I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU

for investing in Vanderbilt through endowed gifts. The endowment fuels a perpetual and powerful cycle of opportunities for generations of students and faculty here.

There’s a certain rhythm to academic life. New students arriving each August, alumni returning each October and our faculty inspiring the next legion of scholars. The same is true when it comes to the cycles of giving that underscore our responsibility to nurture and grow this great university.

The foresight of our supporters—both those of our past and today’s philanthropists—is essential as we achieve bold aspirations for Vanderbilt. One that comes to mind quickly is a scholarship established in 1973 by James William Stewart, BE’49, and his wife, Sybil, to honor their late son and support undergraduate engineering students.

That scholarship gift established a legacy that was particularly fortunate for us.

Once it was established, a high school senior named Bruce Evans in Huntington, West Virginia, applied to Vanderbilt. He was selected as a Stewart Scholar, came here and studied both mechanical engineering and economics, graduating in 1981.

His Vanderbilt story didn’t end there. In the 1990s Evans began returning to Vanderbilt, giving talks at the Owen Graduate School of Management and participating in the Board of Trust investment committee. He and his wife, Bridgitt, established their own scholarship in the School of Engineering—providing the same access to a Vanderbilt education that the James W. Stewart Jr. Honor Scholarship had afforded him.

Evans is one of dozens of alumni to date who have benefited from the Stewarts’ generosity. Engineers of many types, lawyers, scientists, neonatologists and surgeons join Evans as former Stewart Scholars. Many of them also give back, creating extraordinary opportunity for bright young minds to come to Vanderbilt and to thrive here. And so the cycle continues.

Today Evans is the chairman of our Board of Trust, a steadfast partner in charting the course for Vanderbilt. As we celebrate the tenth year of Opportunity Vanderbilt—our commitment to undergraduate scholarships—we are reminded of the Stewarts, the Evanses and so many others who foster this special community of learners and leaders through endowed support.

It is up to each of us to decide our own legacy and role in the cycle of giving. Thank you for stepping into the role of visionaries whose generosity both changes lives and strengthens our university’s future.

Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor
VANDERBILT’S VISION IS CHANGING THE WORLD.

We provide a world-class education to every student, preparing them to become leaders who solve big challenges. We drive innovation through groundbreaking research, sharing knowledge that truly impacts lives. Our endowment, backed by a generous community of support, provides the power and promise to carry this vision forward—over the near term and for generations to come.

Bruce R. Evans, BE’81
Chair, Vanderbilt Board of Trust
JAMARIA SOUTHWARD, CLASS OF 2020

Moore Family Scholarship

At an early age, Jamaria Southward of Springfield, Tennessee, determined that she would change the world by empowering children of all backgrounds. Little did she know her path would begin just 30 miles away in Nashville at Vanderbilt University.

Southward's parents taught her and her siblings to dream big about their life goals. Educational opportunities could take each of them wherever they dared. So, she worked hard in high school, graduating with a 4.0 GPA, participating in numerous social clubs and completing more than 130 hours of community service. Southward set her sights on the very best universities—her mom encouraged her to look at Vanderbilt.

The more Southward looked at her college options, the more Vanderbilt stood out. "They are really dedicated to the overall student experience," she says. In Vanderbilt, she found an institution that could not only provide a world-class education but also help her achieve her goals.

A Vanderbilt education might have only been half an hour's drive from home, but as Southward and her family looked at the numbers, it felt like a whole world away. A crucial question persisted—how would she manage the expense?

Southward is a Vanderbilt student today, thanks to the generosity of philanthropic individuals who recognize that talent and tenacity come from all financial backgrounds. As a recipient of the Moore Family Scholarship—established by Betty and Jack Moore in honor of their children—Southward can focus on the road ahead, not the cost of the journey.

With extensive experience volunteering with children, Southward chose to major in child development. Then, while attending a nutrition class, her interest in nursing was piqued—a career path she might not have considered without hearing a lecture from a School of Nursing faculty member. She soon added a minor in medicine, health and society.

"After hearing her talk to our group," she recalls, "I felt like nursing fit more with my science background while still allowing me to focus on pediatrics so I can continue to help children. I didn't know that was a possibility for me until Vanderbilt showed me how."

Over the summer, Southward participated in a new program designed to expose underrepresented students to careers in nursing. By shadowing RNs and practitioners in their work, listening to several lectures in a variety of specialties, and participating in simulation labs, she was able to confirm her desire to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She is the community service chair of the pre-nursing society on campus and plans to pursue a master's of science in nursing.

As she begins her third year, Southward is quick to credit her Vanderbilt experience for deepening her desire to serve children. She is grateful to the Moore family for helping make Vanderbilt a reality for her.

"They were very interested in getting to know me and are genuinely caring people," she says. The assistance she receives as a Moore Scholar helps pave the way for all that lies ahead.

THE MOORE FAMILY

For Betty and Jack Moore, a Vanderbilt legacy is made up of far more than memories from Jack's law school days. It goes beyond their visits to campus as parents. It spans decades and the lives of students across generations.

From Jack Moore's 15 years on the Board of Trust to providing student support, the Moores have always invested in Vanderbilt. Their gift to establish the Moore Family Scholarship brings together their philanthropic spirit, a love for education and a passion for providing opportunity.

"Our goal is to extend the Vanderbilt experience to those who may not otherwise have the means to attend," Jack says. "We were fortunate to see our children's lives changed at Vanderbilt and know we played a role in that." Two of their three children attended Vanderbilt—Shellye Moore Geshke, BS'02, and Jackson Moore Jr., MBA'03. Wilson Moore attended Samford.

The scholarship allows the Moores to play an integral part in other students' lives as well. They are in contact with current and many past Moore Family Scholars, and they cherish their time with them.

"I love to meet one-on-one with these students, to be able to encourage them and to follow them on the road of life," says Betty.

Their is a rich tradition of giving back to the university through both service and philanthropy, and with each new class of scholars, the family's commitment to Vanderbilt deepens.
BUILDING ON A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Nell Henson, JD’18 | Ethel and Cecil Roberts Scholarship
I found in Vanderbilt a place where everyone wants to help each other succeed academically, and as individuals,” Henson says. She is grateful that the Ethel and Cecil Roberts Scholarship helped make it possible for her to attend Vanderbilt, giving her the opportunity to become a more confident, effective leader.

Growing up in Columbus, Georgia, in a family of lawyers, one of five siblings—and the next in line after triplets—Henson found it easy to indulge her natural propensity toward shyness. Flash forward to 2017, and Henson, along with her student legal partner Zoe Reiner, JD’18, is front and center in the spotlight, presenting a compelling oral argument to win the Bass, Berry and Sims Moot Court Competition, taking home the John Cornter Memorial Moot Court Award and a cash prize. After receiving updates each time she advanced in the competition—and found excellence in her own right—Henson started her professional career with her eye on a position someday as an associate at an Atlanta law firm, with her eye on a position someday as an Assistant U.S. Attorney where she can turn trial litigation and dispute resolution. Henson grappled with self-doubt and the overwhelming workload of her first year. She recalls Professor Tracey George, who holds the Charles B. Cox III and Lucy D. Cox Family Chair in Law, as “the person who has always encouraged me to think outside the box.”

Perhaps Professor George sensed my shy demeanor and felt I needed to be more confident. Her act of kindness gave me the courage I needed,” Henson said.

The moment had a lasting impact on Henson’s confidence and her trajectory. She never underestimated the crucial role this community of support played in her success. Thanks to her scholarship, Henson mentions, “I feel a lot more comfortable as I start my professional career.” An added bonus is that, in Atlanta, “There are a number of Vanderbilt alumni, so I know I’ll be surrounded by encouragement.”

She is also motivated by her Vanderbilt experience to help others in her new community. Henson plans to turn her gratitude into giving back through volunteer opportunities at a local mock trial program. “I am excited to work with students to develop the skills Vanderbilt helped me find in myself.”

While Vanderbilt Law School faculty, staff and students consistently garner accolades for placements and rankings, they never lose sight of the powerful personal transformations that professional school can facilitate. For Nell Henson, JD’18, this made all the difference.

NELL HENSON, JD’18
Ethel and Cecil Roberts Scholarship

Two decades into her career, Stephanie Parker, JD’84, a lawyer and partner at Jones Day in Atlanta, found herself seeking a proper way to recognize the tremendous role her grandparents played in her upbringing. Their influence on Parker’s decision to attend Vanderbilt was significant. Her grandmother even drove her to Nashville on her first day. “I wanted to do something that would directly benefit students while honoring my grandparents,” Parker says.

In 2005 she fulfilled this dream while propelling the dreams of others by establishing the Ethel and Cecil Roberts Scholarship, with a preference for recipients from Georgia. “I think my family has been in Georgia since the 1800s, so having that connection was meaningful,” Parker explains, adding, “I know my grandparents would be so proud of the students who have received the scholarship.”

Parker takes immense pride in these students. She appreciates that “Vanderbilt supports a community where people want to stay in touch,” and relishes annual updates from her scholarship recipients. Her interest and involvement with Roberts Scholars such as Nell Henson often extends beyond Commencement.

“It has been great for me to hear about the students’ accomplishments and follow their career paths. It allows me to start a relationship and connect them within my own professional network,” Parker says. While Parker’s scholarship has been fully endowed for several years, she adds to it annually, ensuring that promising legal minds will always have a place at Vanderbilt.

STEPHANIE PARKER, JD’84

2018 Vanderbilt University Endowment Impact Report
The locations of voting sites in a community selected to impact voter turnout?

These are only a few of the questions at the intersection of politics and society that Josh Clinton has helped investigate over the course of his career. His innovative methods of measurement are specifically designed to solve difficult empirical problems and deepen our understanding of American politics.

Clintop serves as professor of political science and co-director of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. In recent years his role has expanded, including appointments to the executive committee for the university’s 10-year Academic Strategic Plan and to the new, trans-institutional Data Science Institute. He is also helping Vanderbilt reimagine its public policy studies through an initiative set in motion by the dean of the College of Arts and Science.

Driven toward service, Clinton also co-directs the Vanderbilt Poll and works as a senior election analyst for NBC News. But, when asked about his national visibility, he immediately calculates the impact of those experiences for his students and for Vanderbilt, saying, “I can bring that right back to my classroom and teaching. I can share access that no one else has.”

For Clinton, accomplishments are weighed relative to their benefit to society and Vanderbilt. “That’s one of the things I love most about this university—the ability to invest my time and effort with great reward,” he says. But his investments here extend beyond scholarship. They shape the discipline of political science or trans-institutional collaboration across colleges and programs. In fact, the achievement that best exemplifies his career is his service to students.

Clinton employs and advises undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows. Doctoral candidates outside his field seek his methodological and research design advice. He supervises a number of senior projects annually and mentors students pursuing advanced degrees at top universities around the country.

When discussing his role in the lives of those he manages and mentors, Clinton’s face beams and his eyes smile with genuine satisfaction. “I really love working to help others achieve their potential,” he says. “It’s not just about me; it’s how do we do the best work?”

As holder of the Abby and Jon Winkelried Chair, Clinton has the latitude to focus energy toward cultivating excellence in others and in his discipline. The generous endowed fund allows him to engage more students in his research, advancing their careers while strengthening Vanderbilt’s reputation. “It frees up my energies to invest in the university, to promote collaborative research, to bring others on board,” he says.

For Clinton, the Winkelried gift does more than fund research and undergird his teaching. It informs and inspires his work. “Knowing that I’m so supported,” he notes with humility and gratitude, “makes me want to go out and invest the same way, to help others have the success I’ve had. They’re equipped because I was equipped. It’s a profoundly powerful motivator.”

In addition to stellar service to his students and Vanderbilt, Clinton gives back to a wide range of areas across campus. His support is exemplary of the cycle of giving that is so powerful.

How do we evaluate the data and statistics being talked about in politics? Why were some pre-election polls so wrong in the 2016 election? How deep are the political divisions in our country? Are the locations of voting sites in a community selected to impact voter turnout?

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THE WINKELRIED FAMILY

When Abby and Jon Winkelried’s son, Matt, decided to attend college outside the Northeast to experience a different way of life, he never expected his college experience to feel so familiar.

“We were immediately struck by the culture and energy of the place,” Abby recalls. “[The Chancellor’s] presence—how everyone knew him—was so different from the typical college experience.” Matt’s siblings soon enrolled—J as an art major and Jen as a graduate nursing student. As Vanderbilt became a part of their family, the Winkelrieds’ commitment to community and philanthropy began to make an impact here.

“We recognized early on that Vanderbilt was on a mission to continuously improve, to become one of the premier research universities in the world,” Jon explains. “When we were asked to get involved, we didn’t hesitate.”

They served as co-chairs for the Parents Leadership Committee in 2011–2012. Jon was named to the Board of Trust, where he chairs its investment committee and has served as vice chairman since 2012. The family spreads their support across the university, notably endowing the Abby and Jon Winkelried Fellowship at Peabody College, their endowed chair in the Department of Political Science and two others in response to the recent Chancellor’s Chair Challenge.

The Winkelrieds promote Vanderbilt’s reputation while preserving its culture for generations. Their gifts reflect their spirit of generosity while fueling academic excellence and innovation. The investment of their family into Vanderbilt is tremendous, the impact of their partnership, incalculable.
If you would like to learn more about Vanderbilt’s endowment, please contact the Office of Stewardship by email at stewardship@vanderbilt.edu or call (615) 343-6196.

We look forward to hearing from you.
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