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the Benefactor



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

A Newsletter for Benefactors of the University of Arkansas Fundraising Programs

Vol. 10, Issue 1, Summer 2009

Pat Tillman Foundation Awards \$70,000 to Military Scholars

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LEADS NATIONALLY

The Pat Tillman Foundation in Tempe, Ariz., awarded \$70,000 for the 2009-10 academic year to 12 students at the University of Arkansas. This amount is the largest awarded to any of the foundation's university partners. More than 500 applications were reviewed from institutions across the country, and 52 Tillman Military Scholars were chosen for the inaugural year of the foundation's program.

"This support is extremely important to the University of Arkansas as we continue our strong agenda for being a welcoming community for men and women that serve our country in the military," said Chancellor G. David Gearhart. "It is a proud moment for the University of Arkansas to see so many of our students selected for this distinguished award. The generosity of the Pat

Tillman Foundation will have a positive, lasting impact on a very deserving community, and I know our students will represent the mission and vision of this scholarship program well."

The Pat Tillman Foundation was created by Tillman's family and friends after his death in April 2004. Following his career as a fan favorite with the NFL's Arizona Cardinals, he joined the U.S. Army and was killed during active duty in eastern Afghanistan. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, the foundation's mission is to carry forward Tillman's legacy of leadership and service by providing veterans and their families with the necessary resources and support to improve their own lives and to continue serving their country. ■

Children's Adventure Garden Dedicated

The new Evans Children's Adventure Garden was dedicated with great fanfare on a 90-degree plus day in June. More than 150 friends of Garvan Gardens — a part of the Fay Jones School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas — gathered to celebrate the new garden and thank Bob and Sunny Evans of Hot Springs, whose \$600,000 gift funded design and construction of the first phase of the garden.

The Evanses, who have contributed \$1.6 million to Garvan Woodland Gardens since 2004, are delighted with the garden. "It's all top drawer like everything they do here," Sunny Evans told the crowd. "You can just imagine the kids crawling all over the rocks experiencing nature, learning but having fun doing it. This garden is for the children and grandchildren and all of the generations of children to come!"

After the Evanses cut the ribbon with the assistance of local children (including Executive Director Bob Bledsoe's granddaughter Taylor Ann Bledsoe), kids and adults scrambled up and down the series of stone ledges that shape the 1.5-acre garden. The ADA-accessible cave tucked behind a 12-foot waterfall was especially popular as it gave welcome respite from the sun. David Slawson, a nationally recognized Japanese garden designer, spent weeks on site guiding the placement of the ancient boulders. More than 3,200 tons, or 6.4 million pounds, of stone were used in constructing the project, most of it transported from quarries in Arkansas.



Bob and Sunny Evans got a little help in cutting the ribbon from Taylor Ann Bledsoe and Ian Hollis while Bob Bledsoe (at podium), Chancellor G. David Gearhart and Dean Jeff Shannon watch the proceedings. Photo by Susie Harris.

Another standout feature is a bridge anchored by a five-foot-wide, 12-inch thick, 17.5-foot-long rock slab. Interns Dustin Langford, Benjamin Stinnett, Billy Cochran and Jackson Cellers, all students in the school's landscape architecture department, as well as Joe O'Neill, a student from the university's horticulture department, helped to weave the bridge railing. A wading pool, a narrow passage between two rocks extravagantly striated with white quartz, and an ogee arch shaped from rock and scaled to the height of a small child, are just some of the features that will encourage children to look, touch and explore.

The Benham Group of Lowell, Ark., drafted the conceptual design for the children's garden under the direction of Brent Vinson, formerly a landscape architect with the company and a 1993 graduate of the Fay Jones School of Architecture.

Garvan Woodland Gardens is currently raising funds for the final phase of the children's garden, which will include three large tree houses, each offering a different lesson about nature, and five smaller, pod-type structures that will serve as overlooks and connectors to the primary tree houses. The price tag for the final phase is estimated at \$800,000. Several organizations and private donors have committed approximately \$175,000 to the project, including a \$104,750 grant from the Ross Foundation to construct one of the interpretive tree houses. ■



Officer Logan Crane from the University of Arkansas Police Department accepted keys to a 2001 Chevrolet Impala from Pete Iles of Walmart Corporate Security in July. The vehicle, which is a gift from Walmart, will be used primarily for investigations and support services. ■

STUDENTS
FIRST



Thoughts from the chairwoman...

My son completed his freshman year at the University of Arkansas in May, and he is very much looking forward to continuing his education in Fayetteville. He transferred mid-year from a smaller institution in our state, and one of the greatest differences he found was that the University of Arkansas was immediately welcoming and friendly. Of course, I know how friendly our campus is, but it caught me by surprise that he noticed the difference enough to mention it. As an already proud volunteer and supporter of our university, I became even prouder to hear of a personal experience that means so much to me. I tell this story because as we look for ways to continue providing meaningful and memorable experiences for our students, knowing my son and many other sons and daughters are having great days on “the hill” keeps me energized and excited.



Debbie Walker

My new role as chairwoman of the University of Arkansas Board of Advisors is one I take very seriously. As a team, we are committed to working with the university’s leadership to maintain excellence and to improve upon areas that need more attention. Moving forward, we have to put our various talents to work. If we listen to the voice of every person on the board and the hundreds of other volunteers who give of their time so selflessly, we will undoubtedly discover the answers to any challenges the institution faces. The experiences of our volunteers can and should be put to work for Arkansas.

One of the most unique traits of a university is that no one has to do anything alone. Yes, we are all under the leadership of Chancellor Gearhart, but the team spirit on this campus is contagious. We are all working toward the same goals and it really does take every person’s involvement — students, staff, faculty, alumni — to make it work.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see a small glimpse into the generosity that keeps the institution moving along. From \$10 gifts to \$1 million endowments, every donor and every dollar builds upon the other to keep Arkansas excellence alive and well here in Fayetteville. And, it doesn’t stop there. The impact of our institution reaches across the state, throughout the nation and around the world. I believe you have to start at home to make things happen, and we’re doing an outstanding job of that.

Thank you for all you do. I look forward to updating you on the work of the Board of Advisors. The future is bright, and I am truly honored to be in this position today. I would like to extend a personal word of gratitude to my predecessor, Julian Stewart, who did an incredible job as the first leader of this advisory body. I learned a lot watching you lead, Julian, and I am glad you have chosen to remain involved. Here we go!

Sincerely,

Debbie Walker

Old Main Foyer Dedication Honors Longtime Faculty Member

WALTER L. BROWN RECOGNIZED

The University of Arkansas held a dedication for the naming of the Walter L. Brown Foyer in Old Main May 1. Brown was an esteemed member of the University of Arkansas history faculty from 1954 to 1990 in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Known for his inspired teaching, he instilled in his students a love of learning that lasted far beyond the time they spent on campus. He also secured the university’s reputation as the state’s flagship institution for Arkansas studies.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter L. Brown sit by Jim Lindsey at the dedication.

“Dr. Brown was a tremendous member of the Fulbright College faculty,” said Bill Schwab, dean of Fulbright College. “His love for Arkansas history has been contagious in and out of the classroom, and he has had a significant impact on the way we learn about our state. We always try to recognize individuals who go well above and beyond the call of duty, and this is one way we can forever honor a professor, researcher and author who has made a difference.”

For more than 30 years, Brown promoted the study of Arkansas history as a professor, as editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* from 1958 to 1990

and as secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Historical Association from 1955 to 1990. Brown made the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* a full-time scholarly journal, ensuring that it kept abreast of new interests and methodologies in history while never wavering in its devotion to Arkansas and its people. Under his leadership, the *Quarterly* published some of the earliest scholarship on Arkansas’ African American and civil rights history. A respected scholar himself, Brown wrote the definitive biography of Albert Pike, a colorful figure of central importance to the politics and culture of antebellum and Civil War-era Arkansas. ■

1933 Grad Gives \$3 Million to Fulbright College Programs

Octa N. High almost dropped out of school after her junior year at the University of Arkansas due to her family’s inability to afford her tuition during the Great Depression. Fortunately, the institution was able to provide enough financial support for her to earn a bachelor’s degree in zoology in 1933. She remained grateful throughout her life for the university’s assistance toward completing her degree.



Octa High

Although she passed away in 2005, High’s love for the University of Arkansas will live on through her gift of \$3 million in her will and estate plans. She created the Octa N. High Endowed Scholarship Fund in the programs of anthropology, biological sciences, and chemistry and bio-chemistry. Recipients will be referred to as Octa N. High Scholars.

“We greatly appreciate the generosity shown by Ms. High,” said Brad Choate, vice chancellor for university advancement. “As a 1933 graduate, she

undoubtedly saw the University of Arkansas through a great deal of progress and change. I am confident that Ms. High would be proud of the many academic opportunities her gift will create for students of her alma mater. We are truly grateful for the newly endowed scholarships, and I look forward to seeing these gifts put into action very soon.”

Originally from England, Ark., High taught high school chemistry and physics for several years. Her husband, Bernard, died in the 1950s, and she took over the responsibility of handling the couple’s financial interests. High was one of the

originators of the Twenty Club, a philanthropic organization in West Memphis, Ark., — where she lived from 1938 until her death — and a member of First United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Chi Omega fraternity for women, the Towers of Old Main, the Arkansas Alumni Association and the Heritage Society. ■



Public Art Takes Center Stage

VOLUNTEER ADVISORY GROUP LEADS THE WAY



Atkinson Courtyard



Spirit



Courage to Lead sculpture



Peace Fountain

Chancellor G. David Gearhart has commissioned a new public art oversight advisory committee charged with increasing the amount of art available on campus for public enjoyment. The formation of the committee will help address one of 15 major priorities outlined by the chancellor in a recently published report titled Transparency and Accountability to the People of Arkansas. In that publication, Gearhart cited the need to foster the arts on campus and throughout the region as a key goal to pursue aggressively through the university's sesquicentennial in 2021.

Brad Choate, vice chancellor for university advancement, will chair the committee, whose members include:

- Carolyn Allen, dean, University of Arkansas Libraries
- Edwin Bradberry, community member
- Sarah Busch, student representative
- Anne Diallo, graduate assistant
- Sandy Edwards, associate director, Crystal Bridges Museum of Art
- Curtis Finch, community member
- Lynn Jacobs, art department chair, Fulbright College
- Mike Johnson, associate vice chancellor, facilities management
- Timothy Kral, biological sciences professor, Fulbright College
- Tom Paradise, geosciences professor, Fulbright College
- Don Pederson, vice chancellor for finance and administration
- Bethany Springer, assistant professor of art, Fulbright College
- Suzie Stephens, community member
- Laura Terry, professor, Fay Jones School of Architecture
- Carla Tyson, community member

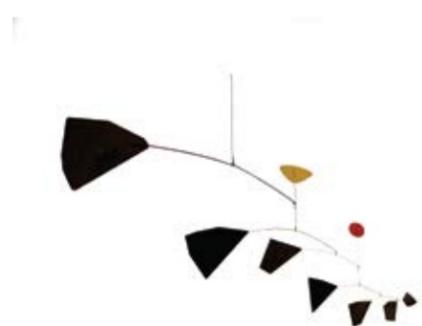
Committee members will serve a two-year term, and they will provide recommendations to the chancellor regarding all public art decisions on campus. Additionally, they will establish processes and criteria for commissioning art and make recommendations for a fundraising program that will secure private gift support and gifts of artwork.

"Our goal is to continue to serve as a cultural resource for the local community and for the state," said Gearhart. "This is one more way we can provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, community members and visitors to get a clear vision of what matters to the University of Arkansas."

"I anticipate great things in the classroom because of this initiative," said Choate. "Faculty members will be encouraged to use art as a supplement to their curricula and to engage students in this process. There is so much to be learned from art, and the real beauty is that every student in every discipline can find his or her individual connection."

Public artwork on the Fayetteville campus has precedent. The Peace Fountain, designed by Fay Jones, is one of the most recognizable landmarks on campus, and

the American Indian-themed sculpture by Denny Haskew titled *Courage to Lead* is prominent near Vol Walker Hall and relatively close to the Trail of Tears, which runs along the southern edge of campus. Other public artwork on campus include the sculpture courtyard of the School of Law, a statue on the fifth floor of Old Main, the physics mobile and the Calder mobile, among other smaller works dispersed throughout campus. ■



Calder Mobile

HYNEMAN BROTHERS GIVE ACCESS TO ARKANSAS

Board of Trustees member Ben Hyneman (B.S.B.A., 1971) and his brother, Hal Hyneman (B.S.B.A., 1977), decided they would like to help young people with financial need attend the University of Arkansas. A \$50,000 gift from Hyneman and Associates Inc. to establish the Frank and Marzee Ann Hyneman Access Arkansas scholarship will do just that.

"We initially established a scholarship in 2006 and decided to upgrade to an Access Arkansas scholarship this year," said Ben Hyneman. "Hal and I liked the idea of giving to students who may have financial need. Maybe this money will help a student who wants to go to Fayetteville, but without the help, he or she would not be able to do so due to financial restrictions."

"It is also a great way to honor our parents.

Neither of them was a graduate of the University of Arkansas, but they were long-time supporters. It seemed like a good way to honor their love for the university, too."

Scholarship recipients will be students who are pursuing degrees in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. Preference will be given to students from Craighead County or Poinsett County in eastern Arkansas.

Access Arkansas is a need-based fundraising effort that began in 2006.

Ben Hyneman is the chairman of Hyneman and Associates Inc. He is married to Janet (Herget) Hyneman (B.A., 1971), and the couple has three children, Brian, Matt and Lindsey. Both sons are University of Arkansas alumni. Hal Hyneman, president of the company, is married to Pam (Norton) Hyneman (B.S.D.H., 1977). They have two children, Hunter and Camden. ■





Giving the Gift of Hog

As son of the late architect Paul Young Jr., Paul Young III, honored a northwest Arkansas leader and close family friend, Don Tyson, with the gift of a hog statue located in front of the John W. Tyson Poultry Science Building. The dedication took place July 2.

Paul Young Jr. assisted in the design of five Arkansas state parks. In 1933, he was assigned to Devil's Den, fell in love with the area, and decided to open an architectural firm, Paul Young & Associates. Over the next 48 years, he designed many of the churches, schools, commercial, industrial and residential structures in the area. He also designed the University of Arkansas Law School and the Delta Gamma House, now University House. In 2006, the Young family decided to memorialize their father by naming the large gallery of Vol Walker Hall in his honor.

Tyson Foods Inc. was founded in Springdale shortly after Paul Young Jr. came to Devil's Den, and today it is the world's largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork. The company has approximately 107,000 team members employed at more than 300 facilities and offices in the United States and around the world. Over the years, the Tyson family has made their mark around the world, and their local impact is evident on the University of Arkansas campus. Some of the areas they support include the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House, the University of Arkansas Press, the Sigma Nu House, the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Oral and Visual History, the Randal Tyson Track Center, and priceless support of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. ■



Don Tyson makes remarks at the event



Hog Statue

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