



FY2025
ANNUAL REPORT



COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON
FOUNDATION

BEYOND

68

Majors



10,880

Undergraduate
Students



24

National Fraternities
and Sororities

1,046

Graduate Students



86

Minors

16.5:1

Student/Faculty Ratio





Dear Friends,

In Fiscal Year 2025, thanks to a thriving culture of engagement and philanthropy, the College of Charleston celebrated another banner year with more than \$33 million in gifts and commitments – the largest amount raised in the College’s 255-year history. The outpouring of support from donors like you affirms the College’s efforts to develop ethically centered, intellectually versatile and globally fluent citizens.

Below are some of the College’s FY25 philanthropic highlights.

- Starting at 4:30 p.m. on March 19 and ending at 10 p.m. on March 20, CofC Day took place over 1,770 minutes or 29.5 hours. During that time, 1,524 donors gave \$710,533 in total gifts for 150 areas of campus.
- 488 scholarships, with a value of \$4.6 million, were awarded to 1,200 students.
- Five seven-figure gifts were received, including a \$1 million gift from Mace Brown '07 and Liz Kane for the Mace Brown Museum of Natural History, a \$1,094,985 gift from The Schoen Foundation to support the College’s veteran and military students and three anonymous donors gifted \$11.5 million to support campus initiatives, including athletics.
- 25 new endowed funds were created, adding to the College’s more than 735 active endowed funds.
- 20 new restricted scholarship funds were created for a total of 534 active scholarships.
- Corporations and foundations contributed \$8.51 million of the College’s total gifts.

In this report, you’ll find examples of how a culture of engagement and philanthropy is gaining momentum and enhancing the College of Charleston experience. With the support of the College of Charleston Foundation and the Institutional Advancement team, our donors are realizing their visions for the College and creating more opportunities for our students and the greater community.

We are extremely grateful for our donors who believe in the mission of the College. Under the careful management of the resources entrusted to it, the College of Charleston Foundation will continue to make a difference in FY26 and beyond. Visit foundation.cofc.edu for more information about the College of Charleston Foundation.

With gratitude for your loyal support,

Daniel H. Frezza
Chief Executive Officer
College of Charleston Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the 70-person College of Charleston Orchestra debuted at Carnegie Hall.

On a high note

Darcie Goodwin

Thanks to generous donors, including Frank and Peggy Oldham, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, the 70-person College of Charleston Orchestra experienced the magic of performing at Carnegie Hall.

"This experience will forever impact our students' artistic journeys, just as it did mine," says Jayme Klinger Host, dean of the School of the Arts, who performed at Carnegie Hall as first oboe in her central Pennsylvania high school band.

For Yuriy Bekker, conductor of the CofC Orchestra and violin instructor, coming to Carnegie Hall is a lot like coming home. In high school, he regularly played at Carnegie Hall with the New York Youth Symphony.

"I still remember how, every time we finished a piece, the hall would ring for a few seconds," he says. "That lingering sound gave me chills and filled me with amazement, joy and satisfaction. I am thrilled for our students to have that same experience – one they will treasure forever."

Bekker was also honored to have the orchestra perform works of his colleagues, including the New York premier of *Corsaro* by Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, professor of music theory composition, and former CofC professor Trevor Weston's piece, *Subwaves*.

For two scholarship recipients, the experience of playing cello at Carnegie Hall was transformative. "To be sitting in a hall built to express the musical talents and experiences of the great musicians who have come before us was overwhelming," says Zachary Butler '25, a music major and recipient of the Dominion Scholarship, G. Theodore Wichmann Memorial Scholarship in Music, Ellen Glenn Lightsey Scholarship, Delphin & Romain Scholarship



in Music, Hale-Westbury Scholarship, Lee Harwood Scholarship Fund for Music and Fran Welch Teacher Education Endowed Scholarship. "To sit on a stage with my profound colleagues and lash out bow stroke to bow stroke, all the work and dedication we put into our performance was very enriching and enlightening for me, our entire orchestra and my extended friends and family who cheered me on from the Carolinas. I am extremely grateful for the experience, and I hope to grace the halls of Carnegie again with my music."

Adds music major Isaac Hill '26, who received the Douglas Ashley Scholarship, Frank Xavier Burkart Endowed Scholarship and Ellen Glenn Lightsey Scholarship, "It was amazing to perform such a repertoire in Carnegie Hall. It was a great experience to perform Dr. Vassilandonakis' piece that he created with us in mind and to perform Antonín Dvořák's *New World Symphony Finale*, which debuted at Carnegie Hall."

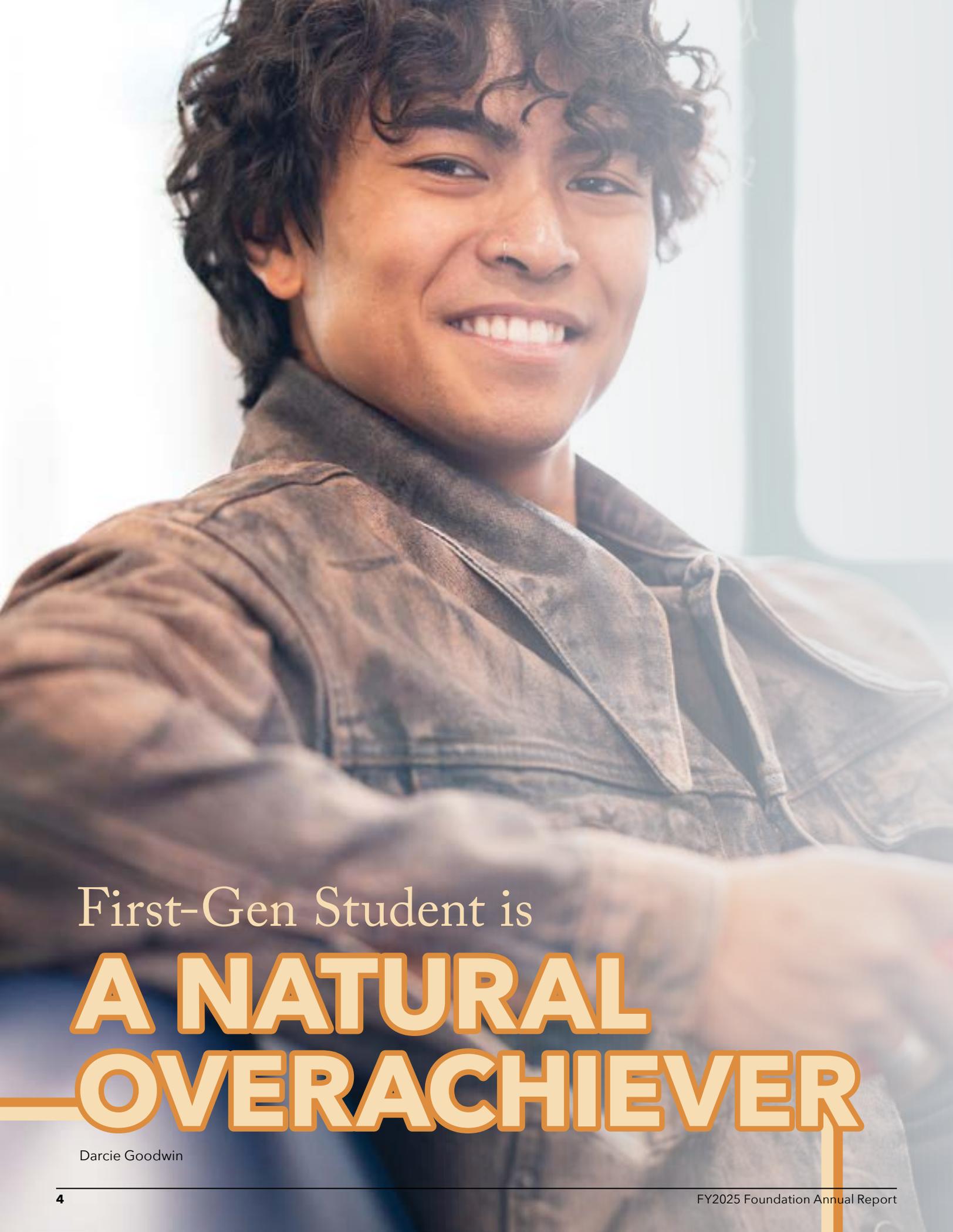
Both Hill and Butler enjoyed having the time to bond with other orchestra members, a rare opportunity as when they are together, they are usually rehearsing.

"I'm really proud of how I have grown with the orchestra and how the orchestra has grown as an ensemble," says Hill, who aspires to be a composer. "We now have a more blended sound, and I'm excited to see where that will go."

Both Hill and Butler are grateful to Bekker for his dedication to getting the members of the orchestra prepared for their Carnegie Hall debut. They also appreciate donors like Frank and Peggy Oldham who made this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible.

Photo Caption L-R: Zachary Butler '25 and Isaac Hill '26





First-Gen Student is

A NATURAL OVERACHIEVER

Darcie Goodwin

Kyle Barretto '25, a first-generation college student, graduated with a perfect GPA in just three years. He views his academic excellence as a sign of gratitude to all the donors who supported him.

When Kyle Barretto '25 received an invitation to the Honors College Interview Weekend, he decided to blow it off. The first-generation student had applied for early admission to the College of Charleston and was accepted, so why did he need to be interviewed?

Fortunately, his father wanted to go fishing in Charleston and told Barretto he was going to the interview. The experience interviewing for Honors College scholarships changed his CofC trajectory. Not only was he accepted into the Honors College's merit scholarship program, the Charleston Fellows, but he also met Lancie Affonso '96 (M.S. '08), Honors College faculty fellow, director of the Honors Entrepreneurship Living-Learning Community (E-LLC) and senior instructor of computer science, management and marketing. Affonso introduced him to the many opportunities the Honors College offers - not that Barretto needed a lot of guidance about seizing opportunities.

Barretto grew up living a modest life in Manila, Philippines, with his grandmother. "We lived frugally, but my grandma tried her best to keep food on the table," he says.

When he was 11 years old, Barretto immigrated to the U.S. to be with his mother. So that he would get a good education, she moved the family to Fort Mill, South Carolina, where Barretto excelled in school, played on the basketball team and started a vending machine business along with a vintage clothing and shoe business.

When applying to colleges, knowing that his family's finances were tight, Barretto applied in state and aimed to graduate in three years. Once he was accepted to the College, he mapped out his courses as a computer science major to maximize his chances for success while also making time to participate in extracurricular activities.

Barretto's first year was a flurry of activity. "I didn't know what I was getting into," he laughs. "Professor Affonso kept throwing opportunities my way, and I didn't want to back down."

Like most first-generation students, Barretto struggled in his first few weeks at the College. "I remember failing a couple quizzes, maybe getting some Cs," he says.

One of his teachers, Ellie Lovellette, assistant professor of computer science, saw he was having a difficult time. "Kyle is a natural overachiever," she says. "Still, in the first few weeks, I could see he was struggling. He hadn't figured out how he learns best, but we spoke, and - once he got his footing - he was unstoppable."

Unstoppable in class and out, Barretto received multiple scholarships that gave him the flexibility and confidence to take advantage of opportunities. In addition to grants and awards, he received the Swanson Family Scholarship, the Chad V. Adams '18 Memorial Scholarship, the Jill Conway Annual Scholarship, the Thomas W. Carroll Memorial Scholarship in Computer Science and the Charles and Linda Bishara Scholarship.

Extremely thankful for all the aid he has received, Barretto's academic excellence serves as a sign of gratitude to all the donors.

Inspired by his donors, Barretto worked with Affonso and Norm Levine, geology professor and director of the Santee Cooper GIS Laboratory and Lowcountry Hazards Center, on three different research projects at the Lowcountry Hazards Center: high throughput computing optimization, full-stack development and mobile development. In his first year, his research prioritized HTC cluster optimization - fine-tuning a group of computers together to act as one computer in order to process a large amount of data in perpetuity. Barretto secured a summer research grant to continue his work.

In addition, Barretto worked in the Division of Information Technology, served as student director for the E-LLC and participated in numerous pitch competitions, including the University of South Carolina's interstate Big Health Data Competition, competing against doctoral researchers.

"We were given millions of rows of data and then had to show which genes correspond to what sickness," explains Barretto, who was on the only undergraduate team at the competition. "Then we had to create a pipeline to show these signs. It was not an easy competition, but I was happy to be part of it."

Barretto won the Disability and Entrepreneurship: Models of Success (D.E.M.O.S.) pitch competition with his bi-omnidirectional keyboard that helps people with typing challenges. Additionally, at the Impact X competition, Barretto and his team placed third with their pitch to use old sails made of Kevlar, a strong, heat-resistant synthetic fiber, to make patio covers and umbrellas.

He did all this his first year at the College.

"He's a rare one," says Lovellette. "He has the tech acumen to learn quickly and is a natural entrepreneur, but he also has soft skills you don't see in someone so young."

His second year, Barretto continued working with Levine and IT. Building on his summer research, he led a team to win third place at the first HarborHack Competition, where he created a website so anyone can access public and private flood data. He later mentored an SC Innovates team that made it to the semi-finals. He also served as the director of communications for the Charleston Fellows and worked as a resident assistant where he was nominated for most inclusive community.

Barretto attributes that inclusiveness to his language skills; he speaks Tagalog, English, Spanish and Ibanag.

"Languages help me understand people; it reduces the gaps," he explains.

Barretto interned with the Global Digital Needs Agency, serving as a data engineering intern. During his tenure, he familiarized himself with Amazon Web Services and reconstructed the internal onboarding process.

At the same time, a side business presented itself. Barretto's confidence and knowledge of style from his experience with the sneaker culture and vintage clothing came through on his Instagram posts. Gravitating to his online persona, people reached out asking him to be their personal stylist for events. He currently has seven clients across the U.S. and is working on his first clothing line - garments that he will design, market and manufacture.

In May 2025, Barretto graduated in three years with not only a perfect GPA, but also 12 credits toward his M.S. in computer and information sciences and multiple job offers, including one with Siemens.

"Siemens came to the CofC Career Fair through sheer luck, seeing as they are not regulars at our career fairs," says Barretto who managed multiple projects as a software engineering intern with Siemens, including AI-enhanced/automated sales development training software and an internal machine learning model for

the application engineering group - both of which are formally registered and in use by Siemens. "I was the only student from CofC to have my summer internship extended throughout the school year and the only student from my intern class to be offered a job. I'm extremely grateful - blessed, but also lucky."

To build his machine learning skills, Barretto began a new joint project with Mercedes-Benz Vans under the Charleston Corrosion Control Lab. This project sought to address supply chain issues regarding corroded metal parts. Barretto and his team created a prototype that uses shipping container data to forecast the possibility of corrosion so Mercedes-Benz Vans could prepare.

Simultaneously, Barretto began work with NASA as co-principal investigator, heading a multibillion-dollar research mission toward Titan, one of Saturn's moons. In his work, he led a cross-functional team of 15 students that collaborated with graduate engineering students from the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

"I look forward to seeing what Kyle will do next," says Lovellette. "He is incredibly talented and knows how to make the best out of every situation. The fact that he is swimming in opportunities is a testament to how good he is."

Grateful for all he has experienced at the College, Barretto wants to give back to future students.

"Each year at the College, I dedicated my best efforts to honor the support of my donors, mentors and - above all - my family," says Barretto, who serves as an ambassador for the School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics as well as for the computer science department. "Now, I want to help people replicate the successes I've had by connecting them to the resources they need. It is my duty to share and give them opportunities."

Barretto's desire to give back is exactly what Affonso saw when he met him during the Honors College Interview Weekend. He was fascinated by Barretto's compelling story and how this first-generation student entrepreneur wanted to impact the campus community.

"Kyle is an extraordinary scholar and peer mentor who thrives in fast-paced environments where he leverages empathy, creativity and critical thinking to deliver innovative solutions," says Affonso. "His belief in lifelong learning drives him to push past expectations and inspire his mentees to reach their dreams."

Affonso adds that Barretto also volunteered to help interview prospective scholarship students during the 2025-26 Honors College Interview Weekend - a full-circle moment for someone who almost skipped his own scholarship interview.



Student Research Ensures a Family is Remembered.

Darcie Goodwin

Coming Home

In October 1938, as part of *Polenaktion*, the Nazis forced thousands of Jews out of Germany and into Poland. This is the story of one of those families: the Landsmanns.

When Chaim Landsmann had to leave his family - wife Malie and daughters Ida and Peppi - behind in the center of Berlin, Malie struggled to maintain their home at 17 Hirtenstrasse. Ten months later, Nazi authorities forced her and her daughters to join Chaim in exile. In Chrzanow, the family lived hand to mouth until 1942, when the Nazis sent them to the concentration camp in Auschwitz and murdered them.

Now, 83 years later, the Landsmanns are back home - at least in spirit - because of the efforts of Jewish studies major Leah Davenport '25.

On March 9, 2025, artist Gunter Demnig installed four *Stolpersteine*, or stumbling stones (brass plates) - inscribed with the name, birth date and fate of each member of the Landsmann family - at the entryway of 17 Hirtenstrasse. Attending the ceremony were Davenport; Chad Gibbs, a Jewish studies faculty member at the College; Natalie Peyton '24, who had helped Davenport share the Landsmanns' story; and the Landsmann family's relatives, R. Scott Hellman '96 and his parents, Max and Ann Hellman.

As Scott and Max Hellman read the *Mourner's Kaddish* that day, Davenport felt grateful that she could give them a connection to these relatives that they had only recently learned they had.

"I knew there were letters in Special Collections, but I didn't know the family's name," says Scott, referring to the 1930s correspondence housed at the Addlestone Library that ultimately led to the placing of the *Stolpersteine*. "With the research that Leah's done, future generations of our family and South Carolina students will have a lasting impression of the plight of the Landsmanns."

With the *Stolpersteine* installed, Davenport knows this family killed by the Nazis will have a place in history. With each *Stolpersteine* carrying a story of one person's fate, the atrocities of the Holocaust go from abstract to personal and remind everyday pedestrians of the horrors the Nazis unleashed on the world.

Davenport knew the stones were making an impact on the people now living near 17 Hirtenstrasse when she returned the next day to see more flowers placed at the site in honor of the Landsmanns.

"For more than 80 years, the Landsmanns were forgotten to history," she says. "Now they can't be forgotten."

Photo Caption L-R: Chad Gibbs, Ann Hellman, Max Hellman, Leah Davenport '25, Natalie Peyton '24 and R. Scott Hellman '96

Thanks to Jewish studies major Leah Davenport '25, a family murdered in the Holocaust is now memorialized in front of their Berlin residence.

Cry for Help

Davenport's relationship with the Landsmann family began in 2022, when she became a research assistant for the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College.

When Scott's grandmother helped clean out his great-great aunt Minnie Tewel Baum's house in Camden, South Carolina, after she died in 1985, she discovered letters written in German sent at the start of World War II. In 2011, she donated the letters to the Jewish Heritage Collection within the College of Charleston Libraries' Special Collections.

In 2022, Gibbs, who serves as the director of the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and co-director of the Perlmutter Fellows Program, learned about the letters between Minnie Baum and Malie Landsmann and wanted the stories they held to be shared. He asked Davenport to take the lead.

With funding from the S.S. Solomons Scholarship and College of Charleston Foundation Scholarships, Davenport had the flexibility and time to focus on the letters and circumstances surrounding the Landsmann family – catching a glimpse of the family's desperation and the tremendous burden Baum assumed.

When Malie first wrote Baum in March 1938, the outlook was grim for the Jews who remained in Germany. They faced insurmountable paperwork and demands for money they didn't have from the German and foreign governments, which prompted Malie to write to her cousin – someone she'd never met.

In that first letter, Malie explained their relationship and told of how the German government was forcing Jews to migrate, but an affidavit was required.

Malie wrote again in November, sharing that her husband was involuntarily sent to Poland, while she and the children remained in Berlin. Chaim was swept up in the *Polenaktion*, where naturalized Jewish Germans who had been born in Poland were forcibly deported.

"Now it depends only on you and the other cousins that we stay alive because I can only save my life as soon as I get the affidavit in my hands," wrote Malie. "A delay in the processing of the affidavit can become my abyss, since without my husband I have no way of supporting my two poor children. 'Help, help, help,' we scream, and I expect this help from you by telegram before it is too late and before we are completely destroyed."

What Malie didn't know was that Baum had reached out to multiple organizations and government officials. She did everything she could, yet each channel led to a dead end. At the same time, she and her cousins were pooling their resources to cover the travel and visa fees, a challenge for them after suffering severe losses during the Great Depression.

Malie finally received the affidavits in December, only to learn that the U.S. quota system limiting the number of visas from each country meant it would take up to three years for their turn to come. Malie urged Baum to work on a special dispensation.

In January 1939, Malie shared the option of waiting in Cuba until they were granted entry into the U.S. Two months later, she wrote that if nothing happened soon, they would be forced to go to Poland, although her husband wrote to tell them not come because of the harsh conditions.

"I still cling to the hope that you won't abandon me, that you won't forget me, because I really have no one at all in the world to help me except you," wrote Malie.

The letters took a toll on Baum, who knew the clock was ticking as she continued to reach out to different agencies without luck.

In *A History of Kershaw County, South Carolina*, a neighbor recalled Baum's distress after receiving the letters from Europe. He said that while clutching the letter, she would often walk up and down the street weeping and pulling at her hair.

In January 1940, Malie wrote that she and her children had been deported to Chrzanow. While reunited with Chaim, they lost all their belongings and lived hand to mouth.

"Our lives are in your hands," she implored.

In June 1941, Malie admonished Baum for not writing: "Dear Minnie, you don't want to hear anything about us anymore, and you were our only hope."

These words must have pierced Baum's heart. Clearly mail was not reaching Malie, who had no idea the lengths Baum had gone to get them out of Poland.

Alas, the sea of bureaucracy from both the German and U.S. governments won out over Baum's efforts. In 1942, Malie and Chaim were deported to Auschwitz and murdered. Although there is no record for Ida and Peppi, it is presumed their daughters were also killed there with their parents.



Picking up the Thread

"Once I started reading, I had to keep reading," says Davenport, who also majored in women's and gender studies. "By the time Malie reached out to Minnie, getting out of Germany was nearly impossible."

"I wish Malie knew that her family in the U.S. was doing everything they could to get them out of Poland," she continues. "Both Malie and Minnie faced insurmountable systematic failures and barriers on both continents."

No doubt Malie and Baum would be heartened to know all that Davenport has done to remember the Landsmanns and, by extension, the story of the Holocaust. She has shared the family's story in an article for the *Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina* magazine, presented to groups, produced a podcast and collaborated with classmate Grace Shaffer '23 to have the letters turned into a learning tool for South Carolina high school students.

Through The Samuel Freeman Trust - International Travel Scholarships, Davenport joined Gibbs for a study abroad program to Poland, the Netherlands and Germany. While on the trip, the pair visited the Landsmanns' home in Berlin.

"The Germans are pretty good at putting things back together," says Gibbs. "The neighborhood was heavily bombed, but they reshaped the street pretty much the same as it had been."

Throughout the trip, Davenport saw some of the more than 100,000 4-by-4-inch brass *Stolpersteine* strewn across the streets of more than 1,900 municipalities across Europe.

"When we visited a Jewish neighborhood in Amsterdam, the sidewalks literally glittered with *Stolpersteine*," she says, noting that the experience sparked a desire to have *Stolpersteine* placed in front of the Landsmanns' home. "The *Stolpersteine* makes sure we remember the people who lived in these homes."

The *Stolpersteine*, now the largest decentralized memorial in the world, serve as a reminder that the people killed at the hands of the Nazis were not faceless numbers, but neighbors who lived full, rich lives.

With permission from the Hellman family, Davenport researched and compiled the documentation required to have the *Stolpersteine* placed in front of 17 Hirtenstrasse, providing where they lived, their fate and what the Nazis did to them between 1933 and their murder.

"Leah deeply, deeply cares about community and people," says Gibbs. "When she puts her talented mind to do something, she's going to do it."

While Davenport unearthed a fair amount of documentation on the Landsmann family and their fate, she was unable to determine what exactly happened to the children.

"We have survivor testimonies regarding the fates of Malie and Chaim, but absolutely nothing about Ida and Peppi," she says. "It's hard to imagine how two loved children could just disappear, though it's very emblematic of the Holocaust as a whole."

After submitting all the paperwork with German translations, Davenport was thrilled to learn her application would be fast-tracked.

"Sometimes approval of *Stolpersteine* can take years, but because I am a university student, the team made the Landsmann *Stolpersteine* a priority," she says. "Memorializing the Landsmann family felt like a responsibility. We can't forget them, and we need to remember them as people, not victims."

FOR PRE-MED STUDENT, *Kindness is Key*

Darcie Goodwin

Jamie Silverman '27, wants to be a doctor - not just any doctor, a pediatric doctor. The Honors College public health major and recipient of the Laura S. Griffin Health Educator Scholarship, Boykin Scholarship and Charles C. Swanson Scholarship, has been working toward her goal since high school.

In fact, the summer before she came to the College, the Alpharetta, Georgia-native became a certified nurse assistant.

"It was 9-to-5 for four weeks, including a week of clinicals and written and hands-on exams," explains Silverman, who used her credentials to work the following summer at the Children's Wellness Center in Atlanta.

Ready to take the next step in pursuing her medical degree, Silverman came to the College of Charleston excited about the small class sizes and the opportunity to build lasting relationships with her professors, but she worried about a competitive atmosphere. To her delight, she found quite the opposite - supportive and encouraging classmates and faculty.

At the College's inaugural Donor Gratitude Gala in 2024, Silverman shared how much her scholarships meant to her when she was struck with tragedy. In the spring of her sophomore year, Silverman's mother, Hindy Silverman, was diagnosed with colon cancer. For much of the remaining spring semester, Silverman was in a fog.

"My mom is my person; she's someone I truly look up to," she says. "My mom exudes total kindness."

It was the support of faculty and classmates along with the scholarships she received that drove her to work harder on her academics, Silverman was able to push through her emotional distress. That semester, she achieved all As, which made her realize that nothing can hold her back.

Sandra Craig, instructor of chemistry, was one of the faculty members who supported Silverman during this difficult period.

"Jamie was a student in both of my organic chemistry courses," says Craig. "She was a joy to teach! I enjoyed her facial expressions and gestures when she did not understand the subject matter and appreciated the verbal questions as other students most likely had the same question.

"Jamie has a beautiful spirit," she adds. "She has been through so much over the last year and still she rises to every academic occasion striving for excellence. Every semester I wish I had 15 students like her!"

While the classes have ended, Silverman and Craig continue to have "girl time" in Craig's office on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"I will miss her when she graduates," says Craig. "I'm so proud of her. Soon she will be Dr. Jamie Silverman."

Another important professor for Silverman is Leslie Hart, associate professor of public health. At her mother's urging, the summer before her junior year, Silverman studied epidemiology with Hart in Barcelona, Spain.

"I was incredibly fortunate and honored to witness Dr. Hart talk about her passions," she says. "I loved experiencing her energy, plus she was an excellent mentor and guide."

For Hart, the feeling is mutual.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have shared both classroom and study abroad experiences with Jamie," says Hart. "Her intelligence is only outshined by her warmth and kindness, making an unforgettable impact on everyone she meets. Jamie is exuberant, compassionate and endlessly curious, embodying everything we hope for in our students."



Faced with challenges, Jamie Silverman '27 discovered that nothing can hold her back.

In gratitude for the outpouring of support she received, Silverman channeled her energy into something positive. She became a Zumba instructor. She serves as a School of Health Sciences student ambassador, where she takes part in admissions events and shares about health sciences and her work as a pre-med student.

She also became an active member of the Honors College Charleston Fellows top-scholars program. Initially she served as vice president, where she focused on volunteer events.

"Creating activities for the Charleston Fellows is a great way to build community and introduce different experiences and directions that can be taken," says Silverman, who now serves as the Charleston Fellows president.

As president, she hopes to make an impact and surround herself with people who will motivate her, all with the goal of giving back, like so many have given to her.

"My parents have always pushed two pieces of advice on my brothers and me," says Silverman. "The first: The easiest thing you can ever do is be kind. And the second: Attitude is everything, pick a good one."

Silverman has taken her parents' words to heart and is certainly making a positive impact at the College.



The Turner Tennis Center opened in September 2024, thanks to the generosity of Robb and Lydia Turner, who saw the importance of the tennis team for their daughter, Ava Turner '21.



New College of Charleston

TURNER TENNIS CENTER

Officially Opens

Darcie Goodwin

The College of Charleston Turner Tennis Center officially opened in September 2024, thanks to Robb and Lydia Turner, who saw how important being on the tennis team was to their daughter’s university experience.

“When Ava came to the College, she was a long way from home, but she had a team,” says Robb Turner. “The team members were her best friends. They picked her up. They followed her her freshman year. They took care of her. That was very important to my daughter and her college experience.

“For the tennis program, my wife and I felt the facility just needed a little push,” he continues. “We felt if we could help upgrade the facilities, then students would give this a serious look to come down and play some day.”

Already the Turners’ investment in the College is making an impact.

“Two five-star high recruits have already committed to play for the College starting in the fall 2025 academic year after seeing the renovation,” says Coach Angelo Anastopoulo, director of tennis and the head women’s tennis coach. “The Turner Tennis Center will add to the many reasons to choose the College of Charleston.”

Using the former tennis facility at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant as its base, the Turners gave the exterior a facelift, including a covered pavilion with dining tables and lounge furniture. All nine courts were resurfaced, and the singles courts are now named the Billy Silcox Courts in honor of Willard “Billy” A. Silcox ‘65, who retired from the College after serving as athletics director, director of intramural sports, women’s basketball coach and both the men’s and women’s tennis coach – and who currently volunteers as a tennis coach.

Silcox is both honored and humbled to have the singles courts named after him. Even more, he’s excited about how the Turner Tennis Center is transforming the sport of tennis at the College.

“Because of the Turner Tennis Center, the attraction to the sport has doubled from what it was before,” he says. “It’s a huge attraction for players who know they are going to spend half of their time at the tennis center. It’s going to make a huge difference in recruiting and the life of the students.”

Ava Turner ‘21 agrees; one thing that she emphasized was the inclusion of day beds, something she wished the center had when she played. Other interior improvements include new windows, doors, floors and ceiling as well as lounge space, coaches’ offices and a sports medicine treatment room.

“The Turner family has been behind the scenes making sure this renovation was perfect, and we are thrilled with the end result,” says Anastopoulo. “It’s just what the tennis program, activity classes and tennis team club needed. It will be such an asset in recruiting and supporting our student-athletes.”

Indeed, the dedication and vision of the Turner family – and the resulting state-of-the-art, nationally recognized competitive tennis center – has positioned the College’s tennis program for future success.

“The Turners have always been family, and now each time I walk up the stairs and see ‘Turner Tennis Center’ it will bring a smile to my face,” says Anastopoulo. “It feels like home.”

Photo Caption L-R: Ava Turner ‘21 with her father, Robb Turner

Photo Caption L-R: Jay Bruner, Angelo Anastopoulo, Robb Turner, Griffin McLarty ‘19, Ava Turner ‘21, Andrew T. Hsu, Billy Silcox ‘65 and Matt Robertson

SERVICE above SELF

Abby Albright

Emeritus professor of psychology Charles Kaiser has made a lasting impact through mentorship, leadership and his namesake scholarship.

Charles Kaiser joined the College of Charleston in 1972 as an assistant professor in psychology and rose to chair of the department. Fifty years later, he remains a key figure.

"I was one of the department's first hires," says Kaiser. "Bill Bischoff, the newly appointed chair, took me under his wing and became my mentor. He inspired me to meet others where they are and support in any way I can."

In addition to having created new courses, Kaiser shows another form of support through the Charles Kaiser Award for Outstanding Psychology Students. Established in 2018, the award has gone to seven senior psychology students who have uplifted the community.

Katie Cole '27, a psychology major and neuroscience and chemistry double minor in the Honors College, was the 2024-25 recipient. She used the award to fund her Costa Rica spring break trip to study the sociology and psychology behind the country.

"I always wondered if I would get to travel given my demanding coursework and extracurriculars, but amazingly this opportunity crossed my path," says Cole, "and, thanks to the Kaiser Award, I was able to experience this once-in-a-lifetime trip."

Cole, who wants to become a neurologist and research Parkinson's disease, was struck by how many people with Parkinson's have a long wait to see a neurologist. She chose her field to help ensure timely care for Parkinson's patients, and her community involvement as a camp counselor for students with severe neurological disabilities solidified her path.

Cole's dedication to improving the community is exactly why Kaiser created the award.

Kaiser's motto is "service above self," which comes from his decade with the Charleston Rotary Club.

"As a Rotarian, Charles volunteered his expertise and time to serve the community, and as one of the founding members of the Retired Faculty and Staff Council, he supported the connections among retired colleagues," says Sue Sommer-Kresse, former dean of admissions, among numerous other roles at the College. "Through action, he demonstrates loyalty to the College, his students, the community and to his colleagues and friends."

Kaiser credits where he is in life to people who put others before themselves: "It's my calling to support others with what I have. Helping others is the key to making the world a better place, which is why philanthropy is so important."

Kaiser has also earned great respect from the Department of Psychology.

"Charles is a positive force whose passion for psychological science, his students and his colleagues is both obvious and contagious," says Cindi May, professor of psychology.

Adds Garrett Milliken, chair of psychology: "As a leader and the longest-serving member of the psychology department, Charles has fostered a genuine sense of collegiality and care that defines the spirit of cooperation we share today. He also played a crucial role in psychology becoming the College's most popular major."

Kaiser's commitment to bettering the community and nurturing the growth of others is a legacy that will live on for years to come. His influence continues to shape the College.

"On a personal level, Charles is kind, generous, sincere and deeply caring - qualities we should all aspire to emulate," says Milliken. "We are truly grateful for him."

Photo Caption L-R: Charles Kaiser and Katie Cole '27





Breaks Ground on Student Success Center

Years in the making, the Barnard Elliott House is being renovated to serve as the College's new Edward J. Tuccio '91 Student Success Center.

After sitting vacant for nearly a decade, the Barnard Elliott House (58 George St.) is getting ready for its new role on the College of Charleston campus. On Nov. 15, 2024 during Homecoming, hard hats were donned and shovels raised to break ground ceremonially on the three-story historic structure.

Built in 1803 by planter Barnard Elliott, the house has been used as a home, apartment building and communications museum. Now, through a generous philanthropic gift by Edward Tuccio '91 and his wife Kimberly, it is being reimagined and renovated into the Edward J. Tuccio '91 Student Success Center.

Located in the heart of campus, the building will house the Career Center and Financial Wellness Initiative; it will serve as the go-to resource for internships, jobs, graduate school guidance and one-on-one counseling to discuss career development and visions for the future. Throughout the year, workshops and presentations will be held on everything from personal and professional development to financial planning.

"This has been a long time coming," says College of Charleston President Andrew T. Hsu. "I am so grateful to see the building transformed into something truly extraordinary for our students."

Alicia Caudill, executive vice president for student affairs, adds: "We are so grateful to partner with donors to create this amazing facility for our students. Putting the center in a visible space in the heart of campus will enhance the student experience."

At the groundbreaking, students like Kelly Leyva '25, a first-generation student double-majoring in Hispanic studies and public health, shared how the Career Center serves as a home for students finding their way. Her participation in the Career Center Internship Award,

a yearlong program that assists students with professional development and helps to eliminate financial barriers, which is funded by donors, was life-changing: Through the Career Center's support, Leyva landed an internship with the Henry Ford Health System Initiative through the University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders Program.

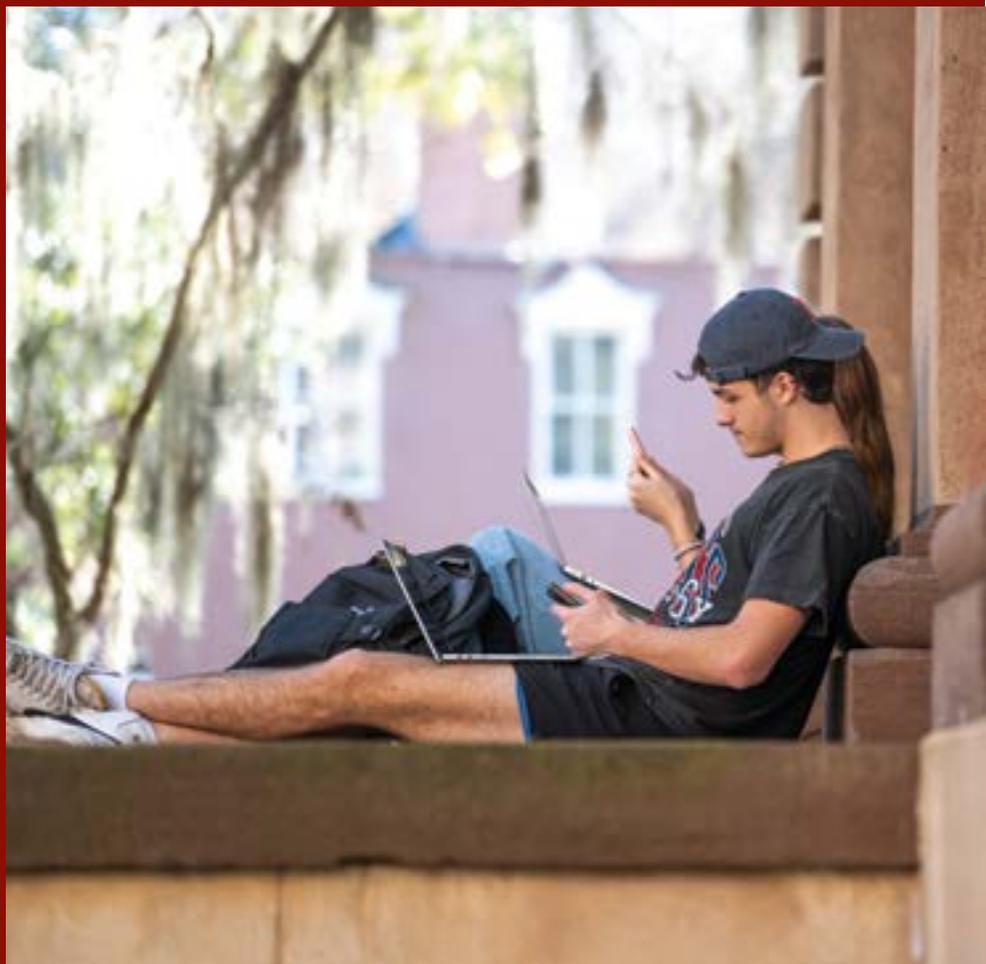
Leyva's experience personifies why the Tuccio family stepped forward to help in the creation of the student success center.

"It has always been a dream of mine to establish the Edward J. Tuccio '91 Student Success Center at the College of Charleston - a modern, state-of-the-art facility with Southern charm, designed to support the next generation of students as they navigate their academic and career paths," says Edward Tuccio, a current member of the College of Charleston Foundation Board. "My time at the College profoundly shaped my life, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities it gave me. This center is my way of giving back, ensuring that today's students have the resources, mentorship and guidance they need to succeed in today's competitive workforce."

Tuccio emphasized that the Edward J. Tuccio '91 Student Success Center is designed to empower students, equipping them with the tools and support required for success beyond their college years. The center will help students not only excel academically, but also develop the skills and confidence needed to thrive in their careers.

The College owes a debt of gratitude to the Tuccio family for providing the funds to resurrect the historic building. The central location and welcoming environment of the reimagined facility will enhance the student experience as well as that of corporate representatives visiting campus.

Photo Caption L-R: Kimberly and Edward '91 Tuccio with President Andrew T. Hsu



Foundation *Highlights*



Foundation Support to the College of Charleston

The Foundation supports the College of Charleston in a number of ways, including through scholarships, programs and faculty development, and institutional advancement efforts.

During the past decade, the Foundation has provided approximately **\$128.7 million** to the College from unrestricted, restricted and endowed resources.

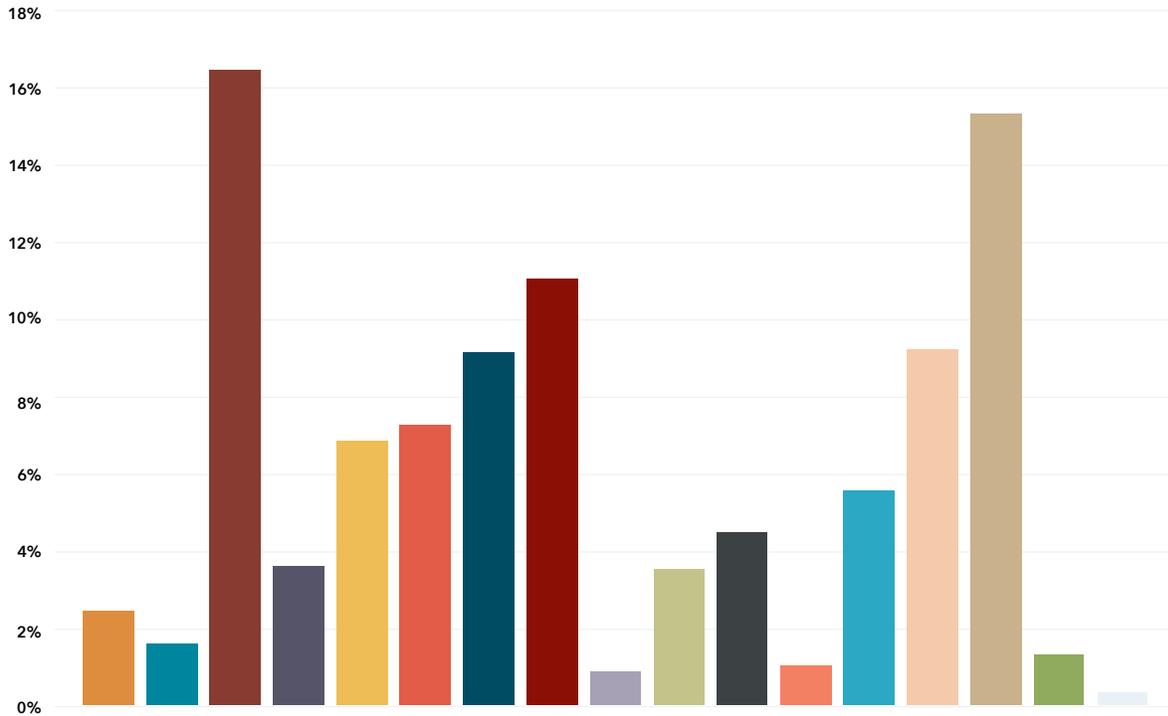
Distribution

The College of Charleston Foundation’s endowment, comprised of approximately **740 active, endowed funds as of June 30, 2025**, provides a source of vitally important resources for generations to come.



Endowment Funds by Unit

Donors create endowed funds to demonstrate their affinity for the myriad units across campus that benefit from their generosity.



- Academic Affairs and Center for Int'l Education
- Libraries (including Avery)
- Financial Aid and Enrollment Planning
- President's Office, Business Affairs and Office of Community Affairs
- Honors College
- Athletics
- Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs
- School of Business
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Education
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics
- School of Natural and Environmental Sciences
- School of the Arts
- School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs
- Student Affairs
- Graduate School

FACTS AT A GLANCE

\$159M

Total Endowment Value

\$186M

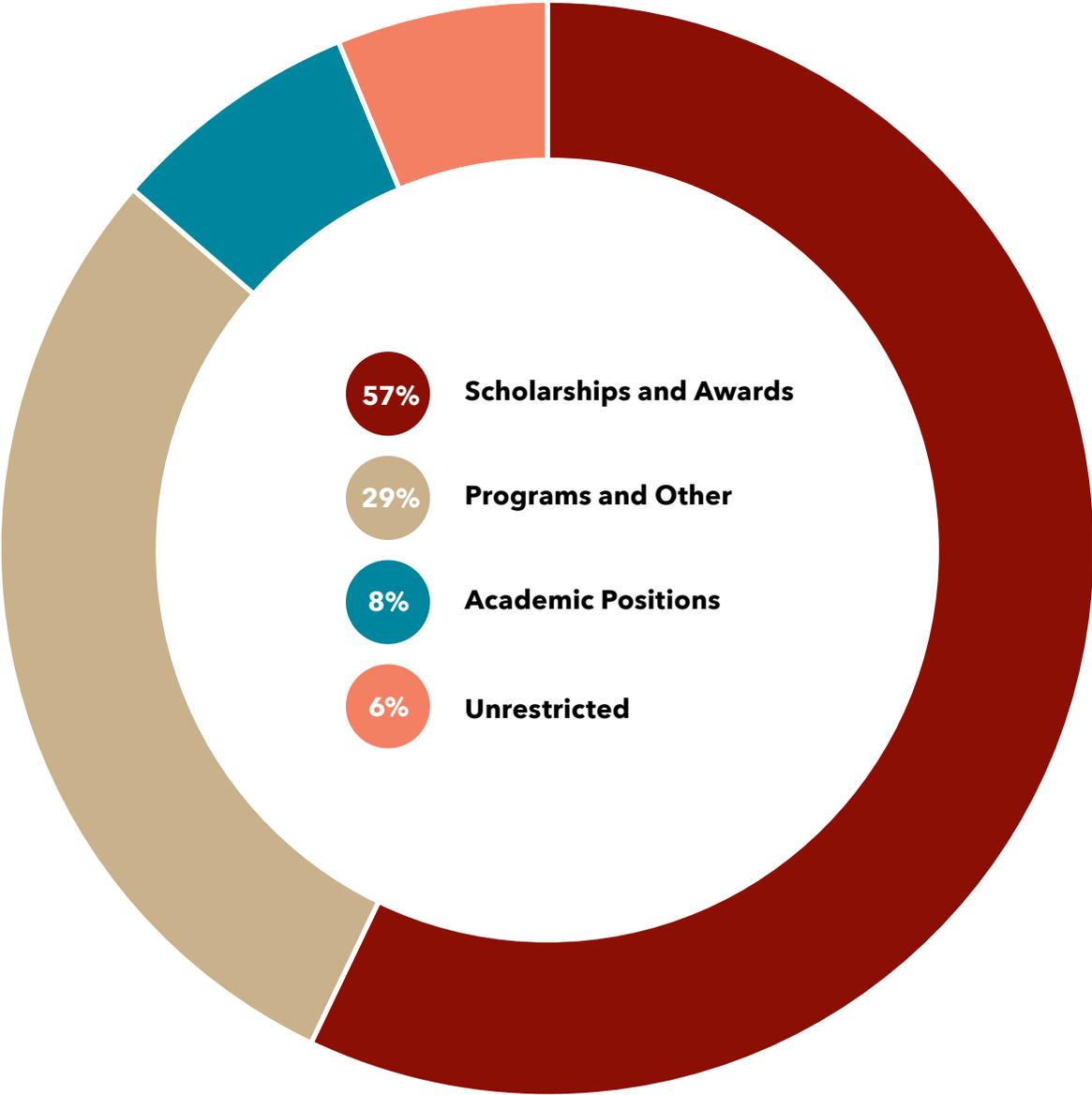
Total Investable Assets

\$219M

Total Net Assets

Endowment Funds Designations

When donors set up endowed funds, they give to areas that reflect their CofC interests or passions. The chart below shows how the funds are designated by donors for use by the College.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

307

Endowments Valued at more than \$100k

25

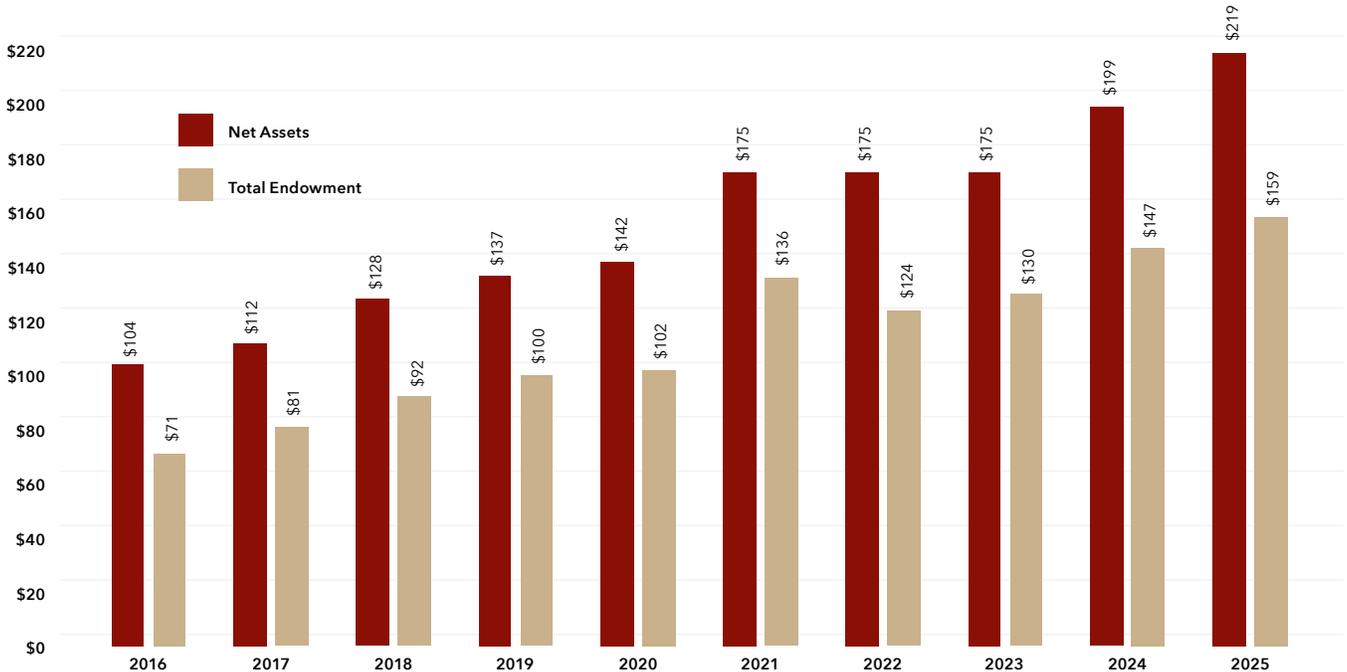
Number of Endowments Created in FY25

736

Number of Endowed Funds

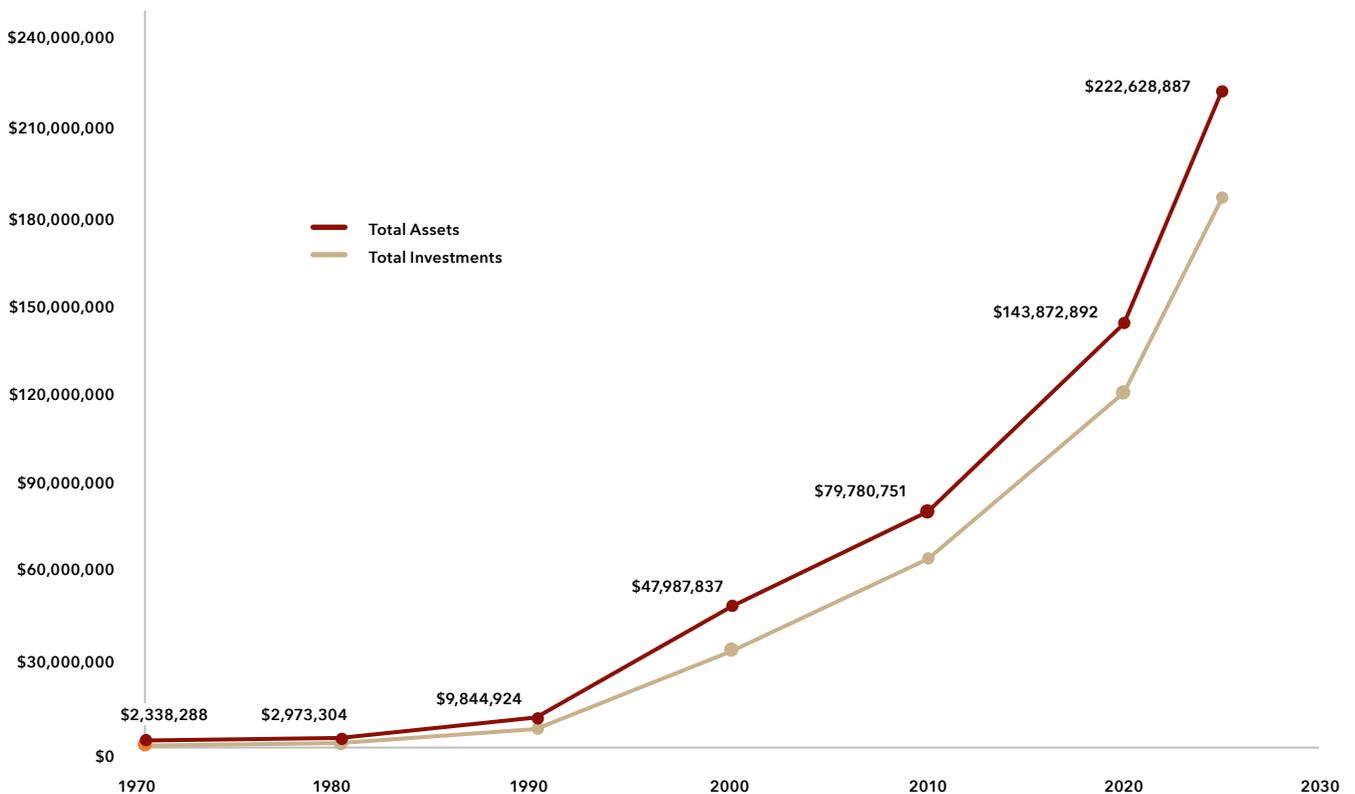
Endowment and Net Assets

As of June 30, 2025, the College of Charleston Foundation had net assets of \$219M. The largest component of the net assets is the endowment portfolio. With an annual return of 12.3%, the endowment portfolio continues to perform well over time, as well as show growth in its principal through gifts received.



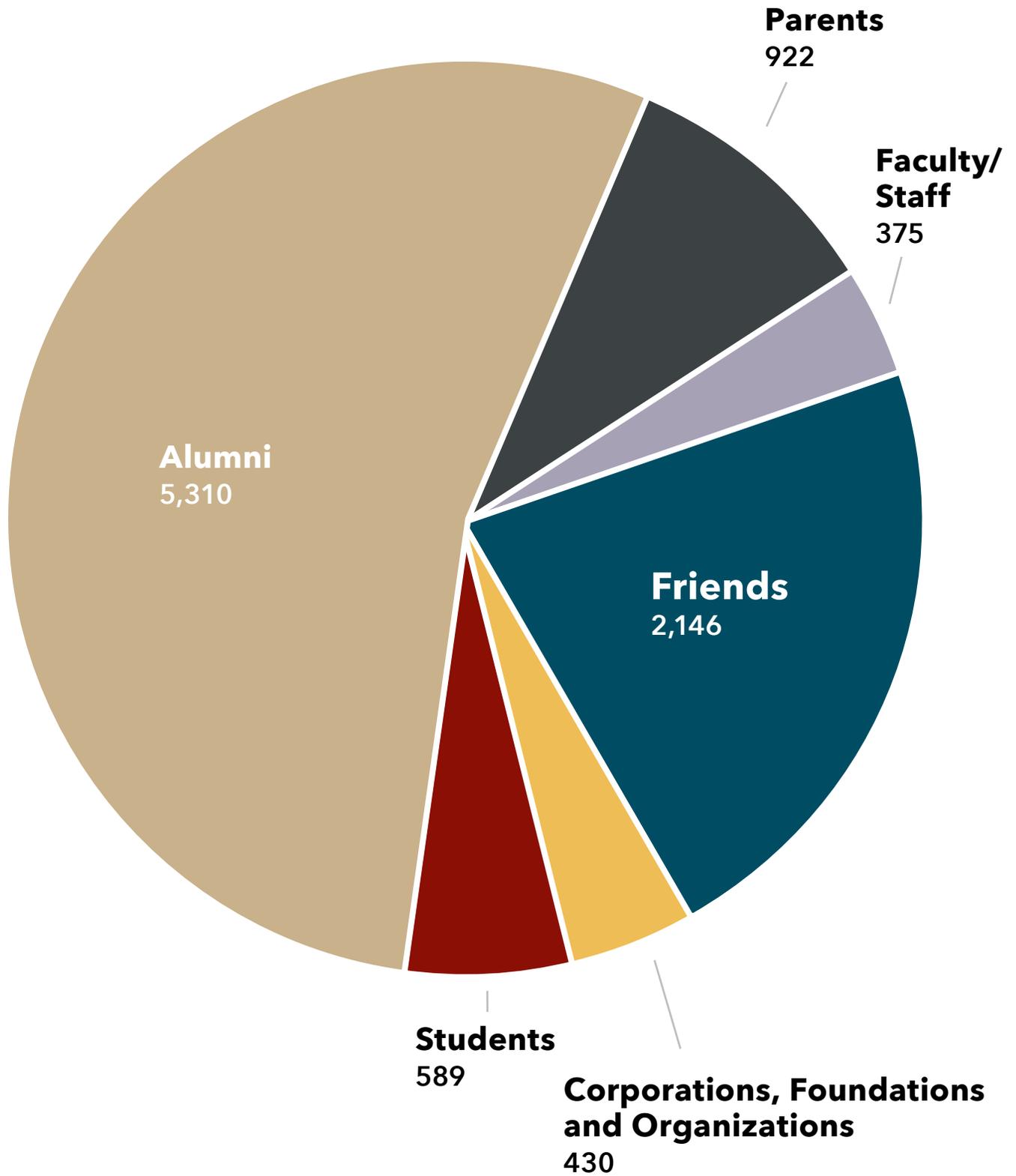
Foundation Growth Since Inception

Donor gifts and investment performance have helped the endowment grow substantially since 2013, allowing the Foundation to provide even greater financial support to the College.



Foundation Donors

In FY25, the College of Charleston had more than 9,700 dedicated donors who are dedicated to the success of the university and its students.



Foundation Board of Directors

*who served on the Foundation Board during FY25
at any time between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025*

Todd Abedon
Johnnie Baxley '92, PP '22, '23, '24, *Vice Chair*
Carl Blackstone '93
Erica Brown '93
Mark J. Buono '81, '22 (Honorary degree)
Eric S. Cox '93
Dr. Neil W. Draisin '65, '18 (Honorary degree), PP '93
Bartina L. Edwards '87
Craig Eney, PP '15
Leslie Gambee, PP '13, '14
Nicholas Glover '05
William "Bill" Benjamin Haskin Jr. '86
Jonathan Hayes '94
Sabra Horne '87, '18 (Honorary degree)
Jean W. Johnson '16 (Honorary degree)
Stephen R. Kerrigan '19 (Honorary degree),
PP '08, '11, '12, *Immediate Past Chair*
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Justin R. McLain '98
Beth Meredith '97
Laurie Mingos '83, *Alumni Association Board President*
Dr. Charles Mosteller '81, PP '15
Catherine Murray-Smith '17 (Honorary degree)
La Guardia Myers '93
Chris O'Neal '06, *CofC Athletic Fund President*
Patricia "Tricia" Ory '96 & '97, *Treasurer*
Stephen "Steve" C. Osborne '73, '21 (Honorary degree)
William "Bill" J. Penney Jr. '89, PP '22
Brady A. Quirk-Garvan '08
Laura T. Ricciardelli, PP '11
Richard W. Salmons Jr., PP '25
R. Keith Sauls '90, PP '22, '25, *Chair*
Sherrie C. Snipes-Williams, *Secretary*
Cynthia Bramlett Thompson '25 (Honorary degree)
Edward J. Tuccio '91
Kathy Williams '79, PP '03

Foundation Fellows

Sarah Exell '07
Susan Luna-Hazlewood '13
Kady Preston '14
Victoria Thompson '15

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COLLEGE OF
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66 George Street, Charleston, S.C. 29424-0001

17

CAA Sports Teams



19

Master's Programs



100,000+
Alumni



174

**Student Clubs
and Organizations**

12

Language Programs



9

**Graduate Certificate
Programs**



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