

Benefactor



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

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CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*



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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 Vice Chancellor

Thanks to the support of donors and friends like you, the University of Arkansas is breaking records.

This spring, our third annual giving day, All In for Arkansas, raised \$433,744 from 1,292 gifts for students, faculty and programs across campus and set new records for participation and giving. This fiscal year is also shaping up to be one of the best fundraising years ever – thanks to transformational gifts from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation, the Windgate Charitable Foundation and other significant major gifts.



All of this has impacted Campaign Arkansas in a very positive – and big – way. So big, in fact, that our Campaign Arkansas Steering Committee voted to raise the campaign's goal from \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion. When we achieve that goal, it will set yet another record for the university.

Reaching \$1.25 billion is an exciting challenge, because it calls on everyone – alumni, friends, corporate partners and foundations – to work together for a common goal. It's amazing what private gift support can do for students and faculty on the University of Arkansas campus, and it's uplifting to read the stories of how it's already making a difference in this campaign.

As a benefactor, you can be proud of the work we are doing at the U of A. Whether it's academics, athletics or advancement, we continue to excel, and you are a factor in that achievement. Thank you for giving so generously and for supporting higher education.

Warm regards,

Mark Power
Vice Chancellor for Advancement



Alumnus – and 2018 Johnson Fellow – T.J. Holmes was a surprise celebrity guest at the All In for Arkansas Birthday Bash in April. Here, he and his daughter, Sabine, lead party-goers in calling the hogs.

THANK YOU FOR BEING ALL IN FOR ARKANSAS

YOU HELPED US RAISE **\$433,744** IN 1,871 MINUTES

1,292 TOTAL GIFTS

GIFTS FROM **40** STATES & COUNTRIES

867 GIFTS OF \$50 OR LESS

150 DIFFERENT AREAS IMPACTED

222 SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALL IN PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS AND RECIPIENTS OF BONUS BUCKS!



PARTY LIKE A PIG PET PHOTO CONTEST

Winner: Mandi Maclean, Student
Pictured: Hallie the Hedgehog hanging out with hog-wild friends
Bonus Bucks: College of Education and Health Professions (\$200)



HOG-WILD FAMILY PHOTO CONTEST

Winner: Areta Moseley, B.S.B.A. '03
Pictured: Areta's mom, Jeanie Hill, and daughter, Molly, with Ribby
Bonus Bucks: Nursing Students Give Back in Ghana Initiative (\$200)



PARTY CART PHOTO CONTEST

Winner: Student Hog Callers
Pictured: Celebrating the U of A's 147th birthday on the All In party cart
Bonus Bucks: Food Pantry (\$50) and PRIDE in Education Scholarship (\$50)



GO ALL OUT FOR THE ALL IN SELFIE CONTEST

Winner: Ralph Carruth, M.S. '79
Pictured: Ralph with Space Launch System Intertank structural test at NASA
Bonus Bucks: J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences (\$200)

Fond Campus Memories Fuel Campaign Gift to Architecture

Alumni Jim and Mary Alice Van Sickle of Cambridge, Massachusetts have a long-lasting connection to the University of Arkansas, where they first met each other. Because of their shared love for the university and the role it played in their lives, they committed a planned gift to create the Herbert K. Fowler Endowed Chair in Architecture and Urban Design and the James R. and Mary Alice Van Sickle Endowed Scholarships in Architecture and Urban Design.

Mary Alice Van Sickle grew up in Louisiana, while Jim Van Sickle grew up in the Pacific Northwest and Southern California. The two met on the U of A campus when Mary Alice was a graduate student studying English and Jim was earning his degree in architecture.

“When we arrived at the University of Arkansas, we were taken in, treated well and received an excellent education,” Jim Van Sickle said. “The more we thought about it, the more we thought we would like to give back.”

Mary Alice Van Sickle added, “If we’re leaving something, it makes sense for us to send it back to those places that helped us get started.”

“The more we thought about it, the more we thought we would like to give back.”

— JIM VAN SICKLE

The Herbert K. Fowler Endowed Chair in Architecture and Urban Design is named for the late professor emeritus of architecture at the U of A, who was Jim Van Sickle’s first professor of design.

“He was one of the best teachers I had anywhere,” Van Sickle said. “He deserves to be remembered among the great group of founding professors that the architecture program was so lucky



Mary Alice and Jim Van Sickle

to begin with. Their legacy is the superb Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design that exists at the university today.”

Because the Van Sickle family benefited from scholarship support as students, they also felt inclined to establish one of their own. The James R. and Mary Alice Van Sickle Endowed Scholarships in Architecture and Urban Design will provide financial assistance to students enrolled in any discipline within the Fay Jones School, with preference given to students in any of the graduate programs affiliated with the U of A Community Design Center.

“We’ve always been interested in the community design program at the university,” Jim Van Sickle said. “They have a need, so it made sense to do something for this program. We received similar scholarships, and neither of us would’ve made it through without that support.”

A Q&A with J. Chester and Freda Johnson

Alumnus, poet and essayist J. Chester Johnson (B.S.E. '68) and his wife, Freda, have committed \$150,000 to the University of Arkansas to support the creation of a graduate fellowship for the Program in Creative Writing and Translation. The couple's gift was inspired by their love for the literary arts and an appreciation for social justice and civil rights.

In an interview about their unique gift, the Johnsons provide insight on student support, the importance of diversity and the university's acclaimed creative writing program.

Q: Why did you choose to focus on students – and scholarships, in particular – for this gift?

Freda Johnson: We wanted to focus on students because of their potential. You never know what's going to be generated by students. And if this fellowship can help provide diversification in the student body, that's even more beneficial.

J. Chester Johnson: Both of us came from modest families. Going to college is a struggle for a lot of people, especially people from different backgrounds. We want to help those who might not otherwise be able to come to the university.

Q: Why did you choose an emphasis on creative writing?

Freda Johnson: We are creative writing devotees and very much supportive of creative writing efforts. The creative writing program at the University of Arkansas is well-respected throughout the world. Their commitment to diversity is organic and not forced. Our fellowship will be used to attract and recruit top students who create and maintain the diversity of the M.F.A. program in creative writing.

Q: You both describe yourself as activists who have made social justice and civil rights a hallmark of your lives and livelihoods. Tell us more about this commitment.

J. Chester Johnson: The importance of diversity and social justice have significantly influenced my life and writing. Early in my career, I taught at the Drew School, the African-American public school in Monticello, prior to the integration of the local Arkansas school systems.



Freda and J. Chester Johnson

In my career as a writer, I've written numerous prose and poetry pieces on social justice and civil rights. Diversity is an element of a pluralistic society, and anything anyone can do to further pluralism – particularly in the arts – should be pursued.

The J. Chester and Freda S. Johnson Graduate Fellowship will be used to attract and recruit top students who create and maintain the diversity of the M.F.A. program in creative writing. The creation of the endowment was a dream of Padma Viswanathan, an associate professor of fiction in the Department of English, who saw a need for more diverse program applicants. Thanks to the Johnsons' generosity, this dream has become a reality.

Advancing Arkansas – One Student at a Time



The Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative at the University of Arkansas catalyzes the potential of the state's rising leaders by giving them resources to succeed academically, which creates a mutual flow of local talent between the university and the state.

In fall 2017, 10 students were named the inaugural recipients of Advance Arkansas scholarships. This number will continue to grow as more donors help Arkansans make the University of Arkansas their school of choice, thereby providing better educational opportunities for more citizens of the state.

Recent donors to the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative include Rick and Anne Massey, Hank and Stephanie Kelley, Greg and Hannah Lee, J. Stephen and Kathryn L. Lauck, the A.L. Chilton Foundation and the Schmieding Foundation.

Alumni **Rick and Anne Massey** of Little Rock made a \$2 million commitment through the Massey Family Charitable Foundation to create an Advance Arkansas endowment, because they truly believe in the philosophy behind the program. "Anne and I embrace Joe Steinmetz's vision of improving retention and graduation rates of Arkansans at the university," Rick Massey said. "We normally make our donations anonymously, but we want to publicly express how important we believe the

Advance Arkansas scholarship program is to achieving Joe's objective." Their scholarship will give preference to students who are first in their families to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree.

A \$50,000 gift from alumni **Hank and Stephanie Kelley** of Little Rock created the Henry C. Kelley Jr. and Stephanie Dailey Kelley Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship, with preference given to students from Heber Springs or Cleburne County who are studying real estate, finance, accounting or enrolled in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. "Growing up in a small community is a wonderful opportunity," said Hank Kelley, who grew up in Heber Springs. "But being able to attend a university that is the size of the U of A is a rewarding experience for small town students. I want small schools across the state – and their students – to feel like they can be a part of the university. This gift is about giving back to the university but also helping someone who might not otherwise be able to go there."

A \$40,000 commitment from the **Schmieding Foundation** was matched with another \$40,000 from the Robert M. and Bonnie J. Jones Trust, in honor of Ann Dorman Cooper, for a total endowment of \$80,000. The scholarship will support students in the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing in the College of Education and Health Professions, particularly those from Washington and

Benton Counties in Arkansas who have completed their freshman and sophomore years as full-time students at the U of A. Gilda Underwood, president of the foundation said, “A nursing student has a giving heart and will be serving the community for a long time. We indicated a preference for local students so they will hopefully remain in Northwest Arkansas and give back to their community.”

Alumni **Greg and Hannah Lee** of Fayetteville created the Greg W. and Hannah Lee Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship with a \$50,000 gift, specifically for students in the Sam M. Walton College of Business who attended high school in the Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas. “When we learned about these scholarships and their intended purpose, we knew we wanted to be involved,” Greg Lee said. “The university has been a central part of our lives, and we want others to have the opportunities we had.”

Alumnus **J. Stephen Lauck and his wife, Kathryn**, contributed \$50,000 to establish the J. Stephen and Kathryn L. Lauck Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship to support new, returning or transfer students from Arkansas, with preference given to first-generation students. The selection of the initial recipient will be made with preference given to students enrolled in the Walton College. “Scholarships like this are a win-win,” Stephen Lauck said. “They’re good for the students and

good for the university. Students often drop out because they can’t afford it. These scholarships are for the students who work hard and are often working their way through college – like I did.”

The Dallas-based **A.L. Chilton Foundation** made a \$50,000 commitment to create the A.L. Chilton Foundation Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship in Special Education. The scholarship will give preference to an undergraduate student in the special education program in the College of Education and Health Professions who is affiliated with the EMPOWER Program (“Educate, Motivate, Prepare, Opportunity, Workplace Readiness, Employment, Responsibility”) in a mentor or internship role. Patti Brown, a member of the foundation’s distribution committee, said, “The A.L. Chilton Foundation is thrilled to support the EMPOWER program and Advance Arkansas through this gift to Campaign Arkansas.” Bonnie Harding, a member of the foundation’s distribution committee, added, “It is important to the A.L. Chilton Foundation to create more opportunities for students to become part of the Razorback family.”

In addition to these gifts, the university raised \$130,685 for the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative during All In for Arkansas, the university’s third annual giving day, thanks in part to challenge gifts from Chancellor Joe and Sandy Steinmetz and an anonymous donor.

Meet Justin



JUSTIN MILES grew up in Gilmore, Arkansas – a small town of about 250 residents in the northeast corner of the state – and was one of six boys in his family. As a child, he played on the same city playground equipment his parents used as children. At the age of 14, he decided to get involved in his community and started attending city council meetings. He wanted to make a difference in his community and the world, fueling his pursuit of education as the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Miles knew he wanted to come to the University of Arkansas for its pre-med program, but he couldn’t afford college. After high school, he joined the military and used that experience to earn an associate’s degree.

He came to the U of A in 2014 and took out loans for his first two years of school, but in his senior year, he was named one of the inaugural recipients of an Advance Arkansas scholarship.

“Thanks to the scholarship support I’ve received over the last two years, I’ve been able to pay off my loans from the first two years,” he said. “When I graduate, I’ll be debt free.”

After graduation, Miles plans to attend medical school and ultimately wants to settle in Arkansas. He has already invested in his hometown by purchasing a lot across the street from his parents’ house and transforming it into a park – complete with new playground equipment for fellow Arkansans who have big dreams like his.

Suder Foundation Gift Supports Student Success Initiatives

The Suder Foundation of Plano, Texas, is working with the University of Arkansas to enhance the Arkansas STEP to Success Program with a \$75,000 gift to the First Scholars Mentoring Incentive Scholarship.

The Arkansas STEP to Success Program is a data-driven, student-focused initiative to maximize student success with a to-and-through college approach to recruitment, retention and post-graduate achievement. The program places special emphasis on increasing access and affordability and dramatically improving graduation rates for first-generation and low-income Arkansans.

The Arkansas STEP to Success Program will ensure that students at risk of leaving the university because of financial or academic obstacles will have the opportunity to earn financial aid and mentoring, experiential learning opportunities, career development and other support to achieve success after college.

STEP is one of the newest student success initiatives aimed at addressing one of the university's major guiding

priorities: advancing student success. There are many key undertakings the university believes will elevate the state of Arkansas and the national position of the university, but the highest priority—one that will add value across all other key initiatives—is a comprehensive endeavor to foster each U of A student's successful on-time graduation from the university, ultimately transitioning them into productive lifelong careers.

Jim Coleman, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, played a key role in facilitating The Suder Foundation's gift and is working extensively with others on the university's student success initiative.

“At my previous institution, I saw firsthand how The Suder Foundation's scholarships supported recruitment and retention efforts,” Coleman said. “The foundation's focus on helping first-generation students through the First Scholars program fits hand-in-hand with our goals of fostering student success by making higher education more accessible and affordable.”



I want to leave a legacy.

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Remember us with a gift in your will or name us as a beneficiary of part of your retirement plan or life insurance.

We'd be happy to help explain how — *confidentially.*

For more information, contact:
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UNIVERSITY OF
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Burkhalters Begin Leadership Role in Central Arkansas

Alumnus John Burkhalter and his wife, Penny, are the new co-chairs of the Campaign Arkansas Central Arkansas committee, taking over for alumnus Sam Alley and his wife, Janet, who have served for the last several years.

Philanthropy is a significant part of the Burkhalters' lives. They participate in many organizations throughout central Arkansas, as well as at the U of A.

"Penny and I are excited about leading the Central Arkansas efforts for Campaign Arkansas," Burkhalter said. "Our committee is focused on raising funds for the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative – something we both feel is very important for students in our state. We look forward to rallying support for this important program and connecting with alumni and donors throughout Central Arkansas."

John Burkhalter is a graduate of the College of Engineering and is owner, president and chief executive officer of Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. He has served as the vice chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission and is past chairman of the Arkansas Economic Development



Penny and John Burkhalter

Commission. He and Penny are Life Members of the Arkansas Alumni Association, and proud parents of daughters Anna Grace and Johnna Kay, who plans to attend the University of Arkansas as a freshman in fall 2018.

The Burkhalters' leadership in the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative will help grow the program within Campaign Arkansas and create new, life-changing opportunities for Arkansas students.

Set It and Forget It!

Need assistance?
Contact Kelli Nixon at
(479) 575-2944 or knixon@uark.edu.

Tired of digging out your checkbook to make your gifts to the University of Arkansas? Monthly donations are the most convenient way to give to the U of A. Over 200 donors like you have already chosen to give recurring monthly donations, allowing the U of A to provide scholarships and enhanced learning programs for students throughout the year.

Here's how to **"make it monthly"**:

- Visit onlinegiving.uark.edu and click **"Make this a monthly gift"** or indicate the frequency of your donation in the comment section.
- U of A employees can visit red-white-true.uark.edu and choose payroll deduction.

It's that easy!





SAVE THE DATE *for the*

F I F T H

Silas Hunt

LEGACY AWARDS CELEBRATION



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

November 9, 2018

Fayetteville Town Center
Fayetteville, Arkansas

2018 Silas Hunt Legacy Award Celebration

Silas Hunt, a native of Texarkana and veteran of World War II, was the first African-American student to attend a major public university in the South when he was admitted to the University of Arkansas School of Law.

The Silas Hunt Legacy Award Celebration pays tribute to his spirit by honoring individuals who have made a significant impact on the University of Arkansas, the state of Arkansas, the nation and the world. The 2018 awardees are:

- YOUNG PIONEER - Joseph W. Daniels III and Ebony Oliver Wyatt
- PIONEER - Dr. John L Colbert, Raye Montague and John Newman
- DIVERSITY CHAMPION – The Alley Scholars Foundation, the Historic St. James Baptist Church and St. James United Methodist Church

Companies and individuals interested in sponsoring the Nov. 9 celebration in Fayetteville may contact the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations at (479) 575-2638 for more information.

College of Engineering Alternative Spring Break

Corporate and Foundation Relations staff traveled with the College of Engineering career services team and 20 students on their Alternative Spring Break to Tulsa. Students and staff visited Zeeco, PepsiCo, Phillips 66, Conoco Phillips, B+T Group and AAON to learn about career opportunities, including internships, co-ops and full-time positions. The visits featured company overviews, facility tours and panels with current company staff that included many U of A alumni.



Addressing Unexpected Need

Dean Kim Needy and Sarah Riva

Emergencies happen and can upend even the most structured plans. When students experience emergencies, their grades, finances, jobs and family can all be affected.

Sarah Riva encountered a financial emergency as a graduate student working on her doctorate in history. As an international student from England, Riva is not eligible for domestic scholarships or federal financial aid, and unfortunately found herself needing extra funds to prevent the disruption of her education.

She turned to an option she discovered through her director of graduate studies: The Needy Family Graduate Student Emergency Fund.

After applying for the fund and receiving the amount she needed to cover her emergency, Riva continued with her classes and research. Without it, she says, she's not sure what she would've done.

Riva's situation is exactly the type of dilemma Kim Needy, dean of the Graduate School and International Education, wants to address. Needy and her husband, Bill, created the Needy Family Graduate Student Emergency Fund to specifically support graduate students – both domestic and international – who find themselves in dire need of financial assistance.

"As I meet with current students or alumni, I hear stories," Kim Needy said. "Many are international students with limited resources, and something happens. Sometimes they

just need a helping hand – a friend, a mentor or even money. For some, it's the last straw and they need as little as \$20.

"Students are focused on their studies and research," she added. "When they're distracted by other things, like limited resources, that detracts from their studies. Sometimes, it can end schooling for them."

Thanks to the emergency assistance Riva received, as well as her scholarship support, her journey can continue uninterrupted.

"My scholarships mean everything to me," she said. "They allow me to travel to the Arkansas Delta and get my research done."

Riva's research focuses on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, particularly the work of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and its role in Arkansas. She has a passion for Arkansas history and wants to tell the state's story more widely. The research she is pursuing may affect how Arkansas is portrayed in history textbooks in the future, which truly makes an impact on the state.

"As the dean, I'm a strong believer that graduate education, in particular, is so impactful to our local community, state and world," Needy said. "We need to keep these students in school and keep educating them. If we can do something to help ease their burden, then it's a worthwhile investment."



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Oct. 14-20

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at the University of
Arkansas and join
the **Arkansas Alumni
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