THOSE WHO DREAM, DO.
It has been an unusual spring semester for Auburn University—and for the world—as we implemented social distancing and remote operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students completed the semester through online instruction, faculty utilized innovative methods of teaching, and most employees worked from home. It was a unique experience for all of us; and although we changed the manner in which we worked, we did not waver in our commitment to securing a sound future for Auburn University and expressing deep gratitude for the Auburn Family’s generosity.

The pandemic also has had a significant impact on our global economy, the implications of which we likely will see for some time. Nevertheless, this publication highlights the Auburn University Foundation’s fundraising efforts and financial position for FY19, and we are very pleased to report that we had a highly successful fiscal year. Through 86,843 gifts, the Auburn Family provided $158,426,608 in support of the university, surpassing our goal of $140 million.

Every gift from our alumni, friends, and corporate and foundation partners, regardless of its purpose, ultimately enhances our greatest asset—Auburn students. This report provides a glimpse into the profound impact your giving has on our students and the amazing educational experience for which Auburn is known.

With Jane’s retirement in June, this will be her final report to you of the activities associated with the Auburn University Foundation. She expresses her thanks for the honor of serving Auburn University and the privilege of working with members of the board of directors who bring invaluable expertise to bear on the important work of the foundation.

On behalf of the generations of students who not only will dream of, but also will create their own Auburn stories, we extend our sincere appreciation to you, our donors, for your generosity and dedication.
Throughout Auburn University’s rich history, one defining element has always remained — **THE AUBURN STUDENT.**

With different backgrounds, life experiences, and aspirations, our students are all distinctive. They represent the very best of Auburn — a competitive edge on the field and in the classroom, new opportunities after years of military service, the potential for knowledge and discovery, an education that once was only a dream, and experiences that enable our students to soar, literally and figuratively.

In these pages are just a few stories that demonstrate the Auburn Family’s generosity and the role it plays in fostering the patriotism, hard work, determination, and ingenuity of our students.

The Auburn University Foundation’s FY19 Annual Report celebrates the success of another fundraising year but, more importantly, reminds us of the ageless character, formidable spirit, and many faces of the Auburn student.
Ashton Alexander had a childhood that was anything but conventional. Growing up in “the horse world” meant homeschooling and long hours at the local barn. By 12, she was flying to a horse show by herself, becoming independent and self-sufficient. The first 18 years of her life were spent in the equestrian community of Ocala, Florida. Developing into a fierce competitor, Ashton earned a treasure trove of junior equestrian titles from shows on the east and west coasts and states in between. At a young age, she already had attained some of the greatest achievements in the sport. Her future was set. Or was it?

The equestrian world of junior and professional competition consisted of only individual pursuits. Ashton had never been part of a team. And she very much wanted to be. Accepting an equestrian scholarship to attend Auburn provided that opportunity, but also meant stepping off her current path toward becoming a professional equestrian. She never hesitated.

“You learn so many things about yourself and the world when you step outside of your comfort zone,” Ashton said. “I had never been in a real classroom before I came to Auburn, and I almost had a panic attack during that first class. I look back now and can’t believe how far I’ve come and all that I’ve experienced.”

Among her most memorable Auburn experiences is the team’s bid for a sixth national championship in 2019. Ashton recalls the pivotal moment that determined the outcome—a moment she had prepared for her whole life.

“So I had hoped that it wouldn’t come down to me,” she said. “And maybe I could’ve accepted not winning my point if it were just about me. But I wasn’t going to let my teammates down. It was my last ride on the team, and I just wasn’t going to let them down.”

She scored the winning point that claimed the NCAA national championship title for Auburn—again. The win also secured another milestone for the team—the first time any equestrian program has completed a full season with no losses.

“With the Auburn Creed, every student athlete here wants what’s best for Auburn,” John and Kristie Thomas have given generously toward Auburn’s equestrian facilities because they believe in the champion spirit, strong work ethic, and bold determination that define Auburn’s equestrian team.

“Just by working with Coach Greg Williams and his staff, and their ability to recruit and inspire outstanding student athletes,” said John, president and CEO of Physicians Realty Trust. “They demonstrate their excellence in their ability to practice, study, maintain high GPAs, and earn six national championships.”

Ashton, who earned a degree in entrepreneurship and family business last year, is pursuing a master’s degree in adult education with a minor in sports management. She won’t be stepping back into the professional equestrian world after she graduates, however. Being on a team and learning about other student athletes created new dreams for her and a love of other sports. She is ready for entirely new challenges, including working in the world of sports marketing for a major athletic franchise.

“I’m not completely abandoning my future as a professional in the equestrian world,” Ashton said. “That world’s still there for me. But now I know there are some other things I want to do, too. And then maybe I’ll go back to the horse world and shake things up a bit.”

“You learn so many things about yourself and the world when you step outside of your comfort zone.”

Ashton Alexander
Ben Barrontine, a sergeant first class in the Alabama National Guard, comes from a long line of soldiers — and Auburn fans.

After serving in the infantry and with a special operations unit, deploying all around the world, and fulfilling his ambition to serve, Ben realized a dream 10 years in the making — he enrolled in Auburn University.

“I’ll never forget my first day as a student,” he said. “I got here around 5:30 a.m. because I couldn’t sleep — I was so excited. Auburn was the only place I had ever wanted to go to college. Auburn was the only place I had ever wanted to go to college. As I walked down Donahue, the sun was coming up around campus. I stopped to take it in because it was absolutely perfect, just like I’d always imagined it would be.”

Generations of student veterans like Ben have walked Auburn’s campus, replacing their military rucksacks with backpacks. Described as nontraditional students, they are on average 10 to 15 years older than typical college students, and unlike most 18-year-olds, have garnered a lifetime of experiences before they walk into an Auburn classroom.

Ben’s first day encapsulates one of the extraordinary things about student veterans — they have a deep appreciation for the privilege of being at Auburn. Most of them have had a less-than-direct path to the university. Deployments, training, and family responsibilities often lead veterans to put their education on the back burner. Because of this, their gratitude for the Auburn student experience runs deep, but so does their need for extra support and resources.

That’s where the Auburn Veterans Resource Center (AVRC) comes in. The AVRC helps student veterans balance classes with families, jobs, and, for some, service-related trauma and disabilities. But it’s the unofficial role the center plays in bridging the gap between their days of military service and their current lives at Auburn that resonates most with students like Ben.

Ben will graduate in May and embark on an invitation-only opportunity — training to work in federal law enforcement. Some of his most meaningful experiences are those from his time on the Plains. Last year, he welcomed his father, a retired U.S. Army colonel with more than 30 years of service, into the ranks of student veterans at Auburn.

“My dad’s service has had a huge impact on me,” Ben said. “He was stationed at the Pentagon on 9/11, so obviously that really affected me as a kid. But also, I grew up wanting to be G.I. Joe and my favorite movie was John Wayne’s ‘Green Beret.’ A lot of that was because of my dad.”

THE PATRIOT

400 STUDENT VETERANS AT AUBURN

RANKED IN TOP 5% OF BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS

“Ginger and I believe we owe our student veterans a debt of gratitude, and our investment in Auburn’s Veterans Resource Center allows us to support them the way they’ve supported so many through their military service.”

WALT WOLTOSZ ’69, ’77
Chairman and Retired President & CEO
Simulations Plus, Inc.

“Ben and I believe we owe our student veterans a debt of gratitude, and our investment in Auburn’s Veterans Resource Center allows us to support them the way they’ve supported so many through their military service.”

WALT WOLTOSZ ’69, ’77
Chairman and Retired President & CEO
Simulations Plus, Inc.
Shelby Osburn chases innovation in the same lab where she first fell in love with scientific discovery as an undergraduate student.

A researcher in the Molecular and Applied Sciences Laboratory in Auburn’s School of Kinesiology, Shelby becomes completely animated when she talks about her research into the Long Interspersed Nuclear Element-1 or LINE-1 gene.

“LINE-1 is a very interesting gene,” explained the Oxford, Alabama native. “When you think about genes, you think about them in terms of being in charge of making you who you are – you get a copy from your mom and a copy from your dad. Those are protein coding genes. But the LINE-1 gene – it’s different.”

Shelby, a doctoral student in exercise physiology, is committed to thoroughly exploring this complicated gene, often linked to muscle degeneration. Her research examines the role exercise can play in combating muscle loss caused by LINE-1. Her pursuit is ambitious and has the potential to improve the quality of life and longevity of the world’s aging population.

People lose muscle mass at a consistent rate as they age. Because muscles are responsible for moving, getting out of the chair, and other basic tasks, losing even a moderate amount of muscle mass could impair the ability to do these daily tasks.

“We know this gene increases in muscle tissue with age, and we think it’s contributing to muscle loss and tissue inflammation that breaks down muscle proteins,” Shelby said. “The focus of my dissertation is to do a life-long exercise study, hoping to prove that in addition to being good for you throughout your life, exercise as you age produces a better quality of life.”

Mike Roberts, associate professor in the School of Kinesiology, directs the laboratory in which students like Shelby find practical solutions for today’s issues.

“What inspires me and what I believe also inspires students like Shelby is a pursuit of truth,” he said. “The observations we make here lead to bigger discoveries and findings. And that leads to real solutions for people; and then to more research.”

Shelby would not be forging the path she is on today had she not had the opportunity to pursue research experiences as an undergraduate. Student research opportunities are essential to shaping future discovery leaders, as well as advancing the pursuit of knowledge across the university.

These experiences often are possible because of the generosity of donors like Compound Solutions, Inc., the Center for Applied Health Sciences, and JUNV3 Holdings, LLC. These companies work together to research, develop, and bring to market products with real-world benefits for people in the areas of health, nutrition, and fitness.

Their investment in the Molecular and Applied Sciences Laboratory is empowering Auburn to produce future scientists whose quest for innovation changes lives.

“My hope is that our collaboration with Dr. Roberts and his students will inspire unending curiosity, specifically for the science we’re focusing on now, but also for science in general. If students stay curious and passionate about science, they’re going to be able to make a huge impact on the world they live in.”

DR. HECTOR LOPEZ
Chief Medical Officer and Partner
Center for Applied Health Sciences and JUNV3 Holdings, LLC.

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SHELBY OSBURN
THE INNOVATOR

4,765 GRADUATE STUDENTS
1,893 GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED LAST YEAR
Jarious Avery grew up too quickly.

That’s what happens when you’re orphaned at age 11. But he’s not the type to feel sorry for himself. In fact, the Auburn University freshman and biomedical sciences major credits that defining experience with giving him the determination to make his dreams come true.

“You just can’t stay sad for the rest of your life,” Jarious said. “Don’t get me wrong, you have to grieve, but once you get past that, you have to keep going. You have to live your life.”

He grew up in Gadsden, Alabama. After his mom died, he moved in with his older brother, AJ, a welder by trade and his younger brother’s caregiver by necessity. It was AJ who raised Jarious from then on. And it was AJ who helped him move into his dorm room in Auburn last summer.

“AJ was proud when I told him about receiving scholarships to Auburn, but I don’t think it really hit him until we got here,” Jarious said. “He didn’t want to leave. He told me, ‘I want you to make us proud.’ But then he looked at me and said, ‘No, what I hope is that you just make yourself happy, okay?’”

In the years before coming to Auburn, Jarious began his pursuit of happiness with vague dreams of attending college and pursuing a career in medicine. As a first-generation college student, he was alone in the complicated process, navigating every decision by himself — from which school to attend to admission requirements and financial aid possibilities. He weighed many options and then set his course for Auburn.

But college is expensive. Without financial aid, it is often outside the grasp of students like Jarious. Donors, including Wendy and Ed Thomas, are making dreams come true for students with financial need.

Dr. Ed Thomas ’96
Charles W. Barkley Endowed Professor of Physics
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies
College of Sciences and Mathematics

“Attending a university is challenging for a lot of students. We want them to be able to focus on what’s important — getting their education — and not on juggling their studies with working so they can pay for tuition.”

“Through a university endowed scholarship, I was able to focus on my studies and get involved in different programs.”

Jarious Avery, 2019
Kendall Higdon and Caitlyn Miller have flown the friendly skies around Auburn for years.

Known as the pinnacle of women's air racing, the annual Air Race Classic hosted more than 50 teams. And Auburn's War Eagle Women's Orange team finished second-place overall and first among college teams.

But the race was more than just a competition for the recent graduates of Auburn University's professional flight program. They weren't expecting the level of camaraderie or the opportunities to ask so many women aviators about their experiences and careers, Caitlyn said. "It was incredible to see women from all backgrounds and how aviation has played such a pivotal role in their lives.”

For Kendall, who had competed in the race once before, this time was very different. "I went into it more comfortable, more competitive, and more focused, especially being supported so strongly by the Auburn Family,” she said. "We wanted to do well and show them that their support was worth it and really have it pay off.”

Their race was made possible, in part, by 163 generous donors who participated in Tiger Giving Day, Auburn's 24-hour day of giving, held in February. Among these donors is Nelda Lee, a pioneer in aviation and a veteran of the Air Race Classic. In 1969, she became only the second woman to receive an Auburn degree in aerospace engineering. She blazed trails in aviation as a McDonnell Douglas Corp., now Boeing, design and flight test engineer for 45 years, racking up firsts, including the distinction of being the first woman to record flying time in an F-15. She's been there, done that. That's why she wanted to help Caitlyn and Kendall seize their opportunity to do the same.

"I knew firsthand what these two women were about to undertake,” Nelda said. "I knew their dreams, goals, expectations, shortfalls, and joy. So, when this appeared as a Tiger Giving Day project, I was glad to help and felt fortunate that I was able to give.”

The significance of Nelda's involvement was not lost on Caitlyn and Kendall. They already were huge fans. "She’s an incredible role model,” Caitlyn said. "I knew who she was from my first day in the program. Ms. Lee has had such an impact on so many people. We just couldn’t be more thankful for her support.”

Since graduation in 2018 and 2019 respectively, Kendall and Caitlyn have continued their training at Auburn, working as certified flight instructors while they prepare to pursue careers as commercial airline pilots. As Nelda has been for them, Caitlyn and Kendall recognize that they have the opportunity to inspire countless young girls.

"Even if they don’t want to pursue aviation as a career, I think it can be a real light for them to see women in typically male-dominated fields having so much fun and doing well,” Caitlyn said.

"We take being role models very seriously” said Kendall. "We want to set a good example and show young girls that this is attainable. It’s not like wanting to be a Disney princess. Being a pilot is something you can actually do. But I guess you can still hold on to all the qualities of a princess, too. They’re not mutually exclusive.”
Through the Annual Fund, donors — who make gifts of less than $25,000 — provide consistent support for Auburn students, faculty, and programs.

Each year, loyal members of the Auburn Family support the university through gifts of all sizes. These annual gifts not only demonstrate the dedication of our alumni and friends, but also provide vital resources for a multitude of initiatives and programs that are the foundation of the unique Auburn student experience.

Through online contributions, the student call center, and effective appeals highlighting the positive impact of philanthropy, donors invested in a variety of areas across campus. In FY19, gifts to the Annual Fund totaled $5,260,960 from 22,667 donors, including 5,400 new donors.

“\textit{A big part of my personal Auburn experience is being a student caller in Auburn’s Call Center for the past two years. I always enjoy talking to our alumni and hearing the stories and memories of their time at Auburn. I am amazed at their generosity and so proud to see how excited they are to support our students through their gifts to the university.}”

\textbf{BROOKE BAYUGA}
Junior
School of Nursing
### FY19 ENDOowment

**Value:** $796,002,342<br>**Increase:** +0.40%<br>**Over FY18:** $708,242

**Endowment Distribution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Endowment</td>
<td>$25,787,563</td>
<td>$23,850,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programmatic Support</strong></td>
<td>$11,309,393</td>
<td>$10,083,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Support</strong></td>
<td>$7,776,708</td>
<td>$7,232,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility Support</strong></td>
<td>$4,771,462</td>
<td>$4,534,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$23,850,184</td>
<td>$21,850,184</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Endowment Distribution by Designated Purpose:**

- Colleages and Schools: 43%
- College of Agriculture: 38%
- Colleges and Schools: 33%
- College of Engineering: 62%
- College of Arts and Sciences: 38%
- College of Applied Sciences: 19%
- Total: 100%

**Endowment Distribution by Designated Area:**

- Colleages and Schools: 65%
- College of Agriculture: 30%
- College of Engineering: 12%
- Athletics: 1%
- Total: 100%

**Endowment Portfolio Value Growth Over 20 Years:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value (in Thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$796,002,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$708,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$796,002,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the source of permanent, self-sustaining funding, gifts to establish endowments provide great opportunity for Auburn. Because these funds are invested and the generated income is used to support the university, endowments produce stable and flexible support for students, programs, and faculty.

### FY19 FINANCIALS

**Consolidated Statements of the Foundation’s Financial Position (in thousands):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$653,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$642,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$10,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Gains (Losses)</td>
<td>$-7,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Changes in Net Assets</td>
<td>$11,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenue & Other Support (in thousands):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$60,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$51,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Revenue</td>
<td>$9,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditures (in thousands):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$56,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Expense</td>
<td>$70,824</td>
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The following represents the condensed financials for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively, for the Auburn University Foundation and the Auburn University Real Estate Foundation, Inc. The consolidated financials were audited by Warren Averett, LLC of Montgomery, Alabama, and the firm issued an unmodified opinion dated December 17, 2019.

**Board Members:**

- Leonard B. Covington, Jr.
- C. Greer Covington, Jr.
- Dan R. Covington, Jr.
- J. Barbour Covington
- Mary H. Covington

**Board Support:**

- Words M. Spinney Foundation Secretary
- Lauren D. Hendrix '96 Foundation Assistant Treasurer
- Regesa B. (Geo) Jeff '86 CPA Foundation Assistant Treasurer
- Shawn Morris '13 Foundation Assistant Treasurer
- Mark R. Thomson, CPA Foundation Assistant Treasurer

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