



Academic Initiatives Directory

➤ **Art Gallery Endowment**

➤ **ASQ-Aviation, Space & Defense Quality Endowed Fund**

This endowed program was a gift from the Aviation, Space and Defense Division of the American Society for Quality. The endowment established the Program for Quality Management in the Lutgert College of Business, which engages faculty, students and the community in the development of education programs, forums and professional development opportunities in the study of integrated quality management and effective value-stream management.

➤ **Susan and Donald Blanchard Endowed Engineering Fund**

Susan Blanchard was the founding director and dean of the College of Engineering. The proceeds from this endowment are used for the U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering educational enrichment activities for which state funds are not available.

➤ **The Bower School of Music Endowed Fund**

This endowment, supported by the faculty and staff of the Bower School of Music & the Arts and community members, is spent annually at the discretion of the director.

➤ **The Bower School of Music Fund for Excellence**

This endowed fund was established by Alan Korest and his late wife Marilyn on November 1, 2006. The Korests founded the Bower School of Music (later renamed the Bower School of Music & the Arts) and named it in honor of Marilyn's father, Edwin Bower. The proceeds from this fund are used as supplemental support for the Bower School of Music activities and programs, including community outreach, collaborative partnerships, and music education research to improve academic outcomes through music.

➤ **Mrs. Bunny Foundation Fund for Publication Purchase or Learning Resources Library Endowment**

The Mrs. Bunny Foundation was created at the suggestion of her friend and accountant Leo M. Tuscan, E.A. in order to help children and promote the nursing field. The foundation's endowed fund supports the purchase of instructional publications (including but not limited to books, periodicals, CD's, sheet music, and web research access) and/or to support the production of original university publications (including but not limited to documentation of research findings, exhibition catalogues, and printed programs for public offerings).



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➤ **The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, & Human Rights Studies Endowed Fund**

This fund established a permanent Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Studies at the university to ensure that generations of Southwest Floridians will remember the horrific events of the Holocaust and understand their roles and responsibilities in preventing future genocides.

➤ **College of Health Professions and Social Work Endowed Fund for Educational Excellence**

This endowed fund was established by residents of Moorings Park, a non-profit continuing care retirement center in Naples. Each year, proceeds from this endowed fund are used to enhance the activities of faculty, students, and staff within the health professions. Specifically, the annual earnings are used to help the Marieb College of Health & Human Services achieve a level of superior education, research, and community outreach.

➤ **Daitch Family Summer Research Opportunity Fund**

The endowment supports the Summer Research Opportunity offered within the College of Arts and Sciences as part of the University's commitment to serving the Southwest Florida region.

Planting intellectual seeds to stimulate interest in the sciences is the concept behind an FGCU program to immerse local middle school students in a variety of scientific disciplines. Supported by a \$100,000 gift from Dr. Jonathan and Barbara Daitch and Advanced Pain Management Specialists of Fort Myers, the Daitch Family Summer Research Opportunity Fund enables local students to have hands-on exploration in scientific research projects, discussions, and demonstrations. The program enables students to explore physical sciences at FGCU, including chemistry, physics, geology and environmental science as well as microbiology, molecular and cellular studies.

The Daitch family has a history of involvement at FGCU as well as community support throughout the area. Mrs. Barbara Daitch, one of the University's first MBA graduates in 1999, says: "We strongly believe educational support is a way to honor our community and encourage growing minds. FGCU is an exceptional organization to facilitate this type of program."

➤ **Department of Counseling Professional Development Program Endowed Fund**

This endowment was established by David W. and Dr. Alise G. Bartley to provide support that will transform and accelerate the development of specialty programs, especially Relationship, Marriage, and Family Counseling/Therapy, within the College of Health Professions and Social Work's Department of Counseling. The gift was inspired by Dr. Alise Bartley's educational experiences and desire to make a difference for others through therapy and counseling, particularly through marriage and family counseling, which is her area of professional expertise.



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- **Embassy Suites Fort Myers/Estero Resort & Hospitality Management Program Endowed Fund**
Hotelier Patricia Carroll of Carroll Properties Investments gives time, money and advice to students in Florida Gulf Coast University's Resort and Hospitality Management Program. "We've been in the hospitality business for 40 years and we can see an opportunity to impact the lives of these kids," said Ms. Carroll. "We want to enrich their lives with hospitality."

Mrs. Carroll served many years on the University's Resort and Hospitality Management Advisory Committee, generating ideas for one of the most popular majors at the University. The company established the Embassy Suites Fort Myers/ Estero Resort & Hospitality Management Program Endowed Fund. Proceeds from this endowment are used to benefit the Resort & Hospitality Management Program. In honor of the company's gift, a classroom at Herbert J. Sugden Hall, the hospitality academic building, was named for them.

- **Environmental Education and Outreach Program Endowed Fund**
The Conservancy of Southwest Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University teamed up to establish an innovative program aimed at coordinating and expanding environmental education for people of all ages. The Environmental Education Partnership's mission is to expand environmental education programming, improve curriculum and develop innovative programs in Southwest Florida.

- **The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Southwest Florida Chapter, Accounting Endowment**
The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Southwest Florida Chapter, has been a generous supporter of the Accounting Program. This endowment is used to support the Accounting Degree Program in the Lutgert College of Business. Each year, the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Southwest Florida Chapter, contacts the Chair of the Accounting Degree Program to discuss the allocation of fund proceeds for the coming year.

- **The Gabor Agency, Inc. Fund**
Since the Florida Gulf Coast University's inception, the Gabor Agency has served FGCU and its employees by providing impeccable service as it relates to the different insurance needs of our faculty and staff. The Gabor Agency, Inc. Fund established monetary rewards to exemplary employees of the university on an annual basis.

- **FGCU Honors Program Endowed Program Fund**
An anonymous donor created an endowment to support the flourishing Honors Program at Florida Gulf Coast University.



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➤ **Marguerite and Guy Howard Fund for Excellence**

Marguerite Howard established this legacy fund with the first annual installment in 2003 from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. This fund's proceeds have been directed to the Lutgert College of Business.

➤ **Kleist Health Education Center Endowed Fund**

The Kleist Family Foundation graciously funded this endowment in 2015, with the intention the annual proceeds will provide funding for transportation and/or admittance fees to bring students from Southwest Florida area schools – public and private – to the Kleist Health Education Center.

The Kleist family provided the funding in 2001 to construct the health education center. The facility was made possible through the combined \$1 million gift of Peter and Eleanore Kleist and the Peter D. and Eleanor A. Kleist Foundation. The gift was matched with \$1 million from the state, raising the total value of the gift to \$2 million. The Center houses three teaching classrooms with theater-style seating, as well as a small auditorium to accommodate both growth in attendance and an expansion of programs. The Center also features life-size displays, dynamic models and multimedia presentations to demonstrate good health habits and nutrition to children, teens and adults. Expanding its reach to all of Southwest Florida, the Center is wired to the FGCU Broadcast Building, giving it the ability to broadcast programs to K-12 classrooms in outlying areas.

➤ **Dr. Erich Liebert World Affairs Program Endowment Fund**

This endowment is provided with the purpose of inviting leading scholars and statesmen to speak on the current challenges of our global Society. Bernice Liebert Bongiorno died in March 2008 at age 92. Her first husband, noted neuropsychiatrist Erich Liebert, died in 1960. She left a bequest that established the Dr. Edward Liebert Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Dr. Erich Liebert World Affairs Program Endowment Fund. The couples' daughter, Pamela Liebert, a Southwest Florida resident, says of her parents, "He was the love of her life and she wanted to make a gift that would honor him. She knew he loved teaching and thought this was a good way to accomplish that." Dr. Liebert held a professorship at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, ran a medical practice in Chicago and conducted a great deal of research in the area of psychiatric illness. He was also the clinical director of Elgin State Hospital and was a fellow in the American Academy of Neurology. The couple lived in Elgin, Illinois for many years, spending part of each winter on Fort Myers Beach as far back as the 1950s.



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➤ **Linda and David Lucas Institute for Master Planned Community Development and Finance Endowed Fund**

When FGCU held the first meeting of its Board of Trustees, David Lucas was at the table. Since then, he and his wife, Linda, have been active and ardent advocates for the university and generous donors in supporting the university and its many programs and initiatives. Proceeds from this fund have been used to establish and operate the Linda and David Lucas Institute for Master Planned Community Development and Finance, which provides premier educational programs in support of the large-scale real estate development industry in Southwest Florida.

➤ **The Lucas Center for Faculty Development Endowed Fund**

Education is deeply important to David Lucas, past chairman of Bonita Bay Group. He serves on the boards of four educational institutions and was an inaugural member of the FGCU Board of Trustees. David and Linda Lucas established the The Lucas Center for Faculty Development to promote excellence and innovation in higher education pedagogy, support the reflection on teaching, and cultivate the exploration of the science of learning to ensure accomplished teaching, learning and assessment across the institution. The activities supported by the Center facilitate, promote and advance best practices within our learner-centered campus community.

➤ **Lutgert College of Business Fund for Educational Excellence**

This endowment enhances the activities of faculty, students, and staff within the Lutgert College of Business. It provides faculty research stipends to enhance scholarship and travel funds for faculty and students to gain exposure at national academic conferences.

➤ **The Lutgert Companies Endowed Fund**

These funds are used to support the University's signature public program, the President's Lecture Series, which is offered as part of the University's commitment to serving the Southwest Florida Region.

➤ **Dr. Elaine Nicpon Marieb Health Professions Endowed Fund**

Dr. Elaine Nicpon Marieb is an internationally known author and co-author of numerous college science textbooks used by thousands of institutions around the world. Dr. Marieb began her career at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where she taught anatomy and physiology. She joined the faculty of the Biological Science Division of Holyoke Community College in 1969 after receiving her Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. While continuing to teach full time, Dr. Marieb pursued her nursing education, which culminated in a Master of Science with a clinical specialization in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts.



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Dr. Marieb created an endowment in 2012 to support scholarships as well as the health professions' programs at FGCU. So significant were these gifts, that the academic building for health professions was named for her. Marieb Hall will forever remind the campus and community what an amazing educator, scholar and person Dr. Marieb is to the College of Health Professions and to the University.

➤ **Nisita Fund for Music Excellence**

Maurizio and Laura Nisita made a \$1 million commitment to the Bower School of Music & the Arts in 2016. The Nisitas' gift reflects the fact both are devout lovers and practitioners of the fine arts. The proceeds from this fund support music excellence in the Bower School of Music & the Arts. Annual allocations from this endowed fund will support the Nisita Concert Series, a distinguished annual series of concerts showcasing professional musicians.

➤ **Northern Trust Endowed Fund**

These funds are used to support the University's signature public program, the President's Lecture Series, which is offered as part of the University's commitment to serving the Southwest Florida Region.

➤ **O'Bannon Fund**

The O'Bannon Fund was established through the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation to honor Floyd "Fingers" O'Bannon, a colorful and well known fishing guide in Southwest Florida. Each year, some of the proceeds from the Finger's O'Bannon Memorial Snook Fishing Tournament are donated to Florida Gulf Coast University to grow the O'Bannon Fund in support of marine science research and activities, especially those taking place at the Vester Field Station.

➤ **Philip W. and Mariette C. Orth Endowment**

➤ **Kathy Peterson Student-Athlete Leadership Endowed Fund**

FGCU Trustee Dr. W. Bernard Lester and his wife Elaine established the Kathy Peterson Student-Athlete Leadership Endowed Fund. Dr. Lester is the retired CEO of Alico, Inc and the Lesters are long-time supporters of FGCU. This endowment benefits the growth and development of a student participating in the Student-Athlete Leadership Academy or a student-athlete who has exemplified leadership. Annual proceeds from the endowment are utilized at the discretion of the Director of Athletics.



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- **Bradford S. and Adrienne V. Prokop Endowment Fund**
Proceeds from this endowment fund the Histories of Choice project.
- **Carl Schwartz Award for Artistic Endeavor Endowed Fund**
Proceeds from this endowment are used by the University's Art Department to provide one annual prize to the FGCU student artist of two-dimensional work whose work is shown and judged to be the most outstanding during the annual Florida Gulf Coast University Student Art Show.
- **Southwest Florida Children's Charities Music Therapy Program Endowed Fund**
Southwest Florida Children's Charities endowed this fund to help launch a music therapy degree at Florida Gulf Coast University. The program addresses a growing need for professionals in the field and a gap in educational opportunities. Only two other Florida universities offer music therapy degrees.
- **Val Ward Family College of Business Endowed Fund**
The Val Ward Family generously made this unrestricted gift to the Lutgert College of Business in 2004. The Val Ward Family owns Val Ward Cadillac, a third-generation, family-owned business located in Fort Myers. For the past 45 years, Val Ward Cadillac has sought to exceed the expectations of its Southwest Florida clientele.
- **Veterans' Endowment Fund**
Each year proceeds from this fund are designated by the Provost to be used for projects in support of veterans at the University.
- **Daniel and Janet K. Warner Journalism Endowed Fund**
Lifelong journalist Daniel Warner and his wife, Janet, have endowed a fund that will help hone the talents of the next generation of journalists. Proceeds from the endowment will be used to help maintain news media accountability in the community through forums, debates, seminars, research, guest lecturers and other activities. Dan Warner led the Lawrence, MA Eagle Tribune to a Pulitzer Prize for news reporting prior to his retirement and the couple's subsequent move to Southwest Florida.
- **William O. Webb Small Business Development Center Endowed Fund**
Proceeds from this fund are used to provide support to a small business owner in Southwest Florida who is working with the Small Business Development Center.



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- **U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering Excellence in Education Award Endowed Fund**
Proceeds from this endowment are used to fund the U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering Excellence in Education Award that is given annually to faculty and/or staff members at FGCU who promote excellence in education and success of students in the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering.

- **WGCU FM Future Fund**

- **WGCU Programming Partnership Endowed Fund**

- **WGCU Public Media Future Fund**

- **WGCU TV Future Fund**

- **Jaynie and Stanley Whitcomb Endowed Fund**
Proceeds from this endowment are used where need is greatest at the University.

- **Mary Manning Wasmer Art Gallery Endowed Fund**
Martin M. Wasmer and family members established the Mary Manning Wasmer Art Gallery Endowed Fund to honor their mother, Mary Manning Wasmer. Mary Wasmer has had a longstanding appreciation of the arts. Mary Wasmer ran her own interior design firm – Mary Wasmer Interiors – in Cleveland for many years. She’s not only into design, but she’s also an avid collector of fine arts and antique furniture. Before moving to Florida in 1988, she also served on the board of the Cleveland Museum of Art. In May 2017, Martin Wasmer, together with his brother and sisters, honored his mother with a gift to FGCU in support of the visual arts programming and art galleries of the Bower School of Music & the Arts. In recognition of this gift, the main university art gallery has been renamed Wasmer Art Gallery.

The Mary Manning Wasmer Art Gallery Endowed Fund provides resources that will support the Visual Arts Program and the Art Galleries of the Bower School of Music & the Arts. Use of annually allocated funds are determined by the Director of the Art Galleries in consultation with the Director of the Bower School of Music & the Arts.