ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE VANDERBILT COMMUNITY,

thank you for advancing our collective success through an endowed gift. These investments extend the university’s impact and further our mission of driving positive change in the world.

It is gratifying to read the stories in these pages and see how the Vanderbilt experience has inspired our generous alumni and friends to help create and advance programs, research and collaborative opportunities for generations to come.

In my seventeen years at Vanderbilt, I have experienced philanthropy’s impact on this university firsthand. As a scientist and faculty member, department chair, mentor, provost, vice chancellor, interim chancellor and even as a Vanderbilt parent, I have observed how the legacy of giving enables both students and faculty to immerse themselves fully and passionately in their academic pursuits.

We are One Vanderbilt, committed to building a diverse, inclusive community in which we work collaboratively to educate the whole student. As we continue to expand access to a Vanderbilt education—and cultivate achievement—we deepen the possibilities for innovation and discovery across disciplines. In our distinctive living-learning environments, we offer opportunities for personal growth, spur groundbreaking research and celebrate our accomplishments.

Endowed gifts help Vanderbilt invest in the work of some of the brightest faculty and thought leaders of our day, allowing them to focus on the teaching and scholarship that drives Vanderbilt’s global impact.

Together, we are harnessing incredible momentum for Vanderbilt to seize opportunities, tackle challenges and open doors for new possibilities. Your gift to Vanderbilt’s endowment allows us to pursue our mission by investing in the promise of each student and faculty member throughout our ten schools and colleges. Thank you.

Susan R. Wente
Interim Chancellor and Provost
EVERY GIFT HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE STORY.

For me, receiving the James W. Stewart Jr. Honor Scholarship as an undergraduate motivated my decision to give back to Vanderbilt through service and philanthropy. I am grateful for the knowledge, skills and community I found at Vanderbilt, and I am consistently inspired by the ways in which Vanderbilt empowers others. The university’s endowment provides a legacy of opportunities for our world-changing students and faculty. Thank you for joining me to support Vanderbilt’s limitless possibility.

Bruce R. Evans, BE’81, Chairman, Vanderbilt Board of Trust
THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF EDUCATION

Aidan Livingston, Class of 2020 | Searcy Family Scholarship
The first time Aidan Livingston truly felt the power of the Vanderbilt community was during his Introduction to Astronomy course.

As he walked into Professor David Weintraub’s office one day—worried about “burdening” him with basic questions—he was stunned to find that Weintraub was excited to help him.

“He’s this guy who’s a fantastic professor at a great university, who’s writing books left and right, and who’s getting high praise. To have access to people like that, who want to help you and who are great at what they do, is really cool,” Livingston says.

It was a defining moment for him, and indicative of the value Vanderbilt places on faculty mentorship of undergraduate students. Livingston has since come to appreciate the many relationships he has formed with faculty members invested in his personal and educational growth.

As a high school senior from Naperville, Illinois, Livingston visited Nashville for a campus tour on an unseasonably cold fall day. Despite the weather, he immediately felt the warmth of Vanderbilt’s welcoming atmosphere. He was ecstatic when he got his early-decision acceptance letter and learned of the generous financial aid package awarded to him through Opportunity Vanderbilt.

“My mom was at work when I opened it,” Livingston recalls. “It was nice to be able to call her and say ‘I got in, but also...’”

In addition to the acceptance letter, he had also received the Searcy Family Scholarship, established by Conner and Ginny Searcy for students at the College of Arts and Science. Livingston’s father passed away when he was fifteen, so the scholarship support helped ease the financial responsibility for his mother, who was also putting his older brother through college.

“It’s easy in college to get a bit lost,” he says. “It’s kind of this summation of short-term things, like assignments or tests, so it’s nice to pursue something over an extended period of time and see how it turns out.”

With the support of the Searcy Family Scholarship, Livingston has more freedom and flexibility to explore his future beyond Vanderbilt. He followed in his older brother’s footsteps this summer with an investment banking internship in New York and is considering concentrating on international trade for his senior research project. During his final year at Vanderbilt, he is keeping his career options open. Regardless of where he ends up, Livingston is grateful to Vanderbilt and the Searcy family for helping him get there.

When he was ten years old, Conner Searcy, BA’97, made a commitment to himself that his future career would be something that ensured he would never be poor again.

“There was no other higher-level thinking than that,” he recalls. “That’s why I went into business.”

Fortunately he loves his career. However, he hopes for a future where those who follow in his footsteps don’t have to choose between passion and practicality.

Raised by a single mother, Conner attended Vanderbilt thanks to scholarship support. There he met his future wife, Ginny Buxton, BA’96. The couple found success after graduating from the College of Arts and Science, eventually settling in Dallas, Texas, where they started their family and where Conner founded his private equity firm, Trive Capital. Along with their accomplishments came the desire to give back. Vanderbilt topped their list.

“This community had a major impact on us both,” Ginny says. “Vanderbilt was so generous financially, but the school was also very generous with me in helping build my character and bringing me together with like-minded people from across the world. It changed the trajectory of our lives.”

In addition, their mothers—both teachers—raised them to understand the power of education. So when Vanderbilt launched its renowned Opportunity Vanderbilt financial aid initiative, it caught their attention.

In 2008 they established the Searcy Family Scholarship, which helps students like Aidan Livingston attend Vanderbilt without financial concern.

“They’re free to pursue what matches their interests, their intellect and their ability,” Conner says. “That’s how you find young people who will change the world.”
SHAPING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Jasmine Greer, BE'16, MBA Class of 2020 | Cecil and Amy Jorgensen Conlee Diversity Scholarship
When Jasmine Greer started at Vanderbilt University as an undergraduate, she wanted to major in four areas: piano, neuroscience, Spanish and chemistry. She was mulling over her options, when one day she walked into the engineering building and saw “all these students huddled around a circuit board. I said, ‘What is that? I want to do that too.’” Greer recalls. She soon found her place in biomedical engineering. “I really liked how I was able to use my hands and my passion for health care,” Greer says.

Her work in a research lab paved the way to applying to business school. “I was making these products, but I couldn’t see other people using them. I wanted to learn how to turn a product into something people can actually use so I can make a larger impact.”

Greer applied to only one MBA program—at Owen Graduate School of Management. She wanted to stay at Vanderbilt (also the only school of interest for her bachelor’s degree) and came to Owen not only for its top-flight academic program but also its collaborative environment. When she shadowed two Owen students, “I felt instantly that this was a place I wanted to be,” Greer says. She was eager to dive into The Center for Entrepreneurship at Owen and explore her business aspirations in health care and the startup space.

She is able to pursue her MBA in part because she was awarded the Cecil and Amy Jorgensen Conlee Diversity Scholarship. “I feel incredibly blessed to receive this scholarship,” Greer says, “and I want to give back to others by creating a scholarship of my own in the future.”

At Owen, Greer has immersed herself in several entrepreneurial projects. Recently, she competed on a Vanderbilt team for the $1 million Hult Prize—dubbed the “Nobel Prize for Students”—which challenges participants to propose a social enterprise capable of creating 10,000 meaningful jobs for young people. Her team developed the idea for a technology platform called Farm to Market that would enable young people in India to help sell farmers’ produce. Greer and her team won the first round of the competition at Vanderbilt, hosted by the university’s Turner Family Center for Social Ventures, and advanced to the regionals in San Francisco where teams from across the world competed. “To hear everyone else’s ideas was wonderful. I enjoyed being immersed with other young entrepreneurs striving to make a global impact,” Greer says.

This spring Greer also won first place in the Tech Venture Challenge at Vanderbilt Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization. She and her interdisciplinary team created a pitch to investors for $5 million to bring an existing catheter device to market for people with a specific debilitating heart condition.

Following a summer internship at a software development startup in Nashville, Greer returned to Owen this fall as the president of the Owen Black Students Association and senator in the Owen Student Government Association. With these leadership roles, she hopes to foster more inclusion. “Owen’s a great place,” Greer says, “and more diversity would further enrich the experience.”

She also wants to encourage undergraduates and high schoolers who may be considering entrepreneurship. “I’ve always had a heart to want to help someone else,” Greer says. “To guide people in their educational experience in the same way that others have done for me.”

Amy Jorgensen Conlee, MBA’77, and Cecil Conlee, BA’58
Amy Jorgensen Conlee, MBA’77, and Cecil Conlee, BA’58, personally understand the power of philanthropy to transform lives. “We both went to Vanderbilt on scholarship,” Cecil says. “We both benefitted greatly from our experience, and this is something we want to share with others.”

Their generosity and gratitude spurred them to create scholarships at Vanderbilt, including the Cecil and Amy Jorgensen Conlee Diversity Scholarship. The fund supports women from underrepresented populations attending the Owen Graduate School of Management.

“Diversity has increased greatly at the university,” Amy says. “In business, diversity results in better decisions, better companies and a better society.”

She knows firsthand. Amy was one of the first female managing directors at Morgan Stanley’s New York office and recognizes how essential a diverse workforce is in the global marketplace. Amy also served many years as a volunteer teacher in a socioeconomically and racially diverse girls’ school. “Diversity has enriched my life,” Amy reflects.

The Conlees have given not only financial support to Vanderbilt, but also their time, energy and talents. Amy has served in several capacities, including on the Alumni Association Board. She also received the Owen Distinguished Alumni Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership and service. Cecil served on the Board of Trust for twenty-eight years.

The Conlee Scholars have deeply impressed Amy and Cecil, who relish learning about the students’ work in social enterprises, tech start-ups and advocacy. In turn, the students have expressed a desire to give back to others, furthering the generosity exemplified by the Conlees, who have impacted their lives immeasurably.
EXTENDING THE IMPACT OF A VANDERBILT EDUCATION

Gary Kimball, BS ’84, MBA ’85 | Sauereisen Director of the Undergraduate Business Minor
When Elizabeth Sauereisen Allen, BS’83, and trustee Greg Allen, BA’84, learned they could leverage Vanderbilt’s Faculty Fellowship Challenge to make a deeper impact on leaders in the academic areas closest to their hearts, they seized the opportunity.

A philosophy major at Vanderbilt, Greg established the Greg S. Allen Dean’s Faculty Fellow in Philosophy and the Greg S. Allen Chancellor’s Faculty Fellow in Philosophy. Elizabeth learned of a burgeoning Undergraduate Business Minor program and immediately saw the potential in this curricular addition—one that she and their son Erik, BA’15, would likely have pursued.

“It was exciting for our family to give back to our university that provided so many opportunities to us,” says Elizabeth. Greg adds, “As a businessman, I’ve found that a person needs strong analytical and excellent communication skills to be successful. The best training for this is a liberal arts education. To round that out with exposure to specific business concepts is, to me, the making of an exceptional graduate.”

The Sauereisen Director of the Undergraduate Business Minor is named for the business Elizabeth’s family has operated in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for three generations. The Allens both attribute their own success in business to being raised by entrepreneurs.

“The example our parents set for us was one of getting up in the morning and charting your own way with your own company,” Greg says. Elizabeth adds, “Our parents believed the greatest gift you could give your children is a great education. Vanderbilt was a springboard for everything we’ve done in our lives. Now, as I look in the rearview mirror at my own experience, and how I can impact future generations, I get to appreciate it even more.”

Gary Kimball, BS’84, MBA’85, is a “Double Dore” who truly embodies the concept of Vanderbilt for Life. As a student, he was a resident of the Carmichael Towers, an economics major and a member of Vanderbilt’s 1982 Hall of Fame Bowl football team. Now, as the Sauereisen Director of the new Undergraduate Business Minor program, he offers a portrait of how homegrown talent can help the university evolve to meet the needs of emerging leaders.

By his estimate, Kimball’s experience as an undergraduate set him up nicely. “Vanderbilt gave me three big gifts—my wife, my best friend and a great education,” Kimball says. “Now, it feels like a gift to be able to spend time here, paying it forward by impacting students’ lives.” After Owen, Kimball pursued a successful career in finance. In 2007 he sold his interest in the company where he was a partner and took stock of his next move. He was initially drawn to the idea of returning to Vanderbilt as a student in the Master of Liberal Arts and Science program. Instead, his former professor William Damon and then-provost Richard McCarty convinced him that his experience as a leader and entrepreneur made him a valuable asset to the faculty. After several years of teaching, Kimball joined the committee to help develop the Undergraduate Business Minor program. In 2018, he was named to the position of director.

“The magic of the business minor,” Kimball says, “is how we combine the four undergraduate schools and Owen Graduate School of Management in a uniquely trans-institutional way to deliver robust business training that complements the liberal arts education.” Having graduate school faculty teaching the fundamentals courses distinguishes the program, and Owen, in turn, has access to undergraduate students who may wish to continue their studies at the graduate level at Owen. A strong proponent of balancing theory and practice, Kimball is focused on expanding the program with opportunities to engage students outside of the classroom—to the tune of one hundred or more guest speakers and presenters a year for lectures, workshops and informal, one-on-one networking. The business minor has been extraordinarily well received by students. After just four semesters, Kimball says with a laugh, “we definitely do not have a demand issue.”

Vanderbilt is an anchor for Kimball and his wife, Carroll, BA’84. In return, they are committed to giving back to their alma mater. Carroll is a former member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust and Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board president, and continues to support the College of Arts and Science. In addition to his role as a teacher and mentor, Gary directs philanthropic support toward student-athletes and is a frequent fixture at their games.

Kimball’s gratitude to the Allens—also an alumni couple—for the gift that named the directorship underscores his belief that, "Vanderbilt alumni remain connected to the university and to each other." He adds, "To have the position endowed makes a strong statement to Vanderbilt and to the broader community that this program adds immense value for our students."

Elizabeth Sauereisen Allen, BS’83, and Greg Allen, BA’84

When Elizabeth Sauereisen Allen, BS’83, and trustee Greg Allen, BA’84, learned they could leverage Vanderbilt’s Faculty Fellowship Challenge to make a deeper impact on leaders in the academic areas closest to their hearts, they seized the opportunity.

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If you would like to know 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.