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DEAN GARNETT S. STOKES

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

### Donors make the difference

Let me begin with a big “thank you!” At the close of the University of Georgia’s Archway to Excellence Campaign, Franklin College had received gifts in excess of \$54 million—a record-breaking total for the College. Gifts came from alumni, friends, foundations and corporations, and faculty and staff. These donors—you—have established 98 new endowments in the College, and have provided a crucial margin of excellence across the full spectrum of our mission.

Your gifts are supporting research, faculty positions, graduate student fellowships and undergraduate scholarships, study abroad opportunities, and just about every area of the Franklin College. Some of you gave to establish and grow discretionary endowments in individual departments or for the Franklin College overall; these are the most flexible dollars that enable the College to respond to challenges and opportunities as they arise, securing our future. And many of you gave through charitable designations in your estate plans, which often enable donors to do more than they thought possible, to realize big dreams in honor of family members, favorite professors, or programs of especial significance to them. Such providence is ensuring that Franklin College has a robust future, in partnership with our thousands of donors and friends.

The pages of the *Franklin Chronicle* allow us to showcase the great things your support is making possible. Your gift dollars fund this publication, and this year, you will notice a few changes: the slightly smaller format of the magazine allows us to print more copies and reach more alumni and friends—further stretching the impact of your gifts in support of Franklin College.

For more than a decade, the *Chronicle* has been the voice of Franklin College. This issue includes an article that will be of especial interest to readers, a profile of founding editor and UGA alumnus Phil Williams and his family. Phil’s words still grace these pages in two of the feature stories; I am delighted that we have in Kim Cretors an exceptionally able successor to Phil as Editor of the *Franklin Chronicle*.

Also in this issue, you will get a taste of the hands-on learning our students experience through the innovative Reacting pedagogy, in which students immerse themselves in historical scenarios, and the research-based teaching in Sue Wessler’s biology lab. You will learn about transformational research in bioinformatics, in which Ying Xu is harnessing the power of computing in the fight against cancer, and in history, in which Stephen Mihm is revolutionizing our thinking about currency and counterfeiting, bringing the past to bear on present-day challenges. All in all, the *Franklin Chronicle* encapsulates just a few of the many student, faculty, and alumni accomplishments of which we can all be proud.

As we go to press, we are still buoyed by the first-ever UGA Arts Festival, which drew 4,500 alumni, friends, students, and community members to celebrate the richness and diversity of the arts in Franklin College and beyond, on the occasion of the dedication of the new Lamar Dodd School of Art building earlier this fall. We are also delighted by the success of annual Homecoming tailgate, held in partnership with the UGA at Oxford program on the Park Hall Patio. And we are working with the UGA Alumni Association to offer more Franklin College programs in Atlanta this winter and spring. I hope to greet many of you in person at these or other occasions.

It is a privilege to serve as dean of UGA’s largest and oldest college—and a privilege to steward the many contributions that you have made to support our mission and activities. Thank you!