$150 PER PERSON

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION:
310.548.2005 | WWW.THEBANNINGMUSEUM.ORG
LIKE PORTABLE MEMORIES...

THE PROGRESSION OF VICTORIAN SOUVENIRS

Do you remember when you were a child how much fun it was to get a souvenir of a vacation or special trip or event, either to keep yourself or to give as a gift?

Sure you do – and we’ll venture that you still bring home souvenirs to this day. They help us remember great times and share our adventures with friends and family. They’re really like portable memories!

Our new exhibition, The Progression of Victorian Souvenirs, on display now in the Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Visitor Center, explores the rise in interest in souvenirs during the Victorian Era as the expansion of transportation led to an increase in leisure travel and tourism.

Several examples of Victorian-era souvenirs are on display. Some of the items include souvenir spoons, ostrich eggs, postcards, stereograms, alligator head, and purse.

Opened in the early 1900s, The Los Angeles Alligator Farm welcomed guests to watch alligators wrestle, eat live chickens, and use water slides. Alligator heads were legally sold as souvenirs.

Stereogram of Lord Robert’s army advancing toward Johannesburg—84th Battery and Balloon Corps, S.A.