As boomers retire in record numbers and millennials overtake them in terms of population, the demand for more health professionals to meet projected work shortages continues to grow in the regions that Brenau University serves.

Georgia has one of the lowest ratios of registered nurses per capita in the U.S. with only 705 registered nurses per 100,000 people. Brenau is ready to address this critical need for nursing education. You can help by supporting a nursing skills simulation lab, a standardized patient program and endowed scholarships.

The Integrated Interdisciplinary Health Skills Simulation Lab, to be located at the Brenau East Featherbone Communiversity, is vital to the proper training of nursing students by providing hands-on experiential learning that can duplicate real-life scenarios in a realistic lifelike environment. The interdisciplinary nature of the lab also will expose occupational therapy and physical therapy students to realistic scenarios in their fields of study. Brenau will create a hospital-like environment as highlighted in the architectural rendering. Eight rooms will form a periphery around a central nursing station. Rooms will include settings for health assessment/triage, critical care, medical/surgery rooms for acute and critical care, nursing, pediatric, newborn, and labor and delivery. Each room will contain wireless manikins (adult, birthing and child) that can duplicate real-life scenarios. Rooms also will be equipped with audio/visual systems for monitoring and feedback. Enhanced telemetry controlled at the nursing station will allow instructors to create an array of critical vitals.

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Your timely financial support can help make the skills lab a reality. For more information on supporting this initiative, visit forevergold.brenau.edu or contact Robert Shippey at rshippey@brenau.edu or 770-297-5954.

WHY We support ForeverGold

“We support ForeverGold, because of Brenau University’s sound vision and unwavering commitment to ‘lead our future.’ As Northeast Georgia’s largest and oldest independent insurance agency, we, like Brenau, value tradition while being dedicated to a successful future for our institution, our clients and our community. In our view, the best way to honor our shared heritage is to invest in the future. Investing in young minds by supporting a strong and growing community university is critical for the future of our company, the Gainesville-Hall community, and beyond.”

– Joe Wood Jr
President & CEO
Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance Agency

– Bob Fowler Jr
Executive Vice President
ForeverGold

770.718.5309.
MESSAGE from the President

Placing for Tomorrow

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” – Nelson Henderson

We are here today – both as a university and as accomplished individuals – because of the work of those who have come before us. At Brenau, our campus, our heritage, our mission were planted over 130 years ago and still today we look back upon that foundation as we strengthen our future. Each day, across our university, hundreds of professors and advisors are doing just this – drawing from our history to develop this generation of Brenau students, building on the hope that these labors will produce strong and fruitful leaders.

As you read through this edition of our ForeverGold newsletter, see the impact made by those who are among countless others who make Brenau a part of their legacy. Through their bequests, trusts, estates and more, they are transforming the lives of students and, hence, society as a whole, for generations to come.

It is in this notion of planting for tomorrow – and preparing a way for the thousands of worthy young minds still to cross Brenau’s threshold – that I ask you to join me in making a planned gift to Brenau through your estate. A planned gift, perhaps the most altruistic means of giving made solely for the sake of others, allows you to make a difference in the lives of students for generations to come. It enables you to leave a lasting legacy of impact well beyond your lifetime.

IN Appreciation

Dr. Gale Allen, BU ’91, a Brenau Trustee, believes in investing in the future. As director of strategic initiatives and management in NASA Exploration Systems Mission Directorate she is helping to plan the U.S. NASA’s initial mission to Mars. A little closer to Earth she has taken the long view by including Brenau University in her estate planning through an estimated $250,000 gift. Having completed a Master of Business Administration degree on Brenau’s former Kings Bay campus in 1991 while she was running the U.S. Navy submarine base chemistry labs, Gale says she is “forever grateful to those who were kind enough to support Brenau in scholarships and infrastructure. They blazed the trail for me and it is my responsibility to blaze trails for the students that follow me. Call it paying forward, or just the right thing to do. Our future is dependent on the legacy we leave.” She credits her Brenau degree with helping her not only crash through the “glass ceiling” in the once male-dominated space program but also in the once-male-dominated physics lab. “I am running the U.S. Navy submarine base today, and I am forever grateful to those who were kind enough to support Brenau in scholarships and infrastructure. They blazed the trail for me and it is my responsibility to blaze trails for the students that follow me. Call it paying forward, or just the right thing to do. Our future is dependent on the legacy we leave.”

Jane Patterson Suggs, WC ’74, and her husband, Tommy, chose to impact Brenau University through their estate planning with a life insurance policy. Their approach made sense for them and the university. A life insurance policy can provide tax-law benefits to Brenau University, the beneficiary and holder of the policy, and the Suggs pay the policy’s annual premiums. “Not only do I have always believed in giving back to the institutions that helped prepare me for a strong university like, in our volunteer time, financial support, and the arts, but that should not be where it ends. Following her will have opportunities to “plant seeds” every career stage. As their nursing careers begin to your legacy is important. If you’re made provisions for Brenau University in your estate plans, please let us know. We want to honor you with membership in our legacy society. More important, we want to ensure you’re thanked today and your legacy is honored tomorrow. For more information about planned giving and the H.J. Pearce Society, please contact Ben McDade at 770.534.6173 or bmcdade@brenau.edu. You may also read more about charitable estate planning on our website at: brenau.giftlegacy.com. Please contact Ben McDade at 770.534.6173 or bmcdade@brenau.edu. You may also read more about charitable estate planning on our website at: brenau.giftlegacy.com. For those who choose to echo Dr. Pearce’s legacy of providing care for the sake of others, allows you to make a difference in the lives of students for generations to come. It enables you to leave a lasting legacy of impact well beyond your lifetime.

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Cheer,

Dr. Gale Allen, BU ’91

Brenau President Ed. L. Schneider, Ph.D.

The foresight and generosity of our planned giving donors provides support for those most important young minds still to cross Brenau’s threshold – that I ask you to join me in making a planned gift to Brenau through your estate. A planned gift, perhaps the most altruistic means of giving made solely for the sake of others, allows you to make a difference in the lives of students for generations to come. It enables you to leave a lasting legacy of impact well beyond your lifetime.

Dr. Richard H. “Dick” and Mrs. Phyllis C. Leet shared a six-decades-long passion for books, some dating back to the 1940s. They also shared another passion from the 1980s, Brenau University. Their shared Brenau passion culminated in The creation of a combination of cash gifts and two irrevocable trusts totaling near $1.2 million for the establishment of The Richard H. and Phyllis C. Leet Distinguished Chair for Undergraduate Research “when we both graduated,” as Dick put it euphemistically. After Dick’s successful career with a major oil company, retiring as an executive chairman in 1981, the Leets settled in Gainesville and immersed themselves in the arts and education, which intersected nicely with Brenau’s care strength. While neither had historic ties to Brenau, both found a home within the university with Dick eventually becoming a trustee. Dick passed away in August 2013 and Phyllis passed the following year. This science at Brenau University will be honourent entitled through their generosity.

LEGACY Giving

Dr. Richard H. “Dick” and Mrs. Phyllis C. Leet

Named in memory of Brenau University’s great president, Haywood J. Pearce, the H.J. Pearce Society recognizes a significant group of supporters who choose to echo Dr. Pearce’s legacy of providing extraordi

MESSAGE from the President

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Ed

Dr. Gale Allen, BC ’91

IN Appreciation

Jane Patterson Suggs, WC ’74, and her husband, Tommy, chose to impact Brenau University through their estate planning with a life insurance policy. Their approach made sense for them at the university. A life insurance policy is a tax-efficient way for Jane and Tommy to help support Brenau University in the financial and student support areas that are important to them.

"The old adage, if you see a turtle splash after a lightning strike, you know he didn’t get there by himself, is a constant reminder to Robin Smith Dudley, WC ’78, that we need help getting where we want to be in life and, further, that we have a responsibility to pay it forward.

Robin and her husband, Mike, a fifth-generation family owner of R.A. Dudley Nurseries in Thomson, Georgia, established the Mike and Robin Smith Dudley Nursing Scholarship in 2000, which provides financial support to rising senior nursing students.

Robin dreamed of becoming a nurse when she was a child. Following graduation from Brenau’s nursing school, she began her journey of helping others. Robin’s nurturing spirit, effervescent personality and compassion for others made her an outstanding nurse, nurse educator and Brenau Trustee. She spent 30 years teaching Health Care Science at Thomson High School helping high school students prepare for careers in the medical field.

Robin meets with her scholarship recipients each year and loves hearing their stories and aspirations. “I want the students to know that my scholarship may help them meet their tuition commitments, but that should not be where it ends. Following graduation, they will have opportunities to “plant seeds” every day in their nursing career. As their nursing careers begin to bloom, they need to begin investing in future nursing students to help them achieve their dreams.” Robin believes it is her and other health care professionals’ responsibility to help prepare the next generation of health care professionals.

“Giving back is an investment in the lives of our college students with our volunteer time, financial support, and leadership,” said Robin, a 2015 recipient of the Masters in the Art of Nursing Award in Gainesville, Georgia, and 2016 Alumni Service to Brenau Award recipient.

“My generation of graduates is nearing retirement,” she said. “Robin encourages not only alumni but other professionals who need Brenau’s scholarships to support this effort. “All communities benefit from a strong university like Brenau University; as our graduates are prepared to lead lives of leadership and service in the communities in which they live and serve.”

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Dr. Richard H. “Dick” and Mrs. Phyllis C. Leet

CamPAIGN GOAL: $40 MILLION

H. J. PEARCE SOCIETY

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LEGACY Giving

Frances Barbara Stapleton Perry, WC ’47, and Linda Stapleton Curry, WC ’50, provided the funds for a sculpture to be placed in the John S. Bond Center on Brenau’s historic Gainesville campus. When the art was commissioned to be done by sculptor Jean Westmacott, the former director of Brenau University Galleries, Barbara knew she had terminal cancer. In an effort to make a lasting gift to their alma mater, Barbara and Linda decided to fund a bronze to be cast in bronze to express their shared passion for Brenau and art.

Through Susan's current donations and provisions in Barbara's estate, jointly funded the work. Barbara was able to enjoy a maquette of the sculpture before her death on January 1 of this year. "Barbara and I have always supported Brenau because the university has given us so much over the years in terms of those memories and scope preparation for life after college," Linda said. "I know I speak for Barbara when I say we are pleased that Dick and I have been able to provide such a gift for the enjoyment of all age out the John S. Bond Center once it is installed.”

Dr. Richard H. “Dick” and Mrs. Phyllis C. Leet

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

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— Joe Wood Jr. President & CEO
— Rob Fowler Jr. Executive Vice President

Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance Agency is a generous supporter in the development of Brenau University’s Downtown Center. Your contribution helped complete the 50,7 million construction of the facility and supported the launching of Brenau’s Physical Therapy program. For more information on ways you can join them in supporting Brenau’s physical therapy and nursing programs, please visit forevergold.brenau.edu.