

Benefactor



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

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CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*



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A Message from the Chancellor

I have a special place in my heart for first-generation students because I was one myself. My passion for student success stems from this place of struggle, having limited access to advisors and career preparation before entering college.

Because of my passion, and in response to feedback Sandy and I have heard throughout the state, the University of Arkansas is creating a place for all of our students to access academic support tailored to their individual needs. From the moment they step foot on campus, students will know we are here to help them succeed, which is why we have developed innovative programs, including a 360-mentoring system, and are building a state-of-the-art facility.

The new Student Success Center will provide students with the tools they need to succeed academically, which is my number one priority for the remainder of Campaign Arkansas. With social events and collaborative learning spaces, the new Student Success Center will be a warm and welcoming place of engagement. Faculty and staff will be available to assist with challenges students face, whether academic, financial, social or health-related.

Everything we do at the university comes back to student success. Even the recent gift of \$23.7 million from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for research and innovation, shown on the facing page, creates life-changing opportunities for our students, as well as our great state. When we have supportive faculty, staff, programs and facilities in place to offer personalized help to our students, they are more likely to achieve their goals and dreams.

Sincerely,

Joe Steinmetz
Chancellor



ON THE COVER

Student success is a key priority for the University of Arkansas, aiming to increase retention and graduation rates. Until the university's new Student Success Center opens in the heart of campus, an interim facility operates at the Garland Center. The center offers a holistic approach to addressing students' needs by offering services such as tutoring, mentoring, writing help, study areas and more.



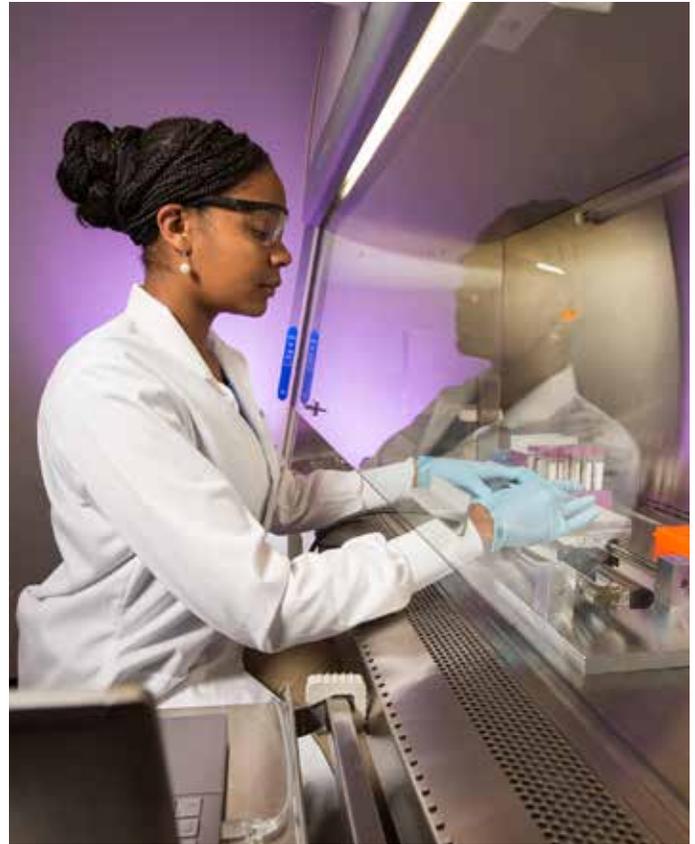
\$23.7 Million Investment Supports State's Economic Growth, Research

A \$23.7 million investment from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation into the University of Arkansas' research and economic development infrastructure will strengthen its research engine, driving innovation across disciplines, leading to the commercialization of new technologies and ultimately enhancing economic activity in the state.

"We are grateful to the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for this investment in our faculty's research and innovation," said Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz. "We have outstanding faculty doing work that impacts the world.

"As we aim to strengthen our research engine, this investment in highly productive research faculty, research infrastructure, and signature research areas will augment our output. For a large research university to effectively inspire commercialization, it must provide a culture of innovation, a broad spectrum of partnerships across the region and around the country, and targeted financial investments."

The infrastructure needed to build and support the research engine includes strategic initiatives of both the Office of Research and Innovation and the Office of Economic Development. These offices are responsible for assisting with proposals for research funding, grant management, entrepreneurial mentoring, faculty and external partners and gap funding to commercialize technologies and creative works.



A student researcher works on a project in a University of Arkansas lab.

The Office of Economic Development streamlines campus initiatives targeting economic growth and social impact, while the Office of Research and Innovation supports and advances the university's research enterprise.

"Universities are powerful engines in driving regional and national economies," said Jim Walton. "There is even more potential for our universities to accelerate economic growth and development."

Thanks to the \$23.7 million gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation, Campaign Arkansas crossed the \$1 billion threshold toward its goal of \$1.25 billion.



Students hold up balloons in celebration of the university crossing the \$1 billion mark for Campaign Arkansas.

Raffaelli-Lineberger Fund Encourages Student Interest in Public Service

Alumnus John D. Raffaelli of Washington, D.C., made a gift of \$125,000 to create the Raffaelli-Lineberger Public Service Fund in the School of Law as a tribute to his family's history of public service.

"I've always enjoyed law, government and politics," Raffaelli said. "When you're in law school, you focus on learning the law. And while legislative law is what the laws should be, there's nothing quite like experiencing firsthand how our nation's laws are created and interpreted at the federal level. Taking those legal theories and seeing how they are applied in a practical setting can help a student fully understand and appreciate the value of their legal education."

The Raffaelli-Lineberger Public Service Fund will provide externship opportunities to J.D. and LL.M. students who show an interest in public service in the legislative, executive or judicial branches of government. It will allow students to accept jobs in sectors where they may not otherwise be paid for their work or where compensation is well below market rates. First preference will be given to students seeking work in the Washington, D.C., area.

"The U of A has tremendously talented students who have proven to the world that they can compete and succeed at the highest levels of public service," Raffaelli said. "Washington, D.C., is an exciting, unique place that's full of career opportunities, and I want to help ensure Arkansas' pipeline to our nation's capital stays open and vibrant for years to come. Our students should not have to forego exploring a career in public service in places like Washington simply because they lack financial resources. This fund will help remove some of those barriers so that our talented students – regardless of means – can receive the same exposure to public service I received when I was at their same stage in life."



John D. Raffaelli

Raffaelli chose to honor former Judge John Lineberger, who he says "led the way" in inspiring him and several of his family members to pursue law school at the U of A, and then later, careers in public service.

"The Linebergers love the University of Arkansas and they value the virtues of giving back through public service," Raffaelli said. "Their impact on our family is something I can never repay, so I felt strongly about honoring Johnny Lineberger's example with this fund."

John Lineberger, who also hails from Texarkana, was Washington County's first public defender and spent 25 years as a judge. He holds a B.S.B.A. from the Sam M. Walton College of Business and a Bachelor of Laws (now called Juris Doctor) from the School of Law.

Tanner Thompson Shuck Memorial Scholarship Benefits Bumpers Students

Former student Tanner Thompson Shuck loved environmental sciences and felt a responsibility to preserve the environment for the future. Described by friends as caring and big-hearted, Shuck passed away unexpectedly in April 2018. Tami Thompson Strickland, Charles Strickland and Georgia Thompson, on behalf of the Gene and Georgia Thompson Family, are continuing his passion with a \$400,000 gift to the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, creating a scholarship in his memory.

Shuck's interest in environmental science was inspired by one of his high school teachers and reinforced after meeting with Lisa Wood, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at the U of A. Shuck became a third-generation Razorback, and Wood became his adviser. As a student at the U of A, Shuck received the Dr. James L. Barrentine Endowed Scholarship from the Bumpers College.

"Tanner was an exceptional student and an extraordinary young man," Wood said. "He was enthusiastic about learning all he could in his classes and applying that knowledge to new situations outside the classroom, especially at Tyson Foods Inc. where he interned. He was highly respected by his peers for his leadership skills and thirst for knowledge. Tanner was mild mannered, would do anything for anybody and was never seen without a big smile on his face. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to know him and to have had him in my life for even a short time. Tanner's legacy will live on through the recipients of this scholarship so generously provided by his family in his memory."

PHOTO BY JAKE HALBERT



Shuck loved the outdoors and majored in environmental sciences.

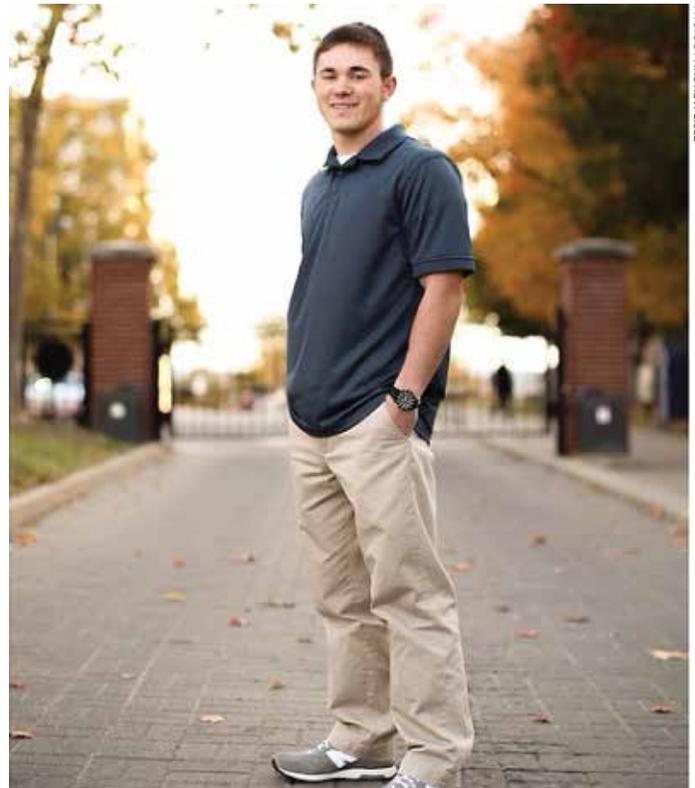


PHOTO BY ANDREW LITSE

Tanner Thompson Shuck

"Education was truly important to Tanner," said Tami Strickland, his mother. "He was grateful for the planning that was done by his family for his educational funding and was concerned that other students were not as fortunate."

The Tanner Thompson Shuck Memorial Endowed Scholarship will benefit sophomores, juniors or seniors majoring in environmental, soil and water science in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. First preference will be given to graduates from Arkansas high schools.

"This scholarship will ensure that students in need will have an opportunity to accomplish their dreams of protecting the environment," Strickland said. "I always knew my child would accomplish great things and would someday change the world in the process, but now it may be through other environmental science students in the years to come."



Built For Success

The University of Arkansas has designed a comprehensive strategy to advance student success – one student at a time – which is a top priority for Chancellor Steinmetz. A significant factor in this strategy is the construction of the Student Success Center that will unify, enhance and fully realize the alignment of a personalized academic, financial and social support system for all students at the university.

A Physical Space To Maximize Every Student's Potential

The Student Success Center will convey the message that academic success is attainable for all students. This message will be integrated into the campus community and culture and conveyed across the state.

Centrally located on campus, just north of Old Main and adjacent to Memorial Hall, the center will house all of the new student success programming and initiatives. This academic hub is ideal because of its convenience and visibility for students, faculty and staff. The architecture of the center will be a magnificent combination of tradition and innovation – an open-concept design with highly visible, collaborative learning studios, multi-purpose classrooms, small group rooms, mindfulness spaces and food services.

CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*

Key Objectives Of The Student Success Initiative

- Enhance Pre-Enrollment Experience of Incoming Students
- Increase Semester-to-Semester Retention and On-Time Graduation
- Improve Transition to College
- Develop Career Outcomes

The Case For Addressing Student Need

The university's graduation rates have improved substantially over the past 15 years, yet unmet financial, academic and social needs still disrupt academic success for far too many students. Currently, students remain less likely to graduate if they:

- Reported more than \$12,500 in unmet need in their first year
- Have high school grade point averages below 3.2
- Are first-generation college students
- Initially lived off campus
- Enrolled fewer than 20 days before their first fall semester

Just under half (49%) of Arkansas-resident freshmen fall into one or more of these categories of need.



STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Planned groundbreaking: 2020

Square footage: 72,000

Floors: Garden Level, Main Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor

Key spaces include:

- 360 Studio
- Life Design Studio
- Fulbright Advising Studio
- World Languages Studio
- Writing Studio
- Communication Studio
- STEM Studio
- Welcome & IT Desk
- Teaching and Faculty Support
- Peer-Assisted Learning Studio
- Common Tutoring Space
- Mentoring Space
- Cross-Functional Team Room
- Dining Room

Student Success Spotlight: ASAP BRIDGE

Created in 2016 with a \$2.4 million grant from the Walton Family Foundation, the Accelerated Student Achievement Program, or ASAP, serves first-generation and low-income students in 26 Arkansas counties. As an ASAP participant, Max McKeown had the opportunity to take classes before his freshman year and was partnered with a mentor to help him adjust to college life. After completing his freshman year, the Monticello native wanted to give back and signed up to be a mentor for the next class of incoming students.

“ASAP helped a lot because it felt like college, but in a smaller sense,” he said. “I had a great support group, and I felt prepared when classes started. I thought the best thing would be for me to give back and show others from small towns that you can come to the U of A and thrive here.”



Advancing Student Success Through Scholarships

The retention and graduation of students continues to be a priority for the University of Arkansas, and the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative is a key component of promoting student success. Three new Advance Arkansas scholarships have been created, benefitting students from Carroll County, St. Francis County and the Arkansas Delta and those who study in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Jim and Jana Harris Advance Arkansas Scholarship



Jana and Jim Harris

Jim and Jana Harris were the first in their families to attend college and believe the U of A provided them with life-changing opportunities. Their \$50,000 scholarship endowment will give preference to first-generation students from Carroll County.

As a first-generation college student at the U of A, Jim Harris said he loved school and learning but remembers feeling overwhelmed. He knew, though, that the experience would be worthwhile.

“Jana and I wouldn’t have had the opportunities we had without the University of Arkansas,” he said. “We want to help a student who is motivated and capable. If we can make a difference for a good student who might otherwise not be able to attend, that’s important to us.”

As associate vice chancellor for advancement, Harris is already involved in the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative and has seen the growth of the program firsthand.

“Chancellor Steinmetz has done a lot of great things in his time here, and this is one of the best things he’s done,” Harris said. “We wanted to support Advance Arkansas because it’s Arkansas-based and need-based. We were attracted to the program because of its emphasis on first-generation college students, like us.”

The Harris’s scholarship will support new, returning and transfer students from Arkansas who exhibit financial need, records of academic success and a strong desire to complete their degree at the U of A. The scholarship will be available for awarding for the academic year beginning in fall 2019.

Kevin and Stephanie Wilcox Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship



Kevin and Stephanie Wilcox

Alumni Kevin and Stephanie Wilcox of Little Rock have contributed \$200,000 to create the Kevin and Stephanie Wilcox Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship for students in the Sam M. Walton College of Business and the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

“We are incredibly thankful for Kevin and Stephanie’s support of student success at the University of Arkansas,” Chancellor Joe Steinmetz said. “I’ve visited with them extensively about the need for Advance Arkansas scholarships and the struggles of first-generation college students, like myself. It’s wonderful that they have chosen to provide this opportunity for students from Arkansas.”

“From Chancellor Steinmetz, we learned that many students were not able to stay in school due to their financial situations,” Kevin Wilcox said. “It was disconcerting to hear that often even students with solid grades could not return after their first year due to the challenges of financing their education.

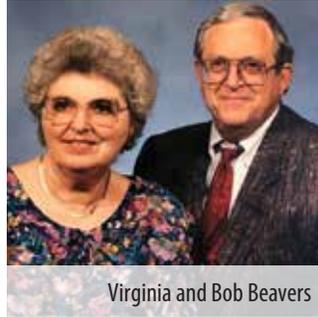
“We hope these scholarships give students the opportunity to pursue their passions,” he continued. “Whether it be in the Fay Jones School or the Walton College, hopefully these students can be positioned for fulfilling careers – ones they are proud of and in which they can then give back to their own families, their community and, hopefully, the U of A as well.”

Wilcox's late father, Jerry Wilcox, graduated from the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the U of A, so supporting architecture students, along with business students, was important to the couple.

Bob J. and Virginia Beavers Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship

Alumna Beth Beavers Prescott wanted to honor her father's career in architecture and love for the U of A with a \$50,000 gift to create the Bob J. and Virginia Beavers

Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship. She and her husband, Hal, named the scholarship after her parents, who met as high school sweethearts in Little Rock and settled in Forrest City with their children.



Bob J. Beavers enjoyed a successful career in architecture and designed and built many schools, health departments, courthouses, banks, hospitals, residences and more in Eastern Arkansas. Because of this, Prescott and her husband felt compelled to support students who are high school graduates from St. Francis County and the Arkansas Delta.

"We structured the scholarship toward Eastern Arkansas, because he touched so much of that area," Beth Prescott said. "You couldn't drive through without seeing something he did."

"I grew up hearing how hard it was for them to get through school," Beth Prescott said. "My mother wanted my brother and me to get an education and turn around and give back to help someone who didn't have the same opportunity. Hal and I started learning about how scholarships work and how important they are to a student's success, and it became important to us to help a student who can see the dream and vision for their future."

Finding a Home on the Hill

Transferring to a new college or university can be overwhelming and intimidating, but sophomore Faaiza Bhatti is glad she took the plunge. The Little Rock native is the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, and she and her sisters are the first generation in their family to attend college in the U.S.

Bhatti started her higher education journey at another regional university, where she was fully covered by scholarships. The experience, though, was less than ideal and left her feeling like she wasn't embraced as part of the community. She began to consider her options for transferring.

"Even applying to the U of A seemed pointless, because I didn't think it would be possible financially," she said.

The application, though, paid off. Bhatti was offered an Advance Arkansas scholarship, and it was an offer that took a weight off her shoulders immediately.

"I felt better about the idea of being happier and being able to come to the U of A," she said. "It had been an ongoing conversation between me and my parents, and suddenly it was possible."



Faaiza Bhatti

As a student at the U of A, Bhatti is having a completely different experience than she had at her previous university.

"I'm looking forward to what will change with my life," she said. "I probably wouldn't have come here without that scholarship. I'm really glad I transferred here, and I couldn't imagine being anywhere else."

Support the Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship for Central Arkansas Transfer Students!



Created by the **Campaign Arkansas Central Arkansas Committee**, this new Advance Arkansas scholarship will specifically support transfer students from the Central Arkansas region who exhibit financial need, records of academic success and a strong desire to complete their degree at the University of Arkansas. The scholarship will be renewable to students regardless of their field of study with acceptable progress toward a degree.

Contributions of all sizes are welcome. For more information or to make a gift, contact Emily Money, director of development, at **(501) 916-2021** or elmoney@uark.edu.

In Giving, You Receive

With a charitable gift annuity, gifts of cash or publicly traded securities can be transferred to the University of Arkansas Foundation in exchange for fixed payments for life, with rates based on the age of the donor.

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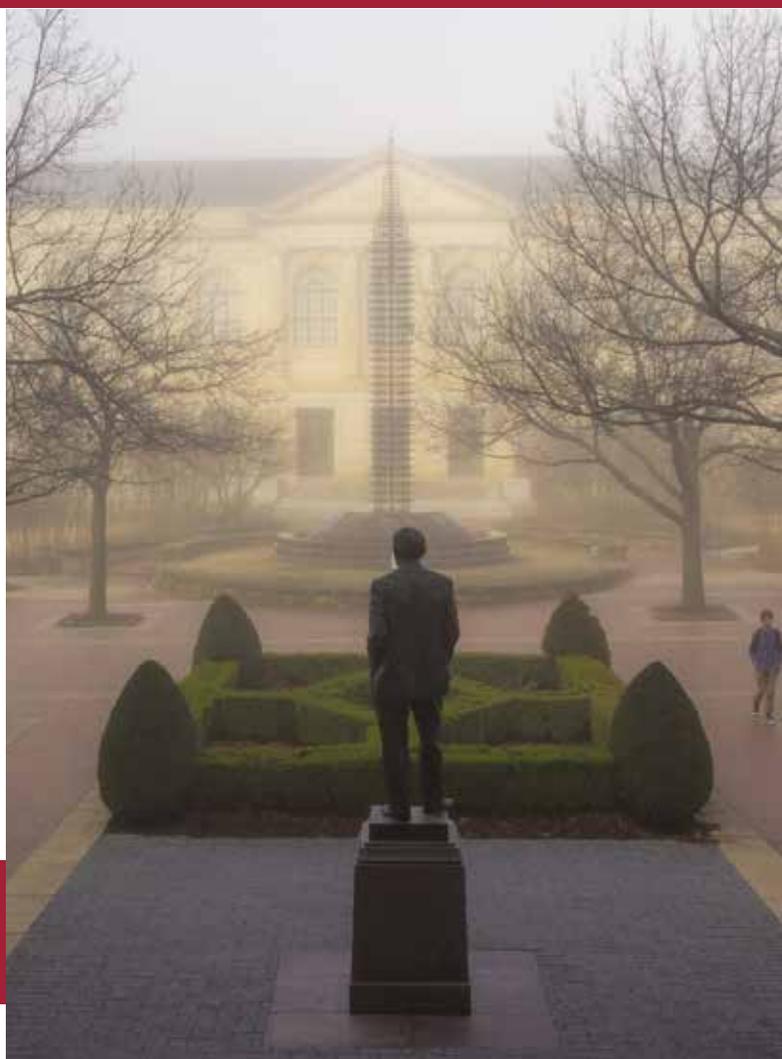
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Dick and Nancy Trammel Cheer on Student Success with Scholarship Gift

At the 2018 Homecoming football game, University of Arkansas alumnus Dick Trammel celebrated a 60-year milestone since he became a U of A cheerleader. Because of his enthusiasm for the university and love for the cheerleading program, Trammel and his wife, Nancy, created a scholarship for cheer students with a \$250,000 estate gift.

“From the moment I met Dick Trammel, I knew he loved the University of Arkansas,” said Chancellor Joe Steinmetz. “He exudes true Razorback spirit and is one of our biggest cheerleaders. It’s incredibly fitting that he and Nancy chose to support student success through the creation of this scholarship, because the Razorback Cheerleading Squad contributes to the energy and feeling of community on our campus – just as the Trammels do in Northwest Arkansas.”

Dick Trammel, a native of Pocahontas, was the first in his family to attend college, noting, “My dad wanted me to come to the university, get an education and have fun.” During his sophomore year in 1958, Trammel’s fraternity, Sigma Chi, asked him to try out for the cheer squad. Trammel was one of nine cheerleaders chosen for the squad, picked for his ability to motivate other students and show his school spirit.

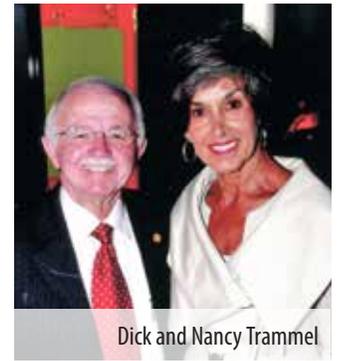
“It has touched my life since 1958, and I thank God for that opportunity,” he said.

Since 1975, Trammel has made an appearance with the cheer squad every year at the Homecoming football game. It’s a tradition he appreciates and anticipates annually.

“I’m going to call the Hogs on the 50-yard-line as long as they let me,” he said. “There’s nothing like it.”

The Dick and Nancy Trammel Endowed Razorback Cheerleading Scholarship will benefit members of the Razorback Cheerleading Squad and provide scholarship support for one year to each of the recipients.

“I just want to help a young person involved in cheerleading,” he said. “People don’t realize what’s expected of them. I hope this scholarship will make it easier for a student to enjoy their cheerleading experience, because it’s an experience they will cherish the rest of their life.”



Dick and Nancy Trammel



Dick Trammel at a Homecoming football game.

Trammel hopes other former cheerleaders, as well as current fans and friends, will add to the fund.

“The University of Arkansas has made my life what it is today,” he said. “And I am proud of the cheerleaders who have made a difference in my life and the state. I hope others can join me in adding to this scholarship. Go Hogs Go!”

Benefactor

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