The University of Georgia is fortunate to be supported by loyal donors whose gifts make a meaningful difference for our students, faculty and staff and the communities they serve. Stewardship through reporting and recognition shows our sincerest appreciation to those who help our university improve lives for years to come.

**ENDEWED FUND REPORTING**

Financial endowment reports are generated annually for funds that have reached the financial minimum. Reports are personalized to provide a summary of each fund’s balance, disbursement, investment return, and fees within the previous fiscal year (July 1–June 30). In addition to financial reporting, donors may receive special messages of gratitude from students, faculty, and staff who have benefited from the gift, but this cannot be guaranteed. It is possible to add recipients of this type of stewardship so that family members, honoraries, and other major donors can see the fund’s annual impact on the university.

**GIVING SOCIETIES**

Cumulative Giving Societies

Those giving societies recognize donors whose cumulative generosity has made a significant impact on our university: Crystal Arch Society, Abraham Baldwin Society, and 1785 Society. These societies recognize donors whose gifts have reached $10 million, $5 million, and $1 million, respectively.

As part of the university’s recognition of their considerable giving, members of these societies receive a welcome packet with a presidential letter, an invitation to the annual Presidents Club Reception, a listing on the historic donor wall in the Presidents Garden at Old College on North Campus, and additional stewardship that may occur from the schools and colleges that the donor supports.

Qualifying Gifts — Recognition into a Cumulative Giving Society is calculated by university-wide lifetime giving and includes gifts made to Athletic Ticket Priority funds. Open pledge balances and documented planned gifts do not qualify donors for Cumulative Giving Society membership. Planned gifts qualify upon realization.

Presidents Club

Presidents Club honors alumni and friends whose annual support makes an immediate impact at UGA. The Presidents Club recognizes donors who give $1,500 or more each fiscal year. The Presidents Club recognizes donors at four levels: Bronze ($1,500–$4,999), Silver ($5,000–$9,999), Gold ($10,000–$24,999), and Platinum ($25,000 and above). Their collective generosity serves as an endorsement of UGA and our commitment to inspire future leaders, advance global research, and improve lives everywhere.

As part of the university’s recognition of their giving, Presidents Club members receive a Presidents Club lapel pin and decal, a bi-annual digital newsletter detailing the impact of the Presidents Club’s generosity, and an invitation to the Presidents Club Reception.

Qualifying Gifts — Recognition into Presidents Club is calculated by university-wide annual giving during the fiscal year (July 1–June 30) and does not include gifts made to Athletic Ticket Priority funds. Open pledge balances and documented planned gifts do not qualify donors for Presidents Club membership.

Heritage Society

Heritage Society recognizes the generosity of alumni and friends of the university that have documented a deferred gift to benefit the University of Georgia, University of Georgia Foundation, or one of its affiliated organizations. Heritage Society membership demonstrates that deferred giving is a superb avenue through which to support the university, its students, and faculty in perpetuity.

Qualifying Gifts — Individuals are automatically welcomed into Heritage Society once they have documented a commitment through any of the following gift vehicles: bequest, retirement plan beneficiary designation, life insurance beneficiary designation, irrevocable life insurance gift, charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable remainder unitrust, charitable lead trust, or life estate reserved (real property).
A bright future for the University of Georgia means a bright future for our state, nation and world and endowments are critical to secure that future. Gifts made to endowments are invested rather than spent, and the University of Georgia Foundation works to maximize the return on investment and create funds specific areas as designated by the endowment’s creator. Over time, investment appreciation of an endowed gift has a powerful impact on future spending amounts distributed by the endowment.

The graph below illustrates an endowment’s cumulative spending using our spending rules and actual annual portfolio returns over the past 30 years versus a $1,000,000 gift made every year over the same time period. As you can see, cumulative spending generated from an endowment has the potential to provide significantly more financial support to UGA than spending the same annual gift each year.

The UGA Foundation Investment Committee is responsible for the oversight and management of the Long-Term Fund on behalf of the University of Georgia. To accomplish this objective, the goal of the Foundation is to generate a total return that will exceed spending, and the University and the UGA Foundation work to maximize the return on investment and create income that funds specific areas as designated by the endowment’s creator. Over time, investment appreciation of an endowed gift has a powerful impact on future spending amounts distributed by the endowment.

The long-term goal of the Foundation is to ensure the University of Georgia is able to provide students the best possible education and research opportunities. Endowment spending that is allocated for the purpose of student support is determined by the University’s tuition, fees, and other costs that are necessary to provide an education. Endowment spending that is allocated for the purpose of faculty/staff enhancement is determined by the University’s compensation levels and other costs that are necessary for a competitive compensation program.

The endowment minimum depends on the type of support the endowment will provide. UGA has several endowment options available at the $25,000 level. A list of standard endowment minimums may be found here:

- Faculty/Staff Enhancement: give.uga.edu/faculty/staffenhancement
- Student Support: give.uga.edu/studentsupport

How long do I have to reach the endowment minimum? To establish an endowment immediately, you may have up to five years to make gifts to meet the endowment minimum. You may also make plans to establish an endowment at a later date via a deferred gift such as a bequest or trust or by making the Foundation a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. For more information on making a gift contact your development officer.

When will my gift start making an impact? Your endowment may start generating an annual spending allocation once the fund agreement is signed by all parties, the endowment minimum is met, and the money has been invested for one year. If the fund agreement has been signed by all parties, you may provide a current year gift(s) to be spent before the endowment minimum is met. The current year gift(s) will not count toward reaching the endowment minimum.

If I make a gift to the spendable account associated with my endowed fund, is it reflected on my financial endowment report? Yes. Each year, endowment reports are provided to show all activity in your endowed fund. This includes gifts for investment as well as any spendable gifts provided for immediate support.

How do I know the fund is being spent in accordance with my intentions and objectives? The UGA Foundation is required to use your gift as intended. The intent should be clearly stated and agreed upon by all parties. A fund agreement is created to describe the purpose of the gift and to document the mutual approval of the donor(s), the Dean of the benefitting school or college, the University of Georgia, and the UGA Foundation. A fund agreement serves as a guide to ensure that funds are deposited correctly, spent appropriately, and stewarded accordingly.

May I choose the award recipient of my endowed fund? In order for your gift to be spendable as determined by the IRS, you must relinquish all control over the gift. However, you may include criteria in the fund agreement to help guide the allocation committee when choosing the recipient. The criteria must be ascertainable and must be allowable by federal and state laws and regulations and UGA policy.