



We are leading the way today so that our students can lead tomorrow.

Georgia State University is not just a place students come seeking knowledge — it has become a place that other universities turn to as well. With our innovative programs, scholarships and student advising systems raising graduation rates faster than any public institution in the country, everyone from U.S. News & World Report to the U.S. Department of Education is taking notice. And schools nationwide are seeking partnerships with Georgia State so that they can learn from and emulate our success.

We are proud of these achievements, but prouder still of the enormous community of supporters who made them possible. Every innovation, every scholarship, and every life-changing experience at Georgia State happens because someone believed in our mission of student success and wanted to support it. As we celebrate our first back-to-back \$30 million fundraising years in school history, we offer those alumni and friends our deepest gratitude, and present this annual report as evidence of the very real difference gifts to Georgia State have the power to make.



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Letter from President Mark P. Becker

Everything we achieve here at Georgia State University is connected in some way to our community of loyal donors, but with one milestone achieved this past fiscal year, the connection was particularly direct. For the second year in a row, we sailed past the \$30 million mark in charitable gifts — the first time that has happened in our school's history.

And, befitting a university hailed as one of the nation's most diverse, that support came from a wide variety of sources — and was directed to an equally diverse array of needs. The stories in this annual report make that vividly clear.

Frank Blount, for example, has endowed scholarships at the Robinson College of Business. Sam and Angela Allen have both endowed scholarships at the Robinson College and the Andrew Young School for Policy Studies and supported our award-winning chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Bill and Susan Reeves have given generously of both time and resources to our athletic department; Tarasa Davis and Ken Lewis have chosen to endow professorships in honor of loved ones, at the Robinson College and Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions, respectively. And Ed and Cecil Laird gave our university one of their previous residences as an unrestricted gift.

The common thread running through these gifts is that all of them will impact our students' lives and strengthen our efforts to see every student through to graduation and future success. As you read these stories, you will come to appreciate how that mission is what motivates our supporters. The support of our donors for our students is sincere and overwhelming.

With the generous and loyal support of so many alumni and friends, it is no wonder that Georgia State is achieving such amazing heights — and that our future is brighter than ever.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Becker President

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Georgia State University Foundation Board of Trustees

As of June 30, 2014

Dr. Mark P. Becker, *President* Georgia State University

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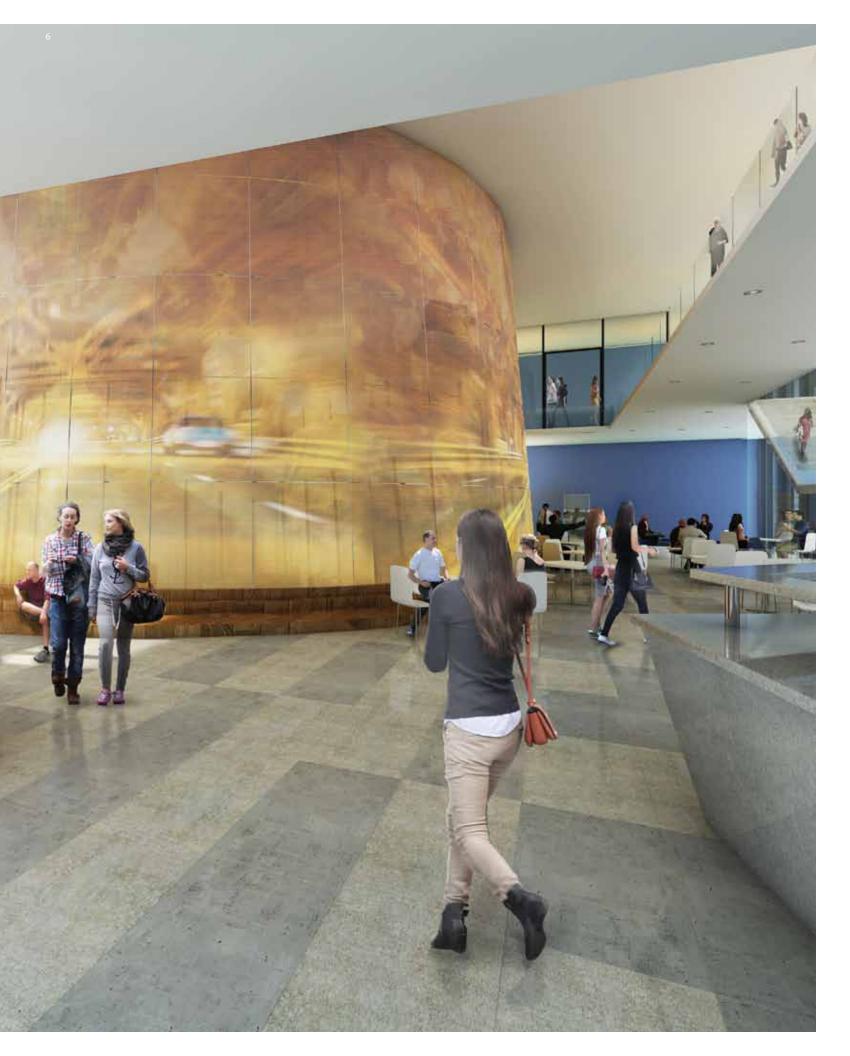
Mr. T. Dallas Smith (BBA '86) T. Dallas Smith & Co.

Ms. Geraldine P. Thomas (BS '85) Bank of America

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Letter from Foundation Board Chair Ken Bernhardt

As Georgia State University begins its second century, it is experiencing record enrollments, record student quality, record graduation rates, record amounts of funded research, and record fundraising.

On top of all the records being set, the campus is growing. A new College of Law building is rising from the downtown streets, and a new science building is under way. The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the Robinson College of Business will move into their new home at 55 Park Place in the coming year.

The university is also making great progress implementing its strategic plan. Georgia State has truly become a national role model for undergraduate education by demonstrating that students from all backgrounds can achieve academic and career success. Georgia State was the recipient of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' 2013 MVP Award for the public university making the greatest difference in student success nationally.

Graduation rates are up more than 22 percent in the past decade and, counting the students who enroll at Georgia State and graduate elsewhere, more than three-quarters of our students go on to become college graduates. Donors have provided support for emergency funds and scholarships that have helped bring about this dramatic increase. Almost 3,000 students received emergency retention grants in 2013 — support that enabled them to continue their path toward graduation.

Scholarship funding by the university has grown from \$1.9 million in 2011 to \$3.1 million in 2012, \$4.9 million in 2013 and \$8.3 million in 2014. That represents a 350 percent increase in only three years!

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support given to us by alumni, parents, businesses, foundations, and friends of the university.

With much gratitude for all of your support,

Ken Bernhardt

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"I know firsthand how hard nurses work and how important

they are to their communities."

KEN LEWIS

A finance degree from Georgia State started Ken Lewis on a career that led to the highest positions of leadership at Bank of America. But his values and work ethic were instilled in him long before he enrolled in college — by his mother, Byrdine, who worked as a bedside nurse for 46 years. "I know firsthand how hard nurses work and how important they are to their communities," he says.

Those memories inspired Lewis to create a major endowment for Georgia State's nursing school in 2003 that funded new scholarships, faculty positions and teaching labs. This past year, he made his biggest gift yet to the school now known as the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions: a \$5 million pledge to support three chaired professorships and a series of faculty achievement awards.

While the most direct impact of Lewis' latest gift will be felt by the elite educators and researchers it attracts to Georgia State, it will also be felt by the students they teach — students who are being called upon to take on increasingly complex and critical roles in a changing health-care environment.

Many of them can also identify with the challenges Lewis' family faced. Like Byrdine Lewis, respiratory therapy student Audra Morley has had to balance work responsibilities with raising two children. "I have asthma and my children have asthma," she says, "and I was interested in learning how to control it. When I heard about how we are 'the final breath of life,' that's what made me want to go into respiratory therapy."

Like many students, Lewis says, "I was balancing classwork with jobs all through college, but Georgia State helped me get what I needed to succeed. One of the reasons I've continued to support Georgia State over the years is because that's still a huge part of their mission. They provide the kind of opportunities to working and low-income students that can change those students' lives."



The idea of real-world learning opportunities as a cornerstone of the Georgia State experience is hardly a new development. As far back as the 1960s, Ed Laird was taking classes that immersed him directly into the world of journalism.

"There were some great professors there, but the thing that impressed me the most was these were working journalists, teaching on the side, who actually wrote for the Atlanta Constitution," he says. "That was impressive, because they had real-world experience. You'd write a story for class, and if the professor liked it, he'd say, 'Pretty good story there — why don't you take it over to the Constitution and see if they can use it?""

Even as a first-generation college student, Ed says he felt at home. But it was the experience of another first-generation student, Jean-Francois Koly Onivogui, that truly drove home the importance of Georgia State.

"We had friends at church who told us their son had been in the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa, and there was a young man there with potential above the average who needed to come to the United States," Ed recalls. "Jean-Francois arrived speaking only very hesitant English, but he applied to Georgia State and they put him into a special English-language course.

"He graduated with a B.A., and now he's got his master's and he's in the Ph.D. program. We met with him many times over dinner, and he would fill us in on what he was doing and how well that was working, how Georgia State was helping him."

That experience inspired Ed and his wife Cecil to give a previous residence — a condominium in Buckhead — to Georgia State as a charitable remainder trust. "We like the fact that so many of the students are first-generation college educated," Ed says. "Jean-Francois put a personal face on that, and there are many American students who are getting these opportunities too. We just love the fact that there's this university downtown that's changing Atlanta, and all these people's lives, for the better."

R. Means and Tarasa Davis:

A Daughter Honors Her Father's Legacy — and Begins One of Her Own

From the moment they walk into a room, it is obvious R. Means Davis Jr. and Tarasa Davis are father and daughter. As they talk about their shared interests, it is obvious they are also lifelong friends.

Sailing is one of those passions, which Means passed down to Tarasa when she was only five. "I got my son [R. Means Davis V] a boat and I thought, 'Oh, how cute, Tarasa can crew for him,'" Means recalls. The first time they competed in a race together, "I won the race, and they came in dead last. My son was down with the boat, and Tarasa came up to me and folded her arms and said, 'Dad, I want my own boat.' There was never any doubt — it wasn't a request, it was a statement."

Means, who was one of the first to earn a degree from Georgia State's Department of Risk Management and Insurance in 1970, also passed along his affinity for the business world — Tarasa is now a consultant with Accenture — and for Georgia State. And just as she did with sailing, Tarasa is making a name for herself as both a businesswoman and a Georgia State supporter. Fifteen years after Means helped to establish the Kenneth Black Jr. Chair of Insurance to honor one of his mentors and role models, Tarasa has created the R. Means Davis Jr., CPCU Endowed Professorship to honor one of hers.

"I see Georgia State trying to address the same issues I see in consulting, where we try to get ahead of the market," she explains. "Georgia State, in a very practical manner, is trying to get ahead of the curve to educate and train its students. It impresses me that they're not stuck in a rut teaching the same old thing — they're thinking ahead and trying to see where the market's going. I think that's great."

As he reflects on all the ways his daughter has forged her own successful paths in life, Means can't help but smile. "For many years, Tarasa was known as my daughter," he says. "To this day, I am now known as Tarasa's dad."





Panther Fans Bill and Susan Reeves Agree:

'These Young People Are Incredible'



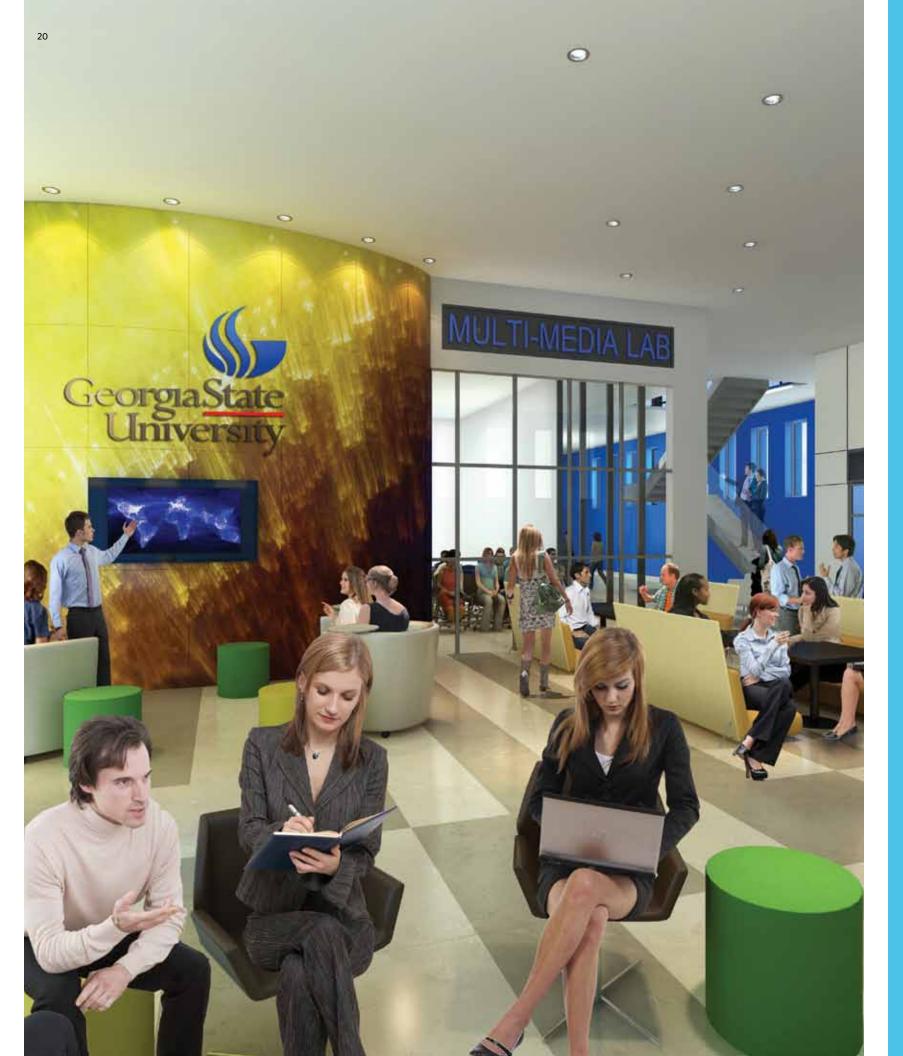
"When Bill would wear a Georgia State shirt or hat on a trip, people used to say, 'Where's Georgia State?' They don't say that anymore," Susan Reeves recalls. "We used to drive down Decatur Street and see kids with all kinds of jerseys on — now we walk down the street and they've got on Georgia State shirts. That may seem like a little thing, but it's huge."

What Bill and Susan are too modest to mention is that they played a huge role in that rise to prominence. Since funding a field house and restrooms for the Panther baseball program 25 years ago, the Reeves have supported a wide variety of scholarships for Georgia State student-athletes. They have helped the spirit squads grow from a handful of cheerleaders to two different squads, plus a dance team. And Bill served on the Athletic Board during the formation of Georgia State's football program — one that is already competing in college football's highest division.

As an alumnus, Bill is especially proud. "I was a slow learner — started in 1949 and graduated in 1959," he says with a grin. "During that time I raised a family, worked, started a business, served in the Korean War. But Georgia State gave me the opportunity to get an education."

Maybe that is why the Reeves identify so closely with the student-athletes balancing class schedules with practice and game schedules — and why, in addition to being donors, the Reeves have been devoted fans, cheering at home and away games alike. Win or lose, Susan says, the Panthers have earned it.

"They get up early to do weight training, to practice, to go to classes, and then after they practice in the afternoon, they do homework," Susan explains. "It's a true commitment to come to Georgia State and play on an athletic scholarship, and I don't think enough people appreciate how hard student-athletes work to give us their best effort on the field, the court, the track, or the course. All you need to do is be around them and you're just overwhelmed with how good they are and how much they care. And that should be everybody's headline: These young people are incredible."



Frank Blount: A Keen Sense for Smart Business —

and for Helping Students Excel

Businesses around the world, from Caterpillar Inc. to Australia's Telstra Corporation, have called upon Frank Blount for his business expertise. But his most important journey might have been the two-mile commute from Southern Bell's Midtown headquarters to Georgia State's business school, where he earned his MBA in the 1960s.

"I could learn something one night and the next day I could go try to apply it on the job," remembers Blount, who at 24 was already managing a group of 30 or so employees. "I never told them I was experimenting on them, but I did — I had a real-life laboratory.

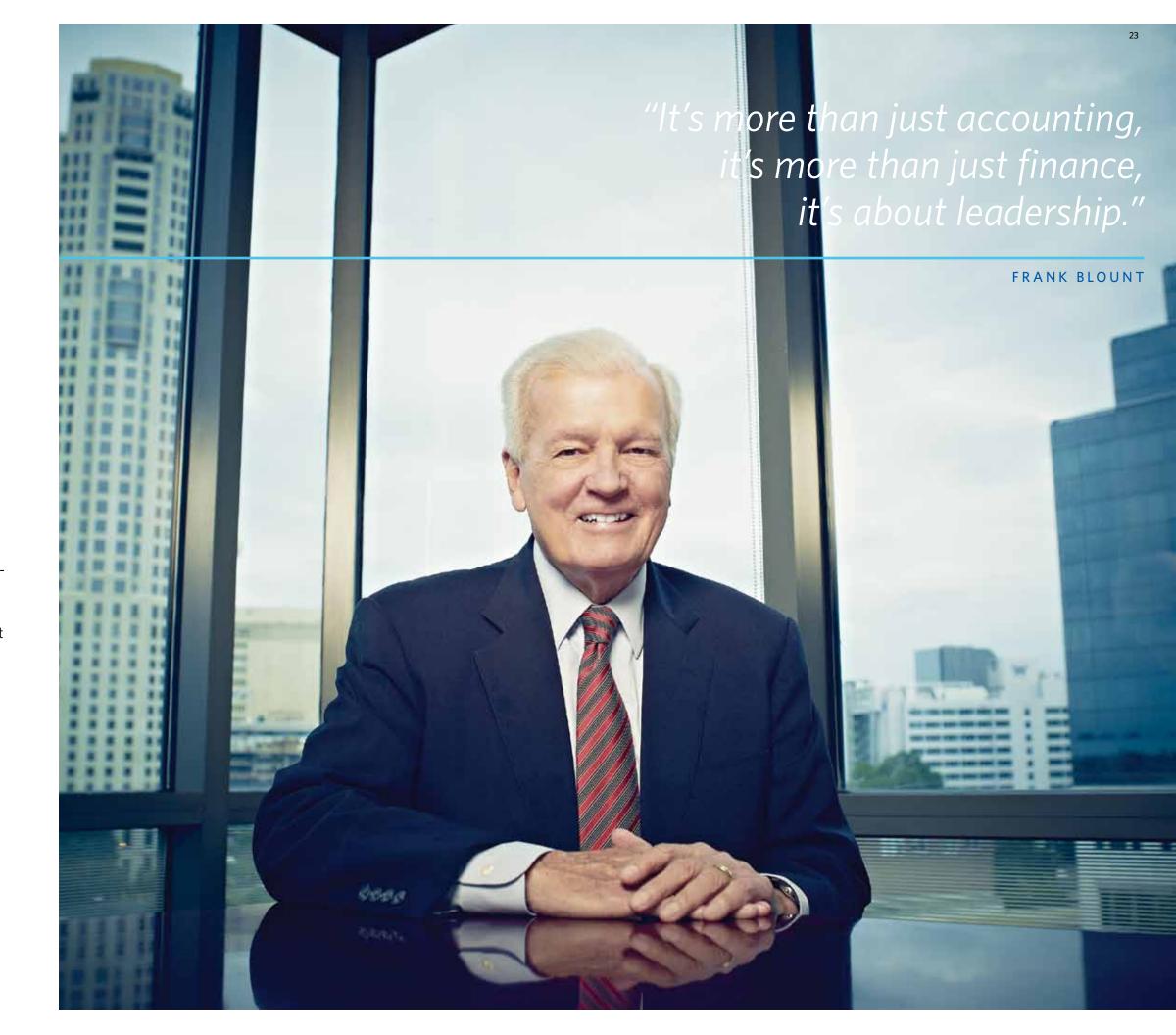
"If you just learn something in a book, and you don't get to apply it really quick, it's like coldstorage training. If you don't use it, you lose it."

Not only does Blount regularly appear as a guest lecturer at Georgia State, he and his wife created the W. Frank and Mary Ellen Blount Signature Experiences Endowment to help ensure that today's business students also get to try out their skills in the real world. In business, he explains, student success has to mean more than classroom mastery of one narrow subject — it has to involve hands-on understanding of how everyone in a company or organization works together.

"Georgia State does a great job of teaching the hard skills — skills needed to become a great accountant, or a great risk manager, or a great finance director. What's unique is that we try to take the most promising students and give them something more — the softer skills that weave all of these components together into a fabric, so that when they hit the street they understand that it's more than just accounting, it's more than just finance, it's about leadership."

The Blounts also created a scholarship endowment that gives preference to students who, like Frank, are the first in their families to attend college.

"Georgia State has a unique position among most colleges where a significant portion of our undergrad students are first-generation students," he says. "Because of the situations we face here in Georgia, there are a lot of people who just haven't had the occasion to go to college. And because it is one of the unique characteristics at Georgia State, there's a lot of need. I wanted to go where the need was."





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"I really felt that I needed to get my MBA to distinguish my career," says Angie, the daughter of Italian immigrants and a first-generation student. "If it hadn't been for this public university that was located downtown, with such flexible schedules to accommodate people who were working full time, I never could've gotten my degree."

Recognizing the power of education to "level the playing field" — for genders, classes, even entire nations — Angie and her husband Sam have dedicated themselves to creating similar opportunities for today's students. Together they have been loyal supporters of both the Andrew Young School for Policy Studies (including the school's chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, which won a national award at a conference in January) and the Robinson College of Business, where they created the Zera-Allen Scholarship in 1998. That scholarship has helped first-generation students from the U.S. and 16 other countries achieve their dreams of earning business degrees.

"These are young people who want to succeed."

SAM ALLEN

Those international students, Sam says, "are seeing the best of the U.S.A. here. And it's not a stretch to think of Georgia State as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy. That may sound a little grandiose, but if these students go back with a favorable opinion of the American people and our educational system, think of what a difference that could make."

The next step: supporting a brand-new course called "Women Lead: Paving the Way for Women to Lead." Slated to begin at the Robinson College of Business in spring 2015, the course's goal is to "develop leadership skills with an emphasis on strategic career development," Angie says. "Our hope is that female students in this program will have a huge leg up in achieving leadership positions in a global market."

If the track record of the Allens' other endeavors is any indication, the students in Women Lead will accomplish exactly that. Witnessing those triumphs firsthand, Sam says, has been its own reward.

"These are young people who want to succeed," he says. "With GSU's help in personalizing our interactions with them, we've come to understand their hopes and challenges, and even share their successes with them. So, in effect, we become the beneficiaries as well."

New Endowments Fiscal Year 2014

With gratitude, Georgia State relies on the invaluable support provided by the following new endowments established between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Women Lead

Angie and Sam Allen

Richard Hammill Outstanding Marketing Student Scholarship Fund

American Marketing Association Student Chapter

Roslyn Hirsch Balbirer Memorial Scholarship Sheldon D. Balbirer and Amy B. Windham

Judge Debra Halpern Bernes Memorial Scholarship in Law Gary L. Bernes

Women's Philanthropy Initiative —
Elizabeth Alexander Scholarship
Women's Philanthropy Initiative —
Katherine Sunday Bernhardt Endowed Scholarship
Ken and Kathy Bernhardt

Stuart and Vicki Blandford/Peerage Foundation Endowment Stuart C. and Vicki W. Blandford

W. Frank and Mary Ellen Blount Scholarship Endowment
W. Frank and Mary Ellen Blount Signature
Experiences Endowment
W. Frank and Mary Ellen Blount

Computer Science Department Endowment Edward H. and Nancy Bullwinkel

Barkat Charania Scholarship Rahim B. and Mahnaz R. Charania

Al Baumstark Award in Chemistry
Faculty and Alumni of the Chemistry Department

Kay Chester Scholarship for Teachers in Training Kay H. Chester

John Cowart Kappa Sigma Leadership Award John H. Cowart Sr. / John H. Cowart Family Foundation

Jeanette Cummings Scholarship in Gerontology Jeanette Cummings R. Means Davis Jr., CPCU Endowed Professorship The R. Means Davis Family

John F. Euart Jr. Family Scholarship John F. and Susan M. Euart

Frank and Regina Kulig Professorship Fran and Joe Fowler

J. Rhodes Haverty Scholarship Georgia Health Foundation Inc.

Jamie and Molly Hargather Soccer Endowment James D. and Molly A. Hargather

Aziz and Farahnaz Hashim Endowed Faculty Position in Franchise Entrepreneurship Aziz A. and Farahnaz A. Hashim

Haywood Family Endowment Gene T. Haywood

Asa G. Hilliard III Memorial Scholarship Friends of Asa G. Hilliard III

Sally Smith Howard Endowed Scholarship Fund Sally and John Howard

Dorothy Stamps Ingram Fund for Library Outreach George E. and Dorothy S. Ingram

Roberta Gose Kelley Undergraduate Scholarship James W. Kelley

Jeffrey and Teresa Kelly Endowed Scholarship
Jeff and Teresa Kelly

Charles C. Knox School of Music Composition Program Fund Charles C. Knox

Endowments in Support of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions Kenneth and Donna Lewis Rita Kaufman Loventhal Endowed Scholarship Bill and Rita Loventhal

Mary M. MacKinnon Endowed Scholarship in Gerontology
M. Katherine MacKinnon, Luther MacKinnon and Virginia MacKinnon

Felicia and Rodney Mayfield Scholarship Felicia and Rodney Mayfield

Eleanor McEdwards International
Opportunity Scholarship
Colleen E. B. McEdwards and Scott Burnside

Michael Mescon Endowment
Family and Friends of Michael H. Mescon

R. P. Mishra and Annamma Mishra Scholarship Manoj K. and Neha Mishra

Neely Endowed Fund for Art and Design Alan S. and Helen deGolian Neely

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Philosophy Student Support Fund George Rainbolt and Sandra L. Dwyer

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J. Mack Robinson College of Business Board of
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Col. Lynn B. Stull Memorial Army ROTC Endowment J. Stephen and L. Gail Tanner

Aileen and Chris Valianos Fellowship in Music Aileen and Chris Valianos

Arthur Vandenberg Library Innovation Fund
Arthur and Catherine Vandenberg

Joseph L. Walker Scholarship for Undergraduate Real

Estate Students Joseph L. Walker

The Lee Project Endowed Scholarship Allison L. Webb

Dr. Diane White ScholarshipDiane E. White

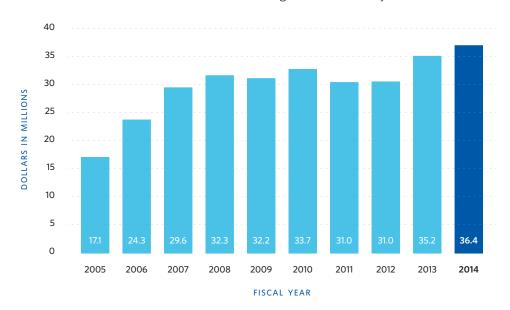
KPMG John T. Zellner Scholarship in Actuarial Sciences Colleagues and Friends of John T. Zellner and the KPMG Foundation

Georgia State University Foundation Inc.

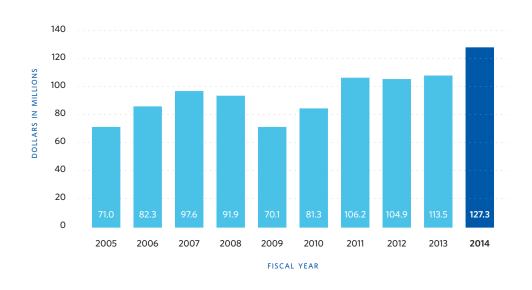
Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Highlights

Annual Foundation Expenditures

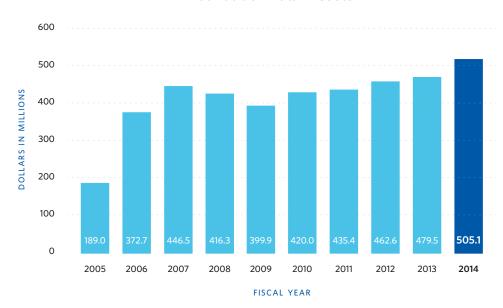
for the benefit of Georgia State University



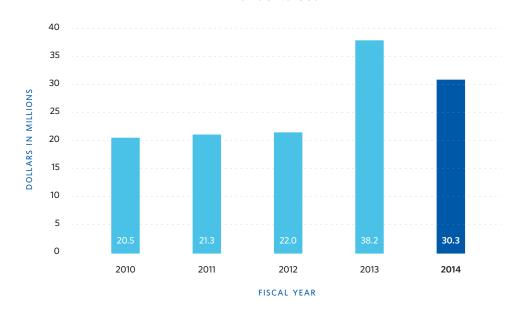
Foundation Endownment Pool Balance



Foundation Total Assets



Funds Raised







PRESIDENTS SOCIETY HONOR ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Leaders Circle

The Georgia State University Foundation extends its gratitude to this premier group of individuals and organizations in recognition of their cumulative gifts totaling \$1 million or more. Members of our Leaders Circle and their groundbreaking gifts provide fundamental support of the university's mission as a premier research institution.

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Fuller E. Callaway Trust

* Deceased

W M Keck Foundation

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Members of the Benefactors Circle have made transformative gifts to Georgia State University totaling \$100,000 to \$999,999. The University is grateful for the gifts made by these esteemed individuals and organizations.

Anonymous

\$500,000 to \$999,999

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Georgia State's acquisition of the former SunTrust building at 25 Park Place dramatically increased our classroom space. When the SunTrust Plaza building to its right is converted into the CUBE digital media center, it will dramatically increase our connections and collaborations with Atlanta's rapidly growing film industry. *Illustration by Cooper Carry*.

op. 8-9

From left to right, Audra Morley (respiratory therapy), Maxie Battey-Muse (respiratory therapy), Diego Gallo (nursing) and Joshua Esezobor (nursing) are just a few of the students who have benefited from Ken Lewis' faithful support for the school of nursing and health professions that bears his late mother's name. Photo by Harold Daniels.

p. 12

Georgia State alumnus Ed Laird (standing), pictured with his wife Cecil, was a first-generation student himself. Forty years later, the experiences of another first-generation student — one who came from half a world away — prompted the Lairds to give generously to Georgia State. Photo by Harold Daniels.

p. 15

Three of R. Means Davis Jr.'s (standing) biggest passions in life are sailing, the business world, and Georgia State University. He's successfully passed all three along to his daughter Tarasa (seated), who is a decorated sailor herself, a consultant at Accenture, and — as of this year — the creator of the R. Means Davis Jr., CPCU Endowed Professorship at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business. Photo by Jason Fobart.

From baseball to golf to the nationally ranked spirit

pp. 16-17

squads, there's hardly any corner of Georgia State athletics that Bill and Susan Reeves (front and center) haven't touched. Behind them, from left to right, are some of the student-athletes who've benefited from their support: Nathan Bates (junior, baseball); Theodore Galanos (freshman, spirit squad); Nathaniel Minor (junior, football); McKenzie Blair-Griffith (freshman, spirit squad); Lauren Court (senior, women's golf); Isis Woods (sophomore, spirit squad); Emily Black (freshman, spirit squad); Miranda Smith (senior, women's basketball); Caleb Blattner (freshman, spirit squad); Kraig Cole (senior, spirit squad); Morgan Jackson (junior, women's basketball); Ryann Green (senior, men's basketball); Matt Rose (junior, baseball). Photo by Harold Daniels.

р.

Bill Reeves played baseball in his younger days, and his funding for critical facilities upgrades for Georgia State's baseball program began the Reeves' legacy of support for Panther athletics. So it's only natural that the Panther baseball program holds a special place in the hearts of Bill and Susan, pictured with baseball players Nathan Bates (far left) and Matt Rose. Photo by Harold Daniels.

o. 20

Befitting its status as a focal point for technological innovation, the proposed interior of the CUBE digital media center will feature both design and technology that are state of the art, with numerous spaces devoted to collaborative learning as well as opportunities for students to work side-by-side with film-industry editors, technicians and producers. *Illustration by Cooper Carry.*

p. 22-23

Long before he was the CEO of Telstra Corporation or group president of AT&T, Frank Blount was a Georgia State MBA student taking evening classes in Sparks Hall. Today you're more likely to find him at the Buckhead campus of the Robinson College of Business, giving guest lectures to tomorrow's entrepreneurs and business leaders. *Photo by Harold Daniels*.

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supported a diverse array of worthy causes at Georgia State, but it all began with the Zera-Allen Scholarship, which has helped make Georgia State business degrees possible for students from across the United States and around the world. Pictured with the Allens (left-right) are five of the 18 current recipients of the scholarship: Katie Tamashevich (senior, accounting/finance); Angel Harper (senior, health information technology); Mai Harris (senior, hospitality business administration); Yedei Akproh (junior, finance/computer information systems); and Alexandria Garcia (sophomore, actuarial science). Photo by Jason Fobart.

p. 32-33

As Georgia State continues to acquire and build modern classrooms, teaching and research lab space across the campus in downtown Atlanta, it will facilitate the removal of the old Kell Hall building — and replace it with a campus greenway stretching from Woodruff Park to the Petit Science Center. The proposed new green space will provide an attractive open-air commons that all of campus, and all of Atlanta, can enjoy. Illustration courtesy Sasaki Associates.

