A Resilient Year
Dear Friends of Augusta University,

When our fiscal year began in July 2020, we were in the throes of a global pandemic that stressed our resources and challenged our faculty, staff and health care providers. But our stakeholders, both internal and external, proved extremely resilient, and our top priorities remained the same: our students and our patients.

Pivoting to online instruction, establishing COVID testing sites and treating record numbers of patients on an outpatient and inpatient basis taxed our system. Fortunately, we had community partners who stepped up to provide essential funds, complimentary meals for our AU Health heroes, and moral support, including drive-by parades, that served as a visible acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication.

As we closed the fiscal year in June 2021, we were able to have an in-person commencement celebration (albeit outdoors). Our inpatient population of COVID patients began to decrease (that may not be the case when you read this publication). In addition, our faculty and staff were preparing for a full return of our students to the classroom for fall semester. I would like to personally thank each of you for your continued commitment to Augusta University.

In the pages that follow, you will read about other kinds of heroes. Businesses, organizations and individuals in our surrounding community who recognized a need and met it head on with their resources. For example, the gift from Peach State Health Plan and matching funds in the 2022 state budget for our MCG 3+ program will help us place physicians on an expedited basis in Georgia communities experiencing critical shortages.

We are humbled by the transformational gift from Emily Baumann that will help provide comprehensive mental health care resources for our youngest patients. Gifts from the Bloom and Corn families will impact medical research and childhood cancer treatment studies.

And we are grateful to alumni Nick and Beth Evans for their gift to our men’s and women’s golf programs during our inaugural Augusta Gives event.

It was a privilege this past year to see the Greater Augusta Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals recognize Ann Boardman for her outstanding philanthropy – much of which has been directed to Augusta University.

During a tumultuous and difficult year for all, two of our supporting foundations began the hard but rewarding work of coming together – demonstrating their dedication to our mission and their deep commitment to being good stewards of donor resources. We are greatly appreciative.

Lastly, it was my distinct honor to present the 2020 President’s Award to our AU Health Care Heroes for their faithful work on the frontlines of the pandemic. Along with our many donors, alumni and friends, I can think of no more deserving a group of individuals to be recognized for their tireless efforts in the face of a daunting year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

Warmest regards,

Brooks A. Keel, PhD
President, Augusta University
The Augusta National Golf Club and the Community Foundation for the CSRA joined forces in February 2021 with matching gifts of $1 million to contribute a substantial $2 million toward the COVID-19 vaccination efforts of Augusta University Health.

On top of that, the Augusta National supplied space in the Washington Square shopping center for AU Health to facilitate mass vaccinations. The 38,000 square-foot building, formerly a Stein Mart department store, along the central Washington Road corridor provided AU Health enough room to vaccinate as many as 350 people per hour. The massive building and adjacent parking lot provided more than enough room for appropriate socially distanced waiting and observation for those receiving the vaccination.

A portion of the funds also allowed AU Health, in collaboration with the East Central Health District, to provide clinics at churches and other community sites throughout the CSRA, making the vaccine available to those not able to travel to the central location. These populations, many of which are communities of color, tend to be more at risk and disproportionately affected by the disease.

Augusta National Golf Club Chairman Fred Ridley said the Club was motivated to help the Augusta community that has supported the Masters Tournament for more than 80 years. He praised AU Health, the Georgia Department of Public Health and all health care heroes who have been working tirelessly to treat those impacted by COVID-19. Ridley also emphasized the importance of providing access to the most vulnerable in our community as well as the community at large.

Early in the pandemic, the Augusta National and the Community Foundation for the CSRA partnered to provide $1 million for Augusta University to expand COVID-19 testing and another $1 million for the COVID-19 CSRA Emergency Fund, launched by the Community Foundation and the United Way of the CSRA.

“We are so grateful to the Augusta National Golf Club and the Community Foundation for their continuing partnership,” said Augusta University President Brooks A. Keel. “This is a partnership. They care deeply about the community, as do we. And it gives us an opportunity to serve the people who live in our city.”

As more people received vaccinations, AU Health reduced the operating hours of the vaccine clinic in Washington Square. The pandemic has been a moving target. But Augusta University and AU Health have been able to adapt to the changing demands of COVID-19 with resilience, largely because of the generosity and timely support of our many community partners.
The 2020 President’s Award was presented to the frontline workers at Augusta University Health in recognition of their tireless efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The award is presented annually and is the highest given by Augusta University to its friends and supporters.

“This year it’s my distinct privilege to present the 2020 President’s Award to our AU Heroes,” said Augusta University President Brooks A. Keel, PhD, as he addressed a group of health care team members, who gathered at a safe distance on Nov. 20, 2020, for the presentation.

“The challenges presented by the pandemic have made us keenly aware of the important role our health care providers play in our lives every single day,” Keel continued. “Especially those frontline providers, who often place their personal lives on hold, if not at risk, in order to care for the countless individuals who are sick, injured or in pain, and who need their healing touch and their incredible expertise. You are all truly our heroes.”

Keel pointed out that the AU Heroes include health care providers, researchers, volunteers, the pastoral care team, members of the facilities team and countless others who have gone above and beyond to provide care, testing and treatment for patients and families from all over the state of Georgia.

Katrina Keefer, AU Health System CEO, accepted the award on behalf of the health system.

“Thank you for your skill, your grit, your determination, your creativity and the way that you have supported our patients, communicated with their families and supported each other,” Keefer said in addressing the recipients of the award.
Peach State Health Plan invests $5.2 million in MCG to expedite physician training

Georgia has a serious shortage of physicians, particularly in rural areas. To address these critical shortages, the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University redesigned the four-year core M.D. curriculum, creating the MCG 3+ program, which will allow students to finish in three years. In turn, these students must commit to practice primary care in rural or underserved counties in Georgia.

“As the state’s public medical school, it is our mission and our responsibility to address the state’s growing physician shortage,” said MCG Dean Dr. David Hess.

Sharing a similar mission, Peach State Health Plan, which recently launched its Office of Rural Health and Strategic Initiatives, presented Augusta University President Brooks A. Keel with a $5.2 million gift in March 2021 to help fund the MCG 3+ program.

While their primary business is insurance services, Peach State Health Plan is on a mission to improve the health of its beneficiaries through focused, compassionate, coordinated care.

“By partnering with the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, we are doing our part to ensure that all Georgians have access to highly trained physicians and quality health care,” said Wade Rakes, CEO of Peach State Health Plan.

The visionary support of Peach State Health Plan to help address Georgia’s physician shortage was significantly expanded when Governor Brian Kemp approved the 2022 state budget, which includes a $5.2 million match of the Peach State Health Plan Gift – doubling the impact on this vital initiative.

“We are putting more physicians in rural Georgia, and we started the 3+ Program,” President Keel told The Augusta Chronicle. “We have a very large philanthropic gift from Peach State Health that we’re excited about, and this budget match allows us to establish an over $10 million endowment that’s going to provide tuition for students who want to stay and practice in rural Georgia.”
Retired anesthesiologist commits estate gift to MCG 3+ program

Dr. George Sessions (MD ’55) understands how important primary care is for rural communities. Born and raised in southwest Georgia, he and his wife Martha donated one of the first gifts to the MCG 3+ Program, an expedited M.D. curriculum recently created by the Medical College of Georgia to train and place primary care physicians in communities across the state where they are needed most.

The Sessions have also committed an estate gift of $250,000 toward this vital initiative, because not only is supporting rural health important to the retired anesthesiologist, but so is giving back to the school that made him who he is today.

“I can tell you the best decision I ever made in my life was to go to MCG,” said Sessions, reflecting on his 90 years. “It was the avenue that made all the positive things in my life possible.”

After graduating from the Medical College of Georgia in 1955, Sessions completed a residency in anesthesiology at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, where he met his beloved Martha. They married and returned to Atlanta, where Sessions worked at Grady Hospital for two years before accomplishing a 37-year career at DeKalb Medical Center (now Emory DeKalb Medical Center).

Though it has been more than 65 years since he left MCG, Sessions remains grateful to his alma mater and outspoken about Georgia’s only public medical school. In fact, his influence was a driving factor in Dr. Katrina Hazim’s decision to go to MCG.

“Dr. Sessions spoke so highly of MCG and Augusta, so I knew it was a great place to train from him,” said Hazim, a Class of 2021 graduate. “He told me about Augusta, and when I ended up coming to MCG, he gave me a book about the history of MCG.”

Hazim trusted this man’s advice. After all, the Sessions family had known her since she was born. The connection began in the late ’70s when Hazim’s father Daniel came to the U.S. to attend college. As an exchange student, Daniel Hazim was placed with the Sessions as a host family. A bond was formed that remains strong today.

“We’re really a blended family,” Hazim said. “I see them probably at least once a month. It’s a special relationship.”

So special that Hazim invited Sessions to Augusta for the privilege of hooding her.

Because of the generosity of Dr. George and Martha Sessions, more men and women will be able to experience this rite of passage through the MCG 3+ program. And as support for the program increases, the state of Georgia will reap the benefits in improved health care.
Augusta University launched its first “giving day” in October 2020 with record results. The giving initiative – branded as Augusta Gives – lasted 18 hours and 28 minutes – in homage to our founding year. The campaign encouraged community members to “Give Back to the Future.” And give back they did. A total of 505 donors contributed a remarkable $1,043,330.

Because the event took place during the pandemic, team members socially distanced in the Maxwell House on the Summerville Campus as they worked to engage supporters through social media, texts and phone calls. Regular updates were provided on the Augusta University website, and some giving officers went out into the community in a safe and responsible manner to drum up support.

This initiative, though led by the Annual Giving team, was a focus of the entire Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement department. Communications and Marketing at AU helped with promotion and outreach, including creating clever videos based on the 1980s blockbuster movie *Back to the Future*.

Donors were encouraged to contribute to their passion, whether a particular college or hospital, the Georgia Cancer Center, Diversity and Inclusion programs, Student Life and Engagement, the Open Paws Food Pantry, Athletics or the Greater University Fund.

Athletics benefitted tremendously during Augusta Gives from a generous $500,000 gift from Nick and Beth Evans – both alumni of Augusta University. Beth received her degree in education, and Nick was a standout golfer. Since both received scholarship support when they were students, the couple was inspired to give back to their alma mater to support future students.

Augusta University had a second Augusta Gives day on April 21, 2021. This event surpassed the October results, raising $1,745,101, boosted by a $1 million transformational gift from Emily Baumann. A total of 683 donors gave during the April event. Though most students were not on campus due to the pandemic, Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement made great strides in reaching out to them as well, resulting in 247 student donations. Students also provided the photos to help form the Augusta Gives mosaic (shown below).

In addition to Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement and representatives from Communications and Marketing working together at the Maxwell House for the April Augusta Gives day, a member of the Augusta University Foundation made calls to donors as well.

Based on the success of the first two events and the widespread participation of Augusta University stakeholders, great things are anticipated for the future of this annual event.

Be on the lookout for the next Augusta Gives day in April 2022.
Alumni Nick and Beth Evans establish $500,000 endowment for golf programs

During Augusta University’s inaugural Augusta Gives event, Nick and Beth Evans – both alumni and longtime supporters – gave $500,000 to support Jaguar golf.

The couple decided it would be the perfect opportunity to establish the Nick W. and Beth P. Evans Family Golf Support Endowment – benefitting both the men’s and women’s golf programs at Augusta University. The funds are designated for scholarships, coaching support and programmatic needs.

A consistent theme throughout the Evans’ volunteerism and philanthropy has been leadership. So, it was especially significant that their substantial gift to the Augusta Gives event was a lead gift – that helped inspire others to follow.

Always modest about their giving, Nick and Beth Evans agreed to allow their gift to be publicized with the hope that it would motivate others to contribute. More than 500 individual gifts were received that day – evidence that others love the university as much as Nick and Beth.

Both Nick and Beth received scholarships when they were students. Beth (BA ’71) had assistance the first year of her studies in elementary education, and Nick (BA ’72) earned a newly established golf scholarship. Both knew they wanted to give back to other college students if, and when, they were in a position to do so.

After graduating, Nick Evans went on to become a successful businessman and Beth Evans has excelled as a community leader and volunteer. Beth Evans, along with the late Carolyn Maund, was a founding chair of the local Women in Philanthropy for the Central Savannah River Area – a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 200 women that has distributed over $1.5 million to charitable organizations benefitting women and children throughout the CSRA.

Nick and Beth Evans served as community hosts for the 2017 President’s Gala, which focused on raising money for Augusta Jaguars athletics programs. Their daughters, Kathi and Kim, who live in Augusta, joined Nick and Beth on the Gala planning committee, and their son Chad traveled from his home in Florida to attend. The gala was successful and reflective of the deep and abiding commitment of the Evans family.

We are incredibly grateful for the shining example they have established in service and support of their alma mater.
The number of children diagnosed with mental health disorders in Georgia is on the rise, while the number of mental health care providers is scarce, making it hard for parents to get their children the care they need.

However, donors like Emily Baumann are providing vital funding for significant improvements. Baumann established the Emily S. Baumann Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy endowment at Augusta University in March 2016. Funds contributed since then have helped provide more than 3,500 hours of therapy sessions for children in need.

“I started this fund because mental health is a passion for me, and it concerns me that some children don’t have access to these critical services,” said Baumann, a retired music therapist and community supporter. “I have received beautiful letters from some of the fellows in the Department of Psychiatry telling me how the children were when they first came for treatment and how much better they are after receiving good and consistent psychotherapy over many sessions.”

The endowment has attracted more than 50 additional donations since it opened. Early success in treatment combined with the generosity of new supporters inspired Baumann to contribute an additional $1 million gift in April 2021.

“With the nationwide shortage of pediatric psychiatrists and some health insurance agencies not covering behavioral health services, children are oftentimes left waiting for months to get the help they need,” said Dr. Vaughn McCall, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University.

“As a music therapist, I worked in the area of mental health for many years. So, I understand the importance of therapy, especially for our young people today,” Baumann. “I see all of these horrible things they are facing and it seems there is stress everywhere they turn, especially during this past year.”

“We are incredibly grateful to Emily Baumann for the extremely generous gifts she has made that will ensure — for years to come — that children in our area will receive mental health services who otherwise would not have access to such care.”

Dr. Vaughn McCall, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University.
PGA golfer and wife give $50,000 for pediatric behavioral health and wellness

Joining Emily Baumann in the quest to provide mental and behavioral health services to children and adolescents is the Kevin & Brittany Kisner Foundation. Founded by PGA tour golfer Kevin Kisner and his wife Brittany, the foundation presented a $50,000 check to the Children’s Hospital of Georgia in December 2020.

The Kisner Foundation contribution will help start the Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness program, a collaboration with the Medical College of Georgia Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior. This department is where Baumann’s funds are being utilized.

Kevin Kisner, a native of Aiken, South Carolina, and his wife are familiar with Children’s Hospital of Georgia. In fact, it was Brittany’s previous work as a speech therapist at Children’s that made the Kisners aware of the significant need for child and adolescent psychological services.

“So many families and children in our area have faced extremely long wait times for referrals due to a shortage of mental health providers and developmental pediatricians,” Brittany Kisner said.

“Families are frustrated, and children are falling through the cracks without receiving any services. This integrative behavioral health clinic will provide evaluation and establish a treatment plan and a path forward for these children.”

Dr. Valera Hudson, pediatrician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital of Georgia and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, is grateful for this gift and its timing.

“We diagnose and treat children and adolescents with a variety of issues such as depression, anxiety, attention deficits, and other behavioral challenges,” said Hudson. “As we see indicators of growing mental health struggles in children, the ongoing support from the Kisner Foundation will help us expand these services within our inpatient and outpatient settings to improve the mental and emotional health of children and adolescents across the Southeast.”
Betty and Lovick Corn’s extraordinary endowment 20 years ago to pediatric cancer researcher Dr. David Munn at the Medical College of Georgia continues to bear fruit.

The Corns of Columbus, Georgia, first met Munn in 2002. They were so taken by his mission to develop less-toxic treatments for children with cancer, that they committed $1.5 million to his research on an immunotherapy drug he developed called indoximod. Munn believed that combining indoximod with chemotherapy and radiation would result in much improved outcomes as the body used its own immunotherapy system to assist in the fight against cancer and tumor growth.

This was extremely important where children are concerned, because cancer treatments could be very toxic to their young growing bodies. At that time, caring for children with cancer across the United States was disjointed and severely underfunded because far fewer children than adults suffer from cancer.

Though at the time of the meeting with Munn, the Corns had five healthy children, they were duly impressed with the vision for improved treatments for families who weren’t as fortunate. The $1.5 million gift in 2002 and other gifts from the family over the years catapulted the groundbreaking research Dr. Munn was doing from theoretical concept to an actual clinical trial of indoximod.

The year 2015 proved monumental when Dr. Ted Johnson, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist opened the first clinical trial of indoximod for children with relapsed brain cancer and a difficult-to-treat cancer called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma or DIPG. Many families from across the U.S. have been helped by the extraordinary research and bedside application attributable to Munn and Johnson.

Though family patriarch Lovick passed away in 2013, and Betty has stepped back from the once-active role she played in the family’s philanthropy, fourth and fifth generations of family members continue to ensure funding of the many advances Munn and Johnson are making to improve the treatment of children with cancer.

The Corns most recent gift of $1 million – which adds up to $4 million over the years – will continue to advance the groundbreaking research and treatment for childhood cancers.

Betty and Lovick Corn passed on a strong family philosophy “that we’ve all been tremendously blessed and we owe it to give back,” said Elizabeth Corn Ogie, one of the five Corn daughters and a former MCG Foundation board member.

“Their legacy is one that will continue to live on by the very nature of what they chose to give to, not because they built a building, not because they put a plaque in the ground by a tree,” said Gilbert Miller, the Corns’ grandson. “They are literally helping people like Dr. Munn give life and hope to other people. I cannot imagine a better legacy to steward than that.”
Riverside Refreshments creates $100,000 men’s golf scholarship

Riverside Refreshments has a long history of philanthropy in the Augusta community, so it’s not surprising that the generosity of this local family-operated company has also touched Augusta University. Riverside Refreshments committed $100,000 to establish the Riverside Refreshments Men’s Golf Scholarship Endowment.

“My mom and dad have always been very generous people and they taught us to want to give back,” said Les Perry, general manager, referring to his parents Edgar “Ed” Perry Jr. and the late Gail Heath Perry. “We love giving back to good causes and causes that we have a passion for.”

A true family business, in addition to Les and his father having their hands in Riverside Refreshments, Les’ brother, Heath Perry, heads the soft drink division.

Riverside Refreshments prides itself on being a business that is committed to family values and giving back to the community. Golden Harvest Food Bank and the Walton Rehabilitation Health System are a couple of examples. Additionally, the Perrys established the Gail Heath Perry Endowment at University Hospital in memory of the late Ms. Perry to provide wigs and other accessories for breast cancer patients.

Les Perry has spent a good portion of his life involved with Augusta University Golf. He grew up in Augusta and played junior golf when he was younger. He has fond memories of Ernie Langford, a former coach of the Augusta University men’s golf team, trying to recruit him to play golf for AU in 1989.

Even though Perry ended up going to Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, he moved back to Augusta in the late ’90s and became involved in the Augusta Golf Association, who are loyal supporters of the AU golf program and Forest Hills. Likewise, Perry has been an active member of the Augusta University Men’s Golf Tournament Committee as well as a co-chair of the tournament at Forest Hills for over a decade.

“One of my best father-son memories was taking my son out to Oklahoma State when we (AU) won the national championship in 2011,” he said referencing the second of back-to-back NCAA Division I golf championships the Jaguars achieved. “That was a highlight of my golfing career, just to go out and be a part of that.”

“Being from Augusta, Georgia, which we consider the home of golf in America, being able to be part of a top Division I golf program, it’s fun to be close to that program,” said Perry, elaborating on his deep-rooted enthusiasm for Augusta University Golf.

“We enjoy seeing the success and we enjoy getting to meet the players and getting to know the coaches. There’s a lot of pride when it comes to golf in Augusta. We just enjoy being a part of it. We want to make sure we do all we can so they (Augusta Jaguars) can compete at the national level.”
Bloom Estate Gift Establishes Medical Research Chair

Leon Bloom was never a patient at AU Health. He never attended Augusta University. But a visit to Augusta and a tour of the campus in the mid-1980s left an indelible impression. So much so that he and his wife, a successful attorney, left a very generous $1 million estate gift to establish the Leon and Dorothy Bloom Chair in Medical Research at the Medical College of Georgia.

Bloom was a self-made man. He started a business in his home basement in the mid-1950s and named it BioLab. Conceived as a product to curb bacteria and disease in chicken hatcheries, it effectively increased hatch rates and was very successful in the poultry industry.

Not content to stop there, Bloom sold his interest in the agriculture business and decided to explore the implications of his product for the swimming pool industry. His idea took a while to gain traction; but by 1962 Bloom was flying his personal plane across the country to market and sell his new product called BioGuard, which has transformed the swimming pool cleaning industry.

Bloom sold his company in 1979 and retired comfortably to Florida. Since he and Dorothy had no children, they doted on their nieces and nephews. His nephew Larry Bloom spoke fondly of his Uncle Leon, saying that he could have sold his company for much more, but he lowered the price so his employees would have a funded pension plan.

This sort of caring was also evident in the Blooms’ commitment to philanthropy. The Blooms thought deeply about their legacy as demonstrated by their estate plans. Leon Bloom explicitly expressed the “desire that the financial residue of his life’s efforts be directed toward charitable activities and purposes.” AU’s Medical College of Georgia was one of the fortunate places the Blooms decided was worthy of their generosity.

The Blooms’ connection to MCG was a loose one. Leon Bloom’s friend and attorney, the late Sidney Parks, had a son who was a 1984 graduate of MCG. David, the son, was working on his residency in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery. He loved his chosen profession and spoke enthusiastically about his outstanding education and training at MCG. Word of this got back to Bloom.

Bloom visited Augusta a few years later and noted that he was most impressed. That impression translated into an incredible gift that will benefit generations to come through the Leon and Dorothy Bloom Chair in Medical Research at the Medical College of Georgia.
$10 million gift creates outreach center

The Augusta University Literacy Center, which provides free tutoring for children and adults in our community, has become part of a much larger mission to bring critically needed services to two underserved historic communities – the Harrisburg and Laney-Walker neighborhoods.

Officials broke ground April 6, 2021, on Chafee Avenue near the corner of Fenwick Street on the Eastern boundary of Harrisburg for a project that will house similar but distinct services known as the HUB for Community Innovation.

This impactful concept is being made possible through a combination of federal grants and private contributions – notably a $10 million donation announced by Augusta National Golf Club in November 2020 and gifted jointly with AT&T, Bank of America and IBM.

The organizations spearheading this progressive plan are the Community Foundation for the CSRA, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Augusta and the Medical College of Georgia Foundation.

A 16,000-square-foot building in the Hub will operate as the new headquarters and a support center for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Augusta, which has a 70-year history of serving these neighborhoods. This indispensable facility will allow the Boys & Girls Clubs to expand their services which focus on youth mentoring, college readiness, workforce readiness, virtual programming and more.

The larger of the two buildings included in the HUB will be a 33,000-square-foot facility on the western side of Chafee Avenue that will house four locally based nonprofits, including the Augusta University Literacy Center.

Honoring a Literacy Advocate

The Augusta University Literacy Center was founded by the late Dr. Paulette Harris, who was the Cree Walker Chair for the Department of Advanced Studies and Innovation in the College of Education. Dr. Harris dedicated her life to improving literacy. For more than 30 years, both children and adults learned to read through the nationally acclaimed reading program she facilitated.

"With this new building, her legacy will live on for years and years," said Dr. Judi Wilson, dean of the College of Education. "I feel a huge sense of responsibility to not only make sure that we build on the foundation that she created, but that we even take it to the next level in honoring her and her life’s work."

The AU Literacy Center dovetails with the other three nonprofits that will be located in the larger HUB building – Augusta Locally Grown, a program dedicated to growing the local food community and promoting public health through farmers’ markets, community gardens and educational programming; Harrisburg Family Health Care, which provides free medical care to more than 3,000 uninsured and underinsured Augusta area residents annually; and RISE Augusta, which links community resources, literacy remediation, mentoring and basic needs services to struggling children and their families.

The two HUB campus buildings are expected to be completed and operational by spring 2022.
New Science and Mathematics building opens on Health Sciences Campus

Dean John Sutherland calls it an experiment – an apt description of the decision to move the College of Science and Mathematics from Summerville to the Health Sciences Campus of Augusta University.

It was the radical idea of former College of Science and Mathematics dean, the late Dr. Rickey Hicks, who envisioned a building that would be situated near the Medical College of Georgia and the Dental College of Georgia (and a short walk from the colleges of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences).

Indeed, university leaders and faculty hope it will be just the right formula for creating new synergies in research and discovery by combining undergraduate students and programs to the mix of “white coat” graduate students, as well as the faculty of both. This enriched environment is expected to positively impact the progression of students and promote recruitment.

One of the most exciting and new aspects of this project is the addition of the pedestrian bridge between the Science and Mathematics building and the Interdisciplinary Research Center. The bridge spans across Goss Lane connecting the two buildings and encouraging cross-disciplinary study.

The move will also benefit the business, education and arts and humanities colleges. Because the Summerville Campus is located within a National Historic District, a large-scale expansion there is impossible. Therefore, relocating the majority of the College of Science and Mathematics to the Health Sciences Campus opens valuable space in Science Hall for the remaining colleges to expand.

Bank of America made a $250,000 gift in the spring toward the project and the naming of the new Bank of America Plaza outside the main entrance of the building and adjacent to the Health Sciences quad.

“We look forward to seeing how our latest partnership with the University advances workforce development and economic opportunity in Augusta for years to come,” said Ora Parish, President of Bank of America Augusta/Aiken.

More work lies ahead on the fourth-floor research space, but the Science and Mathematics building has officially opened. And so, the experiment begins.
AFFILIATED FOUNDATIONS:
2020-21 Financial Highlights

ENDOWMENT POOL BALANCE
$354,024,869

SUPPORT TO OUR UNIVERSITY AND HEALTH SYSTEM
$17,616,024

TOTAL NET ASSETS
$413,635,344

TOTAL DONORS
10,220

TOTAL GIFTS
10,277

TOTAL GIVING
$28,778,780

If you are interested in viewing more detailed financials, please visit augusta.edu/giving/foundations
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Deborah S. Vaughn
Vice President, Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement
North Augusta, SC
May 26, 2021, marked an historic event at Augusta University. The Augusta University Foundation and the Georgia Health Sciences Foundation announced plans to merge effective July 1, 2021.

Established in 2008, the Georgia Health Sciences Foundation has largely been focused on supporting the Health Sciences Campus of Augusta University, while the AU Foundation — formed in 1963 to advance the mission of Augusta College, and later Augusta State University — has largely supported the Summerville Campus.

In 2012, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to consolidate Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University. In 2015, under President Brooks A. Keel, the Augusta University legacy brand was established for the consolidated institution.

“As an 8-year-old university with nearly two centuries of history, we’ve become uniquely adept at bridging our past and future,” said President Keel. “We are extremely grateful to these legacy foundations, not only for their faithful support, but for their collective wisdom in seeing a better path forward and the commitment to work together to navigate the bright future of this thriving university.

The cost efficiencies in avoiding duplicated efforts and the realization of a bigger investment pool, which will benefit donors, were two of the major deciding factors in this decision.

Debbie Layman and Al Harris co-chair the newly merged foundation.

“Combining a large, diverse group of trustees from the AU and GHS foundations will bring a wealth of insight and experience to one table for the benefit of the university as a whole,”

Stephen Lamb, Interim Vice President of Foundations
Dear friends,

Thank you for your interest and support. I hope the stories you’ve read inside this annual report have proven informative and inspirational.

Our Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement team is incredibly humbled by your ongoing partnership with Augusta University. During a year of extreme and unique challenges, our donors contributed an overwhelming $28,778,780 to a wide variety of programs and initiatives.

Our community absolutely stepped up to help us underwrite some of the many unplanned expenditures of providing testing, care and vaccinations in the fight against COVID-19. Not only did we receive significant monetary donations, but several local businesses provided meals, gift cards, flowers and other gestures of support to our AU Health Heroes. It was a privilege to witness Dr. Keel bestow the annual President’s award on this group of dedicated professionals as our pastoral staff led us in remembrance of those who sacrificed much in the line of duty.

“Resilience” is the best word to describe our institution over this past year. Our Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement team members, who were working from home for several months, made an extra effort to reach out to our donors and alumni through all the channels available to us – emails, texts, phone calls, video calls and letters. Hosting our first (and second) Augusta Gives “giving day” event during a pandemic had its own set of challenges. But you, our donors, gave generously.

Others who worked incredibly hard on behalf of our donors this year were the board members of the Augusta University and Georgia Health Sciences foundations. The consolidation of our two legacy universities in 2012 gave us two supporting foundations, one closely aligned with the Summerville Campus, and the other with the Health Sciences campus. Recognizing the opportunity to pool our resources to create efficiencies and generate stronger investment returns, the boards voted to join ranks, effective July 1, 2021. This is a significant milestone, and we are incredibly thankful to the members of both boards for their visionary leadership and support.

The MCG Foundation remains dedicated to serving the Medical College of Georgia, and we are indebted to its board members for their outstanding commitment and service as well.

I could not be prouder of our foundation board members; our AU leadership, faculty and staff; our community partners; our incredible alumni and donors; and our diligent Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement team members. Together, we have demonstrated amazing resilience. We have made exceptional progress in a most unusual set of circumstances.

Truly, it is an exciting season to be a part of Augusta University.

But, alas, my season with this remarkable institution has come to an end. Our extended family circumstances have shifted during the pandemic, and my husband and I will be building our next chapter together in Tennessee beginning Oct. 1.

I have enjoyed three wonderful years at Augusta University as your vice president for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, and I have been blessed with many amazing friendships that I will cherish always. I will miss the warm hospitality of the Augusta University community, but you will forever be in my thoughts and prayers.

Farewell and fond hopes for the future,

Deborah S. Vaughn
Vice President
Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement
“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

- Helen Keller