



FAU FOUNDATION INC.
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
Special Edition

FY2022-23

MESSAGE FROM THE FAU FOUNDATION

Dear friends,

Florida Atlantic University is creating access and opportunity by connecting private philanthropy to powerful possibilities for our students, faculty and larger community. This special edition of the Annual Impact Report provides only a glimpse of the many highlights achieved over the last two years as a result of the strategic work and support of the Florida Atlantic Foundation Board, Institutional Advancement team, Florida Atlantic family, and alumni, friends and supporters in the community.

Among these achievements, the **Florida Atlantic Foundation** experienced back-to-back record-breaking fundraising years, increasing both philanthropic support and donors to the University. **Florida Atlantic** also received the largest scholarship gift in the history of the university, and largest known scholarship gift to a Florida public university’s medical school.

Additionally, **Florida Atlantic** publicly launched the University’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign in more than 20 years – ***Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University.*** The goal is to raise \$600 million to propel growth and pursue innovative ways to solve tomorrow’s challenges today with a focus on scholarships and student success, FAU Health and the environment.

In this year’s Annual Impact Report, you’ll read more about **Florida Atlantic’s** comprehensive campaign. You will also read about how donors are impacting students, faculty research, colleges and programs, throughout our region and beyond.

Florida Atlantic has long been recognized for access, opportunity, innovative education and research, and community programs. Through collaborative efforts and sustained support, **Florida Atlantic** can continue to develop transformative solutions that address tomorrow’s challenges today.

With gratitude,

David Green
Interim Vice President
Division of Institutional Advancement

Brian Poulin
Board Chair
FAU Foundation

David L. Kian
Interim CEO
FAU Foundation

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TRANSCEND TOMORROW OVERVIEW

Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University



To date, Florida Atlantic has raised more than **\$458 million** from **55,525** donors as part of its **Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University** campaign.

For the first time in more than 20 years, Florida Atlantic University is undertaking a university-wide, comprehensive fundraising campaign that is designed to enrich and enhance all facets of the university community. By defining tomorrow’s challenges and preparing for them today, Florida Atlantic is creating opportunities for students, faculty and the greater community that will have far-reaching impacts for this generation and beyond.

Florida Atlantic’s tradition of philanthropy is as old as the university. Just over 60 years ago, the Florida legislature approved the creation of the university; however, it did not provide funding for its planning, design or construction. It took the generosity and commitment of local leaders, led by Tom Fleming and Charles Schmidt, to turn the

dream of a public university in Boca Raton into a reality. Thanks to their leadership and determination, community leaders were able to raise nearly three times more than was necessary to make Florida Atlantic a reality. It is due to that incredible outpouring of philanthropy that Florida Atlantic can fulfill its purpose and mission today.

TRANSCEND
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University launched publicly on Dec. 6, 2022, and aims to raise \$600 million for the university with a focus in three key areas: scholarships and student success, FAU Health, and the environment.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT SUCCESS: Providing Access and Opportunity

Beginning with its inaugural class of students in 1964, Florida Atlantic University has provided life-changing education, especially for those who may have thought a college degree was out of reach. College degrees do come with a cost, and often, the expenses go far beyond tuition. Housing, meals, books and fees can quickly add up, preventing bright, talented students from graduating or even starting their degrees. By addressing barriers to academic success, Florida Atlantic can provide access and opportunity to a life-changing education. By strengthening support systems that include personalized mentoring and counseling, Florida Atlantic provides a whole host of wraparound services that ensures a student’s success in the classroom and, ultimately, in the workplace.



The time is now.

Transcending our tomorrow starts today. Invest in a better future for our students, our University and the world. **Be a catalyst** for generations of positive change. Provide access and opportunity to promising students, comprehensive health care care to the community, and a healthier environment for all. It’s time to make an impact. To change lives. And to rise to tomorrow’s challenges. **All it takes is one gift.**



transcendtomorrow.fau.edu

FAU HEALTH: Preparing for the Health Care Needs of Tomorrow



Florida’s population is growing, which creates additional pressure on its health care system. With an increased demand for physicians, and a projected shortfall of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses by 2035, the state will struggle to meet basic health care needs. FAU Health is a collaborative endeavor that brings together several of the university’s health, research and social science programs by creating a dynamic and formidable force to address the biggest health care issues of the future. By educating and training critically needed health care workers, and facilitating collaboration and innovation for research from bench to bedside, Florida Atlantic can solve tomorrow’s health care challenges today.

ENVIRONMENT: Protecting Our Natural Resources

South Florida’s diverse landscape, which includes fast-growing and low-lying landscapes, the Everglades and the Atlantic Ocean, has a significant influence on human health and the health of the economy. Issues such as water quality, sea-level rise and increasingly severe and frequent storms will be factors affecting environmental health for generations to come; hence, the need to increase environmental education, awareness and stewardship to preserve and protect our natural resources. By making the environment a funding priority and encouraging collaboration among disciplines, we can tackle pressing environmental issues today to ensure a better tomorrow.



For more information about Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University or to give a gift, visit transcendtomorrow.fau.edu.

BY THE NUMBERS

FY2022 AND 2023 IMPACT

HIGHEST FUNDRAISING TOTALS IN FLORIDA ATLANTIC HISTORY

FY22: \$81.24M
from 7,968 Generous Donors
including 4,621 Alumni Donors

FY23: \$68.1M
from 9,584 Generous Donors
including 5,814 Alumni Donors

Representing a **20%**
increase in *Donors*
and **26%** increase
in *Alumni Donors* over
the previous year

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,684,990 Foundation Scholarship Funds were
Distributed to 2,728 Florida Atlantic Students (FY22)

\$10,987,070 Foundation Scholarship Funds were
Distributed to 2,699 Florida Atlantic Students (FY23)

FAU FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

\$258,127,394
Total Value of FAU Foundation Endowment
as of June 30, 2022
569 Endowed Funds

\$267,439,734
Total Value of FAU Foundation Endowment
as of June 30, 2023
578 Endowed Funds

ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than **7,000** attendees at **86** Alumni events during the first half of 2023
29 Alumni Networks created or in development in 2023 with
nearly **150** Alumni volunteer leaders.

TRANSCEND TOMORROW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

\$458M raised of **\$600M** goal from **55,525** Generous Donors

FLORIDA ATLANTIC RECEIVES **\$28 MILLION** GIFT FROM **WOOD FAMILY** TO SUPPORT MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND **\$11.5 MILLION** TO SUPPORT AMYLOIDOSIS RESEARCH

Physicians often say the desire to practice medicine is a "calling," and now, more aspiring doctors can answer that call and practice specialties in which they can make the greatest impact thanks to a transformative gift from Ann and John Wood and their FairfaxWood Scholarship Foundation to Florida Atlantic's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine. Their \$28 million estate pledge is the largest scholarship gift in Florida Atlantic's history, and the largest known scholarship gift to a Florida public university's medical school.

In 2021, they established the Robert A. Wood FAU Medical Scholars Fund to support 10 medical students through all four years of medical school. The fund named in honor of their son was expanded in two successive years for 20 additional students each year, so they are presently supporting 50 medical students. Then, in 2022, the Woods expanded their impact with a gift of \$28 million.

It is the hope of Ann and John Wood that this gift will inspire others to join in and grow the gift to sufficiently cover the tuition of every Florida Atlantic medical student. The current cost of in-state tuition and fees per medical student for one year is \$35,000, which amounts to \$140,000 for four years. Students from outside of

Florida also may participate to receive support at the in-state tuition rate.

*It is a calling to
help and heal.*

"It is a calling to help and heal. With this gift, Ann and I want future doctors, regardless of their socioeconomic status, to follow their hearts in deciding what they want to study and practice," said philanthropist John Wood. "Our hope is this gift will inspire others to help these students complete their medical education debt-free. The world needs doctors without debt."

The Woods also gave an \$11.5 million gift to create the FairfaxWood Health & Innovation Technology Initiative, focused on understanding and seeking cures for amyloidosis, a life-threatening condition. The goal is to understand the underlying cause so that medical mediations can be undertaken.

To support this initiative, Michael R. Dobbs, M.D., M.H.C.M., will serve as the inaugural chair of clinical neurosciences, housed in the College of Medicine. An expert in vascular neurology, Dobbs will employ collaborative expertise in artificial intelligence and cutting-edge



data to reimagine how rare diseases are studied. Funds will also support advocacy and outreach initiatives to create awareness about amyloidosis.

In August, longtime friend and Florida Atlantic benefactor John Wood passed away. As we mourn the loss of John in our community, we also celebrate his extraordinary generosity, vision and legacy.

► **\$7.5 MILLION** FROM **ELEANOR R. BALDWIN** SUPPORTS ARENA

Florida Atlantic University Athletics received a \$7.5 million gift commitment from longtime friend and philanthropist Eleanor R. Baldwin in November 2022. In recognition of her generous donation, Florida Atlantic's basketball and volleyball facility has been named the Eleanor R. Baldwin Arena. Florida Atlantic players and students have affectionately nicknamed the facility "The Elly."

"I am so proud of all that FAU has accomplished in our wonderful Boca Raton community and so grateful that I'm able to continue making a big impact on this incredible institution," Baldwin said. "I love being able to support and enhance the Eleanor R. Baldwin Arena for our student-athletes, coaches and the community."

Baldwin's generous gift will be instrumental in renovating and improving the arena, which will provide for enhancement of the experience within the facility for all stakeholders.

"Eleanor has generously supported so many projects and initiatives at FAU and throughout the community, and we are so incredibly grateful to her for this gift," said Brian White, vice president and director of athletics at Florida Atlantic. "We cannot thank her enough for this support, which will impact the lives of so many Owl student-athletes, coaches, staff and community members who will utilize the Eleanor R. Baldwin Arena."

Eleanor has generously supported so many projects and initiatives at FAU and throughout the community.

Baldwin's transformational contribution to Florida Atlantic Athletics expands on her longstanding support of the university. She has been a true



champion of Florida Atlantic and its students over the years, from mentoring future educators, to cheering on the sports teams, to donating crucial funds to support the university's growth.

The gift comes at an especially exciting time since the Florida Atlantic men's basketball team won the East Regional Championship and advanced to the Final Four in the NCAA Tournament earlier this year. Additionally, July 1, 2023, marked the start of a new era as Florida Atlantic officially joined the American Athletic Conference.

With this most recent gift, Baldwin's total philanthropic support of Florida Atlantic is now more than \$10 million. A retired educator, she taught for 34 years with much of her tenure at Broward County schools. In addition, Baldwin continues to serve as a director emerita of the FAU Foundation Board and as a College of Education Advisory Board member.

► TRANSFORMATIONAL **\$10 MILLION** GIFT ESTABLISHES **HOLLI ROCKWELL TRUBINSKY** EMINENT DEAN IN NURSING

As a nurse, devoted community leader, philanthropist and community volunteer, Holli Rockwell Trubinsky is a staunch supporter of excellence in nursing in the South Florida community, proudly advocating Florida Atlantic's person-centered, care-based approach to nursing education.

Solidifying this dedication, an estate pledge of \$10 million from Holli Rockwell Trubinsky and husband Joseph Trubinsky established the Holli Rockwell Trubinsky Eminent Dean in Nursing, for which Safiya George, Ph.D., is the inaugural recipient. This transformational gift, one of the largest endowed nursing deanships in the country, strengthens Florida Atlantic's ability to retain leaders who elevate the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing locally, regionally, and nationally.

"Through my work as a nurse and having served on the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Advisory Board, I am acutely aware of the importance and impact nurses have in health care," said Holli Rockwell Trubinsky, philanthropist. "Ensuring FAU's ability to recruit and sustain extraordinary leaders who will train future generations of nurses is a priority and passion."



The current nursing shortage throughout the health care industry has reached a critical point, and this gift, once realized, will help us draw the best and brightest to FAU

Indeed, the need for a well-trained nursing workforce is urgent, and as Florida faces a statewide nursing shortage, this endowment will provide crucial philanthropic support to combat these shortages. Further, their estate gift provides the dean with vital resources to respond to the changing needs of nurses amidst a dynamic health care landscape.

"The current nursing shortage throughout the health care industry has reached a critical point, and this gift, once realized, will help us draw the best and brightest to FAU, and create positive and significant impacts on the nursing profession in the future," said Safiya George, Ph.D., APRN-BC, FAAN, FAANP, dean and professor of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

This Trubinsky gift also advances the strategic priority of the University's FAU Health Network, addressing health care professional shortages to improve the lives of citizens in South Florida and beyond. Florida Atlantic is honored that the Rockwell Trubinsky name will forever be linked with its nationally ranked Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

► FLORIDA ATLANTIC RECEIVES **\$5 MILLION** TO CREATE **HAGERTY FAMILY** ATHLETICS VILLAGE



Florida Atlantic University received a \$5 million gift from Michelle and Michael Hagerty in support of Florida Atlantic Athletics. Their transformational gift will fund renovations and improvements to several athletic facilities, which will now be known as the Hagerty Family Athletics Village.

Facilities included in the Hagerty Family Athletics Village footprint include the track and related facilities, known as the Hagerty Family Track and Field Complex; the Tom Oxley Athletic Center; Abessinio Court at the Eleanor R. Baldwin Arena; Kimberly V. Strauss Tennis Center; FAU Swimming Facility; FAU Softball Stadium; FAU Soccer Stadium; FAU Baseball Stadium; and FAU Beach Volleyball Complex.

"We are honored and excited to continue our commitment to the young men and women representing Florida Atlantic University as student-athletes," the Hagertys said. "This gift is meant to ensure that all student-athletes are able to enjoy and thrive in a world-class sports facility. It's been a real pleasure watching FAU continue to build a national reputation athletically and academically."

The Hagertys' \$5 million gift will go toward renovations and improvements to those facilities. A number of signs and recognitions around the athletic facilities will designate the area as the Hagerty Family Athletics Village.

We are honored and excited to continue our commitment to the young men and women representing Florida Atlantic University as student-athletes.

"We cannot thank Michelle and Michael enough for this incredible gift," said Brian White, Florida Atlantic vice president and director of athletics. "We have nearly 450 student-athletes at Florida Atlantic, and every one of them will reap the benefits of this gift. This gift will truly be transformational for many of our facilities and sports programs."

This new gift builds on the Hagertys' previous \$2.5 million contribution to Florida Atlantic Football in 2021, in which the Hagerty Family Head Football Coach was named in their honor.

► **ERIC SHAW**, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MARKETING, DONATES **\$2 MILLION** TO UNIVERSITY

I am forever grateful to FAU for providing me an excellent education, terrific mentors and talented colleagues to work with, exceptional students with bright eager minds to share knowledge.

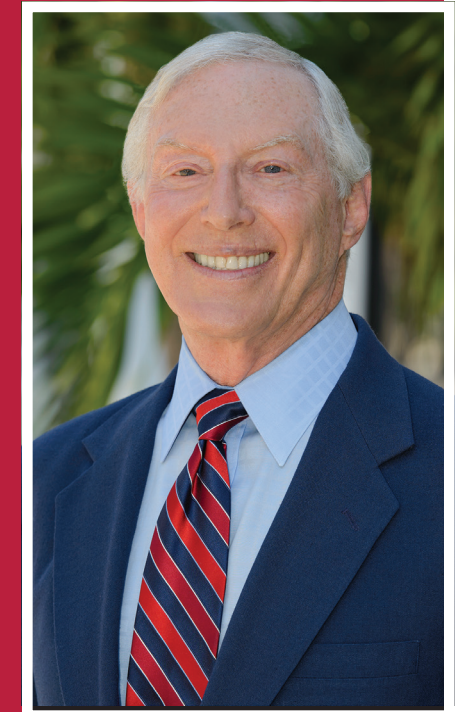
Florida Atlantic alumnus and one of the longest serving faculty members at the University, Professor Emeritus Eric Shaw, Ph.D., '72, '73, has dedicated his life to teaching, research and service at his alma mater. Inspiring future generations to follow in his footsteps, Shaw's estate gift pledge of more than \$2 million in 2021 benefits athletics, business, arts and letters, and other university programs. This gift also designates Shaw as the largest Florida Atlantic faculty or staff donor in the university's history, after former Assistant Professor Dick Schmidt '71.

Shaw received his B.B.A. in 1972 and M.B.A. in 1973 at Florida Atlantic. After earning his Ph.D. at Temple University, Shaw taught at Rutgers University and the University of Miami. Upon returning to Florida Atlantic in 1982, he served as associate dean for the College of Business, acting director for the School of Industry Studies and chair for the Marketing Department for 15 years. During his tenure, Shaw served as faculty athletics representative to the NCAA,

president of the faculty senate, and board member of the FAU Alumni Association, the FAU Foundation Board and FAU's Board of Trustees.

Shaw continues to work with Ph.D. students, serve on Florida Atlantic committees and journal review boards, and engage in scholarly activities that benefit the university he calls home.

"My 50 years at FAU, first as an undergraduate student and now as emeritus professor, make me feel like I've grown up with the university," said Shaw. "I am forever grateful to FAU for providing me an excellent education, terrific mentors and talented colleagues to work with, exceptional students with bright eager minds to share knowledge, and offering me so many opportunities for personal and professional growth. It is a privilege and my great pleasure to give back by making a small contribution to this great university."



► **FLORIDA ATLANTIC RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**

The ceremonial groundbreaking of the future Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building that took place last fall moved Florida Atlantic one step closer to creating the new epicenter for intercultural dialogue and education in South Florida.

The new building, made possible by a historic \$20 million gift from the Wallachs, will serve as a hub for Holocaust and Jewish studies, human rights education, and leadership training within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. It also will memorialize the six million Jews and other victims of the Holocaust, honor its survivors, and bring together educational programs that champion compassion and understanding through enhanced collaborations.

With the building's design underway, Florida Atlantic received two additional gifts in support of Jewish Studies and human rights education – a \$1 million gift from Marilyn and Jay Weinberg and a significant, undisclosed gift from the Davidowitz family.

The Weinbergs' gift creates an endowment to provide support for faculty, equipment, programming, staff, students, and ongoing care of the building in perpetuity. In recognition of their gift, the building's lobby will be known as the Marilyn and Jay Weinberg Grand Lobby.

"Marilyn and I support the Wallach Center because it is critically important that we combat the rapidly increasing incidents of antisemitism especially on our college and university campuses," Jay Weinberg said. "This building and the programs within it will be a beacon in this effort to set a standard for other colleges and universities to emulate."

The Davidowitz family's gift will expand Holocaust and Human Rights Education programming available to K-12 educators throughout southeast Florida and to Florida Atlantic students. It establishes an endowment to support the

We support human rights education and the preservation of the voices of genocide survivors.

Davidowitz Family Program Director within the Arthur and Emalie Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, one of the numerous signature programs to be housed within the Wallach building.

"As a grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I know the human rights atrocities that my own family and millions of others endured," said Dan Davidowitz. "Even today, though, we are concerned that the threat of these atrocities still exists across the globe. We support human rights education and the preservation of the voices of genocide survivors so that our leaders and citizens can learn and vow to never let it happen again."



► **CHARNA LARKIN DONATES \$1.6 MILLION TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND ESTABLISH AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL STUDY**



I want to ensure young people are given every opportunity to be successful and attend college.

Students, faculty and scholars in the community interested in studying and discussing the American presidents and their impacts throughout history received significant support with a \$1 million estate gift from longtime benefactor Charna Larkin. The generous scholarship gift establishes the Alan B. and Charna Larkin Student Opportunity Fund within Florida Atlantic's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.

The scholarship support is in addition to a \$617,000 gift from Larkin to construct the Alan B. and Charna Larkin American Presidential Study on the third floor of the S.E. Wimberly Library on Florida Atlantic's Boca Raton campus. It will house the Alan B. and Charna Larkin American Presidential Letters Distinguished Collection, which will be available for the university and general community to

view. Within the collection are 45 letters signed by American presidents.

The distinctive space also will serve as a historical archive of the Alan B. and Charna Larkin Symposium on the American Presidency, a student study and gathering space, an educational site on American presidents, and a community engagement location for small lectures, receptions, and other special programs.

"I understand the importance of FAU to our greater community," Larkin said. "I want to ensure young people are given every opportunity to be successful and attend college regardless of their humble beginnings."

Florida Atlantic began its relationship with the Larkin family in 2007 when Charna Larkin and her family made a \$1 million donation to Florida

Atlantic in honor of the late Alan B. Larkin to establish an endowment for an annual symposium on the American presidency, which provides up to three distinguished scholars annually with an opportunity to present papers that contribute to academic discourse. The fund also supports graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships for students in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters who demonstrate an interest in the American presidency.

► **SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION** GIFT CREATES **MENTAL HEALTH FUND**

The Schmidt Family Foundation made a gift of \$670,000 to implement a Director of Athletics Mental Health Services position within Florida Atlantic University Athletics, while also establishing the FAU Athletics Mental Health Fund.

"Given current events and increasing pressures facing student-athletes, the need to address mental wellness has never been more urgent," the Schmidt family said. "We hope this mental health fund will be a catalyst to offer FAU's student-athletes and teams the personalized support, resources and tools needed to thrive in this competitive environment. Establishing the FAU Athletics Mental Health Fund is just the start of what we hope will be an innovative and growing mental health and wellness program." Florida Atlantic Vice President and Director of Athletics Brian White said the gift from the



longtime supporters of FAU is an important step in the overall development and well-being of FAU student-athletes. "The health and well-being of our student-athletes is our absolute highest priority," White said. "Enhancing our mental health resources is critical to the holistic approach we are taking regarding student-athlete wellness. We are tremendously grateful to the Schmidt Family for their incredibly generous support of this important initiative."

Florida Atlantic received initial funding of \$16 million from the Schmidt Family Foundation to create the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence, which opened its doors in 2021.

Enhancing our mental health resources is critical to the holistic approach we are taking regarding student-athlete wellness.



► **TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS** TO SUPPORT **FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS**



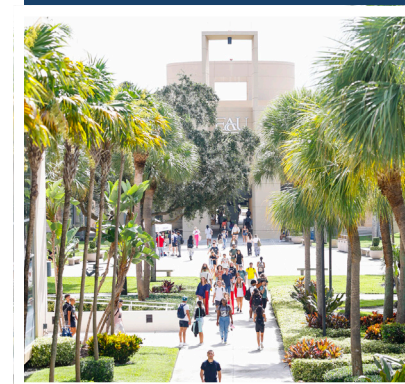
Through sustained philanthropy, Florida Atlantic has been able to support first-generation and transfer students by providing resources that improve retention, matriculation, graduation, and career readiness. Continuing this philanthropic support, an anonymous donor generously donated \$6.4 million to Florida Atlantic's **Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program** through the Let's Have a Smile Scholarship Fund. This donation doubles an initial \$5 million investment with a \$5 million legacy gift for a total of \$10 million to this program. The donor also expanded his annual commitment to sponsor an additional 22 Kelly/Strul scholars for four years, totaling \$1.4 million in additional annual support.

"I strongly believe these first-generation students are the future of this great country. The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program is developing leaders who not only achieve success but also give back to FAU, their community, and future FAU students. This is a game changer for our society as it levels the playing field for all scholars. I am proud to support this organization," the donor said.



Additionally, the **Johnson Scholarship Foundation** awarded \$943,000 for student scholarships and support services for first-generation transfer students through its Johnson Transfer Scholars Program. Combined with state and private matching funds, the gift's total scholarship impact of \$3.3 million, over four years, will provide opportunities for hundreds of students.

"We at Johnson Scholarship Foundation believe it's important not only to open the doors to education, but to provide the support necessary for students to graduate and become successful in the workforce," said Robert A. Krause, CEO of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation. "The Johnson Transfer Scholars Program contains all the elements to nurture the students to that success, and we're proud to partner with FAU on this program."



I strongly believe these first-generation students are the future of this great country.



FLORIDA ATLANTIC ALUMNI AND OWL NATION *Shine*

March proved to be a special time for Florida Atlantic as the men's basketball team made a stunning run to the Final Four, captivating the hearts and minds of Owl Nation. While the team upped their game to another level, the Alumni and Community Engagement department also rose to the occasion.

The team got the ball rolling weeks before March Madness, helping to organize a trip to send 30 students to support the men's and women's basketball teams at the Conference USA Tournament in Frisco, TX. In coordination with Annual Giving, 76 donors contributed to the fundraiser over 11 days, including a generous \$15,000 matching donation from Brian and Ingrid Poulin. Within that group, 13% were first-time donors to the university.

Those efforts paid off, culminating in a passionate student section at the conference tournament, which was profiled during the nationally televised conference championship game.

That was just the beginning. As the Owls continued to march forward in the NCAA Tournament, Florida Atlantic Alumni kept pace, holding packed pre-game events at every tournament location and watch parties across the country.

During March Madness, Florida Atlantic Alumni hosted 55 events in 11 different states, resulting in more than 5,200 fans packing venues in support of Florida Atlantic's basketball team. Hours before the Owls' Final Four game, more than 1,000 people attended Florida Atlantic Alumni's pre-game reception in Houston, showing the passion of the Florida Atlantic fan base.



That excitement translated to major growth. In collaboration with Annual Giving, 378 people signed up for Alumni Association memberships to receive a commemorative alumni "Merch Madness" shirt. Additionally, 245 pre-existing members made a \$25 donation to receive the shirt.

Florida Atlantic Alumni capped off the team's outstanding tournament run with another well-attended alumni gathering following the city of Boca Raton's celebration of the Owls at Mizner Park.

ON THE RISE

Over the past year, Florida Atlantic Alumni and Community Engagement has grown leaps and bounds, transforming the alumni experience for the university's more than 200,000 graduates.

Under the direction of Katie Burke, Ph.D., '08, '10, '15, '17 assistant vice president, alumni and community engagement, who joined the team in July 2022, the department has significantly expanded Owl Networks, resulting in approximately 30 new geographic, affinity, and professional networks being created or in development, allowing alumni across the country to create lasting personal and professional relationships with fellow alums.

Alumni and Community Engagement partnered with PCI Publishing to produce an oral history project on the university, which led to more than 6,000 alums sharing stories about their time at Florida Atlantic, and more than 8,300 alums updating their contact information. The project allowed the department to re-engage with that group, culminating in more than 900 new alumni memberships.

Additionally, the Student Alumni Association saw its membership increase to 320 students, representing a 250% increase from the previous year.

There was also a major resurgence with alumni events, which featured a bevy of network mixers, tailgates, watch parties, and more. Notable events, such as Toast to the Grads, FAU Sweethearts Dinner, and FAU Day at the Capitol, were all re-introduced after previously being dormant. Additionally, the department held numerous signature events, including Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony and Reception, the Talon Leadership Awards, and Majestic Owls, a 50-year reunion program.

The past year also saw the introduction of the monthly Florida Atlantic Foodies event, creating new opportunities for alumni and students to connect.

Alumni and Community Engagement also launched its 'Welcome Home' initiative, which is designed to bring alumni back to campus and re-engage with the university. Welcome Home includes a variety of initiatives, including alumni tours, reunions, revamped alumni membership benefits, allowing graduates to stay connected with their alma mater.





FAU Harbor Branch Receives \$2.8 Million Gift to Address Food Insecurity in the Caribbean

FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is dedicated to meeting one of the most significant long-term challenges that humans face – the need to increase aquaculture production to help satisfy the expanding global demand for food. A \$2.8 million gift from Builders Initiative expanded FAU Harbor Branch's aquaculture and food security program focused on replenishing queen conch populations throughout the Caribbean.

The donation will support establishing a queen conch hatchery on Grand Bahama, the fifth such project FAU Harbor Branch has developed in the Bahamas and one more step in FAU Harbor Branch achieving its vision of building a queen conch farm in every Caribbean nation. Like many, the Grand Bahama hatchery will begin with a mobile queen conch lab. Under the leadership of Megan Davis, Ph.D., the world's leading expert on queen conch aquaculture, scientists, with assistance from Bahamian staff and others, will grow queen conch from their egg stage to juveniles.

"Our FAU Harbor Branch Queen Conch Lab team, together with our partners, are making strides to fulfill the vision of a conch farm in every Caribbean nation," said Davis. "There has never been a more important time to help communities grow queen conch for the sake of the species, ecosystem, and the people who depend on the fishery."



Bartley J. Madden Foundation Establishes Madden Center for Value Creation

Florida Atlantic University's College of Business is making notable strides in providing its students with world-class educational opportunities. One such opportunity was the establishment of the Madden Center for Value Creation as a result of a generous \$3 million gift from the Bartley J. Madden Foundation. A portion of the gift also provides numerous scholarship possibilities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

While the purpose of all businesses is to create valued products and services that customers build a loyalty with, Madden's valuation theory focuses on how creating long-term value begins with clarity about corporate purpose, culture and knowledge. The center provides an intellectual foundation to Florida Atlantic students to help them understand value creation as a core principle for success in business and to become value creators themselves.

"When firms are successful in using resources and creating value, they're also building knowledge," said Daniel Gropper, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business. "And when firms succeed in creating value, they also create a long-lasting positive impact for our economic future. This is key to the working of a free-market society."



NextEra, Florida Atlantic Create Partnership for Energy Sector Research

Florida Power & Light Company, through its charitable arm the NextEra Energy Foundation, donated \$1 million to create a four-year collaboration with Florida Atlantic that will focus on research relating to the energy sector. The collaboration establishes the FPL Center for Intelligent Energy Technologies (InETech) housed in Florida Atlantic's College of Engineering and Computer Science.

InETech will focus primarily on research relating to smart technologies and products relevant to the energy sector, along with workforce development. It is anticipated that students will become employees, driving innovation and creative solutions to meet evolving needs of energy customers.

The gift also allows for the creation of the FPL InETech Center Scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students, which will assist in the College of Engineering and Computer Science's ability to attract highly qualified students. The gift also makes available community outreach and K-12 activities that educate and engage younger students about the energy industry.



Schmidt College of Medicine Receives \$1 Million Gift for Medical Student Scholarships

Florida Atlantic's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine received a \$1 million gift from Norton and Anita Waltuch to provide support for medical student scholarships. To honor the Waltuchs for their generosity, the main lobby in the College of Medicine was named the "Anita and Norton Waltuch Lobby." The Waltuchs are longtime Boca Raton residents who have supported numerous healthcare causes over the years.

Since the 1970s, Norton Waltuch has been a member of all commodities futures exchanges, including Chicago Board of Trade and CME Group. He also served as vice president and chief metals trader for Conticommodity Services, Inc. and is a former floor broker at Comex. The Waltuchs champion numerous charities locally.

"Anita and I are thankful for living in a community such as Boca Raton with access to great medical services," said Norton Waltuch. "We are proud to support Palm Beach County's only medical school."

Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute Receives \$1 Million for Computational Brain Science

Florida Atlantic's Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute received \$1 million from the Palm Health Foundation to launch and support its new Program in Computational Brain Science and Health (PCBSH). The gift, awarded through Palm Health Foundation's Brain Health Innovation Fund, supports new technologies, treatments, resources, and educational tools to advance brain health in the community. The gift was made to accelerate Florida Atlantic Stiles-Nicholson Brain

Institute's drive toward a new era of neuroscience research, education, and community engagement. It supports the recruitment of a nationally prominent computational neuroscientist to lead the program and graduate fellowships each year to advance training in computational neuroscience.

The program is part of the collaborative hub for neuroscience now housed in the new Florida Atlantic Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute, which opened its doors in January 2023. The 3-story, 58,000-square-foot facility on the John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter was made possible by a transformative \$10 million gift from David J.S. Nicholson.



Alumnus Geoff Thomas Creates Veterans Scholarship

Vietnam veteran and alumnus Geoffrey Thomas '70, made an estate gift to Florida Atlantic for the creation of an endowed scholarship fund for veterans from any branch of the military as well as to members of their families. Thomas' gift will be used to make up the difference between what the GI Bill funds and what veterans need to cover in expenses while studying at Florida Atlantic. Thomas said he was inspired to learn that Florida Atlantic is designated as a Top Ten Military Friendly School and a Military Friendly Spouse School with an average of 250-300 veterans studying at Florida Atlantic each semester.



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc. creates opportunity through philanthropy to support Florida Atlantic's students, faculty and programs. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-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.

