Dear Friends -

It is my pleasure to bring you news of the University of Georgia Foundation and to do so with a little bit different slant. In addition to a new look, the content and the target audience are different.

After a close examination of the foundation's communications by the Development and Public Affairs Committee, and input from members of the Executive Committee and other trustees, we have decided that the Chairman's Letter should be an internally-focused publication. The goal of this quarterly piece will be to keep you – our trustees and emeritus trustees, deans of each school or college, senior vice presidents and administrators – updated with information that is relevant to our collective work in support of the university's academic mission.

Over the longer term, we are considering the possibility of a second newsletter to the larger donor audiences with the format and content to be determined.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you will enjoy learning about how our efforts are yielding results from which our students, faculty and university as a whole are benefitting. I hope that you also will find it helpful in shaping your own plans as a trustee of this foundation.

As always, I am deeply appreciative of your outstanding service to the University of Georgia Foundation and I look forward to working with each and every one of you in helping to make the University of Georgia the very best it can be.

Sincerely,

Bill Young, Jr., Chairman

Gail Hunnicutt and husband Pat host
Law School Dean Rebecca White

Wayne Hadden, a LaGrange attorney, and his wife Sally joined Foundation Trustee Gail Hunnicutt (right) for an event introducing Law School Dean Rebecca White (right photo) to area lawyers.

University of Georgia Foundation Trustee Gail Hunnicutt and her husband Pat recently hosted a reception with Pat's brother Charles A. Hunnicutt, a UGA Law School graduate (J.D. 1975) who now practices in Washington. The event was staged to introduce Law School Dean Rebecca White to attorneys and their spouses who live in the LaGrange area.

The invitation list included local lawyers who earned their undergraduate and/or law degrees at UGA. In addition, all local superior court judges, the president of the Callaway Foundation and the president of LaGrange College were invited.

Dean White offered an informal update from the law school and fielded questions from her legal brethren — saying afterward that she was pleased with the quantity and quality of the questions.

This is an excellent example of engagement by a trustee that will help create good relationships with prospective donors and shows appreciation to those who have offered gifts to the university over the years.

Thanks to Gail, Pat and Charlie for their efforts!

Redcoat Band Derbies provide surprise ending to trustee dinner

Thanks so much to President and Mrs. Adams for hosting us in their home for a tremendous reception and dinner during the fall board meeting. It was a great time to relax, enjoy the company of old and new friends and share a superb meal. A well-kept secret awaited us as the evening drew to a close. At the conclusion of my remarks, known to but a few, the Redcoat Band's Derbies unit slipped unnoticed into the president's backyard. There, they assembled behind a series of curtains that were lifted to the strains of The Battle Hymn of the Bulldog Nation, followed by a rousing rendition of Glory, Glory, Dixiean. Thanks to Dr. Michael Robinson, director of the Redcoat Band, and all of the Derbies for giving of their time and talents to make the foundation's dinner a truly special event.
A look back at the Fall board meeting

It was great to see everyone in Athens for what were important committee meetings and a very productive full board session. We had an ambitious schedule and accomplished a great deal over the two days. We also had the opportunity to participate in some very enjoyable activities outside of the working sessions which built a sense of camaraderie among trustees that will serve the foundation and the university well as we move forward.

For those of you who had prior commitments and were unable to attend, we missed having you there and hope that you will be able to join us at our next meeting, February 16 and 17 in Athens. In the meantime, allow me to touch on a few highlights from the fall meeting.

Foundation makes special allocation of $750,000 in additional support for UGA for scholarships

The most noteworthy news to come out of the fall board meeting was an appropriation of $750,000 in additional support we made to the University of Georgia for scholarships. The funding, which received unanimous approval of the board, is being used by university administration and the Office of Admissions to meet critical scholarship needs.

Recently, President Adams and Provost Jere Morehead approved a proposal to create the Baldwin Scholarship program with these funds. It is a scholarship specifically to help fill the gap between Charter Scholarships and Ramsey Scholarships.

The Baldwin Scholarship provides $2,000 per award to top students entering, with the first awards in the fall of 2012. The criteria used for selection includes entering freshmen with strong test scores, a rigorous curriculum, a minimum 3.5 GPA, and will be renewable for up to three additional years for students entering.

It was quite fitting that trustees were invited to the dedication of the Abraham Baldwin Statue on North Campus during the fall meeting. More than 150 people attended the ceremony, which was highlighted by a keynote address from President Adams.

As seen above, the president then joined a group that included Loch Johnson, the provostial science professor who first presented the idea for a statue honoring Baldwin, and U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones, a trustee of the foundation and Alumni Association president, for the official unveiling.

After the ceremony, trustees assembled for lunch in the Tate Center where Sr. Vice President for External Affairs Tom Landrum, an aficionado of Georgia History, offered a fascinating presentation on Abraham Baldwin. Landrum spoke of the profound impact Baldwin had on the university as its first president, and his impact on Georgia and the nation as one of America’s Founding Fathers.

Blood pressure-lowering drug after stroke aids recovery, study finds

A new University of Georgia study has found a commonly prescribed blood pressure-lowering medication appears to kick-start recovery in the unaffected brain hemisphere after a stroke by boosting blood vessel growth. The discovery, based on a study in laboratory rats, was published recently in the online journal PLoS ONE.

The research team, led by Susan Fagan, Albert W. Jowdy Professor in Pharmacy Care at the College of Pharmacy, struck a new path in stroke research by examining the healthy side of the brain after the stroke occurred.

“I’m very excited because I think we can harness the restorative properties of the (unaffected) side of the brain with drug therapies,” Fagan said. “When most researchers study stroke they compare the animal’s side of the brain that’s damaged to the opposite side, assuming that side is normal or not affected.

The study also found that animals treated with the blood pressure drug candesartan had increased levels of a “pro-survival” protein in both brain hemispheres. The protein is responsible for helping neurons in the brain survive certain maladies—such as stroke—and promote longer life. Fagan said the study contributes to a body of literature that finds new potential for drug therapy.

UGA Honors alumna A.E. Stallings receives MacArthur Foundation “genius award”

University of Georgia alumna A.E. (Alicia) Stallings (AB, ’90) has been selected as a 2011 MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Stallings is one of 22 recipients of the fellowship this year. Originally from Decatur, Ga., but now residing in Athens, Greece, Stallings majored in Latin while a student in UGA’s Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. She was in the Honors Program and came to UGA on a Foundation Fellowship. She was recognized by the MacArthur Foundation for her work as a poet and translator.

The UGA Foundation’s board of directors at the fall meeting in Athens voted unanimously to approve a special allocation of $750,000 for scholarship support above and beyond the $20 million-plus provided each year.

UGAF Development and Public Affairs Committee meeting

Terry College of Business Suite, Hopkins Boardroom

One Live Oak, Atlanta

2:00 PM

University of Georgia Board of Visitors luncheon

The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health at the Georgia Aquarium

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

University of Georgia Foundation Investment Committee meeting

Terry College of Business Suite, Hopkins Boardroom

One Live Oak, Atlanta

1:00 PM

Fall Semester Commencement

Steigeman Coliseum

9:30 AM – Undergraduate ceremony

2:30 PM – Graduate ceremony

President Michael F. Adams’ State of the University Address

UGA Chapel

3:30 PM

UGA Foundation winter board meeting

Various campus sites in Athens

February 16-17, 2012

UGA Foundation spring/summer board meeting

Various campus sites in Athens

May 11, 2012

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