Clockwise from top left: Sara J. Finley, Wayne Finley, and Randall Finley; Gillian and Mike Goodrich; Manolo Sánchez; Bill L. Harbert and Billy Harbert; Alice and Caldwell Marks

on the cover

Committed to Community | GOODRICH FOUNDATION | 3
Honoring the Legacy | JOY AND BILL HARBERT FOUNDATION | 4
Family Pays Tribute to Parents | WAYNE AND SARA CREWS FINLEY FAMILY | 5
Game Changer | BBVA COMPASS | 6
A Vision for Discovering New Treatments and Cures | PROTECTIVE LIFE | 7
Supporting Cancer Research | CALDWELL MARKS | 8
Endowed Chair Honors Renowned Rheumatologist | ROBERT R. MEYER FOUNDATION | 9
Leading the Way | MEDICAL PROPERTIES TRUST | 10
Gift to Honor Nursing | MACKAY FAMILY | 10

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DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
GIVING SOMETHING CHANGES EVERYTHING
A Note from THE CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

IT IS TRUE THAT EVERY GIFT COUNTS, and every contribution from our loyal supporters helps UAB advance knowledge, accelerate research, and build a better world. We appreciate each and every one. For this issue of The Campaign for UAB Newsletter, however, we have chosen to focus on some of the gifts that are truly transformational—those with immediate impact that is resounding.

These recent gifts are significant not only in amount, but also in the scope of impact they will have on our students, our faculty, our community, our state, and beyond. Donors such as BBVA Compass, the Wayne and Sara Crews Finley family, the Goodrich Foundation, the late Caldwell Marks, the Robert R. Meyer Foundation, the Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation, Medical Properties Trust, the Mackay family, Dai-Ichi Life Insurance Company, and Protective Life are funding innovative research, accelerating breakthroughs, and advancing education.

As we continue to move toward our ambitious goal of $1 billion in this historic campaign, these kinds of gifts help propel us forward exponentially. Whether honoring a family member or giving back to show their appreciation for excellent care, these donors have opened their hearts to help change the world for the better. We appreciate their generosity in giving something to change everything.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UAB COMMITTEES

Campaign Co-Chairs

President’s Campaign Executive Committee

President’s Campaign Leadership Cabinet

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- Fostering Research, Innovation, and Economic Development through research acceleration and drug discovery, innovation, and economic enrichment;
- Advancing Faculty Excellence with a focus on recruitment and retention, and a goal of doubling endowed chairs and professorships;
- Enriching the Student Experience by increasing the number of endowed scholarships and fellowships, improving technology, providing study-abroad opportunities, and exposing students to multidisciplinary learning and a new world of discovery;
- Developing Programmatic Support for local, national, and international service to communities with a focus on patient care and the transformational experience of the arts;
- Enhancing Facilities to advance learning in state-of-the-art academic and student buildings in a campus environment that inspires scholarship, research, patient care, and community enrichment.
Gillian and Mike Goodrich

Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

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headed in Birmingham, and his wife, Gillian, have made several transformative gifts to UAB.

Through their foundation and their personal donations, they have committed nearly $6 million to support a number of diverse entities across campus in support of the Campaign.

“We have a passionate desire to support and improve our community—a strong belief in the need to give back at the local level that originates from Mike’s early days at BE&K,” Gillian Goodrich says.

Through personal and foundation funding, Mike and Gillian Goodrich have given gifts to support the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC), the Deep South North for Cancer Control, ArtReach, UABTeach, and the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

SYNONYMOUS WITH THE IDIOM “CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME,” the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health care in Birmingham and the state of Alabama.

Since 2008, Mike Goodrich, the retired chairman and former chief executive officer of BE&K, an international construction and engineering firm headquartered in Birmingham, and his wife, Gillian, have made several transformative gifts to UAB.

Fostering the acceleration of breast cancer research at UAB is especially meaningful for Gillian.

“By giving to UAB in support of cancer research, we can be a part of the strategy to eliminate cancer and improve health care, starting in our own community,” she says.

Fighting Pediatric Cancer

The Goodriches’ combined personal and foundation gifts to the CCC total $2,725,000. This funding will enable UAB to recruit a world-class pediatric cancer researcher, strengthen ongoing efforts to eliminate health and cancer disparities, and accelerate breast cancer research at UAB.

In honor of her parents, Gillian and Mike have generously given a $2-million personal gift to establish the Gay and Bew White Endowed Chair of Pediatric Oncology. “This transformative commitment will accelerate basic and translational research capacity in pediatric oncology at UAB,” says Edward E. Partridge, M.D., director of the CCC. “We are deeply grateful to Mike and Gillian for choosing to honor her parents by establishing this chair for pediatric oncology,” he adds.

Reaching Underserved Communities

Through their foundation, the Goodriches also have donated an annual gift of $75,000 for the next three years to the Deep South Network for Cancer Control. “Making a difference beyond the immediate local community requires sustained commitment,” Gillian says. “Once you make the decision to support UAB efforts to eliminate health and cancer disparities in medically underserved areas stems from conversations Gillian had with Partridge and Claudia Hardy, program director for the Office of Community Outreach at the CCC.

The Deep South Network, a unique collaboration of health providers, researchers, educators, and community volunteers, mirrors the philosophy of the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation. Both organizations aid the underserved and catalyze change in order to reduce gaps in health care and health education. “The Deep South Network is reaching the unreachable, meeting desperate community needs, and changing the landscape of the local community by helping women affected by cancer and their spouses or their partners,” Gillian says.

Accelerating the Search for a Cure

Fostering the acceleration of breast cancer research at UAB is especially meaningful for Gillian.

Next year, she will celebrate 10 years of remission from breast cancer. Through their personal gift of $500,000 to support the Goodrich Family Breast Cancer Research Acceleration Fund in the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Goodriches will help accelerate basic and translational breast cancer research.

“It is time we got rid of cancer,” Gillian says. “By giving to UAB in support of cancer research, we can be a part of the strategy to eliminate cancer and improve health care, starting in our own community,” she says.

Promoting the Arts

The Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation provided the seed money to begin ArtReach, a collaborative venture between UAB’s Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center’s ArtPlay and the YWCA of Central Alabama at YWoodlawn. ArtReach provides high-quality arts education through a series of classes and programs benefiting children and adults. ArtPlay’s teaching artists offer free instruction to children and adults in subjects ranging from quilting and drumming to jazz and dance.

“ArtReach has brought a joyful sense of community to the residents of the Woodlawn area who participate in its programs,” Gillian Goodrich says. “You can see the enthusiastic participation of the children in drumming, dance, and music.”

Supporting Education

A $500,000 gift is helping to fund UABTeach, a program in the College of Arts and Sciences that introduces science and math majors to teaching pre-K through grade 12 students through early and intensive field experience and by building strong instructional background.

“We are facing a shortage of teachers in science, technology, engineering, and math in our state and across the nation. UABTeach is a program that is allowing UAB to increase the number of students who can teach these subjects,” says Shirley Salloway Kahn, Ph.D., senior vice president for development, alumni, and external relations. “Ultimately, UABTeach will help improve science and math education in our schools as well as enhance our workforce across the state.”

Fostering Innovation

A $2 million gift is going to the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which provides, fosters, and promotes a strong innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem through education and experiential learning that will facilitate the successful practice of entrepreneurship at UAB, in the region, and beyond.

Launched in 2013, the Harbert IIE will be housed, along with the Collat School of Business, in a new facility that will be the cornerstone for a new innovation and entrepreneurship district in Birmingham focused on expanding technology commercialization efforts.

“Our vision is to leverage the knowledge across campus, from business expertise and entrepreneurship to world-class medicine, dentistry, engineering, optometry, and health care leadership to move UAB and Birmingham forward,” says Kathy Nugent, director of the Harbert IIE.

The positive impact of the Goodriches’ philanthropy will be seen across campus and throughout the community for years to come.
The Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation has given a gift of $5 million to name and support the mission of The Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UAB. This generous act of philanthropy honors the legacy of an admired Birmingham businessman while powerfully advancing a mission of inspiration, discovery, innovation, and success.

In 1949, Bill Harbert co-founded Harbert Construction Corporation in Birmingham. He was the company’s executive vice president until 1979, when he became president of Harbert International Inc. In 1991, Bill Harbert bought a majority of the international operations of Harbert International, serving as chairman and CEO of Bill Harbert Construction, Inc. Today, Billy Harbert leads B.L. Harbert International as Chairman and CEO. He founded the company in 2000, continuing the family tradition started by his father and uncle. Even as the majority of the company’s construction projects take place overseas, the headquarters of its two operating groups, the U.S. Group and the International Group, remain in Birmingham.

Throughout his career, Bill Harbert was active in the community, and he and his family were integral to the development of UAB. Their financial support created the Mae Schooling Harbert Fund for Resident Physicians. A gift of $1 million established the Joy and Bill Harbert Endowed Chair in Cancer Genetics. Bill Harbert also was generous with his time, serving on numerous community advisory boards and as director of The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation. He was a member of the UAB Golden 100 Club and a supporter of UAB Athletics. Joy Harbert was an inaugural member of the Board of Visitors of the UAB School of Nursing, among many other civic duties.

“My parents’ advice was simple and heartfelt: Give back,” Billy Harbert says. “In the years since Joy Harbert’s passing in 2000 and Bill Harbert’s in 2010, their non-profit corporation, the Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation, has continued to promote the good works they both believed in.

Now the foundation’s substantial financial support will have a dramatic impact on the mission of the Harbert IIE. Launched in 2013 to promote a strong innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem through education and experiential learning, the Harbert IIE will allow UAB to foster the creation of new companies, products, and licenses.

“We want to make sure we’re spinning off businesses that we keep here in Birmingham,” says UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D. “Our faculty, staff, and students innovate every day of the year. What we want to do is harness that energy. This generous gift further empowers us in that mission.”

Ultimately, the Harbert IIE will strengthen the economy of Birmingham and the state by turning intellectual property into new business ventures. And, like the construction company Bill Harbert founded more than 50 years ago, those ventures will strengthen Birmingham.

“My father supported community initiatives around the world on projects with which we were involved,” Billy Harbert says. “He never wanted attention directed to him, and definitely never wanted a building named after him. However, I believe that he deserves to be recognized for all that he has done for people in this community and around the world. I cannot think of a person who had a more entrepreneurial spirit than my father. When Bill Harbert believed in you, he empowered you to succeed with his trust. He did not acknowledge the word ‘risk.’ He was an eternal optimist.”

Billy Harbert hopes that the Harbert IIE will fuel that kind of entrepreneurial spirit on campus and throughout Birmingham.

“The fortunes of the city are directly tied to the fortunes of UAB. I hope this new center will attract additional resources and faculty to UAB,” he says. “This, in turn, will attract new students from around the world, as well as in Birmingham. In addition to its reputation as a world-class medical university, UAB will be recognized as a world-class business school.”
FINLEY FAMILY GIVES IN TRIBUTE TO PARENTS AND BELOVED UAB FACULTY MEMBERS

THREE PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS WILL HONOR A HUSBAND AND WIFE who were beloved UAB School of Medicine faculty members. The Finley name will be added to an endowed scholarship in the School of Medicine and to a UAB library on campus in recognition of innumerable contributions to the field of genetics and UAB, as well as years of generous support for the institution by the late Dr. Sara Crews Finley and Dr. Wayne H. Finley. The Finley family’s continued impact on the university comes in the form of a $3.4-million gift.

Along with her husband, Wayne H. Finley, M.D., Ph.D., the late Sara Crews Finley, M.D., co-founded the first medical genetics program in the southeastern United States, and was co-director of UAB’s Medical Genetics Laboratory for more than 30 years. She served as the first female president of the Medical Alumni Association and the Jefferson County Medical Society, among many other honors and awards.

Not only was Sara Crews Finley a visionary leader in her field, she was also a wise, kind, and generous mentor to countless people in and outside of the medical profession. As a member of the admissions committee for the School of Medicine for 20 years, she guided and advised hundreds of applicants seeking careers in medicine. To honor her legacy, the Sara Crews Finley, M.D., Leadership Scholars Program has been established by Dr. Wayne Finley; the couple’s daughter, Sara J. Finley; and son, Randall W. Finley, M.D., a School of Medicine alumnus, to recognize and support the aspirations of top medical students.

Sara Crews Finley, M.D., Leadership Scholars will be selected based on academic achievement and leadership skills, and will receive a full-tuition scholarship for their third and fourth years of medical school. Recipients also will receive a new white coat with special insignia indicating their status as Sara Crews Finley, M.D., Leadership Scholars at UAB’s annual White Coat Ceremony in August.

“My mother was a highly respected leader personally and professionally,” says Sara J. Finley. “We felt that a leadership scholarship in medicine was the most appropriate way to recognize her enduring legacy. We of course want the Sara Crews Finley Leadership Scholars to have strong academic credentials and an excellent medical school record. But our goal is for them also to be respected leaders in their professional and personal lives with the highest standards of integrity and a commitment to serve others.”

The Finley children also have honored their father’s dedication to UAB with a gift to rename the Reynolds Historical Library, a collection of more than 13,000 rare books and manuscripts pertaining to the history of medicine and dating from the 14th century, as the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library. This gift is especially fitting, given Dr. Wayne Finley’s love for medical history, as he has authored a number of articles and books relating to the history of the medical center in Birmingham, including The University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association, 1859-2003. He is also a founding member of the board of the Reynolds Associates at UAB’s Lister Hill Library.

As professor emeritus in the Department of Genetics, Wayne Finley has made it his life’s work to use his pioneering knowledge of the field of genetics to better the lives of Alabamians, and has served as a model of excellence and intellectual rigor for countless young physicians.

“My father has always had an abiding passion for the study of medicine—its origins, its evolution, and its practitioners,” Sara J. Finley says. “If given the choice, he would always choose a medical history book over a best-selling novel. In particular, he has dedicated himself to researching, transcribing, and documenting the history and leadership of the UAB School of Medicine and the practice of medicine in Alabama. We believe that renaming the library in his honor will recognize his legacy as an enthusiastic leader in preserving medical history at UAB.”

In addition, the Finley children have established an endowed support fund to enhance the Reynolds Historical Lectureship, which will be renamed the Reynolds-Finley Historical Lectureship. The lectureship will help bring scholars of national stature to campus.

“Adding the Finley name to the library and establishing the scholarship will honor the Finley legacy on our campus now and in the future,” says Shirley Salloway Kahn, Ph.D., senior vice president for development, alumni, and external relations. “This generous gift will have an invaluable impact on the university, our students, and the field of medicine. Adding the Finley name will elevate the status of these areas.”

“We felt that a leadership scholarship in medicine was the most appropriate way to recognize [our mother’s] enduring legacy.”

- Sara J. Finley
BBVA COMPASS AND UAB OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER A $1.5-MILLION GIFT that will bring a new soccer facility to the campus. In recognition of the gift, The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees approved naming the facility BBVA Compass Field.

"This is an exciting milestone for our continued growth, and I thank BBVA Compass for this generous support," says UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D. "Plans for this facility have been in place for some time, and I am pleased that BBVA Compass can be recognized for their generous gift through this naming."

Located south of University Boulevard just east of I-65, BBVA Compass Field will be the first impression visitors encounter as they enter campus from I-65. "In an era when the community and UAB are connected in mutual support and growth like never before, I am proud that this facility and the BBVA Compass name will welcome students, faculty, and staff, as well as guests onto our campus," Watts says.

UAB Men’s Soccer and Women’s Soccer will play home games at the facility, which will also host non-UAB soccer matches. The facility is anticipated to seat roughly 2,500.

"This is great for Birmingham and UAB," says BBVA Compass Chairman and CEO Manolo Sánchez. "BBVA Compass Field will showcase one of the most popular sports in the world and allow us to support UAB’s diverse campus and international community. It will also contribute in a meaningful way to the revitalization of the urban core of this historic and important American city."

"Philanthropic support like this is critical to this great institution," says Shirley Salloway Kahn, Ph.D., senior vice president for development, alumni, and external relations. "And this was a great opportunity to match a donor’s gift with their interest."

BBVA Compass has a strong record of engaging with the communities it serves through the global sport of soccer. Its parent company, Spain-based BBVA Group, sponsors La Liga, one of the most popular professional sports leagues in the world, and BBVA Compass Stadium in Houston is the home of Major League Soccer’s Houston Dynamo.

Birmingham itself is no stranger to soccer. The city had the highest ESPN audience in the country for the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying match between the United States and Mexico, according to socceramerica.com, at almost twice the national viewership average. The city was also among the top 18 U.S. markets in television ratings records during the 2014 World Cup.

Inaugural seasons for the UAB men’s and women’s soccer programs were in 1979 and 1996, respectively, and both have experienced success. The women’s team won a Conference USA Championship in 2004. Head Women’s Coach Harold Warren helped coach the University of Southern California to a national championship in 2007.

"The new facility will help make UAB a top contender when putting in bids to host tournaments," Warren says. "The ability to attract ACC, Big 12, and Big 10 schools for play helps the program’s competitive growth, and fans love watching UAB compete against the best. It’s a win-win for everyone."

Under the leadership of UAB Men’s Head Coach Mike Getman, the UAB men’s team has won six Conference USA titles and made seven NCAA appearances. "Recruits will know they are joining a program that is first-class, and that the university and our community support the team," Getman says.

Of the gift, UAB Women’s Soccer Coach Harold Warren says, “This generous gift will undoubtedly be a tremendous benefit to our men’s and women’s soccer programs, as well as soccer in the community.”

BBVA Compass Birmingham City President Alan Register says the gift is about more than soccer, pointing to its broader impact. "UAB is vital to the economic and cultural future of our community, and an investment in its continued growth and prosperity is one of the best ways to support Birmingham and Alabama," Register says.
TOKYO-BASED DAI-ICHI LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, HAS GIVEN A $2 MILLION GIFT to the Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA), a collaborative partnership between the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and Southern Research. Dai-Ichi’s commitment is in addition to a previous $1 million gift from Birmingham-based Protective Life Corporation.

Dai-Ichi and Protective Life, whose formal merger was effective February 1, have committed to giving a total of $23 million in gifts to various community organizations over the next five years. At a February announcement, UAB, the University of Alabama and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens each received significant gifts from Dai-Ichi and Protective Life. These gifts will, in part, accelerate research efforts toward treatments and cures that can improve the lives of countless people in our community and around the world.

The ADDA uses a collaborative, team-based approach to shepherd projects with the greatest potential to alleviate human suffering through this uncertain stage of development.

Philanthropic and visionary support like that given by Protective Life and Dai-Ichi is vital to the shared mission of UAB and SR to expand and accelerate the ADDA’s ability to translate research into new drug treatments.

“Through Dai-Ichi’s tremendous generosity, Protective is able to enhance its level of corporate giving and provide extended assets to these and other entities over the next five years,” says John D. Johns, Protective Life chairman, president and CEO. “These pledges reinforce the Protective Life Foundation’s commitment to the community and to the spirit of volunteerism, which will remain at the core of our daily operations.”

“We worked diligently and in tandem with Protective leadership to identify recipients that align with our company’s mission of ‘By your side, for life,’” Koichiro Watanabe, Dai-Ichi president and representative director, and Shinichi Aizawa, managing executive officer, said in a statement. “Each recipient in some way reinforces our company values, our culture, and our commitment to improving the lives of the people and communities we serve.”

Ultimately, patients benefit most from the ADDA and its accelerated “bench-to-bedside” drug development process, which offers patients renewed hope for access to disease-altering, potentially life-saving drugs.

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“There is nothing more important to the community right now than the continued success of UAB.”

- Johnny Johns
THE LATE CHARLES CALDWELL MARKS had a strong vision for the legacy he wished to leave behind for his loved ones and his city, a vision he advanced by supporting programs across the UAB campus, from biomedical research in the UAB School of Medicine to arts programming at the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center to WBHM. Marks was particularly supportive of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) over the years, with gifts totaling more than $2,340,000 to fund cancer research. And Marks’s generosity continues to reverberate at the CCC with the establishment of the Caldwell Marks Endowed Chair in Cancer Oncology.

Marks was born in 1921 in Birmingham and graduated from the University of the South in 1942 with a bachelor’s degree in physics. He went on to graduate studies at Cornell University, Harvard University, and The University of Alabama. After serving with the Navy in World War II, he married Jeanne Alden Vigeant, to whom he remained married for more than 50 years until her death in 1999. They had three children: Birmingham civic leader Margaret Marks Porter; Birmingham architect Randy Marks; and Charles Marks, with Cobbs, Allen, and Hall Insurance.

After the war, Marks settled down in Birmingham and began a remarkable career in business. He bought the Owen Richards Company with a friend, which later became Motion Industries and merged with Genuine Parts Company. Marks served as president of Motion Industries until his retirement in 1983 and also served as director of Genuine Parts Company, where he held the title of director emeritus. He was also involved in the formation of Birmingham-based BE&K, one of the country’s top construction firms. His achievements in business earned him numerous awards, including induction into the Birmingham Business Hall of Fame by the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham in 1998 and The University of Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2005.

Marks later remarried, and his wife Alice, to whom he was married for 14 years, also was a great supporter of the research and clinical care efforts of Edward Partridge, M.D., director of the CCC. Grandson Caldwell Marks serves on the CCC’s Advisory Board.

“My father lived his life with integrity and principle and set a high bar for his children and his employees,” Margaret Porter says. “He was an exceptional man and never met a stranger. He respected and loved people from all walks of life. It was a priority for him to not only know all of his employees, but also their families.”

According to Porter, her father regarded promoting cancer research at UAB as benefiting both the future health of cancer patients and the future success of the city he loved. “My father truly understood the importance of community, and more importantly, he understood the value of UAB to the Birmingham community,” she says. “He knew that if UAB was going to remain a nationally ranked institution, it needed a nationally ranked Comprehensive Cancer Center. This is one of the many reasons he created an endowed chair—to further the mission of both UAB and Birmingham.” Community is also a prime concern for the CCC, which has long been recognized as a leader for its work in community outreach and cancer population studies.

“Caldwell Marks was a remarkable man and a great friend of the Cancer Center,” Partridge says. “I always enjoyed my conversations with Caldwell. He had remarkable insight into the many issues we discussed and I very much miss his wise counsel. I am ever grateful for his support and friendship.”

Until his death in 2013, Caldwell Marks remained a steadfast friend to UAB and to the Birmingham community, and his passion and generosity live on. Porter adds, “My father was a man who never looked back; he always looked forward. Endowing a chair in research, for him, was not only a way to propel the mission of UAB forward, but also to further the advancement of Birmingham.”
William Koopman is currently the William J. Koopman Endowed Professor in Rheumatology and one of the most outstanding rheumatology researchers in the nation. Dr. Curtis diseases by supporting the work of Jeffrey R. Curtis, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., who is the chair will allow the division to invest in future clinical research in rheumatic U.S. economy $128 billion annually in both direct and indirect costs. cause of activity limitation than heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, it costs the expected to increase sharply to 67 million in less than 20 years. A more frequent is the nation’s leading cause of disability. The number of adults with arthritis is can bring about. Arthritis, an umbrella term for more than 100 different diseases, Immunology. He also is the director of the Arthritis Clinical Intervention Program. He was the recipient of the 2012 Henry Kunkel Award from the American College of Rheumatology. This award is given to the most outstanding young researcher in the ACR.

“This gift will help us to support the best and brightest investigators in the field of rheumatology. By having these unrestricted funds, Dr. Curtis and future holders of the chair will have the flexibility to pursue novel areas of research and to expand the horizons of our knowledge in rheumatic diseases,” Bridges says.

The Robert R. Meyer Foundation is an active supporter of UAB. One of the Meyer Foundation’s previous gifts made possible the creation of the Polar and Marine Biology Endowed Professorship. Founded in 1942 by Robert R. Meyer, a successful Birmingham businessman, the foundation promotes and supports initiatives in health, welfare, education, and youth work. The Meyer Foundation has given away more than $55 million to more than 350 different organizations since its inception “to aid or promote charitable relief or assistance, improvement, and betterment to the inhabitants of the city of Birmingham, Alabama, and vicinity.”

THE ROBERT R. MEYER FOUNDATION PLEDGED a significant gift to establish the Meyer Foundation William J. Koopman Endowed Chair in Immunology and Rheumatology in the UAB Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology. The endowed chair honors the former division director and former chair of the UAB Department of Medicine. In his nearly 30 years at UAB, Koopman earned worldwide recognition for defining the critical role synovial tissue cells play in rheumatoid arthritis. His insights into the molecular biology of the disease have inspired novel treatments, including arthritis-fighting proteins, a monoclonal antibody, and even a vaccine.

“Dr. Koopman had a major role in continuing the tradition of excellence in clinical care, research, and education at rheumatology at UAB,” says Louis Bridges Jr., M.D., Ph.D., professor in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology. “He helped the visibility and productivity of the division in innumerable ways, including serving as president of the American College of Rheumatology [ACR], editor in chief of Arthritis & Rheumatism [the major journal of the ACR], and president of the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He was the 2011 recipient of the ACR Presidential Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the ACR in recognition of lifetime contributions to the field of rheumatology.”

Bridges adds, “We want to be the best rheumatology program in the world for integrating outstanding clinical care, superb training and education, and cutting-edge, innovative research. Ultimately, we hope to contribute substantially to the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and cure of rheumatic diseases.”

The statistics reveal the scope of change the division’s research and work can bring about. Arthritis, an umbrella term for more than 100 different diseases, is the nation’s leading cause of disability. The number of adults with arthritis is expected to increase sharply to 67 million in less than 20 years. A more frequent cause of activity limitation than heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, it costs the U.S. economy $128 billion annually in both direct and indirect costs.

Bridges says that thanks to the Robert R. Meyer Foundation, the establishment of the chair will allow the division to invest in future clinical research in rheumatic diseases by supporting the work of Jeffrey R. Curtis, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., who is one of the most outstanding rheumatology researchers in the nation. Dr. Curtis is currently the William J. Koopman Endowed Professor in Rheumatology and Immunology. He also is the director of the Arthritis Clinical Intervention Program. He was the recipient of the 2012 Henry Kunkel Award from the American College of Rheumatology. This award is given to the most outstanding young researcher in the ACR.

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LEADING THE WAY TO SUPPORT UAB’S FUTURE

MEDICAL PROPERTIES TRUST HAS GIVEN A LEAD GIFT OF $1 MILLION toward construction of a state-of-the-art facility that will house both the Collat School of Business and the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This lead gift will specifically support the construction of the facility’s auditorium, an anchor of the new building.

Based in Birmingham, Medical Properties Trust is a real estate investment trust with a portfolio of 119 properties across the United States and Western Europe. UAB’s powerful presence in Birmingham was a deciding factor in locating the company headquarters here in 2003.

“We chose Birmingham because we believed in its future,” says Edward K. Aldag Jr., founder and CEO. “Giving back to the community is extremely important, and we cannot imagine a better place to do that than in Birmingham and at UAB.”

Aldag and Medical Properties Trust have been longtime supporters of UAB. Previously, the company gave a gift to create an endowed scholarship in honor of retired professor Robert Holmes, Ph.D., and his wife, Diane Holmes. Aldag also serves as a member of UAB’s President’s Campaign Leadership Cabinet.

Edward K. Aldag Jr.

“This gift is a wonderful example of the tangible fruits born from mutually supportive relationships developed over many years with our business community,” says Eric Jack, Ph.D., dean of the Collat School of Business.

Aldag is hopeful that this significant gift from Medical Properties Trust will inspire others to give to The Campaign for UAB. “Education is the true foundation for community growth,” Aldag says. “We hope many others in the community will join us in supporting UAB, the main turbine powering the economy of the Birmingham region.”

GIFT TO HONOR NURSING

RICK AND BARRETT BROCK MACKAY have given a $1 million gift to create a dynamic new home for the Barrett Brock MacKay Florence Nightingale Letters Exhibit inside the UAB School of Nursing, and to highlight and spread Nightingale-inspired global nursing education, practice, and research for future generations.

The new multi-purpose space will be prominently located on the light-filled main floor of the school’s planned building expansion and renovation. It will house the school’s Florence Nightingale Letters Initiative, effectively becoming the hub for global nursing activity. The space will contain archives that document nursing history, showcase current global initiatives, and provide much-needed space for educational seminars, collaborations, lectures, and community gatherings. The MacKays hope to inspire students and faculty to use nursing to make life better for people around the world.

“Barrett and Rick, and the Brock Family, are cherished friends,” says Doreen C. Harper, dean of the school of Nursing. “They understand the power of nursing knowledge and practice, and have invested in our students and faculty to give them a vibrant space dedicated to advancing global health education, research, and service. The potential is really limitless.”

“Florence Nightingale was a fascinating person and a nursing icon who continues to inspires us,” says Barrett Brock MacKay. In 2012, the MacKays, along with Barrett’s parents Harry and Jane Brock, made the lead gift to create and name the Barrett Brock MacKay Florence Nightingale Letters Exhibit. The interactive display showcases Nightingale’s personal letters that chronicle her mission to change unsanitary conditions in India and improve care for soldiers injured in the Crimean War — innovative principles that saved thousands of lives and are still adhered to today.

“Barrett and I have seen how the Nightingale Letters have motivated students and faculty and we wanted to do something to take that impact to the next level,” says Rick MacKay.

Their gift to the school’s building fund combines both outright and deferred giving that includes a $100,000 gift from the Harry B. and Jane H. Brock Foundation and personal contributions from the MacKays. The MacKays are co-chairing the school’s Campaign Committee to raise funds for the building expansion. “The School of Nursing is a star that shines brightly in the UAB galaxy and we want to help them raise money needed to expand their building and programs,” says Barrett Brock MacKay. “We believe an investment in this campaign has far-reaching benefits.”
Each day, Joanne T. Douglas, Ph.D., has to think carefully about what she wants to say. Her words are limited by a degenerative neurological condition known as primary progressive aphasia, a language disorder that affects the ability to speak, read, write, and understand what others are saying.

During a recent interview, Douglas used as many words as possible to praise the doctors at UAB and express her gratitude for her time working here. But Douglas is going beyond words of praise by giving two planned gifts in honor of physicians who made a difference in her life. The gifts will be funded in large part by a beneficiary designation of her UAB TIAA-CREF retirement account.

In March 2006, Douglas was working as an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology when she was hospitalized. What followed makes up a complicated medical history that includes 16 surgeries over the course of the next 38 months.

"Those surgeries were performed at UAB by very good surgeons, and there were a couple of extremely gifted nurses helping me through it all," Douglas says.

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Douglas says, "Throughout the whole period of illness, many, many people in my department, from the chair to the division directors to colleagues to the administrative staff, were doing everything they possibly could to support me. They facilitated my very smooth transition to disability retirement."

When she discusses her medical history, Douglas mentions, in particular, two physicians, Elizabeth A. Kvale, M.D., and Jennifer De Los Santos, M.D., who have a continuing impact on her life. In honor of De Los Santos, Douglas is donating funds to provide additional support for The Kirklin Clinic at Acton Road Patient Assistance Fund. The gift in honor of Kvale will provide funding for the UAB Supportive Care and Survivorship Clinic in the UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care in the UAB School of Medicine. In addition to the planned gifts, Douglas currently supports these funds through monthly donations.

"I want to help other people have access to the exceptional care I receive, and I want to honor the two particular doctors who had been so wonderful to me. I think they are both very gifted physicians—brilliant, wise, and insightful, with a great generosity of spirit," Douglas says. "In thinking widely and creatively about ways to optimize my quality of life, they’ve treated me as an individual and as a whole person, and I’ve received support and encouragement. They intuitively know the right thing to say. They have the perfect words to inspire and encourage me."

"I want to encourage other people who are faculty or employees to think about what they might be able to give back," Douglas adds. "I understand that we are very fortunate to receive the benefits we receive. I choose to give because I think that even relatively modest donations can help people facing unexpected expenditure at a time of medical need."

Douglas also expressed gratitude to UAB that her continued health benefits and financial security allow her to focus on her health and well-being. She says this has allowed her to be in a position where she can advocate for primary progressive aphasia and help others by raising awareness. Over the course of five months, she wrote a first-person medical paper on strategies to adapt to early-stage primary progressive aphasia that was published in the American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease & Other Dementias. "My main goals were for it to be helpful both to other people with the condition and their doctors, and also to convey my appreciation to my medical team."

In 2012, Douglas was featured in a Forbes article in which she spoke about her need to not “drift aimlessly” in the disease, but to live in the present.

"My life is not the way I would have chosen," she told Forbes. "But I can choose what I can make of it now."

All those surgeries were performed at UAB by very good doctors and with extremely gifted nurses helping me through it all.

-- Joanne Douglas
For more information on making a donation to UAB, contact:

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