

University of Georgia Foundation



March 2006

Chairman's Letter

Read Morton

Dear Friends:

It was a pleasure to see all of you at our board meeting in Atlanta last month. Your presence and participation in the respective committee meetings and in our full board session are sincerely appreciated. I think as a body, we came away with a great sense of energy and enthusiasm for the future of our organization and the role we will play in helping further the University of Georgia's standing as an outstanding academic institution.

With that in mind, I would like to bring you up to date on recent news from the foundation.

UGA Foundation Continues Strong Financial Performance

A tip 'o the hat to our outstanding investment committee headed by Joe Frierson which has posted impressive numbers once again. For the 12 month period ended January 31, University of Georgia Foundation investments are up 16.6% and for the first seven months of fiscal year 2006 (which began July 1, 2005) those same investments have grown by 12.2%.

This great news comes on the heels of another good showing in the annual ratings published by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). With a nominal rate of return of 10.7% in fiscal 2005, we rank in the top third of all foundations nationwide, extending a long run of investment success. For the most recent ten-year period, our average rate of return has been almost 10%, which places us comfortably ahead of the gains registered by all major market indexes during the same timeframe.

University of Georgia Foundation Transfers UGA Real Estate Foundation

With an eye toward an arrangement that would offer the greatest benefit to the University of Georgia, and after very serious consideration, the Board of Trustees approved transferring all assets and debt of the UGA Real Estate Foundation to the University of Georgia Research Foundation. The consensus of our board was that this move would better position the Real Estate Foundation to assist the university in completing its current plans, including the Tate Center construction project and other real estate initiatives.

I think we can look back on the Real Estate Foundation during the time it operated under the auspices of the University of Georgia Foundation and say "well done." Evidence of the accomplishments realized through the Real Estate Foundation can be seen throughout campus from East Campus Village and the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center to the Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences and the Carlton Street Parking Deck.

From our perspective there are two major benefits that result from the transfer: we eliminate substantially all of the University of Georgia Foundation's debt and, we can more clearly focus on our primary mission of supporting and enhancing academics at the university. We wish our colleagues at the UGA Real Estate Foundation the greatest success as they move forward.

New Board Positions to be Filled

We have been blessed in recent months to add some outstanding new board members and we're looking forward to filling additional openings by inviting new candidates with diverse cultural and business backgrounds. Your input and suggestions would be sincerely appreciated. Send an email to Bill Young, chair of the nominating committee (byoung@gwc-atl.com) if you have an individual in mind that should be considered for board membership.

Foundation Fellows Interview Weekend is a Success

We had a great interview weekend in Athens in February and, as always, we had an exceptional group of young people vying for Foundation Fellowships. For those of you who haven't attended an interview weekend, it's quite interesting. Interview teams are made up of five to six members of UGA faculty, staff, UGA Foundation trustees and alumni of the Foundation Fellows program.

This year, each team observed and evaluated about a dozen students who, after attending a lecture on the role of the free press in a democratic society, attended a faculty-led seminar where they were given the assignment of developing an essay based on their interpretation of the lecture. Out of 67 participants, 29 were offered Foundation Fellowships with as many as 25 expected to enroll. All of the other finalists were offered Ramsey Honors Scholarships from which the university hopes to enroll 15 new students this fall.

Joining the activities as interviewers on behalf of the University of Georgia Foundation were trustees Jane Lanier, George-Ann Knox, Tommy Lawhorne, Peter Shedd and Jane Willson. Trustee Joe Frierson joined the Friday evening dinner and will host an interesting and informative event for foundation fellows in the near future – details on that to come in a future newsletter.

My sincere thanks to each of these trustees for a job well done and for serving the foundation in one of its most important annual events!

Update on Current University of Georgia Foundation Fellows

It's no secret that the Foundation Fellows program attracts some the world's best students to Athens and that many fellows go on to great things after earning their degrees from the University of Georgia. Two such individuals are currently serving as junior fellows with the prestigious Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing cooperation between nations and promoting active international engagement by the United States.

Ben Bain (2005, AB Political Science), whose focus is in nuclear non-proliferation and **Kate Vyborny (2005 AB International Affairs; AB Economics)** whose background is in trade, equity and development, were selected from nominees at more than 300 institutions of higher learning across America. Junior fellows provide research assistance to endowment associates working on projects such as nuclear non-proliferation, democracy building, trade, U.S. leadership, China-related issues and Russian/Eurasian studies. Junior fellows have the opportunity to conduct research for books, co-author journal articles and policy papers, participate in meetings with high-level officials, contribute to congressional testimony and organize briefings attended by well-known scholars, journalists and government officials.

New Web Site Coming

If you've ever visited the University of Georgia Foundation Web site, you've probably noticed that it's fairly basic in look and even somewhat difficult to find. After a thorough review, we felt the time was right to develop a site that is more easily accessible, (i.e., obtaining a logical address www.ugafoundation.org) and more user-friendly, and that truly reflects the organization's ideals and vision. As such, we have initiated work on a new Web site that should be completed this spring. We'll provide details as the work progresses.

Reinforcing the Foundation

I would like to prevail upon each of you to help spread the good word in your communities about the University of Georgia Foundation. There is a misconception held by some that we are no longer active in supporting the university. This, of course, couldn't be further from the truth, and as such, we need everyone on the board to reinforce to their constituencies that we are alive and quite well, still in full operation and here for the long term. People need to know that we are a primary avenue through which donors can support academics at the University of Georgia and that whether contributions are made through the University of Georgia Foundation or the Arch Foundation, we are deeply appreciative of their generosity.

In closing, let me reiterate a message from our board meeting last month; the future of the University of Georgia Foundation is bright thanks to the hard work of folks like you who are willing to volunteer time and effort so that we can support our beloved university. We couldn't do it without you. You have my sincere appreciation, and here's hoping the "Luck O' the Irish" is with you and your loved ones!

Read Morton

The University of Georgia Foundation Executive Committee

•Rachel C. Conway •Joseph C. Frierson, Jr. •Samuel D. Holmes •Wyckliffe A. Knox, Jr.
•Jane Darden Lanier •C. Read Morton, Jr. •Harriet Higgins Warren •William D. Young, Jr.