

# FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

# REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF GROWTH

**T**he Foundation strives to remain unambiguously aligned with the priorities and strategic plan of the University, supporting its students, faculty and staff and working to elevate the educational experience it provides.

We are happy to report that the value of our endowment at year's end was **\$91.2 million**, an increase of \$6.5 million over the previous year. **Total assets increased by \$5.4 million to \$132 million.**

## *Some milestones of the 2017-18 academic year include:*

- ▶ **The Foundation raised \$20.4 million**, just one year after completing a successful campaign that raised \$128 million. Welcoming new President Michael V. Martin and the impact of Hurricane Irma made FY18-19 a year of transition and challenge.
- ▶ **Night at the Nest raised \$575,000**, totaling \$2.75 million since 2010.
- ▶ **Alico Arena Addition & Enhancement Project (Phase I)** was completed and fundraising has begun for Phase II.
- ▶ **The Eagles Club membership increased 38 percent** to 748 members, with revenue increasing 28 percent to \$937,286.
- ▶ **As of spring 2018**, there were 29,507 FGCU alumni.
- ▶ **Community relations efforts focused on collaborating with civic and non-profit groups** in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties, providing services to at-risk populations within the community and meeting the immediate needs of the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.
- ▶ **Successful events** included the popular and well-attended annual President's Scholarship Luncheon, the Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, the President's Celebration and the University 20th Anniversary Celebration. These events serve to engage the community with the university.
- ▶ **Launched the new FGCU website** and established a media/public relations unit within University Marketing & Communications, also expanding social media communication.
- ▶ **WGCU continues to be an integral element of the Foundation.** The WGCU News team received a National Edward R. Murrow award for hurricane coverage in 2017 and WGCU Radio also received Radio Station of the Year for 2017 from the Associated Press Broadcasters, while membership totals for FY18 increased to 16,393.

Student success continues to be central to everything we do. To ensure this focus, a new development position has been created that will directly support fundraising efforts for student success and enrollment management initiatives.

Looking forward, it will be an exciting year of change for FGCU and the Foundation. As the campus expands with new buildings and programs and we strive to offer increased scholarships and support, we will work tirelessly to create funding opportunities and encourage community investment where it is needed most.

We are incredibly grateful for your past participation and support and look forward to another successful year.



**David Holmes**

*Foundation Chairperson*



**Christopher J. Simoneau**

*Vice President, University Advancement  
Executive Director, FGCU Foundation*

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**[fgcu.edu/foundation](http://fgcu.edu/foundation)**

# LEGACY & EAGLE SOCIETIES

## LEGACY SOCIETY

Established in 2005, the Legacy Society recognizes friends and alumni who have included Florida Gulf Coast University in their estate plans. This special group of forward-thinkers has partnered with FGCU to plan for the University's future. These gifts contribute to FGCU's ability to provide for academic excellence, student success, scholarships and community and regional impact.

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- ▶ Guy Almeling and Linda Sebastian
- ▶ Anonymous
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- ▶ Mr. and Mrs. David and Cecile Wang

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we acknowledge those who have so generously supported the University since the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation was established. In addition to those listed below, many others have supported FGCU through direct assistance to students, colleges, programs, and activities. We extend our thanks to these donors as well.

## EAGLE SOCIETY

The Eagle Society recognizes donors who have contributed \$1 million or more. **Bold** denotes membership in the Order of the Majestic Eagle with lifetime giving of \$2 million or more.

- ▶ **Alico, Inc.**
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- ▶ CenturyLink Business
- ▶ **Janet and Harvey\* Cohen**
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- ▶ **Mr. and Mrs. David and Cecile Wang**
- ▶ Wells Fargo
- ▶ **The Whitaker Foundation**

\* DECEASED

# NEW ENDOWMENTS

Endowed funds cover a wealth of purposes – programs, scholarships, buildings, professorships. What they all have in common is that the donors seek to make contributions that will last in perpetuity.

## ENDOWED FUNDS CREATED IN 2017-18

- ▶ William M. Barker Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund
- ▶ Jack and Susan Cagan Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund
- ▶ Feodor and Lubow Gricenko Scholarship Fund
- ▶ McGrogan Scholarship Endowed Fund
- ▶ Elizabeth Rash Endowed Scholarship Fund
- ▶ Republican Men's Club of Collier County Scholarship Endowed Fund
- ▶ Wayne J. Rinkenback Scholarship Endowed Fund
- ▶ The Sizzle SWFL FGCU Food & Beverage Scholarship Endowment



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Foundation scholarships: FGCU's catalyst for meaningful change

Florida Gulf Coast University is deeply committed to helping students succeed, and that mission is the focal point of everything we do. Making higher education accessible, attainable and affordable is the best way to accomplish that.

During the 2017-18 academic year, the FGCU Foundation awarded more than \$3.6 million to deserving students because of our scholarship donors – an increase of 20 percent, or almost \$600,000 more than 2016-17. Not only did the total dollars awarded increase, but the number of scholarships granted grew by 400 to 1,826 awards, with the average award about \$2,000.

When you consider those gifts are nurturing tomorrow's business leaders, engineers, teachers, healthcare and social-service providers, entrepreneurs, artists, hospitality experts and other professionals, it becomes apparent that an investment in Foundation scholarships yields a bountiful return.

For senior legal studies major Taylor Jones, Foundation scholarships put her on a path to working with less-fortunate people – some physically and sexually abused – in the justice system on her way to a law career. For Taylor, a straight-A student, "Nothing beats the feeling of knowing you did your best and getting rewarded."

For graduate student and doctor of physical therapy candidate Robert Todd, scholarships paved the way to a clinical rotation in Indiana after his work with Special Olympians, people on the autism spectrum and those who are blind as he moves toward serving active military or veterans in health care. It was his experience as a volunteer at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa where his "eyes were truly opened to helping others."

For freshman education major Cassie Martin, her

education funded with the help of scholarships has helped inspire her to work with children such as Sophie, a 3-year-old girl with Down syndrome whose simple accomplishment of learning how to kick, skip and hop during a dance class brought joy that would forever impact both of them. "We need teachers in our schools to believe in their students and strive to make their futures better," Cassie said. "That's the kind of teacher I want to be."

Each of the students we've just introduced say without the financial help of benevolent donors who believed in them, the better lives and successful careers they are preparing to launch might not be. Their stories illustrate how a college education not only transforms the lives of students, but also positively impacts their families and others in the communities where they reside and eventually build careers. For many of them, higher education doesn't even happen without the gift of scholarships through the FGCU Foundation. Similarly, those scholarships don't happen without the generous community support that funds them.

As we strive to be responsible stewards of the funds our community partners invest in FGCU and our students, we continually review our scholarship-award metrics and measurements, track our progress and identify areas of greatest need. We have much to be proud of this past academic year. Of those 1,826 scholarship awards granted, 43 percent went to students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Another 33 percent went to students with a GPA of 3.0 to 3.49. That means that almost 80 percent of scholarships were awarded to students who earned a "B" average or better.

While the numbers of awards and dollars grew during the 2017-18 academic year, so did the number of applicants. This past year saw an increase



of 365 students who applied for Foundation scholarship support. Although the increase in scholarship applications is a welcome challenge and a positive indication of growth, with our present resources, we were able to provide assistance to only about 34 percent of students who applied.

Thus, as FGCU grows, the Foundation's call to action is clear: to provide more awards to a greater number of recipients, and to increase the average amount of those awards.

it was five years ago. In fact, FGCU's in-state tuition is lower than in-state tuition costs in 48 other states. We accomplish this by controlling costs, diversifying revenue support, finding administrative efficiencies, competing successfully for limited state resources, and - perhaps most significantly as we relate specifically to our community - benefitting from the generosity of our donors.

Community support is essential to our commitment. Through the scholarships they fund, our partners help

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*I personally know how hard it is to earn scholarships for my education, and I am deeply humbled to be getting such an opportunity.*

ASHLYN DWENGER,  
FGCU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

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Specifically, to have the greatest impact on student success, the Foundation pledges:

- ▶ **Increased scholarship support** to attract students pursuing programs of strategic emphasis for our region, particularly in education, entrepreneurship, health professions, resort and hospitality management and STEM disciplines;
- ▶ **Greater investment in scholarships** to encourage enrollment of high-performing students, both first-time-in-college and transfer students;
- ▶ **Committed funds to support students** taking classes during summer terms, which leads to faster degree completion;
- ▶ **Funds to help recruit high-level students** to new degree programs, such as Construction Management and Entrepreneurship;
- ▶ **Creation of a special scholarship pool** to assist juniors and seniors who need critical support to overcome unique barriers that arise just prior to graduation.

The 2018-19 academic year is the sixth consecutive that FGCU has held the line on all tuition and fees, making the university more affordable today than

us produce graduates who move into the workforce prepared to fill high-demand positions, help drive Southwest Florida's economy and socially strengthen its individual communities.

Those graduates will one day include Ashlyn Dwenger, whose personal, painful childhood experience with a foot deformity - multiple surgeries and rehabilitation, including having to learn to walk again at age 10 - motivates her to major in nursing with the goal of becoming a registered nurse anesthetist.

"The nurses I met were quite remarkable ... they have such a unique ability to help others, and that is what drew me to nursing," Ashlyn said. "I personally know how hard it is to earn scholarships for my education, and I am deeply humbled to be getting such an opportunity."

We at the FGCU Foundation are also "deeply humbled" - not by what we do, but by the success of students such as Ashlyn, Ana, Jason and thousands of others. That success doesn't happen without the transformative power of scholarships, created through the generosity of the community partners we so greatly appreciate and honor.

# SCHOLARSHIPS



Jamie Gaitor, '17, Biology

## Ph.D. candidate found the right chemistry at FGCU

**W**hen Jamie Gaitor turned down acceptance to two larger, more established state schools to attend Florida Gulf Coast University, he said it was a practical decision.

"FGCU was my best financial option at the time," said Gaitor, who was born in Miami, grew up in his family's native Bahamas then moved to Southwest Florida by his high school years. "With scholarships, FGCU became the best school I could afford."

As things turned out, Gaitor couldn't afford NOT to become an Eagle.

He could've earned a biology degree at those other universities, just as he did at FGCU. But what might not have happened at those other schools for Gaitor, who minored in chemistry, was the chance

to earn full-scholarship acceptance into a Ph.D. chemistry program at prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Thanks to his own hard work and initiative, the help of FGCU professors and assistance from the Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, the 23-year-old Gaitor went from the laboratories in Seidler Hall to those at one of the top research institutions in the country this past summer.

"I received opportunities here at FGCU – the chance to do research as an undergraduate – I wouldn't have gotten at those bigger schools, where you don't get the close interaction with professors that result in these kinds of chances," Gaitor said.

The Ph.D. program Gaitor is entering will take him four to five years to complete, “maybe a little longer because I have to take additional chemistry classes to get up to speed,” he said. He graduated from FGCU in the summer of 2017 but spent the past fall and spring semesters taking chemistry classes, doing lab research and “gearing up for grad school.” He started as a research assistant at Carnegie Mellon in July, then became a teaching assistant in the fall.

The FGLSAMP program that helped boost Gaitor is implemented at FGCU by Claude Villiers, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Environmental and Civic Engineering in the U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering. Gaitor is one

Chemistry and Physics, for giving him the skills and confidence for his opportunity at Carnegie Mellon.

“I took Dr. Mirjafari for organic chemistry, and he talked a lot about his research in class,” Gaitor said. “I was fascinated by it, asked him more about it, and showed him that I was a hard worker. That’s what it took to get him to help me develop the skills I’ll use to earn my Ph.D.”

Mirjafari, who spent the summer at Carnegie Mellon for his sabbatical, is obviously proud of his student’s accomplishments.

“Jamie was an incredibly talented undergraduate researcher in my lab since Spring 2015. ... In fact,

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***I received opportunities here at FGCU - the chance to do research as an undergraduate - I wouldn't have gotten at those bigger schools.***

JAMIE GAITOR,  
BRODIE AND ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

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of several minority students at FGCU who are reaching the upper echelons of postgraduate higher education thanks to Villiers and FGLSAMP.

As Villiers explains it, “The purpose of this project is to increase undergraduate and graduate enrollment, retention and graduation of underserved populations within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program is structured to advance FGCU’s mission” to achieve national prominence in undergraduate education with expanding recognition for graduate programs.

“For the last five years, I provided project group support to 30 students at FGCU to cultivate a research environment for these under-represented groups,” Villiers continued. “About a third of these students, like Jamie, advanced to graduate studies in their respective fields of interest.”

Besides Villiers, Gaitor also credits Arsalan Mirjafari, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of

my whole research program has benefitted greatly from having Jamie in my group,” Mirjafari said. “He is truly a great person to bounce ideas off, and he has helped me design the majority of my current research projects. I am impressed and moved by his capability of organizing, his sense of involvement and high professionalism. I think Jamie will have a great future as a successful chemist. ... He is one of my finest students, an outstanding and talented scientist.”

And as an Eagle, Gaitor also intends to personify The FGCU Effect: Inspiring those who inspire others.

“I’m leaning toward pursuing a career in academia so I can give back, identify students who are in the position I was once in and help them get where they want to go,” he said. “Our chemistry department here has been super encouraging, super helpful. I can’t tell you how happy I am that I was almost forced to go to FGCU as the place that made the best sense money-wise. With everything that has happened for me here, it has turned out great.”

# LEAD DONORS

## Blair Foundation funds scholarships, environmental research

Protecting environmentally sensitive and important mangroves, determining the impact of micro-plastics on area waters and game fish and helping to improve the health of aquarium fish during transport are just a few of the many research projects upon which Blair Foundation gifts have made an impact at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The foundation's gifts this year have again made scholarships and grants possible to students majoring in Environmental Engineering, Environmental Science and Marine Science. These scholarships are awarded to first-generation students as well as those who qualify academically and demonstrate serious commitment to protecting the environment through their studies, research and volunteer service.

The foundation is named for philanthropists and ardent conservationists Dorothy and John Blair, who became Naples residents in 1967. Today, family members serve as trustees of the foundation.

Since 2014, the Blair Foundation has provided funding for FGCU students to study environmental impacts on the Southwest Florida ecosystem and beyond. The foundation donated \$225,000. Matching funds from Florida's First Generation program added \$165,000, making it possible to provide scholarships to more than 70 students.

"We like to do STEM and natural resources investment," says Dick Reiman, a trustee of the foundation and the Blairs' nephew. "The family thought if you have an education, no one can take that away from you. So we have invested in education with FGCU."

Among this year's scholarships, 10 were awarded to full-time undergraduate and master's students who conducted summer research through FGCU's Whitaker Center for Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics Education.

Dr. Laura Frost, director of the Whitaker Center, said, "Part of the mission of the Whitaker Center is to support student research in STEM areas. Blair Foundation scholarships allow full-time focused summer research."

Blair Foundation grant funds also were allocated to FGCU's Vester Marine and Environmental Field Station in Bonita Springs to support studies that address local environmental issues.

Dr. Michael Parsons, director of the Vester Field Station, said, "The Blair Foundation funding has allowed us to expand our capacity for student research. These projects will use the Vester Field Station for their base of operations, and the resulting work will help our community to minimize impacts on the environment.

"One study will establish a long-term monitoring capability at several mangrove locations in Estero Bay. This will allow researchers to determine how mangroves are responding to coastal development and sea level rise over the next 10-plus years. These results will provide valuable information that will help to safeguard these important ecosystems for our fisheries and coastlines."

Other studies funded by Blair Foundation funds involve micro-plastics and nutrient recycling.

Micro-plastics are often invisible to the naked eye and can enter the food chain via fish. The study will determine if micro-plastics are harmful to game fish and filter-feeding shellfish.

The Nutrient Recycling Study explores possible solutions to a problem experienced with the transport of aquarium fish when ammonia levels build up while fish are being transported, resulting in many deaths. By reducing ammonia levels, fish will remain healthier and more will survive transport.

This study will increase survival rates of fish in transit, creating a positive economic impact on businesses and consumers, and will improve the sustainability of the aquarium fish trade - thereby protecting this resource for future generations.



**Scholarship recipient  
Luka Ndungu '18, seeks to  
understand the causes of  
poor water quality.**

## Vitellis' love of music inspires gift

Joyce Anne and Raymond Vitelli moved to Pelican Bay in Naples two decades ago and immersed themselves in the life of the community.

Joyce Anne passed in 2006; Raymond in 2016. But their legacy lives on in the Joyce Anne Vitelli Scholarship Fund, established by Raymond in 2010 to honor his wife and to benefit music majors in FGCU's Bower School of Music & the Arts. In 2017, the university received a generous bequest from the Vitelli estate, significantly enhancing much-needed support for students wishing to pursue careers in music performance, music education, music therapy or music composition.

Music was in Joyce Anne's blood. She attended Syracuse University on a violin scholarship, earned her master's in music and became a public-school music teacher in Newington, Conn. She had a passion for music and inspiring others to love it. While her early adulthood was focused on her work as a music teacher, she went on to volunteer for several music-focused organizations. After retiring to Naples, Joyce Anne continued to play music and sing and volunteered with Artis-Naples for several years.

Raymond, too, enjoyed music, in particular, Beethoven, Mozart and Gershwin. Not surprisingly, he also loved patriotic songs, having served in the Navy during the Korean War. A highly educated man, he began his career as an administrator in the public school system in Ellington, Conn. His long and varied career included consulting for the U.S. Department of Justice; director of education and training for the Connecticut Department of Correction, and consultant for major corporations such as Hallmark. He eventually got into land development and retired to Florida.

Judie Cassidy, former senior director of Advancement, got to know Raymond Vitelli well and admired the way in which he lived his life – fully and completely. Through her friendship with him, she was privileged to have insight into the heart of his wife as well. Cassidy described Raymond Vitelli as “very much in love with Joyce Anne, insightful and thoughtful.” She not only feels fortunate to have met him and, by association, “met” Joyce Anne, but also said, “I believe I am a better person for having known him.”



**Roland Forti '11, was the first recipient of the Vitelli scholarship. He is the choral and orchestra conductor at Diplomat Middle School in Cape Coral.**

The Joyce Anne Vitelli Scholarship Fund is a godsend for FGCU music students. “Joyce Anne was a wonderful musician,” said Cassidy. “And Ray, a great benefactor of music. The Joyce Anne Vitelli Scholarship Fund creates untold opportunities for music majors to broaden their horizons, and it ensures they have what they need to develop superior skills for performance.”

Cathy Albergo, former director of the Bower School, said, “The Vitelli gift is a very important part of our endowed scholarship program.”

“The Bower School of Music is a limited-access program,” she said. “Students must audition to be accepted as a music major. Out of approximately 130 students who applied, the class of 2017-18 included 50 new music majors. Given the rigors of the required core courses for music majors and an additional three to five hours of practice and performance each day for their solo instruments and ensembles, students have very little time to work at a job. The Vitelli scholarship is very helpful.”

Cassidy summed up what the Vitelli scholarship means to FGCU music majors: “Because of Ray’s love for Joyce Anne and his creation of the Joyce Anne Vitelli Scholarship Fund in her honor, FGCU music majors will benefit for generations to come. These funds will assist exceptionally talented music majors in achieving their educational goals.”

## LEAD DONORS

### Family pays tribute to matriarch's passion for art

**M**ary Wasmer has had a longstanding love affair with the arts. Her son, Martin Wasmer, has had a longstanding relationship with Florida Gulf Coast University. And therein lies our story.

In May 2017, Wasmer, together with his brother and sisters, honored his mother with a gift to FGCU in support of the visual arts programming and art galleries of the Bower School of Music & the Arts. In recognition of this gift, the main university art gallery was renamed Wasmer Art Gallery.

Wasmer, CEO of Wasmer Schroeder & Company, an asset management firm, has been involved in one way or another with FGCU for many years, both as a loyal donor and member of the board of trustees of the Marieb Foundation.

"Marty and his family are outstanding philanthropists," said Christopher Simoneau, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the FGCU Foundation. "This gift is a testament to the importance of the arts at the university. It allows us to create an endowment fund to support exhibitions in a perpetual way at the gallery."

"Our family has always been philanthropic," said Wasmer. "From a legacy point of view, I think of Ursuline College's Florence O'Donnell Wasmer Gallery in Cleveland, Ohio, which was named for my grandmother. With that as a reference, we felt it would be wonderful to honor our mother in a similar fashion."

Mary Wasmer ran her own interior design firm - Mary Wasmer Interiors - in Cleveland for many years. "Our mother is multi-dimensional," said Wasmer. "She's not only into design, but she's also an avid collector of fine arts and antique furniture. Before moving to Florida in 1988, she also served on the board of the Cleveland Museum of Art."

John Loscuito, gallery director for the Bower School, said, "The arts are really one of the ways we can explore all the interconnections between who we are and what we do as humans. Artists make connections with the sciences, nature and philosophy, intersecting with all disciplines."

And that is why the Wasmer gift is so important to the university. "The types of exhibitions and programming in our gallery are student focused," said Loscuito. "They touch on the sciences, humanities and so much more, so we are engaging our students within the arts and other academic departments. The goal is to enhance the educational outcomes for all FGCU students and the public."

"The Wasmers' gift will help us bring our exhibitions to a higher level and give us the ability to attract world-renowned artists and lecturers to enhance our programming."

Wasmer said, "We wanted to do something for our mother, and we wanted to work with an institution that we are familiar with and comfortable with. To me, that's a great advantage."



Mary Wasmer

***The Wasmers' gift will help us bring our exhibitions to a higher level and give us the ability to attract world-renowned artists and lecturers to enhance our programming.***

JOHN LOSCUITO,  
GALLERY DIRECTOR  
FOR THE  
BOWER SCHOOL

## Wine tower to empower hospitality students

While resort and hospitality majors at Florida Gulf Coast University already boast a 100 percent placement rate upon graduation, the program is on track to take their education to a higher level – literally.

Considering the importance of wine in Southwest Florida, where the Naples Winter Wine Festival and the Southwest Florida Food and Wine Fest raise millions of dollars each year for charity, the School of Resort & Hospitality Management has plans to add a wine tower, tasting room and other elements to upgrade wine education.

Randy Upchurch, the school's director, says that he believes that expanding opportunities for students to learn about the wine industry just makes sense.

"We're looking at career paths in wine, spirits and beverage merchandising and retailing and distributorship," he says. "It's a great career path, a path you can climb quickly."

The plan includes a two-story wine tower that will hold 700 bottles of unusual and rare wines. It will be built in the entry lobby of Sugden Hall, where the reception desk now stands. Next to that will be a tasting room, which could double as a private dining room, with a display case for Riedel wine glasses as well as about 20 glass etchings displayed around the room.

The project began simply as a wine vault, a secure and temperature-controlled unit in which to store these higher-end wines. But discussions with representatives of the Culinary and Education Foundation (CHEF) brought the project to the attention of local wine aficionados Jim and Laura Dixon. The Naples couple are trustees of the Naples Winter Wine Festival and own both the Naples Wine Collection and The Cave Bistro and Wine Bar. They recommended a tower to make the best use of the limited space available.

"We're very proud of what we do," Upchurch says. "About 18 months ago, we gave them a tour of the building and told them about the wine vault. Jim looked at the lobby and say 'go vertical.' It's their idea and they've seen a lot of great wine configurations."

The Dixons have pledged \$250,000 to build the tower and are helping to bring in additional donors to contribute toward the rest of the elements.

"We are avid wine collectors," Jim Dixon says. "Laura's father got us involved. We have a wine collection of 114,000 bottles."

Considering they own and operate both a wine store and restaurant, Dixon says, "We can always use people graduating from the school. And it would be good to facilitate great students out of the program to work within the industry. Restaurateurs and resort hotels indicate it's hard to find anyone with this knowledge or skills."



**For details or to donate to the project, contact Bill Rice at [brice@fgcu](mailto:brice@fgcu) or (239) 590-1077.**

## LEAD DONORS

### Marieb College reaches out to region with psychological first aid

**W**hen disaster strikes, those affected often need more than food, clothing and shelter. Some need psychological help as well. That's what Florida Gulf Coast University's recent initiative aims to provide.

The Mental Health First Aid team is a group of trained students, faculty and staff who head into surrounding communities to deliver disaster relief, including the supplies and psychological first aid survivors need.

In September, a team of 16 volunteers – students, faculty and a community member – distributed \$1,000 worth of supplies and worked with residents experiencing distress as a result of Hurricane Irma and its aftermath. Those they helped included at-risk adolescent girls at the PACE Center for Girls as well as Gateway Elementary School in Fort Myers and Manatee Elementary in Naples.

A second team of 20 went to Everglades City School in December, armed with athletics and recreation equipment to replace what had been destroyed in the storm. The day included an ice cream social and time for the students to talk about life post-Irma.

The effort came about after a \$5,000 donation from David W. and Dr. Alise G. Bartley, who moved to Bonita Springs from Canton, Ohio three weeks before Irma struck. Alise Bartley is an educator, therapist, and part-time faculty member at FGCU, who spent two weeks volunteering to help counsel survivors of Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Miss.

She and her husband have pledged another \$10,000 to match donations from other members of the community to kickstart the Marieb College of Health & Human Services Community Relief Fund.

"We believe in this community and we want to



FGCU students and faculty visit Everglades City School for games, an ice cream social, and time for the students to talk about life post-Irma.

be part of the solution for those who are struggling right now," she says.

So what, exactly, is psychological first aid?

It's short-term counseling geared to helping people get back on their feet and start moving forward.

"One of the main premises is to meet the person where they are," says FGCU counseling Associate Professor Abbe Finn, who works extensively in this field. "People react radically differently. You help them connect with their support system and help them to regain their balance."

Some people respond by fighting – for their own lives or those of others. The stress often hits later, after the emergency has passed and they begin to experience anxiety, insomnia or loss of appetite. Others may freeze immediately and be unable to do anything for themselves or their families.

After the hurricane, Alise Bartley and her colleagues in counseling came up with a plan to create these teams. They hope to conduct training sessions once a month or so to be ready

## LEAD DONORS

when disasters such as hurricanes, fires or other emergencies strike. That way they can move quickly to help.

"These experiences are life changing and they are meant to be," says Bartley of the encounters with survivors.

Finn has extensive experience with psychological first aid, having worked with survivors on Wall Street following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and just recently with those of the Parkland shootings, and has seen the good it can do. "It's intense but it's part of what I love about it," she says. "You're completely engaged. You're doing something."

Bartley, whose husband also took part, says the visit to Everglades City School was "a fabulous day."

Assistant Professor Ann Tilman from the counseling program led team-building exercises. Finn handed out chalk so students could draw their experiences. And they offered students a variety of ice cream treats so they could pick what they wanted.

"Choice is so important when giving people help," Bartley says. "Too many times we give them what we think they need instead of what they'd like to have."

Hannah Varnadoe, a graduate student in the clinical mental health program, had never been to Everglades City before joining the team.

"I've been through hurricanes," having grown up in Orlando, "but I've never seen the devastation that this one brought, especially in this sea-faring community," she says. "Without their boats, the people in this town were devastated."

The children talked about being displaced from their homes and that many of their parents were out of work.

Taking part in the team effort "gave me a good feeling. It made me realize how much the people had lost and how much the kids just wanted to be back in their homes."

It made her happy to see how much joy the students got from the athletic equipment. "The school is really gung-ho about baseball," she says. "And they loved the hula hoops."



**Puerto Rican students (from left) Kiana Feliciano, Phabiolah Cardona, Lani Molina, Jose Ruiz, Diego Sepulveda, Paola Reyes and Jamie Cumba outside the Outdoor Sports Complex on campus. They are among 14 students from Puerto Rico and two from the U.S. Virgin Islands who came to FGCU after Hurricane Maria uprooted their lives.**

### FGCU PROVIDES CALM AFTER THE STORM FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS

Like many Floridians, the Florida Gulf Coast University family was directly affected during the 2017 hurricane season when Irma skirted past the main campus in September. But for Puerto Ricans who suffered through Hurricane Maria, the worst natural disaster on record in the Caribbean island and U.S. territory was more than a disruption.

That's why FGCU - which stepped up for Southwest Floridians during Irma and provided emergency shelter for evacuated residents and their pets - again answered the call for compassion at a time of urgent need by opening its academic doors and collective hearts to Puerto Rican students displaced by the carnage of Maria.

Dean Batchelder, FGCU's associate director for undergraduate recruitment, said there were no special concessions made for the 14 students from Puerto Rico (and two others from the U.S. Virgin Islands) admitted for the Spring 2018 semester, other than an in-state tuition waiver for up to four semesters.

"We worked hard to expedite their admissions, and it was a blessing to be able to assist them in pursuit of their higher education," Batchelder said.

Paola Reyes, a biology major who started at the University of Puerto Rico at Ponce, plans to complete her undergraduate degree at FGCU. "It's been amazing," said Reyes, whose parents fled Puerto Rico with her. "I've loved the experience here. I've really enjoyed classes and the various extracurricular activities, been part of the basketball excitement at the games, and made some good friends."

Even though it was a natural disaster that brought her to FGCU, Reyes says she "wouldn't change this experience for anything."

# HONORARY DOCTORATE

## FGCU presents honorary doctorate to Arthrex founder

**A**rthrex Inc. President and Founder Reinhold Schmieding was awarded an honorary doctoral degree May 6, 2018, at Florida Gulf Coast University's spring commencement as acknowledgement of his outstanding achievements in the healthcare product industry, the company's regional and global economic impact and its transformative support of FGCU programs, students and alumni.

The FGCU Board of Trustees voted in April to award Schmieding a doctor of science degree (Sc.D.) "in recognition of his exceptional scientific innovations and contributions for benefit to the public good." The honorary doctorate is FGCU's highest academic recognition, and it has been awarded to seven other distinguished individuals since 1997.

"I have known Reinhold Schmieding personally and professionally for 15 years and believe him to be an exemplary leader in business and education advancement in Southwest Florida," said BOT Chairman Blake Gable, CEO of Barron Collier Companies. "His legacy will reflect the caliber of character of Florida Gulf Coast University."

Gov. Rick Scott said, "I have had the great fortune to watch Arthrex grow in Florida thanks to the innovation and leadership of Reinhold Schmieding. Reinhold and his company have created thousands of jobs for Floridians, and I am proud that this global company calls Southwest Florida home."

While saying he greatly appreciates the recognition from FGCU, Schmieding expressed his deep respect for those who have devoted years of study to earn doctoral degrees and acknowledged the synergy that exists between the university's and the company's missions.

"In parallel, we seek to make contributions in making people better and providing a stronger

cultural and economic impact to our Southwest Florida community," he said. "Arthrex has a perpetual need for skilled employees as we continue to grow and invest in Southwest Florida. FGCU is a great resource in providing educated students seeking a career in the medical device industry and who wish to live and contribute to our community."

To those who supported Schmieding's nomination for the doctorate, noteworthy individuals themselves, he represents the embodiment of leadership, innovative thinking and community engagement that FGCU fosters:

"A man of great character, generosity and vision," former FGCU Trustee J. Dudley Goodlette wrote in a supporting letter.

"The most progressive leader I have met in many years," added Naples philanthropist Myra Janco Daniels. "Reinhold lives an exemplary life and has a passion for his business that provides an excellent example for our students."

"A world-class inventor, business leader and entrepreneur," wrote Dr. Richard Behr, dean of FGCU's U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering.

Born into a family of physicians, Schmieding has led the development and marketing of more than 12,000 surgical orthopedic products and techniques and overseen more than 1,100 patents and patents pending that have enhanced quality of life for countless people around the world. Established in 1981 and headquartered in Naples since 1991, Arthrex started with two employees and rapidly grew into a worldwide leader in sports medicine, arthroscopic surgery and orthopedic surgical implant and device design and manufacturing. It now employs 3,000-plus in corporate and manufacturing operations,



**Reinhold Schmieding**

## HONORARY DOCTORATE

and 1,000 in worldwide subsidiaries across 13 countries.

And yet, Arthrex remains significantly committed to individuals, institutions and causes close to home. While continuing to experience exceptional corporate growth and demand for its products worldwide, privately held Arthrex has repeatedly ranked among Fortune's list of best places to work.

"Not only is it one of the area's largest employers, but the company gives back to the community in significant ways," Goodlette said. "The impacts (Reinhold Schmieding) has made through his business, community and philanthropic contributions have helped shape Southwest Florida."

In addition to employing more than 20 FGCU bioengineering graduates, Arthrex provides opportunities for undergraduates to complement their classroom learning with hands-on industry experience that helps ensure their success. The company also supports the university's outreach to the next generation of scholars in science,

technology, engineering and mathematics by sponsoring annual programs such as the FGCU Coding Academy for elementary, middle and high school students.

With its impact on campus and off, academically as well as economically, Arthrex and its founder are pillars of the Southwest Florida community and beyond, according to Behr.

"We have an outstanding working relationship with Arthrex. This would not exist without the clear support of Mr. Schmieding," the dean said. "Arthrex engineers regularly serve as industry mentors to groups of bioengineering students who complete yearlong capstone design projects in their senior year. Arthrex also provides summer internship opportunities for our bioengineering students and hires our graduates as full-time employees."

"Helping surgeons treat their patients better" is how the company states its mission. But in pursuing that calling, Arthrex also is helping FGCU prepare students better for rewarding careers that benefit all of society.



# ATHLETICS



Reception Area



Schreiner Family Sports Medicine Center

## Alico Arena upgrades design to attract top student-athletes, staff

Florida Gulf Coast University needs to maintain state-of-the-art athletics facilities in the battle to recruit the best NCAA student-athletes, coaches and staff available. To that end, Alico Arena, the university's signature athletics venue, is showing off a \$4.5-million, 11,000-plus-square-foot wing on its eastern side – proudly named the W. Bernard & Elaine Lester Athletics Administrative Complex, after one of FGCU's foremost athletics boosters.

Phase I of the expansion includes a beautiful reception area, new men's and women's basketball offices, a plush team theater for film study and two facilities that bear the names of their benefactors, each of whom contributed \$1 million gifts: the Hartley Academic Resource Center and the expanded Schreiner Family Sports Medicine Center. Phase II

includes a \$1 million commitment by Jim and Donna Sublett to renovate and upgrade the Jim & Donna Sublett Strength & Conditioning Center.

"We are elated to be in a position to contribute toward FGCU's expansion," say Mike and Karen Hartley, whose generosity helped create a study hall for the new millennium featuring workspaces for group projects, private tutoring areas, study and conference rooms, computer stations and offices.

"FGCU's academic and athletic achievements, as well as its quality student-athletes, are a huge asset for Southwest Florida. We have supported individual athletics scholarships for a few years, and we find the opportunity to share some of our successes with this historical project personally rewarding. The Hartley Academic Resource Center



Team Theater



Hartley Academic Resource Center

will offer expanded learning opportunities to all student-athletes at this first-class institution of higher learning, and we're excited and proud to be able to support it."

Like the Hartleys, Dean and Janie Schreiner have been active members of the Eagles Scholarship Society – the highest annual giving designation for FGCU Athletics. They, too, stepped up in a bigger way to help expand the medical-treatment area for student-athletes to almost five times its former size. "Participation in student athletics is an invaluable experience, and we strongly believe that sports are an essential preparation to a person's character for the working world," the Schreiners say. "We are proud to support the expansion of the sports medicine building, and more importantly, to support the talented Eagle student-athletes."

Graham Diemer, FGCU associate athletics director for Advancement, said that, "Mike and Karen, Dean and Janie, and Jim and Donna have made a tremendous investment in Florida Gulf Coast University and FGCU Athletics. This project will enhance the athletic and academic experience for all 15 programs and generations of future student-athletes."



## EAGLES CLUB MEMBERSHIP SOARS IN 2017-18

Florida Gulf Coast University's official athletics booster club helped feather The Nest quite well in the 2017-18 academic year, thanks to a huge 38-percent increase in memberships.

The Eagles Club – which provides financial support to FGCU's 15 intercollegiate athletics programs by funding scholarships, bolstering the athletic department's recruiting budget and supporting special projects and initiatives – reports 748 members on its roster through 2017-18, up from 542 members in 2016-17.

What does the big membership bump mean in terms of net revenue? An impressive 28-percent increase, to \$937,286 in 2017-18 from \$730,616 the previous academic year. That revenue improvement was helped in part by the addition of a new Hospitality Suite benefit for prime boosters that saw a jump in the number of donors who contributed \$5,000 each from 13 to 40 the past academic year.

While diligence in donor recruitment accounts for much of the success, the Eagles athletics teams sure helped the Eagles Club's sales pitch. FGCU ended the 2017-18 year with ASUN conference championships in men's and women's basketball and women's tennis, and another Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association title in women's swimming and diving. Those were the highlights of yet another strong year for Eagles men's and women's athletics, top to bottom.

As the excitement in Eagles Club boosterism proves, everyone loves to get behind a winner.

# FINANCIALS

## Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation, Inc.

### Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2018

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$20,696,953
Investments	1,904,737
Accounts receivable	7,249
Prepaid lease	27,144
Pledges receivable	867,437
Royalties receivable	64,236
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$23,567,756</b>

##### NONCURRENT ASSETS

Restricted investments	\$94,459,199
Prepaid lease, net of current portion	10,914
Pledges receivable, net of current portion	1,206,586
Surrender value of insurance policy	119,624
Land held for investment	454,285
Land held for sale	16,186
Land holdings	11,693,500
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>\$107,960,294</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** . . . . . **\$131,528,050**

#### LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$62,412
Gift annuities payable	79,307
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$141,719</b>

##### NONCURRENT LIABILITIES

Gift annuities payable, net of current portion	\$461,362
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>\$461,362</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$603,081</b>

##### DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Gift annuities	\$977,641
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##### NET POSITION

Restricted	
Expendable	\$43,900,550
Nonexpendable endowment	74,868,547
Unrestricted	11,178,231

**TOTAL NET POSITION** . . . . . **\$129,947,328**

## Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018

### OPERATING REVENUES

Contributions . . . . .	\$8,598,201
Other income . . . . .	3,051,455
<b>Total operating revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$11,649,656</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Program services:	
Program fees . . . . .	\$4,716,492
Scholarships . . . . .	3,163,757
University support . . . . .	6,914,143
General and administrative expenses . . . . .	1,319,731
Return of restricted contribution . . . . .	3,775
	16,117,898

Other expenses:	
Interest . . . . .	19,971
Amortization . . . . .	21,842
	41,813

<b>Total operating expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>\$16,159,711</b>
<b>Operating loss . . . . .</b>	<b>(\$4,510,055)</b>

### NON-OPERATING REVENUES

Interest earnings . . . . .	\$273,631
Net investment earnings . . . . .	6,919,439
<b>Total nonoperating revenues . . . . .</b>	<b>\$7,193,070</b>
<b>Income before capital additions . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,683,015</b>

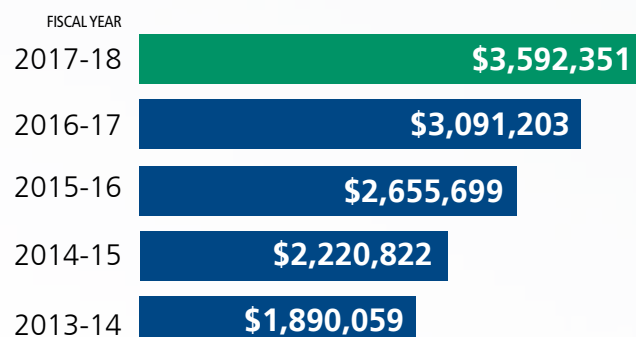
### CAPITAL ADDITIONS

Contributions to endowments . . . . .	\$3,724,592
<b>Increase in net position . . . . .</b>	<b>\$6,407,607</b>

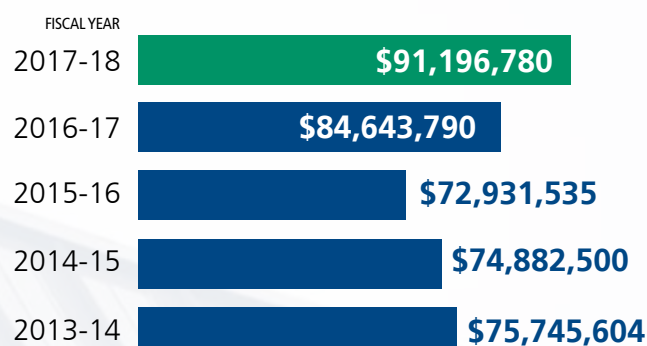
**NET POSITION, beginning of year . . . \$123,539,721**

**NET POSITION, end of year . . . . . \$129,947,328**

## Scholarships issued by the Foundation over the past five years:



## The endowment over the past five years:



## Breakdown of the endowment fund\*

