The proper aim of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts.

— C.S. LEWIS
“The proper aim of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts.”

— C.S. LEWIS
The Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. exists to assist Georgia Southern University in fulfilling its multifaceted mission and in its efforts to achieve educational excellence. The Foundation primarily accomplishes this mission by providing leadership in obtaining the resources needed to attain University goals and through responsible stewardship of funds and other assets entrusted to it.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in 1962 to raise and manage private dollars to meet the needs of Georgia Southern that are not funded through state allocations. The Foundation is qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

Contact us at 912-478-2000 or GeorgiaSouthern.edu/foundation
A Note From Our President

A message of gratitude to our sustainers

There is an old Chinese proverb, “If you drink the water, don’t forget the person who dug the well.”

In other words, we should remember to thank — often and enthusiastically — those who have helped to sustain us. Our sincerest gratitude is, indeed, due to those who make it possible for us to do what we do.

For more than five decades the Georgia Southern University Foundation has been the recipient of amazing generosity from a broad range of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Financial gifts have created scholarships, professorships, and other endowed funds that support excellence in teaching, research and service at Georgia Southern. Freely given gifts of time and talent have enabled us to enhance our efficiency and stretch our resources to maximum benefit while extending the University’s reach across our state and nation.

Thanks to the foresight and support of many we have been able to advance the mission of our University and play an important role in its growth and visibility. Our founders could scarcely imagine the far-reaching evolution of their A&M School. Given your support and encouragement today, we would probably be equally amazed if we could see Georgia Southern in another 100 years.

If you drink the water, don’t forget the person who dug the well.

Thanks are due as well to our University Advancement staff who daily go beyond mere expectation to cultivate our alumni and friends in support of the Georgia Southern cause. Because of their hard work, our endowment and quarterly fundraising totals are at an all-time high. Thanks to Statesboro and Bulloch County, we again enjoyed record success with A Day for Southern this fall, totaling more than $2.3 million in gifts. In FY 15, Alumni Relations scored new successes, hosting 186 events vs. 139 in FY 14, while attendance at those events totaled 7,323 compared to 6,534 the previous year.

Of course, we continue to build momentum toward our campaign public phase announcement scheduled for Fall 2016. Given your support, I am confident that we will be well prepared and eager to meet this challenge. Thanks to you, success is within our grasp.

Salinda Arthur
President, Georgia Southern Foundation, Inc.
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Thoughts from our Chair

It has truly been an honor to serve as Chair of the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees. This fall I relinquished my gavel to Caroline Harless who began a two-year term as our new Chair. I know that Caroline will provide the Board with knowledgeable, consistent and principled leadership.

Special thanks are due to outgoing Trustees Jimmy Childre and Jimmy Franklin, both former chairs, and Trustee Michael Curry, for their many hours of thoughtful guidance and dedicated service to our Foundation and the University at large. I also want to acknowledge Tommy Jones and Carl Gooding, each agreeing to lend his expertise to us for a second 5-year term and add to the Board’s institutional memory.

Every day on the Georgia Southern campus, students are being inspired to reach for their dreams as wonderful new research and learning opportunities unfold. Interim President Jean Bartels is moving forward with decisiveness even as a lengthy search for new University leadership gets underway. In the meantime, Georgia Southern is in good hands.

We continue to make outstanding strides under the effective guidance of Foundation President Salinda Arthur. Supported by a dedicated Board, donations are up $2.9 million from FY 14, while scholarships, endowments and the Foundation’s overall assets have attained record levels. The generosity of Eagle Nation makes it possible to enrich the lives of more students, fulfill more dreams, and fortify our reputation as a premier center for higher education within the state and beyond.

I’m sure you take pride, as I do, in the recognitions our University earns in so many areas, including the arts, athletics, engineering and research. Support from alumni and friends makes these achievements possible. Scholarships provided by the Foundation through our generous donor family enable us to continue to attract and retain students whose talent and enthusiasm enhance Georgia Southern’s reputation with each succeeding graduating class.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support! Your gifts are an investment in the future of our students and in the broader community impacted by Eagle Nation around the globe.

You are truly making a difference.

Dr. Barbara Christmas Golden
Chair, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc.
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LONG-TERM LOYALTY

Five donors have 43 years of annual giving

IT TOOK ONLY NINE YEARS for the New Horizons spacecraft to travel 3.7 billion miles to Pluto and a mere 20 years to build the Taj Mahal.

Those are child’s play compared to the length of philanthropic dedication shown by each of five special givers to the Georgia Southern University Foundation: 43 years.

Paul S. Akins, Donald A. Coleman, Warren “Spike” Jones, James H. Oliver and William “Buddy” Rabitsch each began making annual gifts to the University in 1972. You remember 1972. An average new house cost $25,250, Disney World had just opened in Florida, and gasoline was 40 cents per gallon.

Much has changed, but the loyalty of these longtime annual givers goes on.

Paul S. Akins

Georgia Tech grad Paul S. Akins and his wife and company CEO, Jo, founded Paul S. Akins Co. in 1968. The couple has built the Statesboro-based company into a multifaceted regional construction firm engaged in new educational, government, commercial and restoration projects of existing landmark structures.

“I have strong ties with Georgia Southern even though I graduated from Georgia Tech,” said Akins. “I've done a lot of work at Georgia Southern over the years,” including the Center for Wildlife Education and the recent renovation of the historic Rosenwald Building.

Akins, architect Ed Eckles and surveyor Lamar Reddick were instrumental in the startup of what has grown into the University’s construction management program by giving of their time to teach students in the program’s early days. “It’s certainly a great program, so I have some allegiance to that. We did it for a long time.” One of the graduates is his grandson who works for his company.

Akins is a firm believer in the value of long-term giving. “Consistency is very important,” he said. “We’re in the construction business and we’ve had some tough years and some good years. Sometimes you have to make some choices.” But for 43 years, he has set aside the funds to continue generous support of Georgia Southern.
Dr. Warren ‘Spike’ Jones

The son of a college president, Warren F. “Spike” Jones Jr. served as a professor of psychology and dean of the then-School of Arts and Sciences at Georgia Southern for 21 years. He arrived at Georgia Southern in 1972 after serving at Stetson University and the University of Louisville.

“I’ve been so impressed since I came with the relationship of the college and the community,” said Jones, who described his previous assignment as being an “isolated” downtown campus entity within the city of Louisville. He said when he arrived and witnessed the relationship between Georgia Southern and Statesboro it was a welcome change. “And it’s been that way ever since,” he said.

He and his wife, Donna, a retired University English professor, have supported a number of campus endeavors over the years, but especially the Georgia Southern Museum and the Garden.

Last year, friends and former colleagues established the Warren F. “Spike” Jones Endowment to provide scholarships to students in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

After retiring, Jones founded the Statesboro Habitat for Humanity ReStore, a thrift store from which the proceeds go to fund Habitat projects. He continues to support the store, handling its finances. The ReStore has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in its nearly 20 years of service.

William ‘Buddy’ Rabitsch

Buddy Rabitsch came to Georgia Southern on Jan. 1, 1973, as associate controller. He was later promoted to controller, serving the University until 1998.

“Most of my contributions were made to the Controller’s Office to help out with things that state money could not do,” he said. “In later years, when they established the Botanical Garden, I made contributions to the Garden and then contributions to the Center for Wildlife Education.”

Though a 25-year employee, Rabitsch actually began his association with the University well before his work here began. “I’ve seen it over the years change a lot,” he said. “I was a member of the freshman class of 1955. It was Georgia Teachers College
when I got my BS and Georgia Southern when I got my MBA.”

Rabitsch and his wife, Sandra, a retired University English professor, continue to reside in Bulloch County.

Dr. James H. Oliver, Jr.

A 1952 graduate of Georgia Southern, James Oliver returned to his alma mater in 1969 as its first Callaway professor. He is regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts in tick and mite genetics and has made major contributions to understanding the spread of tick-borne diseases.

Oliver has supported the University’s efforts to fund events that strengthen the national visibility of the University and enrich students’ academic experiences. “I helped in the establishment of the LeConte Lecture Series whereby renowned scholars are brought to Southern to speak to our campus community,” said Oliver. “A generous endowment allows us to invite national and global experts to inspire our students and faculty. It has also been my pleasure to see how the guests and academicians have helped our students to develop and reach their greater potential.

“It has been a special pleasure over the years to have had the opportunity to contribute to Georgia Southern in several ways,” he added. “These ways are facilitated through various financial organizations such as A Day for Southern, the 1906 Society, the Marvin Pittman Society and others.”

Oliver and his wife, Sue, reside in Statesboro. Sue is an artist whose portraits of past University presidents hang in the Marvin Pittman Administration Building.

Donald A. Coleman

Of the five longest consecutive donors to the Foundation, Don Coleman also enjoys the lengthiest affiliation with Georgia Southern.

The 1948 graduate of Georgia Teachers College served as an elementary school teacher and principal before joining Georgia Southern as assistant director of admissions.

Later named director of admissions and registrar, Coleman was a founding member of the Board, serving as its secretary beginning in 1962 along with President Zach Henderson and loyal and legendary community supporters Max Lockwood, F. Everett Williams, Avant Edenfield, and Dr. Albert Deal, among others.

Upon his retirement, he was named Registrar Emeritus and Director of Admissions Emeritus in 1985, a rank reserved for full time faculty or administrative officers in recognition of distinguished service in teaching, research, service or administration in a professional field.
FULFILLING NEEDS HAS BECOME ROUTINE for Georgia Southern’s most generous living donor. Not so much his own, but those of people whose aspirations and potential might not otherwise be fulfilled.

Despite an impoverished and abuse-filled childhood that could easily have crushed his ambition, Karl Peace rose high with the support of his mother and a handful of others who believed in his potential. In response, he became a professor, researcher, author and philanthropist.

“When I look at my life, in short summary it’s been about filling gaps,” said Peace. “Doing what I could to help areas of need for people and at institutions.”
Aided by a $532 loan from a businessman he hardly knew, Peace was enrolled at Georgia Southern in 1959 and earned a Georgia State Teacher’s scholarship. Working multiple part-time jobs, he completed a degree in chemistry while supporting his siblings and his mother. He then earned a master’s degree in mathematics from Clemson University and began teaching at the college level. A Ph.D. in biostatistics from the Medical College of Virginia while teaching full time at Randolph-Macon College followed.

He left the academic life full time in 1978 and pursued a career in biostatistics, rising from entry-level biostatistician at Burroughs-Wellcome to vice president of worldwide technical operations at Parke-Davis/Warner Lambert. In 1989, he founded Biopharmaceutical Research Consultants, Inc., and soon dozens of international biotech and pharmaceutical companies were relying on his expertise in developing and gaining approval of numerous medicines.

In 1998, when there were no degree programs in biostatistics nor any school or college of public health in the University System of Georgia, Peace approached Georgia Southern officials with a request to let him establish a master’s degree in biostatistics. With assistance from Dr. Charles Hardy, the MPH in Biostatistics was approved in the summer of 2000, and Peace returned to Georgia Southern in Fall 2000 with a plan to establish a biostatistics center at the University, grow the MPH in Biostatistics, and establish a school of public health. In 2004, he endowed the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health, honoring his late wife and in creating the school, the Board of Regents approved the naming of the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics.

In addition, Georgia Southern has been the recipient of 13 endowments and funds from Peace, including two endowed chairs, several prestigious graduate assistantships and various scholarships benefiting a wide range of majors. Fittingly, his first scholarship at the University was given in honor of his mother. The Elsie Mae Cloud Peace Scholarship was founded to assist a student demonstrating strength and courage at overcoming hardships. In total since creating the first scholarship in 1994, over 300 students have completed a degree with assistance from the Peace endowments.

“The endowments that I have created have given me the opportunity to raise the names of individuals for whom I have great respect, if not love, so that their stellar characteristics would become known to a wider group,” Peace said. He finds himself teaching some of the same students who are recipients of scholarships he established. In this, Peace said, there are two levels of reward: the satisfaction of knowing he would never have seen that student if not for the financial support he was able to create and that of mentoring students to success in the way any good teacher does.

Teaching, he said, is rewarding much in the same manner as parenting. “My brief synopsis of parenting is ‘gentle nudging, but always protect.’ I see that as applying to students as well. What you want to do as a mentor or as a parent is to guide a student or child in such a way that they make their own decisions. In the absence of nudging they may have made a different decision, but the fact that they believe it’s their decision contributes greatly to their growth and to becoming independent.”

He continues to hear from former students who still seek his counsel. “That’s the reward of being a teacher to some extent. Some rewards are not near term. They are more likely to be long term,” he said.

At the age of 74, Peace is still identifying needs, many of which can be addressed by what he termed ‘T-Cubed’ (T3) philanthropy. That is, he said, “Giving of treasure, time and talent. I’ve done all three and I continue to do all three for many people.”
BUILDING A LEGACY

African-American alumni fund endowment to honor ‘First 500’

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2008. The idea of alumnus Bill Carey, a simple reunion of old friends, brought two dozen or so African-American graduates of Georgia Southern together at Georgia’s Bed and Breakfast in Statesboro. They laughed, swapped reminiscences and caught up on five decades of life changes.

“That getting together rekindled the friendships and the connections that we had,” said Bernice Banks. It also inspired one of the group’s members, Ronald Moorman, with the idea of establishing and endowing a scholarship — one that would stand as a permanent salute to the first African-American students to embrace the University as their own.

“The core group that met at Georgia’s that first year and in succeeding years formed a group of 10 or 12 people,” said Banks. “We called ourselves a steering committee and we kind of brainstormed and talked about what needed to happen.”

They settled on a name, too: The First 500.

The group’s goal started out at the minimum $25,000 needed to create an endowment. “I knew that $25,000 is what we wanted, but $100,000 was our need,” said Banks. “Lo and behold, we started in April 2013 with our fundraising effort. By October we were probably at $15,000 and that was encouraging. Homecoming came around and people came and they gave, so we had $26,000 right at Homecoming in November of 2013.

“That was impressive and I think it showed everybody what could be achieved through numbers and sheer effort,” Banks said. The goal has since been extended to $100,000 and the First 500 are well on their way to reaching that mark.

“It’s been a challenge especially for me since this is the first time I’ve tried to do anything like this. For me it’s rewarding that we were able to achieve the endowment level in a short period of time. That was amazing for all of us.”

“I feel proud of our team’s efforts and accomplishments and grateful for Georgia Southern’s support,” said Moorman. “This scholarship will forever be a reminder that Georgia Southern’s early African-American students were breaking new ground and did so in a way that set a standard of high expectations for those who followed.

“It’s really good to know that our effort is resulting in young people being able to pursue their educations and their goals,” Moorman said. “Giving back is what we wanted to do and that feels good for all of us.”

“It’s been an honor to work with the First 500,” said Annual Giving Director Gloria Goosby. “I’m inspired by their individual stories and how we’re all united by our love of Georgia Southern. They are a shining example of what an engaged alumni group looks like.”
OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

George Brannen leaves a legacy of hope and opportunity

FOR 40 YEARS George Brannen worked hard and saw some very interesting places on his travels — but none more interesting than his own journey from addiction to financial security, academic accomplishment and philanthropy.
Brannen is the founder of three Foundation scholarships: the George K. Brannen English Scholars Fund, George K. Brannen Department of Writing and Linguistics Award, and the George K. Brannen Center for Addiction Recovery Endowed Scholarship. A fourth, the David Starnes/George K. Brannen Endowed Scholarship received significant support from him.

But it’s the irony of his Center for Addiction Recovery endowment that brings him a chuckle.

“I was inspired to set up one endowment, then decided to do another one. Then I heard about this drug rehab program and I thought, ‘You know, how appropriate. The irony of it all,’” said Brannen. “That probably inspired me more than anything else - just how I’ve come full circle. Other people need to be able to have that chance. It’s not really the money. I feel like it’s more an inspiration to help guide the students in a certain direction.”

Brannen said he started drinking at the age of 15. “It affected my whole life thereafter,” he said. “I was here in 1972 and I flunked out because of just doing everything that I shouldn’t have been doing. Then, over my life I have pretty much straightened myself out.” But, he added, “It took me years and years and years to decide to go in a different direction.”

The Dot and John Mooney Center for Addiction Recovery is part of the University’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Brannen hopes that his endowment can help students engaged with the Center turn their lives around much more quickly than he did.

In addition to being a benefactor of the University, he’s now twice-over an alumnus and a current student. Brannen has earned two bachelor’s degrees since coming back to Georgia Southern - one in Writing and Linguistics and the other in English. He’s maintained a 3.73 Grade Point Average and has been on the Dean’s List for eight consecutive semesters. Now, less focused on any particular degree goal, he’s taking classes for intellectual and social enrichment.

“I look for academic intelligence in professors, but also for personality,” he said. “If I find a professor who really enriches my soul, not only academically, but also socially, I’m drawn to that person. I’ve learned that if you like a professor you learn a lot more from them.

“When I was a student I didn’t realize that aspect of academia,” Brannen added. “It was just hoops to jump through. And there’s really so much more here.”

He enjoys interacting with the students in his classes, most of whom are young enough to be his grandchildren. “I try to tell the students that you not only learn from the instructors, you learn from other students, too. I talk to these kids a lot and I want to find out where they want to go and what they want to do. I tell them that life takes so many turns and twists that you never foresee it all. But, everything you do in life sets a direction.

“I go right back to being amazed that I sit where I sit,” he said. “Maybe the Center’s scholarship recipient will end up sometime in the same situation and look back at earlier days and say, ‘Maybe I should do something.’”
“I don’t know if I could have come back if I had to pay my tuition and fees alone.”

— JAZMIN WILLIAMSON
HEALTHY CHANGE

Scholarship enables graduate student to raise professional sights

JAZMIN WILLIAMSON is passionate about health.

Even back in her teen years Williamson was interested in health-related topics, serving as president of her high school’s Health Occupations Students of America chapter.

Williamson vividly remembers an uncle who resided in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and how he died in 2009. It was an event that strengthened her resolve to alleviate health problems. “I found my passion is studying disease and population,” she said. “My uncle had the swine flu and it just sparked my interest. It’s just really close to my heart.”

She turned her concern for health into a Georgia Southern degree. Williamson earned her B.S. in health education and promotion in 2013 and then began her career as a health inspector. It was a good job – one that contributed to the well-being of Atlanta residents – but she felt something was missing. “I started to feel that I needed to do more,” she said.

Williamson began to look into options for a graduate degree and discovered Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and its epidemiology program – a branch of the health sciences that deals with the incidence, distribution and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.

During the course of Williamson’s inquiries into the program she was reacquainted with University professor Helen Bland, who remembered her as an undergraduate student. Bland offered Williamson a graduate assistantship. That sealed the deal. “I moved back to Statesboro last August to complete my master’s in epidemiology,” said Williamson. She was also selected as the recipient of a Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Scholarship, one of five established by professor and College benefactor Dr. Karl Peace.

“I expressed to Dr. Peace last year and this year that I am boundlessly grateful to be able to accept the scholarship from him,” she said. “I don’t know if I could have come back if I had to pay my tuition and fees alone. A lot of my colleagues are older than I am and they complain about the debt they acquired while getting their master’s and PhDs. Fortunately, I don’t have the same story.”

Her short-term goal is to complete her Ph.D. in epidemiology. “My dream job would be to own a company which would be research based, but also would be tied into medicine,” she said. “Of course, I’m not an M.D., but I would partner with an M.D. using my knowledge in nutrition and food science and epidemiology and disease.”

In the meantime, she is enjoying the challenge of graduate school and is grateful for the opportunity she received through the generosity of Foundation donors. “A lot of people never get to have their skill meet with their passion,” she said. “I’m just thankful that I got to do that because it makes every day a gift.”

College of Public Health Scholarship
LEAP OF FAITH

Scholarship helps former track athlete

FOR MOST OF HER LIFE Camryn Coleman has been involved in track, throwing the shot put, sprinting, relay and long jumping. Now a Georgia Southern senior, she is preparing to make another kind of jump – one into the post-college working world.

A year ago with good grades but a schedule that allowed for athletics and classes but little else, the business major said she began to feel she needed a broader college experience. “I’ve been running track since I was six years old,” she said. “I didn’t know anything different. I decided that if I devoted that much time to what I want to do in my future, I would have more options.”

She had joined Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority her junior year. “Last year, traveling every weekend, we had volunteer opportunities that I couldn’t go to because I was at a track meet. I definitely wanted to get more involved in my sorority.”

Giving up her track scholarship to become more widely involved on campus presented some new challenges, though. She would need a job and another kind of scholarship.

First, she found work on campus with Georgia Southern’s Phonathon, calling potential donors on weeknights. Next, she went on the search for an academic scholarship.

“I knew that Georgia Southern offers scholarships because I work with the Phonathon and we talk about scholarships,” she said. She saw that there was a new award, the First 500 Scholarship, created by and in honor of early African-American students who attended Georgia Southern. She applied and became the very first recipient. “It’s definitely helping out a lot especially stepping back from track and not having that scholarship money,” said Coleman.

The Phonathon employs a handful of students who make calls each evening to Georgia Southern donors, seeking support for a variety of scholarships and programs. Working with the Phonathon is an out-of-the-ordinary experience for students. “It’s not the typical job on campus,” she said. “The people who stick with it become a family. We’re there every single day. I’ve grown to love it because of the experience it’s given me and also because of the friends that I’ve made.”

Meanwhile, the First 500 Alumni Scholarship has had a positive influence far beyond the help it has given directly to Coleman. It is not only helping her complete college, it’s also freeing up family funds that will contribute to the educations of her brother, an athlete at the University of Tennessee, and her little sister who is preparing to attend college.

Coleman has seen the personal benefits of scholarship endowments and can now see the bigger picture as well. “I do think it is beyond important to give back to the University, especially working here. Just being able to see behind the scenes has definitely taught me a lot.”
NEVER TOO LATE

Generosity and hard work combine

DAVID CHAPMAN is living the dream — one he never thought could come true.

Chapman is the first recipient of the Foundation’s George K. Brannen Center for Addiction Recovery Scholarship. He is scheduled to graduate in December with a degree in computer science and already has interviews lined up with AT&T and General Motors.

Things were not always as bright. A non-traditional student from Birmingham, Alabama, Chapman recalled that he started getting into trouble in high school with recreational alcohol and drug use. Things only got worse in his early college days at Auburn University.

“I did okay my first year, then things got out of control,” he said. “I stopped going to classes and was suspended.” His dad hired him to work with the family construction company, but the substance abuse continued and he found himself back at home, unable to meet financial or work obligations.

That was when his father convinced him to see a physician who referred him to Willingway Hospital in Statesboro. He spent a year there as an in-patient.

“While I was there I was able to get back in school,” said Chapman. “I started at East Georgia State College and did three semesters over there.” Then, with help from the Dot and John Mooney Center for Addiction Recovery in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, he was accepted to Georgia Southern. “I got in,” he said. “The rest has just been me working my tail off trying to do well in school. I’ve enjoyed it. It’s been an amazing opportunity.”

The Center for Addiction Recovery serves students in long-term recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. Students receive individualized advising and early registration and participate in programs that help them reach their academic potential.

Drug free for five years, Chapman now works as a teaching assistant for the Department of Computer Science and takes a full load of classes. “Since I’ve been back in school I’ve been able to do better than I ever thought I could. People see that and I can’t believe it’s true either,” said Chapman.

Receiving the George K. Brannen Center for Addiction Recovery Scholarship has lifted a significant financial burden and helped him avoid starting a career in debt. “I’m a full-time college student and try to work 30 hours a week at one job and 10 hours a week at another, so I have two jobs and I’m taking 16 hours of classes. It’s just a lot.

“Other than financially, the scholarship has been good from a resume standpoint,” he said, “to be able to say that I’ve received awards based on performance in school. Receiving awards and stuff? That’s just crazy to me to think that I would be capable of doing something like that.

“The process of being in school has just changed so much. I look attractive to employers and I never imagined that would be possible. I’m useful. I can be a valuable employee and I didn’t think that was possible.”
Alumna’s gift helps others pursue their dreams

It might be hard to explain to today’s schoolchildren, but Marilyn Knight Dotson’s teen heroes were like Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart and Chuck Yeager all rolled into one.

The space race was streaking toward its ultimate goal of a moon landing and like her friends, Dotson was caught up in the excitement and seemingly boundless possibilities of those days.

“I was in third or fourth grade when Sputnik went up. It was a big, big deal,” she said. “I was in junior high and high school at the height of the space program. Schools throughout the country geared up and said we need to pay more attention to science and math.”
“I might not can change the world, but I can change the little bit around me.” - MARILYN DOTSON

While her family moved around a bit with her father’s career as an educator, they were living in Florida in 1966. “Many of the astronauts with school-aged children chose to live in Orlando because they had better schools,” said Dotson. “I sat there in 9th grade and there were astronauts’ kids in class with me. We would go out and watch those rockets go off. It was exciting, so I always took math and I was reasonably good at it. I think that being there and observing this was what led me to like math.”

When high school graduation came around she enrolled at the University of Florida, but with her family then living in Lyons, Georgia, decided to transfer to Georgia Southern. “So I was sitting there in the admissions office at Georgia Southern in 1970, not having a clear idea of what I wanted to do,” said Dotson. “The lady that was helping me asked, ‘What are you going to major in?’ And I said, ‘Gee I don’t know.’ She asked, ‘What was your favorite subject in school?’ I said, ‘Math,’ so she said, ‘Okay, we’ll put you down as a math major.’”

Dotson went on to complete her degree in mathematics education, paying her way quarter by quarter, working evenings and weekends. She staffed the admissions desk at Statesboro’s Bulloch Memorial Hospital, clerked at Woolworth’s and tutored fellow students. “I juggled a lot,” she laughed. After college she taught math for 18 years and earned a doctorate in computer science education from Nova University. She then left teaching for a 22-year career in information technology.

Now retired, Dotson has established two endowments with the Georgia Southern Foundation: One in honor of her mother, Mildred Joyce Jones Knight, to assist mathematics majors; the other, the Marilyn K. Dotson Scholarship for Information Technology, which is a combination annual gift and will bequest. She chose to establish her most recent award to help individuals who aspire to have careers in information technology. “One thing I wanted to do was perhaps make it a little bit easier than I had it for women who were choosing to go into the technical field,” she said. “Back when I decided to do this, very few women were in the technical fields and it was always a little harder. I don’t know why, but you were always seen as less believable. You weren’t paid as well. Part of my doing this was trying to make it a little bit better.”

Dotson continues to tutor on occasion and serves as a foster parent, striving to better the lives of others where possible. “I might not can change the world, but I can change the little bit around me,” she said.

As for her scholarship endowments with the Foundation, “I have a lot of fond memories of Georgia Southern,” said Dotson. “It always had a real place in my heart because that’s where I got started.”
A LEADERSHIP LEGACY

Recreation Activity Center named for former President and First Lady
FROM THEIR DECADE OF LEADERSHIP at Georgia Southern, Bruce and Kathryn Grube knew how important financial support can be to students. They also recognized the lifelong benefits of fitness and recreation.

Now, a landmark $1 million gift from the former University President and First Lady provided the naming of Georgia Southern’s popular and bustling Recreation Activity Center (RAC) in honor of the Grubes.

“Georgia Southern’s approach to student-centeredness includes a focus on physical well-being, and the healthy habits students adopt while here have a positive impact on their lives and those of their children long into the future,” said Teresa Thompson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. “The Grubes’ gift helps us enhance the kinds of programs we need to have that positive influence.

“The Grubes’ deep understanding of what students need to become successful citizens is highlighted by their generosity and is a testament to their leadership and compassion for students here at Georgia Southern,” she added.

The gift was earmarked for three critical areas: leadership scholarships, University Honors Program scholarships and recreation programming for students.

“Scholarships, recreation and wellness are significant elements of a successful educational experience at Georgia Southern,” said the former president. “Kathryn and I understand these student needs from our years of serving the University. We are grateful that we are able to leave a legacy to Georgia Southern University students. We certainly owe much to the many students who touched our lives over the years.”

Grube was Georgia Southern University’s 11th President, serving from 1999 to 2009. During his tenure, the University became a Carnegie Doctoral/Research university, experienced record-breaking enrollment and significant improvement in academic quality, as well as unprecedented growth in facilities and other resources.

Grube worked to build strong relationships with local, state and national leaders bringing collaboration and progress to the University and the surrounding communities. Kathryn Grube devoted herself to Georgia Southern and the community, contributing countless hours of volunteer work for the University and Statesboro.

The Bruce and Kathryn Grube Recreation Activity Center is a cutting-edge recreation facility and stands as an icon of campus life for many Georgia Southern students. Originally opened in 1998 just prior to the start of the Grubes’ tenure, the facility was expanded in 2006 to its present size of 215,000 square feet.

With more than 5,500 student, faculty and staff visitors each day, the Center offers fitness equipment, intramural sports, wellness services and meeting spaces.

“We’re highly appreciative of the fact that Bruce and Kathryn Grube feel so strongly about their continued connection to Georgia Southern’s students,” said Interim University President Jean E. Bartels. “So much so, in fact that they chose to provide this major boost to our student recreation programs. We’re very grateful for their continued service to the University.”
SOUTHERN CONNECTION

Accomplished Board member returns to serve his hometown college

Patrick T. O’Connor resides and practices law in Savannah, earned one degree from Auburn University and another from the University of Georgia. At first glance, his resume doesn’t read like that of a stereotypical Georgia Southern Foundation Board trustee. Looking more closely, though, rural southeast Georgia— and Georgia Southern—roots run throughout.
“It’s a way to give back to a community where I grew up and to an institution that helped get me started in my higher education.” - PATRICK O’CONNOR

O’Connor’s dad was a state Department of Transportation engineer whose job assignments made family relocations fairly common, but always in southeast Georgia. As a young teen, Statesboro became home as his father worked on area projects. His mother taught at Southeast Bulloch High School.

“My connection was growing up in Statesboro, and going to Statesboro High,” he said. “Before I was old enough to drive, my dad would take me over and drop me off at Hanner Fieldhouse and I’d watch the Eagles play basketball. I became a Georgia Southern basketball fan, then took classes there.” As a high school senior, O’Connor was jointly enrolled, completing courses in psychology and English.

After graduating from Statesboro High, though, he was looking to attend a college larger than Georgia Southern was in that day, and enrolled at Auburn, earning his undergraduate degree in journalism. While at Auburn, he began dating his future wife, Carol Darby O’Connor, who had been one year behind him at Statesboro High and was a Georgia Southern student.

O’Connor worked for a time in Alabama as a journalist. “I realized the grind of being a newspaper reporter is not really what I wanted,” he said. “I wanted something with a little more of a challenge and so I decided to go into law.” He was accepted in the University of Georgia’s School of Law and earned his juris doctor.

He has been practicing law since 1981 and is managing partner in the Savannah firm of Oliver Maner LLP.

In 2006, his Statesboro and Georgia Southern ties came full circle when he was asked to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the University Foundation. “It’s a worthwhile and rewarding experience,” said O’Connor. “It’s a way to give back to a community where I grew up and to an institution that helped get me started in my higher education.”

O’Connor chairs the Board’s Membership Committee and sits on the Governance Committee.

“I really think Georgia Southern is a huge asset to this whole region of the state and the whole state of Georgia as it has grown. I have spent my whole life, except when I was in college, living in southeast Georgia and I thought then, and I think now, that supporting the major educational institution at our end of the state was a very worthwhile endeavor and I’ve enjoyed my service on the Board.”

O’Connor also serves as chair of the Savannah Country Day School Board of Trustees, as a member of the Auburn Dean’s Advisory Council for the School of Liberal Arts and the Savannah St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee, president elect of the State Bar of Georgia, and is past president of the Savannah Civitan Club. He has served as captain for the Savannah Quarterback Club and chairman of deacons for the Ardsley Park Baptist Church. He has served as President of the Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America and has received the Boy Scouts’ Silver Beaver Award.

O’Connor and his wife, Carol, have three children, Daniel Tyler (Maggie), Thomas Patrick (Kelly), and John Tate. They have two grandchildren, Liam Patrick O’Connor and Daniel Tyler O’Connor, Jr.
SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Foundation Trustee has found fulfillment in helping others

As a lifelong resident of Statesboro, Billy Hickman has always felt a connection to Georgia Southern. But the more life experience he has gained, the greater his appreciation of what the University has meant to his family, his livelihood and his community.
Hickman’s father was a construction worker and his mother a seamstress. “We didn’t have any money for me to go away to school,” he said. “It was just logical that I would go to Georgia Southern.”

He would be the first in his family to attend college.

Then, just a month before his freshman year began, his father died. That could have derailed his college plans. Fortunately, a friend intervened. “A good friend of mine introduced me to Sigma Nu,” said Hickman. “I am very fortunate that he introduced me to the fraternity scene. If I had not been in the fraternity then I would not have had the people that touched me. I’m still very close to a lot of them.”

Hickman would say his fraternity brothers were some of his earliest mentors. He views mentors not as just those older or more experienced, but anyone who has a positive influence on his life. Anyone from whom he can learn. “I’ve been very fortunate in a lot of respects,” he said. “I’ve had tremendous mentors along the way. I think we’ve all got so many mentors. I’m constantly learning from people.”

Living at home throughout his college years, he earned money by driving a school bus his freshman and sophomore years. He worked some summers at then-Emerson Electric, and in the Statesboro Herald’s pressroom his junior and senior years.

He graduated from Georgia Southern in 1974 with his B.B.A. in accounting. He had three job offers: one in Atlanta, one in South Carolina, and one with a local accounting firm headed by Earl Dabbs.

Enter another mentor.

“I was very fortunate that Earl Dabbs offered me a job here,” Hickman said. “More because of my family, I decided to stay here. I could not have ever dreamed of working for anybody better than Earl Dabbs. He always instilled in us the idea of giving back to this community, being active in the community, doing things for the community, and working in the community. He taught me that you shouldn’t just be in an organization, but be a leader in an organization. Be positive. Make things happen. Even though I was working, I could have distanced myself at any time from Georgia Southern, but a lot of it was because of the mentorship that Earl had about giving back to the community.”

Now a Foundation Board trustee and partner in the firm that hired him, Hickman has taken his appreciation of Georgia Southern’s influence on his life to a new level. “I’ve just got a tremendous love for that school,” he said. “I am so thankful that I was able to get an accounting degree there and work for a firm that cared about people and cared about the community. I feel like that’s an obligation of mine. I’m supposed to do something about it. I’m not to just walk away and say ‘thank you’ and it’s over. It provided me with opportunities I would never have had in this life.

“There are people serving on the Board who really want to make a difference,” Hickman said. “Being in an atmosphere with those type of leaders and knowing where this university is going and knowing that I can be a small part of maybe making some type of difference, that’s what I enjoy.”
# Financial Report

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 6/30/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>$200,835</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable, net</td>
<td>1,742,490</td>
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<td>Other receivable</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash value of insurance on lives of donors</td>
<td>137,012</td>
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<td>Property held for sale</td>
<td>145,500</td>
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<td>Land</td>
<td>395,861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>395,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>of $135,728</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$60,203,181</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$47,223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift annuities payable</td>
<td>86,149</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>133,372</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>5,293,669</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>19,435,555</td>
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<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>35,340,585</td>
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<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>60,069,809</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$60,203,181</td>
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</table>

The notes are an integral part of the financial statements. See complete audited financial statements online at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/foundation
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

**YEAR ENDED 6/30/15**

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>2015 TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$296,958</td>
<td>$2,734,552</td>
<td>$1,459,574</td>
<td>$4,491,084</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed services and materials</td>
<td>12,556</td>
<td>557,195</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>569,751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed salaries and benefits by University</td>
<td>2,490,340</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,490,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>140,510</td>
<td>527,703</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>668,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments</td>
<td>(200,368)</td>
<td>(712,298)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(912,666)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>72,391</td>
<td>542,599</td>
<td>36,864</td>
<td>651,854</td>
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</table>

Net assets released from restrictions:
- Satisfaction of restrictions for University support: 2,212,327 (2,212,327) -
- Satisfaction of restrictions to pay administrative fees: 498,733 (498,733) -
- Satisfaction of restrictions for awards and scholarships: 1,146,605 (1,146,605) -

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

|                                                                 | 6,670,052 | (207,914) | 1,496,438 | 7,958,576 |

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1,460,816</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>1,460,816</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University support and operational costs</td>
<td>3,575,147</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,575,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and advancement</td>
<td>2,282,481</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,282,481</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

|                                                                 | 7,318,444 | -         | -         | 7,318,444 |

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>(648,392)</th>
<th>(207,914)</th>
<th>1,496,438</th>
<th>640,132</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR, as previously stated</td>
<td>5,522,815</td>
<td>19,752,133</td>
<td>33,753,544</td>
<td>59,028,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restatement of buildings</td>
<td>401,185</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>401,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR, as restated</td>
<td>5,924,000</td>
<td>19,752,133</td>
<td>33,753,544</td>
<td>59,429,677</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer of net assets due to change in donor restrictions</td>
<td>18,061</td>
<td>(108,664)</td>
<td>90,603</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR**

|                                                                 | $5,293,669 | $19,435,555| $35,340,585| $60,069,809|
## Endowment Net Assets

### Financial Report

### Changes in Endowment Net Assets

#### Year Ended 6/30/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 12,710,522</td>
<td>$33,483,044</td>
<td>$46,193,566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment return:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>522,958</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>522,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized losses below the permanent corpus</td>
<td>(14,607)</td>
<td>14,607</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net depreciation (realized and unrealized)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(720,980)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(720,980)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN</td>
<td>(14,607)</td>
<td>(183,415)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(198,022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>529,188</td>
<td>1,459,574</td>
<td>1,988,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>36,864</td>
<td>37,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(428,064)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(428,064)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,108,198)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,108,198)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other changes: Transfers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(554,012)</td>
<td>90,603</td>
<td>(463,409)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$ (14,607)</td>
<td>$10,967,034</td>
<td>$35,070,085</td>
<td>$46,022,512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The notes are an integral part of the financial statements.  
See complete audited financial statements online at  
GeorgiaSouthern.edu/foundation
DONATIONS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, FOR FISCAL YEAR

DONATIONS COMPARISON
7/1/13 - 6/30/14: $5,151,229
7/1/14 - 6/30/15: $8,014,604

RECEIPTS COMPARISON
7/1/13 - 6/30/14: $3,537,019
7/1/14 - 6/30/15: $5,523,132

GIFTS BY CONSTITUENCY FY15

FRIENDS 50%
ALUMNI 24%
CORPORATIONS 15%
FOUNDATIONS 9%
OTHER 2%

7/1/14 - 6/30/15:
$8,014,604

7/1/13 - 6/30/14:
$5,151,229

7/1/14 - 6/30/15:
$5,523,132

7/1/13 - 6/30/14:
$3,537,019
The asset allocation decision is the primary point in the investment process where the Georgia Southern University Foundation manages risk. Macro risks to the investment program are best hedged by thoughtfully creating a structure that includes asset classes that react indifferently to each risk factor. A consistent and disciplined approach to maintaining the policy target allocation should increase the probability of the investment program’s long-term success.
ASSET CLASS RETURNS LONG POOL AS OF 6/30/15

**DOMESTIC EQUITY**
- 7 YEAR: 8.3%
- 5 YEAR: 15.9%
- 3 YEAR: 15.8%
- 1 YEAR: 4.9%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 6.6%

**INTERNATIONAL EQUITY**
- 7 YEAR: 2.4%
- 5 YEAR: 9%
- 3 YEAR: 9.7%
- 1 YEAR: -3.1%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 5.2%

**ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES**
- 7 YEAR: 6.1%
- 5 YEAR: 8.6%
- 3 YEAR: 10.1%
- 1 YEAR: 4.7%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 6.3%

**INFLATION HEDGING**
- 7 YEAR: -1.7%
- 5 YEAR: 4.3%
- 3 YEAR: -11%
- 1 YEAR: .3%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 1.1%

**FIXED INCOME**
- 7 YEAR: 5.3%
- 5 YEAR: 4%
- 3 YEAR: 1.2%
- 1 YEAR: -0.6%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 5.3%

**LIQUID CAPITAL**
- 7 YEAR: .1%
- 5 YEAR: 0%
- 3 YEAR: 0%
- 1 YEAR: 0%
- SINCE INCEPTION: 1.1%

ANNUAL REPORT 2015
Thank you.

We are grateful for your investment in the future of our students.