

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FY2021



**FAU**  
FOUNDATION INC.  
Florida Atlantic University



## MESSAGE FROM THE FAU FOUNDATION



Dear Friends of FAU,

Sixty years ago, Florida Atlantic University was founded as a new kind of American university, one that would deliberately throw off the ivy-covered trappings of the past and invent better ways of making higher education available to those who sought it. Three years later, when construction was completed and FAU was ready to open its doors, then-President of the United States Lyndon B. Johnson gave inspirational opening remarks that spoke to that mission, saying, "A great challenge awaits you and this faculty. You're starting here today new, which I think gives you infinite opportunity."

In this year's Annual Impact Report, you'll learn how donors have helped us answer President Johnson's challenge by addressing today's most pressing issues, from education to healthcare to the environment.

As FAU celebrates this monumental anniversary, now is the time to show the world our potential, expand our community impact and unleash our solutions to benefit the greater good. You have helped fuel powerful possibilities for our students, faculty and staff — even amidst the ongoing challenges of our current times. Thank you for all you have helped accomplish. Your generosity keeps us filled with hope for the next 60 years and beyond.

Yours in Philanthropy,

**Christopher J. Delisio**  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
and CEO of the FAU Foundation, Inc.

**Steve Schmidt**  
Chair of the FAU Foundation, Inc.  
Board of Directors

## FY2021 IMPACT *by the numbers*

# \$57.5 MILLION

Highest Fundraising Total in FAU History



### 6,124

DONORS  
GENEROUSLY  
GAVE TO FAU

### 3,065

FAU ALUMNI  
MADE GIFTS

### 409

FAU FACULTY  
& STAFF  
MADE GIFTS

### 566

STUDENTS  
DONATED TO THE  
SENIOR CLASS GIFT



## \$5,734,818

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP  
AND WAIVER FUNDS  
WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FAU STUDENTS

## 2,524

FAU STUDENTS  
RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
FROM THE FOUNDATION

## FAU FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

## \$285,475,353

TOTAL VALUE  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2021



## 533

ENDOWED  
FUNDS

## PHILANTHROPY IN PARADISE

### KURT & MARILYN WALLACH

#### *Putting Values into Action*

Having lost family members during the Holocaust, Kurt and Marilyn Wallach shared a lifelong commitment to ensuring the lessons of this horrific event in our world's history remain relevant. Thanks to an historic \$20 million gift from the couple in November 2020 — the largest in school history — FAU will become the epicenter for intercultural dialogue and education in the greater South Florida region, empowering the next generation of change makers, as the home of the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Institute for Holocaust and Jewish Studies.

The Wallach Institute will include a building on FAU's Boca Raton campus that will serve as the hub for study of the Holocaust and Jewish Studies, human rights education and leadership training, and will encourage enhanced collaborations to strengthen the prominence of these programs. It will also memorialize the six million Jews and other victims of the Holocaust, honor its survivors, and bring together interfaith and interethnic programs. While Kurt Wallach passed away in September 2021, the Institute will no doubt carry on his legacy.

"We are honored and grateful for Kurt and Marilyn Wallach's enormous generosity," said FAU President John Kelly. "This historic gift will ensure that through education, we will continue to build bridges of understanding and empathy for generations to come."

*"We speak for those who cannot speak, and we remember all the victims, including our family members, who perished needlessly. No one should ever be subjected to such horror. We hope that through the education we can provide that lives will be saved and history will not be repeated."*

*Kurt Wallach*



### ARTHUR GUTTERMAN

#### *Fighting Hatred with Education*

As generations of Holocaust survivors are no longer able to tell their stories, education is more important than ever. That is why FAU established the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education on its Boca Raton campus in 1996 — to prepare school district professionals and support staff to implement Florida's statute requiring instruction of the Holocaust.

In September 2020, the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters announced a multi-million dollar gift from Arthur Gutterman to name the Arthur and Emalie Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education on FAU's Boca Raton campus.

The gift will provide current and future K–12 teacher training and professional development, including curriculum advancement, seminars, and teacher travel to Israel and Eastern Europe to visit museums and sites of the Holocaust; enhanced collaborations with Hebrew University and other academic and/or research institutions based in Israel; lectures and guest speakers; community outreach programs, and student international study and intern abroad opportunities.

"This significant and permanent funding will allow us to ensure the invaluable lessons of the Holocaust will combat the ignorance, fear and distrust that breeds hatred and violence. Current and future generations of teachers will promote dignity in our schools and human rights lessons essential to our past — and our future" said Michael J. Horswell, dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.



*"I am constantly amazed at the passion of these deserving teachers and what they give their students every day through their work. I am happy to do my part to help continue the vital work of FAU's Center that benefits teachers and students today and now, for generations to come."*

*Arthur Gutterman*



## PHILANTHROPY IN PARADISE

### DAVID J.S. NICHOLSON

#### *Research, Education and Discovery*

The brain is what makes us human and is the source of our individuality. It forms our thoughts, passions, hopes and dreams, and is constantly changing. Every time we think and interact with others, our brain is altered in complex, yet marvelous ways.

Florida is the new center for the life sciences in the United States, and FAU's Jupiter Campus is the home of two of the world's leading research organizations: The Scripps Research Institute and the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. To capitalize on this convergence of intellectual excellence, the new FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute will provide a state-of-the-art venue for facilitating inter-institute research opportunities.

The Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute is made possible through a generous \$10 million gift from David J.S. Nicholson, which expands on an initial investment from the State of Florida of \$35 million, built to foster state-of-the-art research that, while emblematic of the exciting growth of South Florida, can touch all corners of the world.

Under the leadership of Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D., executive director, Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute, David J.S. Nicholson Distinguished Professor in Neuroscience and Professor of Biomedical Science of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, this 58,000-square-foot research space will make lasting contributions to Florida's life sciences core and its Jupiter neuroscience hub.

Within its walls, cutting-edge basic science research will examine the underpinnings of a variety of brain disorders, including autism, Alzheimer's disease, addiction and neuroinflammation. With expanded space for collaborative research, there is greater opportunity to capitalize on increased federal funding from entities such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), along with private entities looking to provide research grants and gifts to impact brain science and health.

The Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute also will drive increased enrollment of superior students in the fields of neurobiology, bioengineering, bioinformatics, chemistry, computational biology, genetics and engineering.

Job creation is another attractive outcome of this endeavor. The new facility will aim to support 20 principal investigators and faculty, a similar number of research faculty and postdoctoral students, and approximately 100 high school, undergraduate and graduate students per year, who will each engage in technologically advanced research training.

"The new building, and the exciting research and education it makes possible, will leave an indelible mark on our University, our community, and our field that we will all be proud to say, 'we were there when it happened,'" said Blakely. "Mr. Nicholson's gift will ensure for years to come that we can attract the world's brightest scientists and students to Palm Beach County."



“The biggest scientific challenge of today is to gain a better understanding of the most complex computer ever found, the human brain. Understanding will beget solutions to neurodegenerative diseases which are rampant and plague most families.”

David J.S. Nicholson



# PHILANTHROPY IN PARADISE

## A.D. HENDERSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL & FAU HIGH SCHOOL

*Let's Build This Together*

Let's Build This Together is the first campaign of its kind in the 50-year history of A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High School. The campaign will distinguish FAU Lab Schools as an incubator for the STEM workforce and researchers of tomorrow, while being a driving force for social mobility and economic development.

The reimagined campus will provide state-of-the-art facilities to house the school's world-class educational models, producing a blueprint on how to re-engineer Pre-K – 20 education by scaling its proven platform throughout our state and nation.

To date, Let's Build This Together has secured over \$50 million in public and private funding, closing in on its \$54 million campaign goal. As a result of this success, the school broke ground in the spring of 2021 to replace the original buildings with a two-story, cutting-edge K–8 school and a multiuse athletic complex, with a grand opening planned for August 2022.

A.D. Henderson & FAU High School will now increase the overall campaign goal and continue to raise funds for subsequent phases of construction. Phase II will include a STEM center, AquaScience Center, Institute for Biodesign, and Center for Teacher Training. Phase III will focus on the arts and complete the campaign with an innovative Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

"These upgraded facilities will provide state-of-the-art, industry-standard spaces that will ignite students' natural curiosity, hands-on and virtual investigations, STEM activities and a variety of teacher supports to bring the excitement of education to life," said Joel Herbst, superintendent of schools. "Our educators will be empowered with the skills and resources they need to deliver dynamic instruction with a program focused on STEM essentials."

The success of this campaign is due to the boundless generosity of the schools' friends, alumni and community members. Lead donors Daniel and Debra Cane kicked off the campaign with a transformative gift of \$1 million to name The Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies, which serves as the epicenter for STEM education and technology transfer for A.D. Henderson & FAU High School. The Cane family's generosity paved the way for other generous supporters to champion the school's efforts, including Wayne Jr., and Fonda Huizenga, who also supported the campaign with a transformational leadership gift of \$1 million.

Thanks to the Cane family, the Huizenga family and the support of all donors, A.D. Henderson & FAU High School are building extraordinary facilities and programs that will impact countless students and educators across the country for years to come.



“Modern education needs to do more than simply convey knowledge — it should create sparks of inspiration that ignite our curiosity and drive us to innovate. The Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies at A.D. Henderson and FAU High School provides the raw materials, guidance and encouragement so that tomorrow's leaders can solve today's challenges. The Cane Institute's home in the new facility will be an epicenter of innovation and a model for how schools worldwide can revolutionize STEM education through state-of-the-art technology, programs and friendly competition.”

*Dan Cane, Parent, Lead Donor, Founder of The Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies, and CEO & Co-Founder of Modernizing Medicine*



### Let's Build This Together Capital Campaign Major Donors

- Daniel E.\* and Debra L. Cane  
H. Wayne Huizenga, Jr.,  
and Fonda Huizenga  
Bradley M. Levine\* and Dr. Melissa A.  
Friedman-Levine  
Todd and Elycia\* Morris  
Jon '01,'02 and Melissa Cipyak  
Drew '04 and Cata Lackner  
Bernard and Sylvie Godin  
Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D.  
The A.D. Henderson Foundation  
Brett and Jennifer Frankel  
Eileen S. Gold  
David and Alyssa Goldfarb  
Steven and Avi Gold  
Ernest and Donna McMullen '94  
Helen M. Salzberg  
Nic DeSiato and Kimberly A. Rosemurgy,  
ADHUS '94  
Dr. Joel and Julie Herbst  
Alexander S. Rosemurgy II,  
ADHUS '88  
Mickey and Katie Zitzmann  
Alex and Julie Candia  
Keith Koenig – City Furniture  
Dr. Ashish and Kavita Sahai  
Justin, ADHUS '92, and  
Krista Jugs  
Steve and Kelly Bethke  
Kevin and Susan Vance  
Andrew Hunter and  
Paige Kornblue  
Mary K. Oxley Foundation  
Jamie and Tricia Bayardelle  
Dr. Ralph Zagha and  
Dr. Stacy Frankel  
Cedrick and Zarifa Reynolds  
Andrew, ADHUS '00, and  
Megan DiDomenico  
Jessica Meith '14,'17,'21 and  
Jason Heithoff '08,'12  
Jonathan Claussen and  
Allison Lane  
Michael Swisher and  
Dr. Wincie R. Lau-Swisher  
Anonymous (4)

\*FAU Board of Trustees



## GIVING IN ACTION

### TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

**Myrna Gordon Skurnick Theatre Lab Playwriting Program and Creative Writing MFA Fellows // Dorothy F. Schmidt Arts & Letters**

**Vision:** Lead, innovate and educate in the creative and performing arts

**Support:** Myrna Gordon Skurnick

Myrna Skurnick developed a love of the theater at an early age. Now, generous support from Skurnick to FAU's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will ensure future generations of playwrights and writers will get to nurture their own love of the craft. Skurnick's gift establishes the "Myrna Gordon Skurnick Theatre Lab Playwriting Program and Creative Writing MFA Fellows," as well as a future endowment to fund this collaborative initiative in perpetuity. To honor this commitment, a dedicated space located just outside the theatre was named the "Myrna Gordon Skurnick Writing Nest at Theatre Lab" as an inspirational site for writers of all ages and genres.

The gift broadens the impact of the Theatre Lab by establishing a national playwriting program with visiting playwrights, commissioning new work, and creating competitive Creative Writing MFA fellowships that will attract the most talented writers to FAU with unique academic experiences with the Theatre Lab. Prominent playwrights will work closely with students, present community workshops and teach as guest instructors through flexible residencies. This gift also gives the Theatre Lab distinction as the only playwriting program in the region connected to an institution of higher education.



*"I am thrilled to be able to support playwriting for students at FAU in such a unique way. Growing up in London I was, from the age of four, taken by my parents to the movies and the theatre. When I turned 14, I was allowed to ride the bus by myself to the West End. I also love to write, including short stories, memoirs and vignettes, making my gift especially meaningful both to me and to the art world."*

*Myrna Gordon Skurnick*

### FUELING ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

**Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz Owls Perch // FAU Athletics**

**Vision:** Strengthen student-athletes on and off the field

**Support:** Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz

Thanks to a \$2.5 million gift from Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz, FAU received a major boost toward its goal of entering a new era of athletic and academic excellence.

The gift named the Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz Owls Perch within the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic Excellence, a cutting-edge, 166,000-square-foot complex that includes an academic and leadership center, state-of-the-art wellness facilities and a sports medicine center.

Bob and Debbie have served the community as volunteers and philanthropists for many years. Debbie has served as a dedicated volunteer in FAU's Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center for more than a decade, and she and Bob named the Bob Sheetz and Debbie Lindstrom Walkway when the Center expanded their facilities in 2014. In addition, Debbie served on the Caring Hearts Auxiliary Board for many years and was instrumental in helping to launch the annual Walk in the Mall, which raises scholarship support for community members in need of the services



*"We believe in higher education, believe in supporting our local community, and believe in the initiative and leadership Dr. John Kelly has shown as President at FAU. We have been encouraged by the University's growth and impressed by the demonstrated commitment from the community that Dr. Kelly has fostered."*

*Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz*



## THE HEART OF SOCIAL WORK

**Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work // College of Social Work and Criminal Justice**

**Vision:** Strengthen FAU's Social Work program

**Support:** Phyllis and Harvey Sandler

Phyllis and the late Harvey Sandler's compassion and generosity have left a significant mark upon FAU. In March 2022, another wave of impact from their generosity will be unveiled as the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work celebrates the grand reopening of its facilities following a major renovation — an undertaking made possible by the Sandler's transformative \$7 million gift to the school in 2017.

The school is now poised to become a modern, technology-focused learning center that prepares students to address some of the most significant challenges confronting our society. The Sandler's gift allowed for the renovation and expansion of the school's facilities, including a state-of-the-art auditorium, a student study lounge and additional classrooms to accommodate the school's growth. The gift also established the Robin Rubin Center for Happiness & Life Enhancement, which offers free wellness programming to the campus and surrounding communities. The reopening dedication will jointly celebrate the renovations and the 11th Annual Phyllis Sandler Heart of Social Work event, which raises funds to support social work students.

Phyllis and Harvey Sandler have established a legacy within the Sandler School of Social Work and across the University that will, for generations to come, honor their values of helping others and encouraging them to give back, transforming our communities.



“I am extremely passionate about improving the well-being of all, especially the lives of the students and faculty at Florida Atlantic University.”

Phyllis Sandler

## A NEW STANDARD FOR AGING IN PLACE

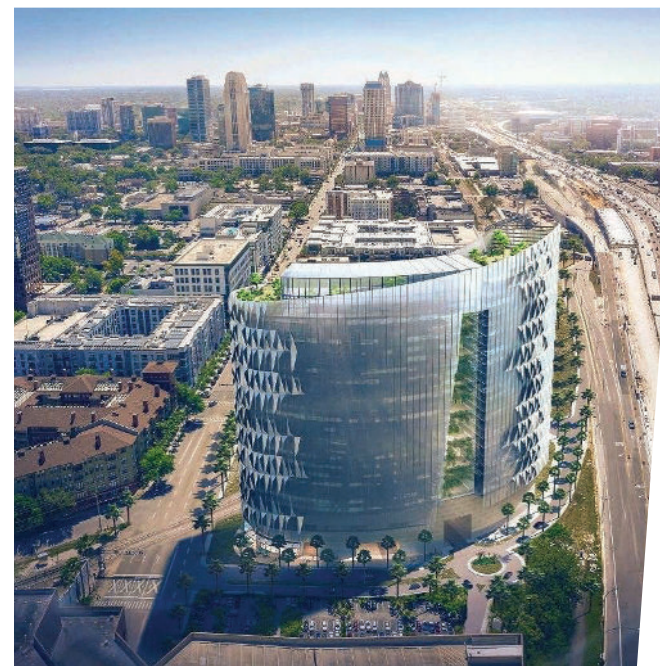
**Ponte Health Fellowship in Healthcare Building and Design Endowed Fund // School of Architecture**

**Vision:** Galvanize student interest in healthcare architecture

**Support:** Tabitha Ponte

Inspired by personal healthcare experiences that left her disillusioned with the general design, environment and functionality of the very places that are created to help people recuperate and heal, FAU School of Architecture alumna Tabitha Ponte set out to develop a building that could connect healthcare with supports for body and mind: a vertical medical city.

And thanks to her \$500,000 gift to establish the Ponte Health Fellowship in Healthcare Building and Design Endowed Fund — the largest in the School's history — FAU architecture students will be able to join this innovative effort, which will include residences, an urban farm and retail outlets, in addition to a medical center and pharmacy. Starting in the summer of 2022, the fellowship offers the opportunity for firsthand experience as an intern on Ponte Health's project site. The fellows will benefit greatly under the direction of Ponte, CEO and founder of Ponte Health, whose vast experience in design, construction and development will provide vital training and mentoring to prepare the students for the workforce and career in the field of healthcare architecture.



“Buildings should be dynamic, and through that, they become an integral part of the healthcare team for patients.”

Tabitha Ponte '08



## GIFTS OF NOTE

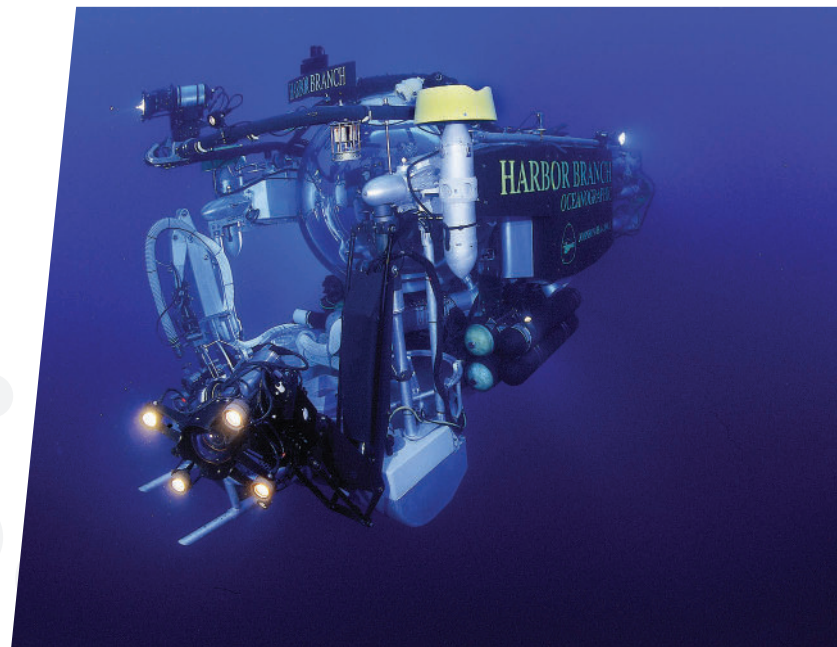


### THE HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On March 27, 2021, legendary FAU Football Coach Howard Schnellenberger passed away. Schnellenberger was hired by FAU to build a football program from scratch, eventually leading the Owls to two bowl wins. He also oversaw the opening of the FAU Stadium in 2011, and the field was named after him in 2014. His legacy will further live on through the Howard Schnellenberger Endowed Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarship support to student-athletes who show determination and commitment in the FAU football program.

### CELEBRATING OCEAN SCIENCE FOR A BETTER WORLD: 50 YEARS OF HARBOR BRANCH

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Founded in 1971 in the spirit of ocean exploration, Harbor Branch is driven by a rich history of world-class research dedicated to marine ecosystem conservation, ocean and human health, aquaculture innovation and food security, technological innovation and national defense. Throughout that time, Harbor Branch's work has been buoyed by the generosity of dedicated donors who have become a part of its storied legacy. In celebration of this milestone anniversary, the institute will host a series of events throughout 2021 and 2022.



### KELLY-STRUL EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This past June, the Kelly-Strul Emerging Scholars Program awarded scholarships for 17 Florida high school seniors to attend FAU in the 2021-2022 academic year. Established in 2017 by Boca Raton philanthropists Aubrey and Sally Strul and FAU President John Kelly and First Lady Carolyn Kelly, the program provides full scholarships to first-generation Florida students, including tuition, housing and books, with the goal of helping local students graduate from college debt-free. The program is further supported by gifts from donors throughout the FAU community.



### DONORS PROVIDE WHITE COATS TO CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING STUDENTS

As a symbol of the start of the nursing journey, the white coat confirms a commitment to compassion, humanism and professionalism within the field. To celebrate this momentous occasion, FAU's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing held a White Coat Ceremony for its more than 200 freshmen, accelerated and part-time working professional nursing students. To help students boldly step into nursing during such challenging times, more than 50 donors joined together to gift a white coat to each student.



### ROBERT A. WOOD FAU MEDICAL SCHOLARS FUND

Thanks to a \$400,000 gift from Ann and John Wood, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine will be able to open the doors to a college education for even more students. Made in memory of the Woods' son Robert, the Robert A. Wood FAU Medical Scholars Fund will support 10 medical students through all four years of medical school. The Woods attended the College's White Coats Ceremony pre-reception in August 2021, where they were able to meet the scholarship recipients in person.





## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc. unleashes access to excellence for thousands of the University's promising people and programs. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation connects private philanthropy with opportunities to advance the University's strategic mission and plan. Operating under the auspices of the Division of Institutional Advancement, the Foundation also serves as a fiduciary, caring for and distributing gifts in accordance with our donors' wishes.

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