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# the BENEFACTOR

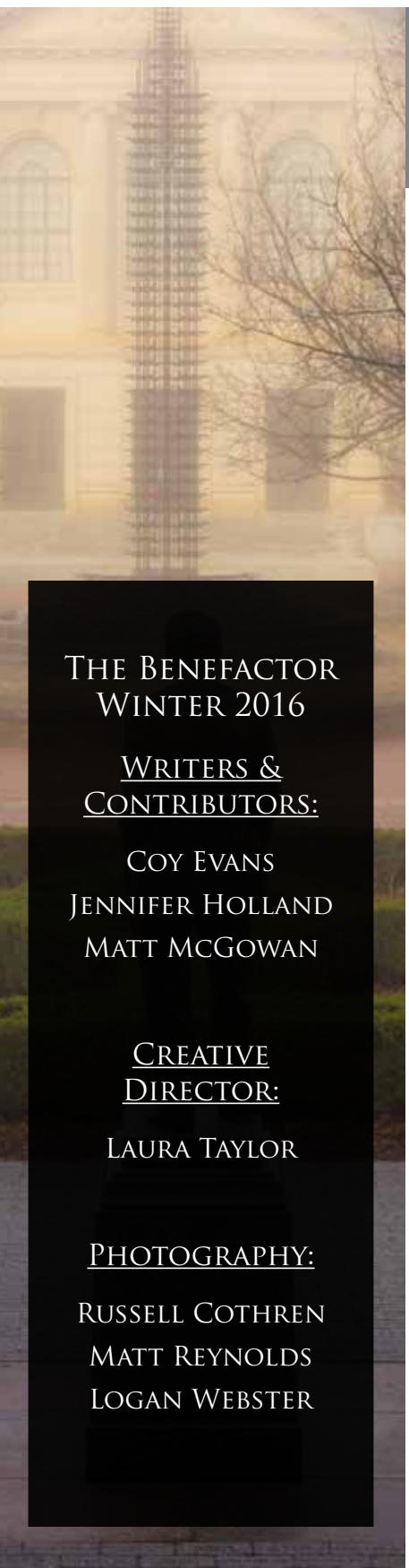
A PUBLICATION FOR BENEFACtors OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

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## THE BENEFACtor WINTER 2016

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



It's a new year on the University of Arkansas campus and a great time to be a part of the Razorback family. We're welcoming our new chancellor, Dr. Joseph E. Steinmetz, and gearing up for a very exciting year ahead.

One of the highlights of the upcoming year will be the public launch of our capital campaign this fall. We've mentioned our campaign in passing during the silent phase, but this is the year when the volume will be raised. Our campaign is about acknowledging the benefactors who have made us who we are today,

aspiring to new heights, advancing the mission of the university and achieving success. I look forward to sharing more about our campaign as the year unfolds and introducing you to some of the key players who are going to lead us.

Volunteers and benefactors – like you – continue to be paramount to our success. And whether you're giving your time, money or both, your commitment indicates that you're all in for supporting the University of Arkansas. Thank you for remaining involved with us this year and beyond.

CHRIS WYRICK  
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

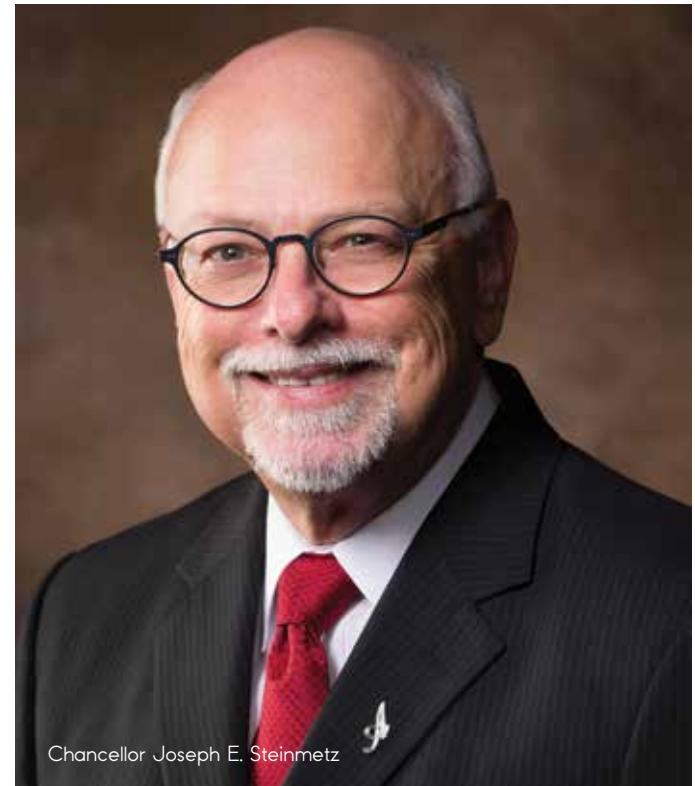
## WELCOME, CHANCELLOR STEINMETZ!

Joseph E. Steinmetz began his term as the sixth chancellor of the University of Arkansas on January 1. He most recently served as the executive vice president and provost of Ohio State University and was named to his new position in October 2015.

Prior to Ohio State, Steinmetz was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas and was also a university distinguished professor. He served for 19 years at Indiana University, where he was executive associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Department of Psychology. At Indiana he was also a distinguished professor of psychological and brain sciences.

Steinmetz earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Central Michigan University and his doctorate at Ohio University. Throughout his career and administrative leadership, Steinmetz has been committed to strengthening interdisciplinary research and collaborations across departments and colleges.

Steinmetz understands the importance of philanthropy at the University of Arkansas and looks forward to working with our alumni and donors to continue the transformation of our campus.

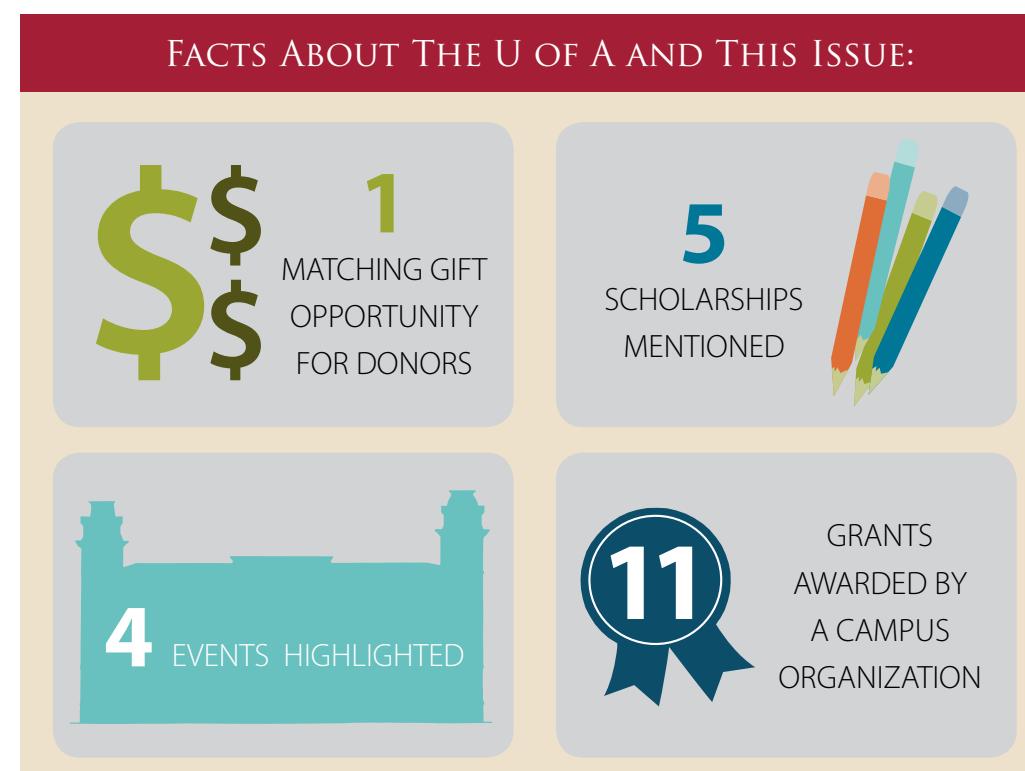


Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz

## A MONUMENTAL DAY IS COMING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



ARE YOU **ALL IN?**



### A MOMENTOUS MILESTONE



Above Left: Members of the Women's Giving Circle celebrated a milestone on October 23.

Above Right: Representatives from the Volunteer Action Center Literacy Program accept their grant check on behalf of the circle.

The Women's Giving Circle reached a remarkable milestone in October when it crossed the \$1 million-mark in the amount given back to the University of Arkansas campus.

Thanks to a \$50,000 match incentive donation from the chancellor's office, the circle also awarded a record amount of funding in its 2015 grant cycle when it presented 11 programs with over \$142,000 in grants. Because of the record funding amount available, the circle also voted to donate \$25,000 to the Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Campus Food Pantry. The amounts of the remaining 10 grants given out ranged from \$2,000 to \$38,500.

The Women's Giving Circle is made up of U of A alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university and was created to encourage women as philanthropic leaders. The circle raises funds in part by requiring annual cash gifts from its members. The annual gift requirement is \$1,000 for alumnae or friends and \$500 for recent graduates, students, faculty and staff.

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	UNIT
The Arkansas Teacher Corps Fellows	\$38,500	College of Education and Health Professions
Narasimhan Rajaram	\$22,000	College of Engineering
Tameka Bailey	\$11,990	J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
The Volunteer Action Center Literacy Program: Parent Literacy Night Pilot	\$11,845	Student Affairs and the Center for Community Engagement
The Dream B.I.G. Program's "Brave Girl" Initiative	\$10,728.25	Student Affairs and the Center for Community Engagement
The Delta Professional Development Project	\$7,432	Sam M. Walton College of Business
Sustain Rape Aggression Defense Course	\$7,236	UAPD
\$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation for Women	\$3,150	Student Affairs
Laundry & Literacy	\$2,205	College of Education and Health Professions
The University of Arkansas Women's Chorus	\$2,000	Fulbright College

### PANTRY SUPPORT COMES FULL CIRCLE



Dave and Jane Gearhart and their family at the dedication of the Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Campus Food pantry.

On October 23, a crowd gathered at the Administration Building on the University of Arkansas campus to officially dedicate the Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Campus Food Pantry. Named after the former "first lady," the pantry is a student-run emergency food assistance program that distributes food and personal products to all members of the University of Arkansas community.

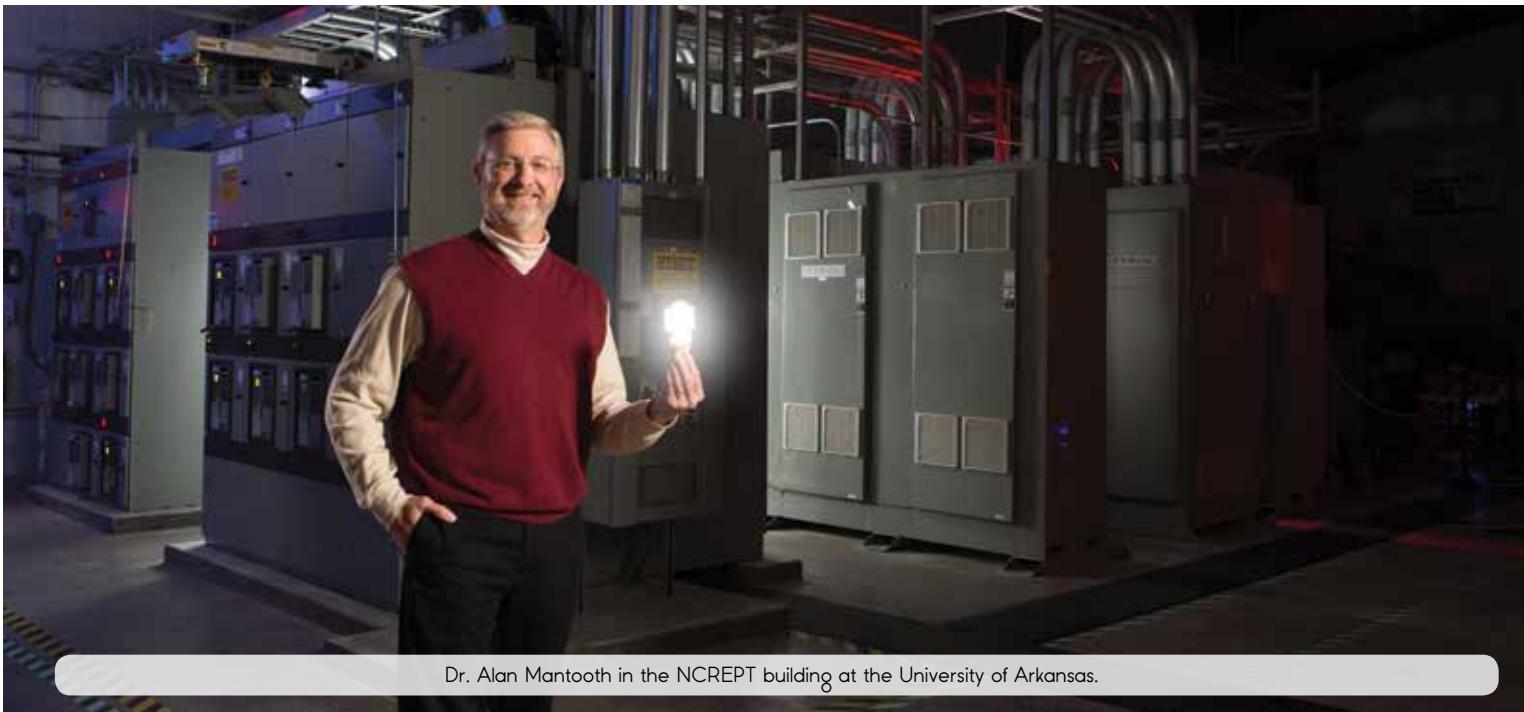
In fall 2010, Gearhart learned that U of A students were working to establish the campus food pantry to address food insecurity among their fellow students and other members of the university community. So, she stepped in to help and became a prominent and effective advocate supporting the establishment and continued operation of the pantry. Because of her commitment, the Board of Trustees voted to name the facility in her honor.

Attendees were encouraged to bring non-perishable donations to the pantry dedication, and the Division of University Advancement teamed up to contribute 152 bags of food. Donors making financial contributions were also recognized at the event, including the surprise announcement of \$25,000 from the Women's Giving Circle.



Bags of non-perishable donations filled the stage at the dedication.

### THE ENDOWMENT EFFECT: HOW AN INVESTMENT IN FACULTY CREATES RESEARCH, GRANTS



Alan Mantooth, Distinguished Professor of electrical engineering and holder of the Twenty-First Century Research Leadership Chair in the College of Engineering, is making news as the principal investigator and director of a new research center that will focus on the cybersecurity of the nation's power grid.

The National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission was made possible by a \$12.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and augmented by \$3.3 million in matching funds from key research partners. Researchers at the university's 7,000-square-foot, \$5-million power electronic test facility will identify and develop solutions for vulnerabilities across the U.S. power grid with the goal of protecting hardware assets, making systems less susceptible to cyberattack and providing reliable delivery of electricity if such an attack were to occur.

In addition to the U of A researchers, all of whom are associated with the university's National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission, the new cybersecurity research

center includes faculty from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Carnegie Mellon University, Florida International University and Lehigh University.

"We're proud to be recognized as a national leader in the area of power electronics research and security," said Mantooth. "The impact of this work is tremendous. All too frequently we are hearing of how foreign entities are hacking into U.S. computer systems. This center's mission is directly focused on protecting America's electric energy delivery system, and we are pleased to have a great team with which to approach these challenges."

In addition to his work with NCREPT, Mantooth has already overseen \$60 million in research funding from the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, in addition to NASA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Office of Naval Research and more than 50 companies. His endowed chair was created with funds from the historic \$300 million gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS, INSPIRED BY STUDENTS

When Ann Marie Ziegler's husband, Joe, became disabled in a bicycle accident in 2008, the couple found themselves surrounded by new health-care challenges. However, thanks to the excellent medical care from three University of Arkansas nursing students, Joe – a former faculty member and chair of the Department of Economics – and his wife received the support they needed at their home until Joe passed away in 2013.

A former U of A faculty member herself, Ziegler felt inspired by the care her husband received and is now honoring the three former students with scholarships created in their names. The Therese Rickert Endowed Nursing Scholarship, Meredith Warner Endowed Nursing Scholarship and Kristen Coleman Endowed Nursing Scholarship have all been established in the College of Education and Health Professions with gifts of \$80,000 to each.

Warner, who is originally from Houston, worked with Joe Ziegler for a year, taking him to physical therapy and assisting with his bedtime routine weekly. She recalls sorting through pictures with Ziegler and said she learned a lot about life from him. A 2013 graduate, Warner now works as a registered nurse in administration in a clinic in Austin, Texas. She has applied to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Arkansas.

"I remember the Zieglers as being very wonderful, welcoming people," said Warner, who recalls crying when she learned a scholarship was being named in her honor.

Tom Smith, dean of the College of Education and Health Professions. "Endowing scholarships in the names of our nursing graduates will inspire our future students and shows the tremendous impact they will have on the people they care for."

In addition to the three scholarships, Ann Marie Ziegler has also designated \$10,000 to be used toward the Dr. Joseph A. Ziegler Experimental Economics Excellence Fund in the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

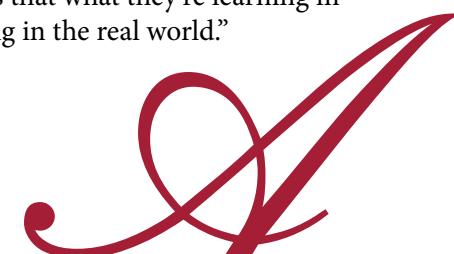
Bill Curington, chair of the Department of Economics,



said, "Joe – or 'Z' to his friends – initiated the hiring of the first experimental economist in the department more than 20 years ago. It was a relatively new field in economics, but he seemed to anticipate the department's future. This fund will be an essential vehicle for supporting experimental economics research and will serve an enduring honor to Joe's legacy in the department."

Experimental economics is a major strength of the Department of Economics. Five of the department's 15 tenure-track faculty members now have this specialization, which has created a cluster that is among the largest and most active anywhere in the world.

"Joe believed in experimental economics," said Ziegler. "It shows students that what they're learning in the classroom is happening in the real world."



### EVANS PROVIDES MATCHING GIFT FOR GARVAN GARDENS



Architectural renderings of the Treehouse Project by Modus Studio.



Bob Evans  
The Evanses are very giving indeed. In fact, \$500,000 of a previous estate gift from the couple is now being used to create matching funds for a treehouse in Garvan Woodland Gardens, the university's botanical gardens in Hot Springs. The treehouse, which will be part of the Evans Children's

Donors who wish to contribute to the treehouse project and have their funds matched should contact Bob Bledsoe at (501) 262-9610 or [bbledsoe@garvangardens.org](mailto:bbledsoe@garvangardens.org).

Sunny Evans of Hot Springs says her late husband, Bob, had a favorite quote attributed to Winston Churchill, and he carried it with him always in his pocket. "He strongly believed that with what you get you make a living, and with what you give, you make a life," she said. "He was a very giving person."

"As a friend of Bob Evans, it makes me proud that his legacy at Garvan Woodland Gardens is one we not only honor today, but it is also one that will be remembered for generations," said Bob Bledsoe, executive director of Garvan Gardens. "Our gardens, and particularly the Evans Children's Adventure Garden that Bob loved so dearly, will be transformed with their gift."

### OPENING DOORS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

On September 19, the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center was dedicated in front of a crowd of over 300 prior to the Arkansas-Texas Tech football game. Attendees included Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, Interim Chancellor Dan Ferritor, Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Jeff Long and members of the Jerry and Gene Jones family.

The Jones Success Center addresses the academic, nutritional, personal and professional development of more than 460 student-athletes and creates an integrated academic support program focused on the graduation of all student-athletes at the University of Arkansas.

The approximate 55,000 SF facility includes 30+ tutor rooms, 5,000 SF of open study and lounge space, 3,800 SF of computer and group lab space, a 135+ seat auditorium, 90+ seat multi-purpose room, a Sports Nutrition center with a full-service kitchen and seating for 250 student-athletes, a wellness wing for a sports psychologist and dieticians as well as areas specific to Student-Athlete Development and



Educational Enrichment Services.

The Jones Success Center also houses the Bogle Academic Center and provides student-athletes with multiple learning environments, including academic advising and course preparation, leadership training through the Razorback Leadership Academy, career planning and service learning.

### ALUMNI BOND AT SIMMONS EVENT

On October 8, Simmons Bank hosted an event for 35 alumni and friends at the Simmons Tower in Little Rock. Employees of the bank gathered to celebrate their love for the U of A and heard remarks from the bank's host, Senior Vice President John Monroe (B.A. '90), and Associate Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of the Arkansas Alumni Association Brandy Cox, who called the Hogs with the help of alumnus Garland Ridenour (B.S.B.A. '66, L.L.B. '68).

The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the U of A coordinated the event with assistance from Emily Money, director of development for Central Arkansas, and alumna Tabitha Doddridge (B.A. '99). The corporate and foundation relations team is always looking for new opportunities to support, coordinate and integrate student advancement, research and university outreach activities with industry and mission-based organizations. If your organization would like to host a similar event, contact Laura Mabry at [cfr@uark.edu](mailto:cfr@uark.edu) or (479) 575-6411.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LIFE'S SECOND HALF

**D**uring his junior high football days, T.A. Walton would take a contemplative seat in the locker room after the first half of a game and stare at his helmet, mulling over his performance while turning it over, looking for signs of chipped paint. He would ask himself, "Did I see paint on the helmet? No? Then I didn't play hard enough." Picking himself up, he would make the second half more impactful.

That resolve has guided Walton and his wife, Vivian, in many of their endeavors throughout the years. At the age of 50, he did the same analysis of his life, reasoning, "You haven't done enough to make a difference; you haven't done enough. I want my second half to make a difference for others."

Walton spent his formative years in various small towns throughout Arkansas, and an assignment from his 8th grade civics teacher first introduced him to the world of engineering. After rifling through the library's job card catalog to pick a career that sounded interesting, Walton chose chemical engineering – much to the surprise of his counselor – who questioned, "Why would you want to go and do that?" After graduating from Forrest City as both class president and valedictorian, he set his sights on achieving that very goal.

Walton was recruited to the University of Arkansas mere weeks before the start of the fall semester by Dr. Loren Heiple, the dean of the College of Engineering. After finishing his undergraduate work in chemical engineering, Walton went into industry and got married. After 18 months, he returned to the U of A and entered the master's program in chemical engineering. During this time, life threw him some unexpected curveballs. Walton found himself working three jobs and trying to pay for both school and hospital bills, as his newborn daughter was born prematurely and was fighting for her life.

Facing the possibility of abandoning his studies from the stress and financial strain, he appealed to the university



T.A. and Vivian Walton

for assistance. He was initially told that there was nothing they could do; however, a few months later he was called into the dean's office and given an envelope. Inside was a check from the Razorback Foundation, which had heard about his situation. The amount was not huge, but it came at a critical time. "Tears came to my eyes," Walton said. "I don't know how or when I can pay this back," he told them. The reply he received was simple and gracious: "Just pay it back when you can."

After a divorce and the completion of his master's degree, Walton moved to South Carolina to continue his studies. It was there that Walton met his future wife, Vivian. Within a few years after getting married, the couple took jobs with Procter & Gamble. Their careers

took them on multiple adventures across the country, and during this time, they became involved with the Black Alumni Society (BAS) reunions. Because of this, Walton's connection to the U of A reignited and deepened. He remembered the pivotal day he was given that check and decided, "I will support the University of Arkansas for the rest of my life."

True to his word, Walton and his wife have done just that. Initially giving to the Black Alumni Scholarship, they later expanded their philanthropy to include the Arkansas Academy of Chemical Engineers, the College of Engineering and even created their own annual scholarship: the Trent, Sheila, and Vivian Walton Scholarship.

"My wife and I have been blessed with good jobs, and we want to give back and be a blessing for others," said Walton. "When I see some of the sizes of the gifts that are made to the school it sometimes makes a person like me question 'does it really matter?' when our gifts seem small in comparison. But I always index back to how my own situation so many years ago was affected by a relatively small gift that made such a huge difference. It doesn't take a lot of money to make a difference. Every day donations meet every day needs."

## CLIMBING THE RANKS

**J**ohnny Carver comes from a family of basketball players and aspired to play himself. However, when he was diagnosed with a nerve disorder in 2013, he refocused his efforts and decided to write about basketball instead of playing it. The result is Racketology, a book that Carver wrote as a high school student that seeks to answer – through analytics – who the greatest basketball player of all time really is.

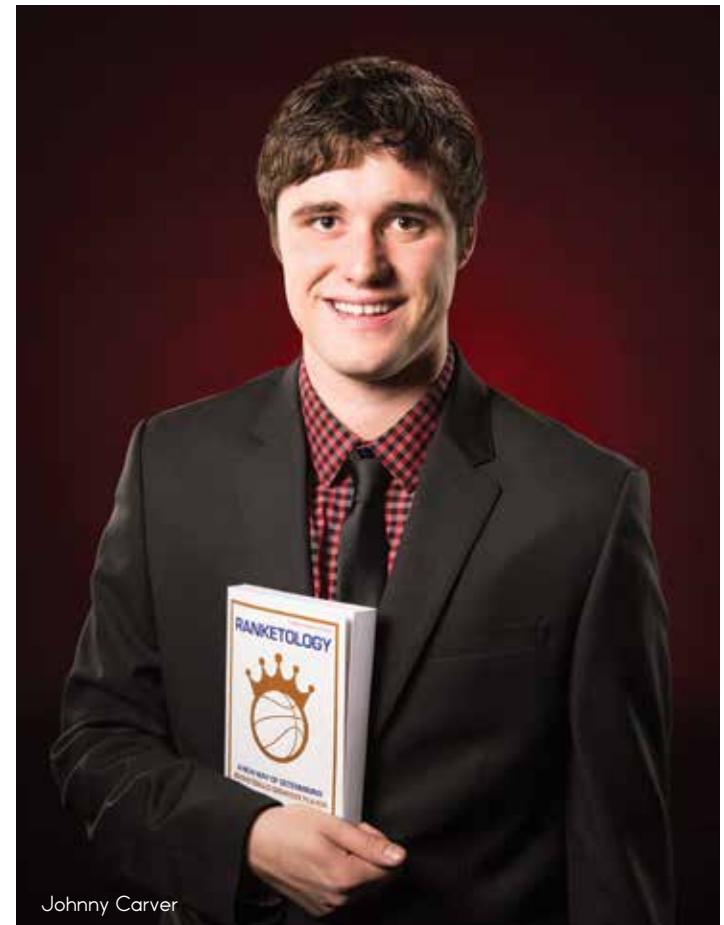
Carver, originally from Olathe, Kansas, is now a sophomore at the University of Arkansas and is majoring in business management with minors in sports management and business analytics. Involvement with the Sam M. Walton College of Business was a significant reason why he chose to attend the university, as well as the services available from the Pat Walker Health Center.

In addition to his nerve disorder, Carver has also been diagnosed with severe ulcerative colitis and adrenal insufficiency. Because of this, his parents were initially concerned about him attending college away from his hometown. However, after a campus visit, they were reassured that he would be taken care of in an excellent academic environment.

Carver uses a unique algorithm in Racketology that he developed himself. He self-published his book and has already received positive attention. In fact, he is often invited to visit NBA teams who want to talk to him about his future, and he has embraced these connections in pursuit of his long-term goals. Carver receives an Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors scholarship to help with his expenses but admits that he – like many students – can always use more financial support.

"This scholarship makes my education possible," Carver said. "I've been traveling with NBA teams across the country and have had to pay for these trips myself, in addition to my medical expenses. Having this scholarship available for my educational expenses is a tremendous help."

These cross-country visits have already paid off for Carver, who now works in a basketball analytics consulting position for one of the NBA teams. He accepted the position at 19 years old and – to his knowledge – is the youngest person working



Johnny Carver

in NBA analytics.

Carver obviously stays busy outside of the classroom, but he is an eager student as well. He hopes to graduate early and go on to earn his master's degree before joining an NBA franchise.

"The University of Arkansas has given me the opportunity to pursue extraordinary dreams and goals," Carver said. "There were things that I've accomplished that I never could have imagined before I got here. It makes me proud to be a Razorback."



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