WHY I support ForeverGold

I give because the future of Brenau is important to me. In this season of life—my three littles under four—it is easy to get caught up in the immediacy of the day. Remaining involved with Brenau has kept me connected to the person I was before motherhood refined me. It reminds me of the most important job of motherhood...to prepare the little people I am charged with raising to some day go out into the world and write their own stories and pursue their own dreams. I believe the world I am preparing them for is a better and richer place when institutions like Brenau, which espouse the highest ideals of human conduct, are supported and thriving. I give to ensure that future. Sustaining Brenau, and thus the traditions and ideals she upholds, is critically important.

– Eryn Manwaring Houck, WC ’01

Make your online gift today at forevergold.brenau.edu/form
MESSAGE from the President
ForeverGold touches student lives

Our students and the extraordinarily positive impact they have on our global society are the reasons that Brenau University exists. ForeverGold is about touching student lives—and having the resources to transform them. Some folks question whether completing a $40 million dollar capital campaign is attainable at Brenau. Now that we are about to exceed $26 million in gifts, the question morphs to who, would who have thought that this idea could be such a success in the post-recession economy? Ultimately the question becomes how can you place a value on sustaining Brenau’s unique educational experience and its product, world-changing students? Certainly, $40 million does not even begin to do justice.

So, we work hard. We dream. And, we take visions and make them into reality because the lives of our Brenau students matter. I invite you to read this campaign update with me; however, do not see it in terms of information about new buildings and new programs. Yes, those things are important; but, this update is so much more. It is a report of our collective success to date and examples of lives that have been touched because of the generous gifts of many. The fundamental foundation for the long-term sustainability of Brenau’s tremendous impact on each new generation is your commitment not only to give but to introduce the school to new friends in new places who can share in these important tasks at hand.

Personal giving and finding others to support Brenau at any level make a difference. We call it “Give and Get.” The important thing is that you participate; that you get involved; and that you join me in the cause to continue the extraordinary legacy of Brenau.

Cheering for us all,

John B. Cleveland, left, shows his mother, Mary Cleveland, a plaque honoring her and her late husband, Ralph W. Cleveland, during the celebration to honor the dedication of The Cleveland Physical Therapy Lobby at the Brenau Downtown Center in early July. The Cleveland’s $300,000 gift will help support the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program and other health sciences programs. John Cleveland said the gift is intended to honor his parents for their life-long support of Gainesville and Brenau. Mary Cleveland also was awarded The Mary Milledge Sullivan Award, a community service award named for this southern-born humanitarian who assisted prisoners during the Civil War.

Frances Reeves Drayton, WC ’61, shown here with her husband, Graham, of Bishopville, South Carolina, recently made provisions in her estate to establish a generous endowed scholarship to support teacher education at Brenau University. As a classroom teacher for 13 years, Frances knows firsthand the challenges teachers encounter and she wants her scholarship to help enhance teacher training so that ultimately it will positively help classroom students of the future. For planned giving information, contact Ben McDade at bmcadade@brenau.edu, 770-534-6173 or visit Brenau’s planned giving website at brenau.giftlegacy.com.

NEWS in Brief

Brenau University alumna and twin sister Camilla Walter Ashcraft, A ’60, left, and Carolyn Walter Darke, A ’60 were instrumental in leading Academy alumni to provide almost $5,000 to refurbish Academy Center located at the intersection of Academy Street and Boulevard on the historic Gainesville campus. A portion of the funds provided a bronze commemorating the Academy and fresh landscaping including park benches. The funds also provided a plaque to accompany a portrait of longtime Academy Dean C.B. Brandon that hangs outside the Alumni Office at the Walters House.

Betty Verson Norton, WC ’92. After all, she says, “Brenau has always been a significant part of my life.” Betty arrived at Brenau having left Cuba a few years before Fidel Castro took over. After four years she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. During her junior and senior years, she served as a student recruiter. “I shared my love for Brenau with girls from South Carolina and Georgia, often traveling alone. That was the beginning of sharing what Brenau was and how it could benefit these young women.” She later taught at Brenau Academy for three years.

And she’s been sharing her passion for Brenau and her beloved Alpha Chi Omega sorority ever since: The Norton family is part of the very fabric of the Gainesville community as they own successful real estate and insurance companies started by Betty’s father-in-law in 1928. Over the years Betty has given her time to many organizations in the community, but Brenau has always held a special place in her heart as evidenced by her 28-year tenure as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees. Betty and her husband, Frank, are longtime supporters of Brenau and they have made provisions for the University in their estate plans.

As a successful businesswoman, Betty understands that risk taking and embracing change are key components to thriving enterprises whether her family businesses or Brenau University. It’s this understanding that fuels her passion for Brenau and its bold $40 million ForeverGold: An Extraordinary Legacy campaign to establish the changing world and has taken risks that have paid off to position Brenau and her students to prosper in our changing world.

“Our ForeverGold campaign is critical to ensure that Brenau continues to build upon and maintain the standard of excellence that has been its hallmark in providing quality education and leadership in our ever changing world. I encourage all alumni and friends to support this bold endeavor.”

Brenau has always been a significant part of my life.” Betty arrived at Brenau having left Cuba a few years before Fidel Castro took over. After four years she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. During her junior and senior years, she served as a student recruiter. “I shared my love for Brenau with girls from South Carolina and Georgia, often traveling alone. That was the beginning of sharing what Brenau was and how it could benefit these young women.” She later taught at Brenau Academy for three years.

And she’s been sharing her passion for Brenau and her beloved Alpha Chi Omega sorority ever since: The Norton family is part of the very fabric of the Gainesville community as they own successful real estate and insurance companies started by Betty’s father-in-law in 1928. Over the years Betty has given her time to many organizations in the community, but Brenau has always held a special place in her heart as evidenced by her 28-year tenure as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees. Betty and her husband, Frank, are longtime supporters of Brenau and they have made provisions for the University in their estate plans.

As a successful businesswoman, Betty understands that risk taking and embracing change are key components to thriving enterprises whether her family businesses or Brenau University. It’s this understanding that fuels her passion for Brenau and its bold $40 million ForeverGold: An Extraordinary Legacy campaign to establish the changing world and has taken risks that have paid off to position Brenau and her students to prosper in our changing world.

“Our ForeverGold campaign is critical to ensure that Brenau continues to build upon and maintain the standard of excellence that has been its hallmark in providing quality education and leadership in our ever changing world. I encourage all alumni and friends to support this bold endeavor.”

Brenau University alumna and twin sister Camilla Walter Ashcraft, A ’60, left, and Carolyn Walter Darke, A ’60 were instrumental in leading Academy alumni to provide almost $5,000 to refurbish Academy Center located at the intersection of Academy Street and Boulevard on the historic Gainesville campus. A portion of the funds provided a bronze commemorating the Academy and fresh landscaping including park benches. The funds also provided a plaque to accompany a portrait of longtime Academy Dean C.B. Brandon that hangs outside the Alumni Office at the Walters House.

Alyson Shields, WC ’13, recently pledged $1,000 to name the balcony in the newly completed Phi Mu sorority house on Brenau’s historic Gainesville campus. As a recent graduate, Alyson is putting her B.A. in Mass Communications to work as she serves as news anchor, reporter and news assistant at WDUN/AccessNorthGA in Gainesville.

Sandra Smith Siddurco, WC ’88 raises her glass during President Ed Schneider’s toast of the 2015 Alumni Reunion Weekend banquet. And the university raises our glasses to celebrated Sandra’s recent generous pledge to Delta Delta Delta and Brenau’s All-Steinway School Initiative.

Spotlight

Camille Walter Ashcraft, A ’60, shown here with her husband, Graham, of Bishopville, South Carolina, recently made provisions in her estate to establish a generous endowed scholarship to support teacher education at Brenau University. As a classroom teacher for 13 years, Frances knows firsthand the challenges teachers encounter and she wants her scholarship to help enhance teacher training so that ultimately it will positively help classroom students of the future. For planned giving information, contact Ben McDade at bmcadade@brenau.edu, 770-534-6173 or visit Brenau’s planned giving website at brenau.giftlegacy.com.

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

Agreeing to serve as a Brenau ForeverGold campaign volunteer was an easy decision for Betty Verson Norton, WC ’92. After all, she says, “Brenau has always been a significant part of my life.” Betty arrived at Brenau having left Cuba a few years before Fidel Castro took over. After four years she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. During her junior and senior years, she served as a student recruiter. “I shared my love for Brenau with girls from South Carolina and Georgia, often traveling alone. That was the beginning of sharing what Brenau was and how it could benefit these young women.” She later taught at Brenau Academy for three years.

And she’s been sharing her passion for Brenau and her beloved Alpha Chi Omega sorority ever since: The Norton family is part of the very fabric of the Gainesville community as they own successful real estate and insurance companies started by Betty’s father-in-law in 1928. Over the years Betty has given her time to many organizations in the community, but Brenau has always held a special place in her heart as evidenced by her 28-year tenure as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees. Betty and her husband, Frank, are longtime supporters of Brenau and they have made provisions for the University in their estate plans.

As a successful businesswoman, Betty understands that risk taking and embracing change are key components to thriving enterprises whether her family businesses or Brenau University. It’s this understanding that fuels her passion for Brenau and its bold $40 million ForeverGold: An Extraordinary Legacy campaign to establish the changing world and has taken risks that have paid off to position Brenau and her students to prosper in our changing world.

“Our ForeverGold campaign is critical to ensure that Brenau continues to build upon and maintain the standard of excellence that has been its hallmark in providing quality education and leadership in our ever changing world. I encourage all alumni and friends to support this bold endeavor.”

Brenau University alumna and twin sister Camilla Walter Ashcraft, A ’60, left, and Carolyn Walter Darke, A ’60 were instrumental in leading Academy alumni to provide almost $5,000 to refurbish Academy Center located at the intersection of Academy Street and Boulevard on the historic Gainesville campus. A portion of the funds provided a bronze commemorating the Academy and fresh landscaping including park benches. The funds also provided a plaque to accompany a portrait of longtime Academy Dean C.B. Brandon that hangs outside the Alumni Office at the Walters House.

Alyson Shields, WC ’13, recently pledged $1,000 to name the balcony in the newly completed Phi Mu sorority house on Brenau’s historic Gainesville campus. As a recent graduate, Alyson is putting her B.A. in Mass Communications to work as she serves as news anchor, reporter and news assistant at WDUN/AccessNorthGA in Gainesville.