

Advancement Annual Report



Building Connections. Inspiring Generosity.







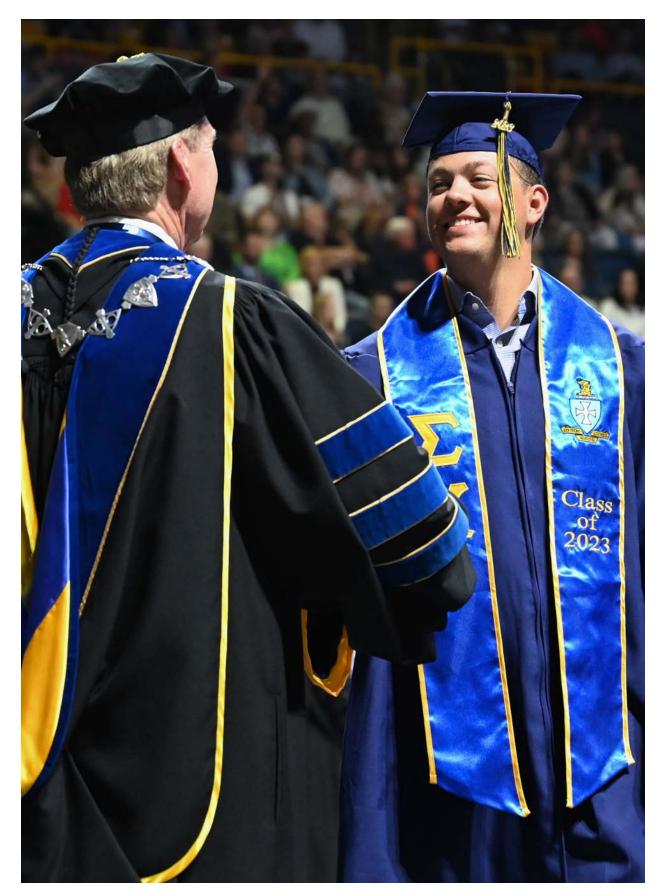




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UTC is a comprehensive, community-engaged campus of the UT System. UTC is an EEO/AA/Titles VI and IX Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution.



A NOTE FROM ADVANCEMENT

Change – that was the theme for the UC Foundation and the UTC Advancement team last year. We restaffed, rebranded and restructured our staff and the UC Foundation board to align our priorities and our people. I'm extremely proud of our team and the culture of philanthropy we are building for UTC.

Because of you, philanthropy made a tremendous impact last fiscal year. With the most successful Mocs Give Day in UTC history, raising over \$1.2 million from 1,475 donors and an extremely successful fundraising total for the year of over \$14 million dollars, there are great things happening at UTC. Our success will bring more opportunities for our campus and, ultimately, to our students.

Our Advancement Team's new tagline and mission statement succinctly state our purpose:

Building Connections. Inspiring Generosity.

Our mission is to build meaningful connections for all Mocs and inspire generosity for Chattanooga's university. By fostering relationships and investment, we strategically bring together alumni, donors, and friends of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for the collective betterment of our campus and city.

It's no understatement to say that philanthropy changes lives. Since being on campus, I have seen generous donors help build buildings, recruit talented faculty, fund scholarships, support athletic programs, underwrite research and experiential learning experiences and more. But generosity also impacts the lives of donors. Some of the most magical moments are those when a donor sees they are touching the lives of others, "planting trees for the shade of future generations" through their generosity.

The UC Foundation, unique to UTC and unlike other campuses in the UT System, plays a pivotal role in supporting campus and provides through its endowment and investment in student housing a clear margin of excellence for UTC. We look forward to building on the foundation's 55-year legacy and helping grow its game-changing impact.

Kim White

Vice Chancellor of Advancement, Executive Director of the UC Foundation

Kustt White

UC FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT NUMBERS

The UC Foundation, created with an initial investment of \$6 million dollars when this campus became part of the UT System in 1969, has grown an endowment of over \$180 million dollars and real estate assets currently valued at over \$200 million. A true game-changer for UTC, the Foundation's mission is to provide resources that support distinctive programs and promote bold initiatives that enrich the educational experience. An invested fund that spends a portion of the generated interest annually, the endowment is a perpetual tool that allows donors to have a long-lasting impact on students, faculty and staff.





ENDOWMENT VALUE



ENDOWMENT BALANCE BY CATEGORY



ENDOWED FUNDS PROVIDED AWARDS FROM

Professorship

Endowments

Faculty Development Endowments

Academic Program **Endowments**

277

Institutional Support **Endowments**

Scholarship **Endowments**

WESTBROOK SCHOLARSHIP

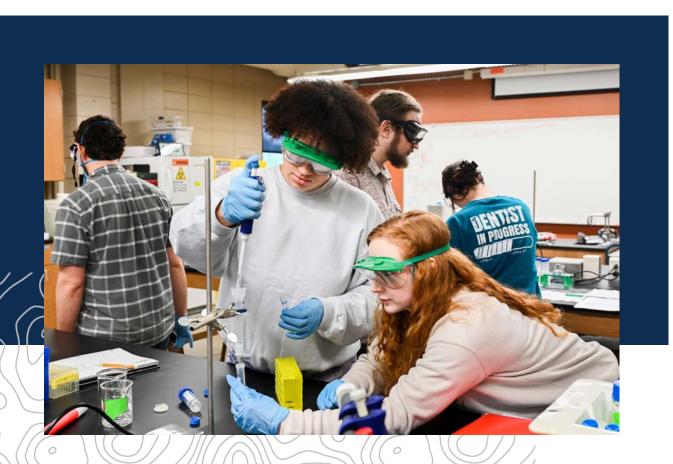
Helping UTC Chemistry and Physics Students For 30 Years

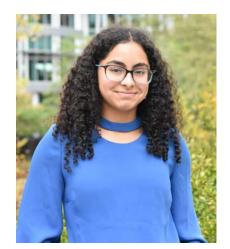
For 30 years, the Westbrook Scholarship Program has helped first-year chemistry and physics students complete their degrees.

The scholarship provides \$14,000 over four years to eligible incoming freshmen in the Department of Chemistry and Physics.

Howard L. Westbrook ('38), who established the scholarship in 1993, was a Chattanooga native who attended Central High School and worked as a chemist for the Shell Oil company for 30 years.

Westbrook passed away in 2016, but his legacy is embodied in these Westbrook Scholarship recipients.





Kylie Flores

Chemistry is a family affair for Kylie Flores, who said her mother has been one of her greatest academic influences.

"She was always thrilled to share her knowledge about the sciences, whether it be showering me with medical terms or reminiscing about the days she struggled with organic chemistry," Flores said.

Flores said she wants to become a doctor, a nurse or "some kind of scientist who can do something to improve the state of the world, whether it be caring for people through health care or improving other areas of life. My ideal career is one where I am able to utilize chemistry in my day-to-day life to help people."



Noah Wyatt

When you find the entire universe fascinating, as Noah Wyatt does, majoring in physics is an obvious choice.

"Physics has always fascinated me because it answers big questions, such as where we are from and where we are going. I see it as the study of the big things, not big in scale per se, but big in meaning," Wyatt said. "Physics takes us to places that would have never been imaginable just a few centuries ago."

Wyatt aspires to a career as a university professor and researcher.



Aidan Harrison

Some students are naturals when it comes to chemistry, and Aidan Harrison is one of them.

The Memphis native is fascinated with science itself and the experimental laboratories where chemistry students and professionals ply their trade.

"I loved almost every single lab I've ever done," she said.

Harrison aspires to work as a research biochemist, she said, perhaps at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in her hometown.

FOSTERING EXCELLENCE THROUGH GENEROSITY

Charles and Suzanne Forlidas ('75, '87)

The deep-rooted connection between Charles and Suzanne Forlidas ('75, '87) and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is nothing short of a love story – one of dedication, gratitude and a fervent belief in the power of personal investment in public education.

Suzanne's journey with UTC began when, upon graduating from high school, she witnessed the transformation of the private University of Chattanooga into the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. This transition was not just a change in name but a blessing for her family and countless others in the community. Suzanne's dedication to her education led her to earn both a BS and a Masters in English Education at UTC before teaching in the Chattanooga Public Schools and later attending the University of Tennessee Law School.

"The University of Chattanooga became part of the UT system in 1969 before my brothers and I were college-bound in the early 1970s, and having a public university in our hometown was a huge blessing for my family," states Suzanne. "We support UTC because we're grateful and because we want other students to have the same opportunities."

In 2014, Suzanne and Charles decided to pay forward the opportunities they received by establishing a scholarship endowment for UTC's Honors College. This act of generosity marked the beginning of their commitment to nurturing academic excellence. Recently, they expanded their support, creating an endowment for experiential learning within the College of Arts and Sciences, recognizing the pivotal role such experiences play in shaping students' lives.

"Formative experiences such as travel abroad, internships and undergraduate research require resources beyond tuition support, and this gift is a notable commitment to ensure these opportunities are available to students," according to Pamela Riggs-Gelasco, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Suzanne, now a Trustee of the UC Foundation, and Charles Forlidas' unwavering support ensures that future generations of UTC students have the same opportunities that shaped their own lives.



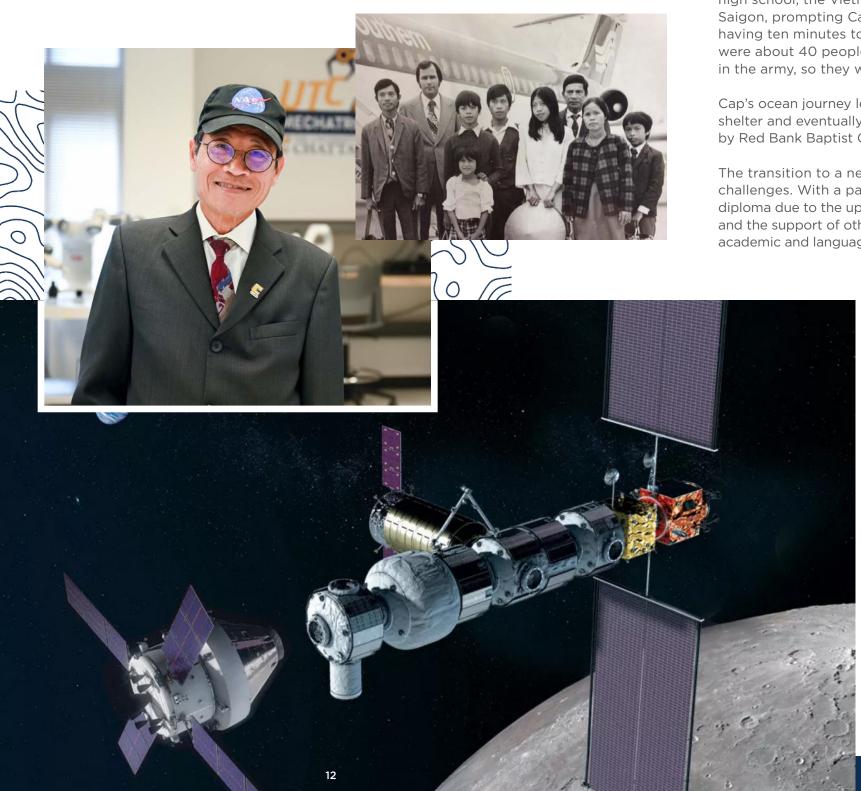






FROM VIETNAM TO SPACE

Cap Nguyen's ('80)



As a young man who overcame tremendous adversity to pursue an education, Cap Nguyen ('80) ultimately realized his dreams that spanned continents, an ocean and space.

Born in the early stages of a war-torn Vietnam, Cap faced the ultimate challenge at the age of 17. Just a month shy of graduating high school, the Vietnam War ended for all parties with the Fall of Saigon, prompting Cap and his family to flee hurriedly. Cap recalls having ten minutes to pack his bag to leave. "In the boat, there were about 40 people," Cap recalls. "Some of my siblings were in the army, so they were left behind still fighting."

Cap's ocean journey led him to different countries offering temporary shelter and eventually landing in Chattanooga through a sponsorship by Red Bank Baptist Church.

The transition to a new country and culture was not without its challenges. With a passion for engineering, Cap lacked a high school diploma due to the upheaval of fleeing Vietnam. Through determination and the support of others, he gained admission to UTC by completing academic and language testing.

While working multiple jobs and raising a family, Cap graduated from UTC with honors in electrical engineering, achieving a dream that had started years prior.

While Cap's professional journey is highly accomplished, he ultimately followed his lifelong passion for space and secured a role at NASA. "The first impression that I have about the space program is the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969," Cap remembers. "Working at NASA is fulfilling my childhood dream."

No stranger to harrowing journeys, Cap is currently working on the Artemis program contributing to humanity's quest for further exploration and discovery.

A firm believer in giving back, Cap holds a belief deeply rooted in the generosity and support he himself received. "Maybe I'm naive, but the fact is the people who welcomed our family, myself, in the community were amazing. I am grateful for that to this today." This spirit of gratitude led him to establish the Cap Nguyen Scholarship Endowment in UTC's College of Engineering and Computer Science, providing current and future students with the chance to chase a dream and shoot for the stars.





Mary Ann Stewart ('72, '76)

Mary Ann Stewart ('72, '76) will tell you that she's a listener more than a speaker. When presented with an opportunity to create the John "Ebb" and Mary Ann Stewart School of Education Model Classroom and Fab-Lab in the recently renovated historic Hunter Hall, Stewart heard an incredible way she could invest in her first love: education.

A former educator and longtime professor at Chattanooga State Community College, Stewart and her late husband, John "Ebb" ('53), are both two-time UTC alumni and graduates of the School of Education. John "Ebb" worked for 35 years for the McGraw-Hill Book Company in sales.

The John "Ebb" and Mary Ann Stewart School of Education Model Classroom and Fab-Lab feature state-of-the-art furniture, technology and resources to train future educators and provide an exemplary educational and future classroom model. Outfitted for distance learning, interactive technology and collaborative space, the classroom simulates many modes of education delivery and curriculum integration. The state-of-the-art Fab-Lab provides various technologies like 3D printers, a CNC laser engraver, a vinyl cutter and more that are critical to teaching today.

UTC, located in Hamilton County, Tenn., where the county school system represents the world's largest concentration of educational Fab-Labs, this space will positively impact student recruitment, retention, graduation rates and job placement, adding value to a UTC education without adding to the cost of tuition.

"It just blows my mind to think that UTC has this, and I'm so proud of the school for all the advancements that have taken place," stated Stewart on a visit to the spaces in September 2023 to unveil the plaque commemorating her gift to the School of Education. "This space allows the staff and students to enjoy their work more. And do what they like. That makes me happy."



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FOREVER A MOC

Alan Cooper ('96)



Alan and Laura Cooper

"If you knew Alan, you knew his love for the Mocs," says Alan's wife, Laura. Alan Cooper ('96) was a well-known face at Chattanooga football and basketball games. The year before he passed, Laura had Alan's truck painted UTC Blue and Gold for tailgates at Finley Stadium. His brother, Scott Cooper, has agreed to continue that tradition. While at UTC from 1991 to 1996, Alan wrote for the school newspaper and, after graduation, was the Assistant Sports Information Director for the Mocs. Part of the family's gift will name the Football Coordinator and Film Suite at the new Wolford Family Athletic Center in Alan's memory.

Creating an even more enduring legacy, they also established the Alan Cooper Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be for communication students who, like Alan, are interested in sports information. Laura hopes the scholarship will not only honor Alan's passion for both the excitement of sports and the field of communication but also ease the financial burden for a student who is working hard to make a positive impact on the UTC community. "Our family knew a gift in his honor to UTC would honor the University that gave him so much joy throughout his lifetime," shared Laura.

Every year, there would be one day when Alan and Laura's home was a "house-divided," Alan a UTC Moc and Laura a Furman Paladin. No matter the outcome, Laura was happy to be a part of the Cooper family. Laura shared, "whichever team won that day, I always went home being Alan Cooper's number 1 fan."

FOOTBALL AND ROCKETS



On Saturdays in the fall, you'll find Reuben Lowery III on the football field. The two-time SoCon Defensive Player of the Week and SoCon Defensive Player of the Month can also be found in the lab and classroom pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Reuben Lowery III

Major: Mechanical Engineering Hometown: Powder Springs, GA

Sport: Football

"Receiving a scholarship has been so impactful for my life as a student-athlete... [it] has also allowed me to pursue my passions in engineering and football," said Reuben.

While he makes tackles on the field, Rueben also tackles gravity as a member of the record-breaking UTC Rocket Mocs – a student amateur rocketry group that earned NASA recognition as one of the best in the country for a fifth consecutive year in 2023. The senior from Powder Spring, Ga. will be graduating in May of 2024 and plans to become a professional engineer.

As a leader both on and off the field, Rueben's impact on others is highlighted by his Allstate AFCA Good Works Team nomination. This award has meant more to him than any other as it represents "work not seen" and how he has helped others. His time as a student-athlete at UTC has been shaped by both the scholarship funds and life-long friends found within the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) organization.

"Reuben is a fantastic young man," UTC football coach Rusty Wright shares. "He is the very definition of student-athlete and what this team is all about. He's a dedicated student excelling in a challenging degree program, a pillar in the campus community and plays a vital role in our defense."

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Receiving a scholarship has been so impactful for my life as a student athlete.

- Reuben Lowery III



CHAMPIONS OF CAMPUS

Kathy ('90) and Eddie O'Brien ('87)

Kathy ('90) and Eddie O'Brien ('87) are steadfast pillars of support for initiatives across UTC, showing genuine dedication to campus life.

Together, they have made significant contributions to both academic and athletic endeavors. Their support extends to the Marching Mocs, where the heartbeat of campus spirit resonates, and to the esteemed Gary W. Rollins College of Business, known for its commitment to nurturing business leaders of tomorrow.

"We always knew that we would find ways to support the University by our time, presence and giving, thus ensuring that future generations will have the same opportunity to develop skills for their future careers, find the enjoyment we had at campus events and give back to the University and their community," Eddie shared.

Among their many contributions is establishing an international studies scholarship for UTC business students, exemplifying their dedication to fostering global perspectives.

With a family-oriented approach to philanthropy, Kathy and Eddie O'Brien embody the spirit of giving back, leaving an enduring legacy at UTC and its diverse range of initiatives. Their footprint of support not only enriches students' academic and athletic experiences but also serves as an inspiration for future generations of Mocs.







UTC Students on a Geology Field Experience Course in Scotland

A SOLID LEGACY FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCES

A Chattanooga native, Andrew Gamble ('11) completed a bachelor's degree in geology and was passionate about sports and the outdoors. A lover of kayaking and the Chattanooga area's creeks, streams, mountains and rocks, Andrew tragically passed away in a kayaking accident in 2019 at the age of 31.

To commemorate his life and legacy, Andrew's parents, Brent and Gayle Gamble, along with family and friends, established the **Andrew Gamble Memorial Travel Fund** to support Geology, Biology and Environmental Studies students participating in an annual geology field experience. Each spring, the Geology Field Experience course spends the semester learning about the geology of a location and then travels there. The class goes to the desert southwest of the United States in odd years and an international location for even years, including Costa Rica, Spain and Scotland.

"After learning all about the geology of a location in the classroom, the students can put their hands on the rocks that hold the history of the Earth in this course," states Professor of Geology and Associate Department Head Amy Brock-Hon. "This gift from the Gambles in memory of Andrew is an incredible way to share his love and excitement of geology and how he enjoyed exploring new places."

Through this fund, students will get the opportunity to explore the land and waterways that made the outdoors the place Andrew loved to spend his time. To support the Andrew Gamble Memorial Travel Fund and help provide this experience to even more students, gifts can be made at give.utc.edu/andrewgamble

INNOVATION THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

Richard Zhang ('92)

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Richard Zhang's generosity and enthusiasm for UTC Honors have resulted in game-changing opportunities for our students.

- Dr. Linda Frost Dean, Honors College Graduating from UTC in 1992, Richard X. Zhang's profound connection with UTC and its Honors College has grown from graduate to donor, creating an indelible impact for our students.

Richard's dedication recently took a momentous form when he generously established the Richard X. Zhang Innovation in Honors Fund. Innovation in Honors students are UTC transfer students and current students at the sophomore and junior levels seeking a problem-based, community-embedded learning experience.

"Richard's generosity and enthusiasm for UTC Honors have resulted in game-changing opportunities for our students," stated Dr. Linda Frost, dean of the UTC Honors College.

With a clear vision for his gift, the fund finances scholarships and many enriching activities, including domestic and international travel, tuition assistance and various educational expenses. Furthermore, the fund provides flexibility, allowing the dean of the Honors College to allocate resources where they are needed most.

"UTC not only gave me a top-quality education across three majors but also profoundly shaped my value of work ethic, collaboration and commitment to the broader community," shared Richard. "These values have guided me throughout my professional career and are leading me to repeatedly give back to my beloved university. I am hopeful that this particular gift will support Dean Frost's tireless efforts to create new and exciting educational opportunities for the Honors students."

This philanthropic act underscores Richard's commitment to educational excellence, echoing his earlier contributions like the Robert Fulton and Richard X. Zhang Endowed International Exchange Scholarship fund, granting students the opportunity to study abroad. Richard has also extended generous support to the Department of Chemistry, Rollins College of Business and campus-wide initiatives.

In Richard Zhang, UTC has found a visionary partner whose contributions open doors to new opportunities for students and fuel the spirit of innovation within the Honors College.





ACCOUNTING FOR OUR FUTURE

The demand for skilled accountants continues to rise in the ever-evolving world of finance and business. Recognizing the importance of nurturing exceptional accounting professionals, local accounting firms are taking an active role in supporting and shaping the future of accounting through scholarship programs.

The Gary W. Rollins College of Business offers a range of scholarships designed to attract and support accounting graduates. These scholarships, such as the Barbara B. and David H. Young Scholarship, the Ernst and Young Award and the Kathleen Long CPA Memorial Scholarship, cater to diverse student backgrounds and aspirations. They encourage not only academic excellence but also provide financial assistance to promising students, ensuring that talent knows no bounds.

"The support provided to our students from public accounting firms, corporations and other organizations is tremendous," said Dr. Rebecca Shortridge, department head for the Department of Accounting. "Last year, the support of alumni and other donors allowed us to award more than \$60,000 in private scholarships to our students."

These scholarship programs create a talent pipeline, ensuring that the accounting profession continues to thrive with skilled and diverse graduates.

"For many students, me included, scholarships make furthering our skills and knowledge possible," stated Chloe Evans, an accounting major and Mauldin & Jenkins Scholarship recipient. "I'm grateful accounting firms invest in the education of future accountants. I feel encouraged knowing I'm entering a field that values and contributes to my academic development!"

By investing in UTC, companies can help build the pipeline of talent today that they need for their businesses tomorrow.



I'm grateful accounting firms invest in the education of future accountants. I feel encouraged knowing I'm entering a field that values and contributes to my academic development



Major: Accounting
Hometown: Franklin, Tenn.
Awards: Dean's List





22 23



A College of Arts and Sciences graduate, Pamela Brock ('74), who went by Pam, loved to read, her younger brother Charles Goss and numbers. While her first job was as an accountant at Sears, Pam eventually worked for over 40 years as a top accountant for a federally owned electric utility corporation.

When Charles, whom Pam called "kiddo", was a child, she would bring him to UTC football games on Chamberlain Field to experience the thrill of the former stadium in the heart of UTC's current campus.

Pam's love of reading led her to include the UTC Library in her estate plans, which Charles helped fulfill after her passing in 2022. Initially, Pam's gift will be used to support student assistant leadership positions in each library area.

"Libraries are not only sources of knowledge for our communities but also

A BELOVED **BEQUEST**

Pamela Brock ('74)

places of creativity and to develop ideas beyond your own making," states Theresa Liedtka, dean of the UTC Library. "Ms. Brock's gift will expand the impact of our library so more students, faculty and staff can develop the ideas and access the resources to write the stories of their own lives."

One of the most significant gifts in the library's history, Pam's love of words will live on in the library that overlooks Chamberlain Field and the location of precious moments spent with her kiddo.

Pamela Brock ('74)



DREAMING OF **EQUALITY**

More than 70 students have benefitted from the legacy of Dr. Littleton H. Mason over the past 30 years. Dr. Mason spent over 17 years of his career at Chattanooga City College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He was dedicated to helping students and the community fulfill the "dream of equality." In memory of this life-long passion, Dr. Mason's family established the **Littleton H. Mason Scholarship.** Unlike other scholarships based in an area of study, the Littleton H. Mason Scholarship is awarded by UTC's Multicultural Center to students who are keeping Dr. Mason's "dream of equality" alive.

Tajeahia Thompson, a UTC student from Dr. Mason's own hometown of Memphis, Tenn. was a recent recipient of the scholarship. Tajeahia explained how the scholarship was a relief from the stress of tuition and allowed her to really focus on her studies. Since being on campus, she's participated in Freshmen Senate (2020-2021), made the Dean's list and completed a study abroad program in Costa Rica. The students benefiting from the Littleton H. Mason Scholarship are from academic programs across campus; Tajeahia is studying Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

Dr. Mason's commitment to young people and passion for equality inspired the beginning of this scholarship, but it has grown over the years through the generosity of others. To those people Tajeahia would say "I truly can't thank you enough."



Thank you so much! I really appreciate your contributions to UTC and your on going support for students like me. I truly can't thank you enough.



Tajeahia Thompson

Major: Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Hometown: Memphis, Tenn. Awards: Dean's List

- Tajeahia Thompson

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

With almost 45,000 alumni connecting with their alma mater, UTC saw an increase of engaged alumni by 16% from the previous fiscal year. This was the highest percentage increase in the UT system. With a focus on sharing the alumni benefits accessible through the digital alumni card, UTC saw a 355% increase in downloads of the card representing nearly half of all digital alumni cards downloaded in the UT system.

Number Of Engaged Alumni

Total Number Of Alumni

44,793

73,167

UTC ALUMNI FACTS

Top 5 Alumni States

- 1. Tennessee
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Florida
- 4. Alabama
- 5. North Carolina





of Alumni Live in Tennessee



GIVING TO UTC

Support for UTC increased 38% from the previous fiscal year and 115% from two years prior in a remarkable fundraising total of \$14,113,826 raised from 6,100 donors this fiscal year to support students, faculty and staff.

Over \$14 Million Raised From 6,100 Total Donors

Fiscal year 2023 saw a 9% increase in total donors from the previous year, resulting in a six-year high.

- 1,647 New Donors, up 276 from the Previous Fiscal Year
- 4% Increase in Donor Retention Rate
- 1.5% Increase in 1st-time Donor Retention Rate
- 36% Increase in Young Alumni Giving
- 21.6% Increase in Faculty and Staff Donors



162
Students Participated in the Golden Cords Graduating Seniors' Campaign



MOCS GIVE DAY 2022

Held on October 4, 2022, Mocs Give Day raised \$1,209,301 from 1,475 donors over the 24 hours of the third annual Mocs Give Day - UTC's annual day of giving.



\$1.2 Million Raised From 1,475 Donors

DONOR STATS

Donors

552

Alumni

Donors

New UTC

Donors

328

Faculty and Staff

105
Student

Student giving saw an increase of 1,066%



Donors



\$100

Five UTC colleges had a \$1 for \$1 match up to \$10,000 on Mocs Give Day. All five reached that \$10,000 goal, with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies coming in the top two spots—raising \$87,898 and \$70,474, respectively.





THE DENISE AND TIM DOWNEY STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Raised \$124,430

Including a \$50,000 gift from UT System President Randy Boyd.

MOCS CLUB

\$804,029

Raised to Support Student-Athletes

148

New Members

29



28

UC FOUNDATION TRUSTEES





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C CHATTANOOGA

615 McCallie Avenue, Dept 6806 Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598 give.utc.edu

