

# Benefactor



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

Vol. 22, Issue 3, Fall 2019



CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*



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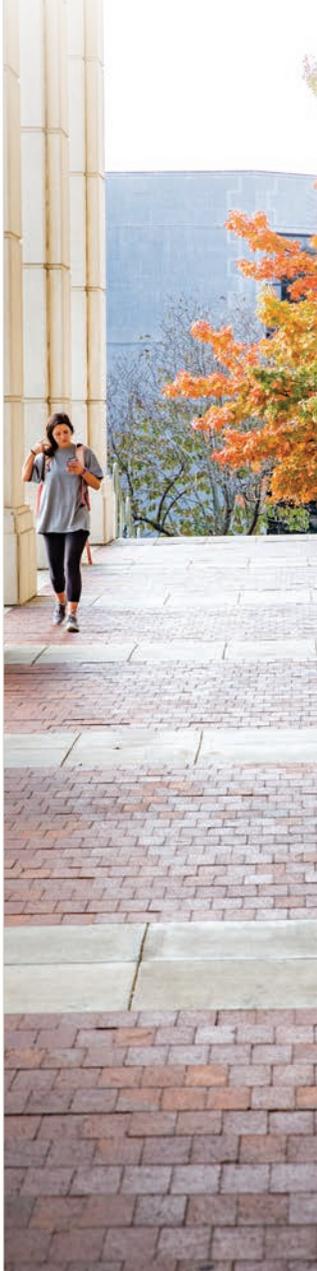
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*Benefactor* is published three times per year for Chancellor's Society members and donors to the University of Arkansas.



## A Message from the Associate Vice Chancellor of University Development



Beginning with this issue, we're going to share the impact Campaign Arkansas has already had on the University of Arkansas campus. The campaign began in 2012, and since then, students, faculty, programs and facilities have all benefited from the generosity of our donors.

Students are receiving scholarships that were created near the beginning of the campaign, and faculty members have been awarded new endowed positions. It's incredibly rewarding to see the impact that is already being made, thanks to philanthropy. We hope you enjoy reading these updates, as we spotlight several gifts that have been featured over the last seven years, as well as new gifts through the end of the campaign.

Campaign Arkansas will conclude on June 30, 2020, but facilities that foster student success will continue to be a priority. Adohi Hall, the newest residence hall on campus, is a major fundraising focus, as is the new Student Success Center in the heart of campus. The Civil Engineering Research and Education Center and the Anthony Timberlands Center for Design and Materials Innovation are two more important facilities that will require private gift support in the coming years. All of these facilities will greatly enhance the student experience and help the U of A recruit, retain and graduate the best and brightest.

Your gifts matter, and – as you can read from the stories in this issue – are already changing lives. Thank you for supporting higher education at the University of Arkansas.

Warm regards,

Katy Nelson-Ginder  
Associate Vice Chancellor for University Development



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### ON THE COVER

**Hannah Steinman** was featured on the cover of the *Benefactor* in 2015, along with two of her fellow student callers. Steinman has since graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and sociology with a minor in Arabic. The St. Louis native is now pursuing her graduate degree in criminology and still takes to the phones to call alumni and friends of the university as part of the National Phone Campaign. Steinman says, "It's really wonderful getting to talk to alumni and hear their stories and reasoning for giving back. Seeing people give back is very exciting."



# Campaign Arkansas Enters Final Year of Counting, Continues Momentum

Campaign Arkansas, the capital campaign aimed at advancing academic opportunity on the University of Arkansas campus, is continuing its positive momentum in its final year. The campaign, which began on July 1, 2012, includes a goal of raising \$1.25 billion by its conclusion on June 30, 2020.

Steuart L. Walton will lead Campaign Arkansas as chair this year as the campaign reaches its conclusion.

Walton is an entrepreneur, founder and chairman of Game Composites, co-founder of the Runway Group, and sits on the Walmart Board of Directors.

Walton holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

“Steuart brings a fresh perspective to the campaign and will fuel the momentum of the final year and beyond,” said Chancellor Joe Steinmetz. “He has a history of bringing innovative ideas and projects to Arkansas, and I look forward to working with him to move the university forward in new and meaningful ways.”

Walton joins a distinguished group of prior campaign co-chairs including Boyce Billingsley, Marilyn Bogle

and Johnelle Hunt, who served together as the initial Campaign Arkansas co-chairs. Other former co-chairs serving with Walton on the campaign's executive committee include Bill Dillard II, Doug and Shelley McMillon, Reynie Rutledge, and Bob and Sandra Connor.



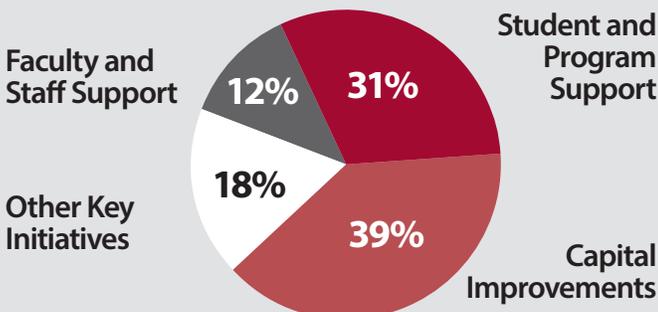
Steuart L. Walton

Walton's uncle, Rob Walton, and father, Jim Walton, both served as chairs of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century in 1998-1999 and 2002-2003 respectively.

“It's an honor to lead the university through its final year of Campaign Arkansas,” said Walton. “For 150 years, the university has been a key player in the state's business community, and as we look toward the future, I'm excited about how this campaign will transform and strengthen the university, this region and state.”

## FY 19 Fundraising Total - **\$163.4 million**

### FY 19 Gifts by Purpose



### Campaign Arkansas Total

**\$1.1 Billion** (through June 30, 2019)

**101,253**  
outright gifts  
and new pledges

**52,203**  
benefactors  
(like you!)

# Patterson Scholars Join the Workforce

World-renowned author James Patterson established the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund in 2013 for students majoring in elementary or secondary education in the College of Education and Health Professions.

At the time of the gift, Patterson said, “After I read about the excellent programs in teacher education at the University of Arkansas, I wanted to get involved. My hope is that the scholars in Arkansas’ College of Education and Health Professions will make substantial contributions in the lives of their students and their communities.”

Candace Price received the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship for the first time in 2014, while she was pursuing her bachelor’s degree in education.

“It allowed me to focus on my studies and learning how to be the best teacher I could possibly be,” Price said of her scholarship.

“My favorite part about teaching is getting to build relationships with all of the students,” she continued.

“By the end of the year, there is such a strong relationship between the teacher and students. It truly makes the whole learning experience even more amazing.”

Caitlin Bennett received the scholarship in 2017 and, like Price, says it helped reduce the financial stress for her and her parents during her undergraduate career.

“This scholarship was a major part of my college success, and – I like to think – success now,” said Bennett, who will be starting her third year of teaching this fall. “The money I received allowed me to continue to go into graduate school to obtain my master’s degree and not have any student loan debt.”

Price and Bennett both teach second grade. Price is with Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Bentonville and Bennett is beginning her first year at Northside Elementary in Clinton, Mississippi. Bennett will graduate with a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the U of A in 2023.



Candace Price (on left)



Caitlin Bennett

## Scholarship Support 101

Wondering how to set up a scholarship of your own? Creating one is easy and can be done with a gift of \$1,000 or more.

- Scholarships can be created in honor or memory of a person and can be designated for graduates of specific schools or geographic regions.
- Non-endowed scholarships are awarded in their entirety, meaning a \$1,000 gift creates a \$1,000 award for a student. Commitments must be made for a period of five years.
- Endowed scholarships have a protected principal and only award the interest generated. For every \$25,000 contributed, roughly 4% is generated and awarded to students.
- Scholarship endowment levels begin at \$50,000 and can be paid over a period of five years. An award can be created with a \$25,000 gift.
- Other minimum dollar amounts exist, depending on the type of scholarship created.

For more information about scholarship levels or creating your own scholarship, please contact Lea-Ann Morton, executive director of development, at (479) 575-2638 or [mortonl@uark.edu](mailto:mortonl@uark.edu).

## Caple Gift Funds Upgrade for *Arkansas Law Review's* Office Space

School of Law alumnus Steve Caple says the *Arkansas Law Review* is a publication that is close to his heart. He and his wife, Tracey, are pledging \$100,000 to support the renovation of the *Arkansas Law Review* office space and provide students with needed upgrades to the facility.

Thanks to the Caples' gift, the space will be named in their honor and undergo needed upgrades, providing a more contemporary work area with improved equipment where students can collaborate and support one another through the publication process.

"My fellow editorial board members and I devoted a tremendous amount of time to the *Arkansas Law Review* when we were students, and it is very close to my heart," Steve Caple said. "When Tracey and I learned of other planned renovations, we thought the *Law Review* space should receive a similar upgrade. Tracey and I are excited

to see how our gift will benefit students when the work has been completed."

The *Arkansas Law Review* publishes relevant scholarship on notable domestic and international issues to elicit informed discussions and provide intellectual and practical assistance to members of the legal community. Published quarterly, the journal is an established part of the legal community in Arkansas and is cited and relied upon by lawyers and courts throughout the nation.



Tracey and Steve Caple



Jim Etter Parker

## Parker Scholarships Support Architecture Students in Missouri and Arkansas

Sharon Parker has committed \$196,000 to create three scholarships in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design to support students with financial need. The scholarships are named in honor of her husband, Jim Etter Parker, and

were established to support students' earnest academic endeavors and pay tribute to her husband's Missouri roots and fondness for Arkansas.

Parker was a 1981 graduate of the Fay Jones School who passed away in 2018. He designed multi-family units and commercial structures through his company, Parker Associates, which he founded in 1984. Based in Tulsa, Parker Associates was responsible for hundreds of projects across the country.

Jim Etter Parker had many fond memories of the U of A and enjoyed the projects and outreach associated with

it. Throughout his career he kept in close contact with professors at the Fay Jones School. He and Sharon also previously contributed to the Martha Dellinger Memorial Endowed Lecture in the Fay Jones School.

The Jim Etter Parker Endowed Freshman Recruiting and Retention Scholarship in Architecture will be funded with a \$96,000 testamentary gift and will be awarded to full-time freshmen who demonstrate financial need. Another \$50,000 will establish the Jim Etter Parker Endowed Scholarship in Architecture and will specifically support students entering their third, fourth or fifth years of the architecture program. Both scholarships will give preference to students who are graduates of a high school in Missouri or Arkansas.

The Jim Etter Parker Advance Arkansas Scholarship was created with a \$50,000 endowment to support students from Arkansas who exhibit financial need, records of academic success and a strong desire to complete their degree at the university. One student will benefit annually, and the university will contribute matching funds to double the impact of the award.

# Campaign Arkansas: Endowment Focus

Growing the university's endowment holdings has been a major focus throughout Campaign Arkansas. An endowed fund – whether for faculty or student support – is an investment in the University of Arkansas. When an endowed fund is established with a gift, the principal amount of the gift generates interest, and the interest accrued is then spent toward the designation agreed upon between the donor and the university. The principal balance remains unspent and therefore generates interest for future spending in perpetuity. Establishing an endowment is an excellent way to ensure that your gift to the university will continue to impact others for generations.

Here's a look at how two endowments created during Campaign Arkansas are already making a positive impact on students and faculty at the U of A.

## Student Support



Ariyian Randolph

University of Arkansas alumnus Richard Greene established the Camden E. and Dortha Sue Greene CARE Endowed Scholarship in 2014 with a \$1 million gift. The scholarship, which is named after Greene's parents, was created to address the critical need of recruiting and retaining more underrepresented students to the university.

Ariyian Randolph, a junior from Dumas, Arkansas, is a recipient of the scholarship and says it has helped her tremendously.

"I wanted to come to the U of A because it has always been my top school of choice," Randolph said. "When I sought advice about how to pay for the tuition balance on my account, they encouraged me to apply for this scholarship. I'm very appreciative of it.

"When I came to the U of A, I had to adapt quickly, but Fayetteville feels more like home now," she said.

Randolph is a marketing major in the Sam M. Walton College of Business and says she hopes to become the chief executive officer of her own company one day. In the meantime, she volunteers as a mentor with the Jump Start program, which is hosted by the College Access Initiative at the Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education.

# CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*

# Faculty Support

Alumnus Kevin Brown and his wife, Marie, endowed a \$3 million department head chair in the College of Engineering in 2013. The Kevin W. and Marie L. Brown Department Head Chair in Chemical Engineering was awarded to David Ford, the inaugural recipient, in 2019.

“One of the major benefits of this gift is the flexibility of the chair funds,” Ford said. “I can direct them to any area where we have a need. In the first six months, I have used it to fund stipends for incoming graduate students, visits with companies to develop new co-op and internship opportunities for undergraduate students and bold initiatives in diversity and inclusion.”

Having an endowed position associated with a department head role is an advantage for Ford, who says he sees the greatest needs and biggest opportunities in his area.

“An endowment like this allows me to meet needs and seize opportunities, which moves the whole department forward,” he said. “Ultimately, it helps me do my most important job as department head: helping students, staff and faculty to develop and grow.”



David Ford

## All About Endowments

An endowed fund – whether for faculty or student support – is an investment in the University of Arkansas. When an endowed fund is established with a gift, the principal amount of the gift generates interest, and the interest accrued is then spent toward the designation agreed upon between the donor and the university. The principal balance remains unspent and therefore generates interest for future spending in perpetuity. Establishing an endowment is an excellent way to ensure that your gift to the University of Arkansas will continue to impact others for generations.

**Want to learn more?** You can find all of the university's minimum endowment levels and naming guidelines online at [giving.uark.edu](http://giving.uark.edu).

### HOW DOES MY ENDOWMENT WORK?

#### ENDOWMENT POOL

The University of Arkansas utilizes the University of Arkansas Foundation to receive, hold, invest, manage and control property and to distribute or use such assets for the benefit of the University of Arkansas System, all in accordance with gift agreements established between donors and the university. The Foundation gives the university the ability to realize greater efficiencies and benefits by investing and managing assets strategically.



#### FUND PAYOUT

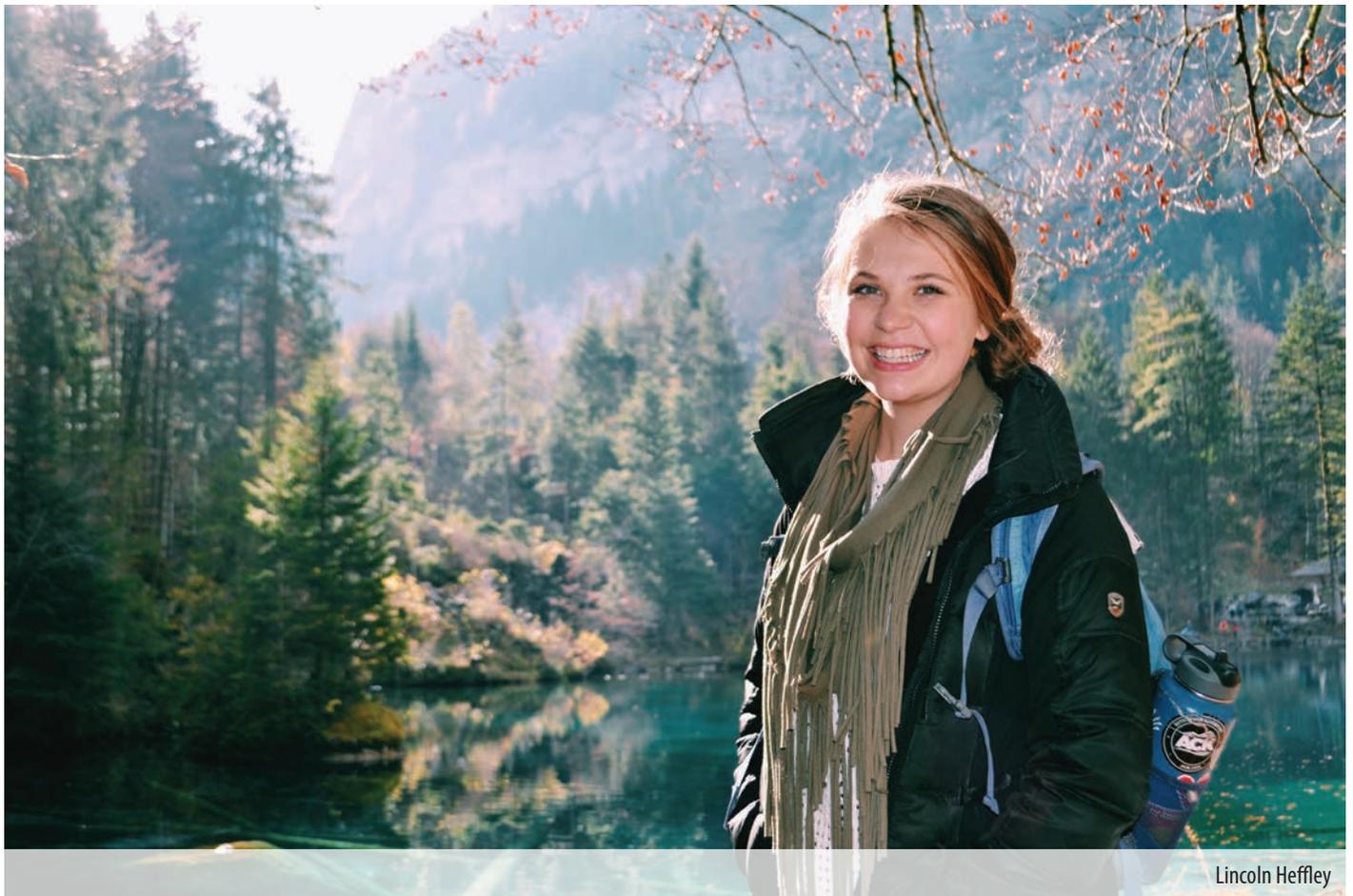
Each investment creates a steady stream of income that is utilized through a spending account to impact faculty, students or programs on campus.



#### REINVESTED EARNINGS

The unspent portion that an endowment creates each year is reinvested into the endowment pool for future use.





## A Passport to Transformative Travel

In 2013, the Roy and Christine Sturgis Education Trust made a \$3.1 million commitment to fund the Roy and Christine Sturgis International Honors Program in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. The purpose of the gift was to enhance the existing Roy and Christine Sturgis Fellowships and Roy and Christine Sturgis Study Abroad Research Grants and provide creative international learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students while promoting mutual understanding between exceptional young scholars and people from other countries around the world.

Lincoln Heffley received a scholarship from the gift in 2017 and used it to complete research for her Honors College thesis both in London, England, and Geneva, Switzerland.

“Getting to research abroad was truly a dream,” Heffley said. “So many of my fantastic professors at the university sparked a love of research and analysis, so getting to

complete archival research in places like Westminster Palace and the United Nations was a surreal experience that very few students have. The interviews that I conducted with experts at the U.N. and the International Atomic Energy Agency provided insights for my research that I could not have had if I was only using text sources.”

Heffley graduated in 2018 with departmental honors with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and a minor in communications. Since graduation, she has been working as a research assistant for a human rights NGO in Washington, D.C. In fall 2019, she will return to London to pursue a Master’s in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

“I’m excited to have the opportunity to build on the research that I conducted under the purview of the Sturgis Scholarship,” Heffley said. “I don’t exaggerate when I tell people I went to the best university in the nation.”

# Co-Chair Q&A

Alumni Erik and Brandy Tuft of Rogers are the newest co-chairs of the Chancellor's Society and recently had the opportunity to pose a few questions to Steve and Deborah Nipper and Mario and Laura Ramirez, two couples who also served as co-chairs during Campaign Arkansas. Here, the former co-chairs reflect on the impact of the campaign and giving back.

**Erik and Brandy Tuft:** How do you think Campaign Arkansas has made a positive impact on the U of A campus already?

**Mario and Laura Ramirez:** It has created opportunity for those who may not have otherwise had the chance to get a world class education. This opportunity can then change their career paths and allow them to, in turn, serve as examples for others.

**Erik and Brandy Tuft:** What do you say to encourage others to give back to the U of A?

**Steve Nipper:** Giving back to the U of A is very meaningful to me. The university meant a lot to me as a freshman from south Arkansas.

**Erik and Brandy Tuft:** What was your favorite memory from serving as co-chairs of the Chancellor's Society?



Brandy and Erik Tuft

**Mario and Laura Ramirez:** One of our favorite memories was the experience of standing alongside the Chancellor Gearhart and Mrs. Gearhart and greeting each one of the guests as they arrived for the Chancellor's Society annual reception. We were struck by the dedication of so many generous people and their love for our alma mater.

**Steve and Deborah Nipper:** Our favorite memory was being able to attend events on campus where we were able to visit with other members of the Chancellor's Society. It was good to see new members join throughout our term.



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

## Looking for an Easy Way to Support the U of A This Year?

### Consider a Charitable IRA Rollover!

If you are 70 ½, you may roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the University of Arkansas Foundation without paying any federal income tax on your gift.

To make a charitable IRA rollover gift, simply contact your IRA custodian and request that an amount be transferred to us. Your gift could be \$1,000, \$10,000, \$50,000 or even \$100,000. Please contact us to learn more about how a charitable IRA rollover gift can help you and the U of A's mission.

George M. Lensing, Director of Estate and Gift Planning  
(800) 317-7526 • (479) 575-7271  
glensing@uark.edu • plannedgiving.uark.edu

# The Hart of Campaign Arkansas

Shannon Hart

Shannon Hart took a job in college to help pay the bills and turned it into a career in philanthropy.

Hart began her tenure as a student caller with the National Phone Campaign in 2013 and worked throughout her undergraduate experience. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2017, she sought a position as manager of the phone campaign and was recently promoted to assistant director of annual giving.

Her involvement with philanthropy has spanned nearly the entirety of Campaign Arkansas, which began in 2012, and she's seen the changes private giving has made on campus.

"Charitable gifts make such a difference for our university. Beyond the obvious physical changes to campus – like the new buildings and renovations – donations positively impact the lives of students," she said. "Before Campaign Arkansas, campus was growing but at a much slower rate."

The biggest changes, though, may be those in the call center, where students gather to phone alumni and friends to update contact information, visit about their experiences and fundraise for the U of A.

Hart admits that the phone scammers who have increased their presence in recent years have made it much harder to have real conversations with alumni.

"It's not as popular for people to answer their phones these days," Hart said. "It's harder to do what we do, but it's always worth doing. When people talk to us, they realize they don't dislike phone conversations as much as they thought. It's a rare moment of human connection that you can't get from texting or social media."

As a student, Hart knew the joy of philanthropy and its importance, but she still saw tuition as the funding mechanism for the campus. Now, she realizes tuition is "just a drop in the bucket."

"Through philanthropy, we can do more. Donations are the only way that we can progress," she said. "As a staff member, I care about philanthropy and giving back in a different way. I see it as a responsibility. It's like going from being the child to being the parent. I want better – no – the best experiences for future generations of Razorbacks."

It may come as no surprise that Hart's favorite part of the job is working with students. She says she is continuously impressed by them and proud of them.

"The University of Arkansas is a whole chapter of my life, and I hope it turns into a few more chapters," she said. "It's given me roots."

# Friendships and Fellowships



Sadie Casillas

When Sadie Casillas met Julian and Nana Stewart for the first time, she knew they were genuinely invested in her success. Casillas, who came to the University of Arkansas as a freshman recipient of an Honors College Endowed Fellowship, was awarded the Julian and Nana Stewart Honors Fellowship as a sophomore studying civil engineering and quickly learned she was receiving more than a scholarship.

“The Stewarts would sit and talk with us when they came to visit their scholarship recipients,” she said. “They were so sweet and kind. They cared about our dreams and struggles. We received more than financial support from them – they became friends of ours.”

Casillas earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the university and went on to earn a Master of Science from the U of A as well. She is in the home stretch of earning her doctorate, and her entire academic career has been funded by private gift support.

“I’m so grateful for the scholarship support I’ve received,” she said. “The Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship I currently receive gave me the freedom to give up a full-time job I had after completing my master’s degree, so I could focus solely on school and my research.”

Having always been interested in infrastructure, Casillas conducts research on pavement materials, specifically how civil engineers can improve, maintain and recycle existing roads. Her interest in pursuing research for her career was inspired by a study abroad opportunity in Sweden during the summer of her junior year.

“That experience opened a huge door for me,” Casillas said. “I’m a homebody, so being in another country was totally out of my comfort zone. But I had the opportunity to interact with students all around the world, and we were all working together to solve the same problems. Research truly brings people together in the pursuit of a solution.”

Casillas has spent nearly a decade at the University of Arkansas, and it’s an experience she both loves and appreciates thanks to the people and support she received.

“I knew when I visited the U of A that I would be a person – not a number,” she said. “I knew I would be valued, and it felt like a place I wanted to call home. The people here have made my experience stand out, and I know it has been significantly enhanced by the generosity of the Stewarts and their investment in my education.”

# Benefactor

PHILANTHROPY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

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**Oct. 27 - Nov. 2**



**ARKANSAS  
ALUMNI**

## Event Schedule

### Homecoming T-shirt on Sale

August 26 - October 23

### Homecoming Online Auction

October 25 - November 8

### Senior Walk Dedication

November 1 | 2 PM | Old Main Lawn

### Homecoming Patio Party

November 1 | 5:30 PM | Dickson Street Pub Rooftop

### Alumni Awards

November 1 | 6 PM | Fayetteville Town Center

### Homecoming Parade

November 1 | 6 PM | Dickson Street

### Homecoming Pep Rally

November 1 | 7:30 PM | Chi Omega Greek Theatre

### Homecoming Step Show

November 1 | 8:00 PM | Union Ballroom

### Hog Wild Tailgate

November 2 | Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House

Visit [homecoming.uark.edu](http://homecoming.uark.edu) for more information.