



*Chancellor Terisa Riley*



UNIVERSITY *of* ARKANSAS  
FORT SMITH®

As I look back over another year that will stand apart in the history of this campus and this nation, I am humbled by your persistent support and pleased to share with you the continued growth of our institutional endowment. Your dedication to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, despite the volatility of the times and the markets, changes lives and strengthens our community.

Since our founding, this institution has provided Arkansans with higher education access and career opportunities. We have served generations of individuals who chose to pursue high-quality, post-secondary education right here in the River Valley. I know many of you have been the beneficiaries of life-changing education and have chosen to pay it forward by continuing to support UAFS. I assure you that we have taken seriously our obligation to be good stewards of your investments, recognizing that access and affordability are at the core of our mission.

Through your outpouring of support during the 2020-21 academic year, we distributed approximately \$2M in direct scholarships that allow students to concentrate on learning, growth, and development. Your generosity has given access to higher education to thousands of individuals and has empowered them to embark on and complete this journey without the heavy burden of debt undertaken by so many college students today.

Because of you, our students have the opportunities to study abroad, conduct groundbreaking undergraduate research, and participate in internships and field trainings that are so beneficial to translating classroom lessons into real-life experiences. Because of you, these students for whom higher education may have felt like a far-off dream, are now researching in advanced laboratories, developing skills on cutting-edge equipment and software, and learning from exceptionally credentialed and experienced faculty. And because of you, we can continue to recruit these exceptional faculty who share their knowledge and expertise with students they believe in, and who truly invest in this region and its people, so every graduate is prepared and competitive.

We are living in one of the most challenging times in the history of higher education. Our students have incredible external pressures on themselves and their families, and they grapple deeply with how and when to invest in themselves. But I can tell you with certainty - when our students learn that an alumni or friend of this university has chosen to invest in them, they are enormously motivated. I have heard it time and again from the students at UAFS, “If this donor believes I can succeed... I will. I won’t let them down.”

I am so grateful for your support of our institution and its mission, and even more so for the profound impact that support has on our students. You are deeply valued and appreciated by this institution, and you are integrally connected to the outcomes that happen here. Because of you, we can truly be the Pride of Arkansas.

Highest regards and warmest thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terisa C. Riley".

Terisa C. Riley  
Chancellor

# Haylie Sigmon: Choosing her Way to Success



*Chancellor Terisa Riley and Haylie at commencement*

Haylie Sigmon's life could have gone in a different direction. As a child, she was shuttled from home to home, too often finding herself in abusive environments. She knew she would have no stability except what she created for herself, so, determined to improve her life, she chose to throw herself into her education and learned to lean on God.

Her hard work paid off when she received several scholarships, including the prestigious Chancellor's Leadership Council Scholarship, which made it possible for her to attend the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith with her dream of becoming a nurse. Although she was a first-generation college student with no role models in her family, she chose to embrace nearly every aspect of college life, developing leadership skills and giving back to her UAFS community.

She was active in the Lions for Christ Ministry and served as the director of the fully student led first-year welcome program Cub Camp. She served twice on the Student Government Association, once as secretary; was a student ambassador, a coordinator of Lions ROAR Drug and Alcohol safety program, and president of the May 2021 Nursing Cohort. She also found time to excel at her studies, mentor her fellow students, and marry her highschool sweetheart.

Her involvement helped her grow in many ways.

"I was encouraged to identify and stand up for the things I believed in," she said. "Dr. Dave Stevens always says 'leaders eat last' and it's become a mantra of my own. I learned what servant leadership looks like working with Dr. Stevens, Chancellor Riley, and Dr. Lynn Korvick."

Through all of her life experiences and her triumphs over hardships, Haylie found the strength she would need to battle first a small tumor on her pituitary gland and then a brain malformation. In January of 2021, doctors told her she needed immediate cranial surgery. But Haylie had other ideas, ideas that included graduating on time. And so her surgery, ultimately successful, waited until mid-May, just days after crossing the graduation stage.

Haylie has high praise for the Nursing faculty, including executive director Dr. Paula Julian, who encouraged and supported her during her last semester. But her gratitude goes further.

"I am eternally grateful to the faculty, staff, and administrators that I have met here at UAFS who have encouraged me to take leaps of faith, speak in front of crowds, plan events, train peers, and stand up for positive change. I can say with certainty that due to my time here and the people I have met, I can move forward with confidence in my future career and personal goals."

In August, she met one of those goals when she started work at Baptist Health, working as a nurse in the Cardiac Step-Down Unit and in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit.





# Empowering Students in the River Valley and Beyond

Anthony Ming has spent more than a year working as an Engineering Pathways Intern at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He's had a chance to work on several projects, including spacesuit design and rover assembly. But he said the coolest thing he's done so far is supporting a spacewalk by International Space Station astronauts installing new solar panels. Talking to astronauts and supporting them directly was "indescribable," he said.

Although all his UAFS professors supported him, Anthony said, Dr. Kevin Lewelling, professor of Electrical Engineering, has been a significant mentor. Anthony said he has had four different rotations at NASA, and he hopes that if funding is available, he will be hired after he graduates in May.

The Men of Excellence (MOX) program, new this year on the UAFS campus, is meant to nurture male students holistically, supporting them academically and ensuring they socially acclimate to the campus and develop a sense of belonging. Advisor John Blue, inaugural executive director of diversity, equity, and inclusion, noted that nationally young men are less likely to go to college, and if they go, they are less likely to remain enrolled or graduate. MOX takes male students, especially those with financial need and those who are first-generation college students, and provides them with the support they may need to be successful.

"We are here to smooth out their rough spots and make sure they are prepared for the world when they graduate," Blue said.





**Blake Rickman**

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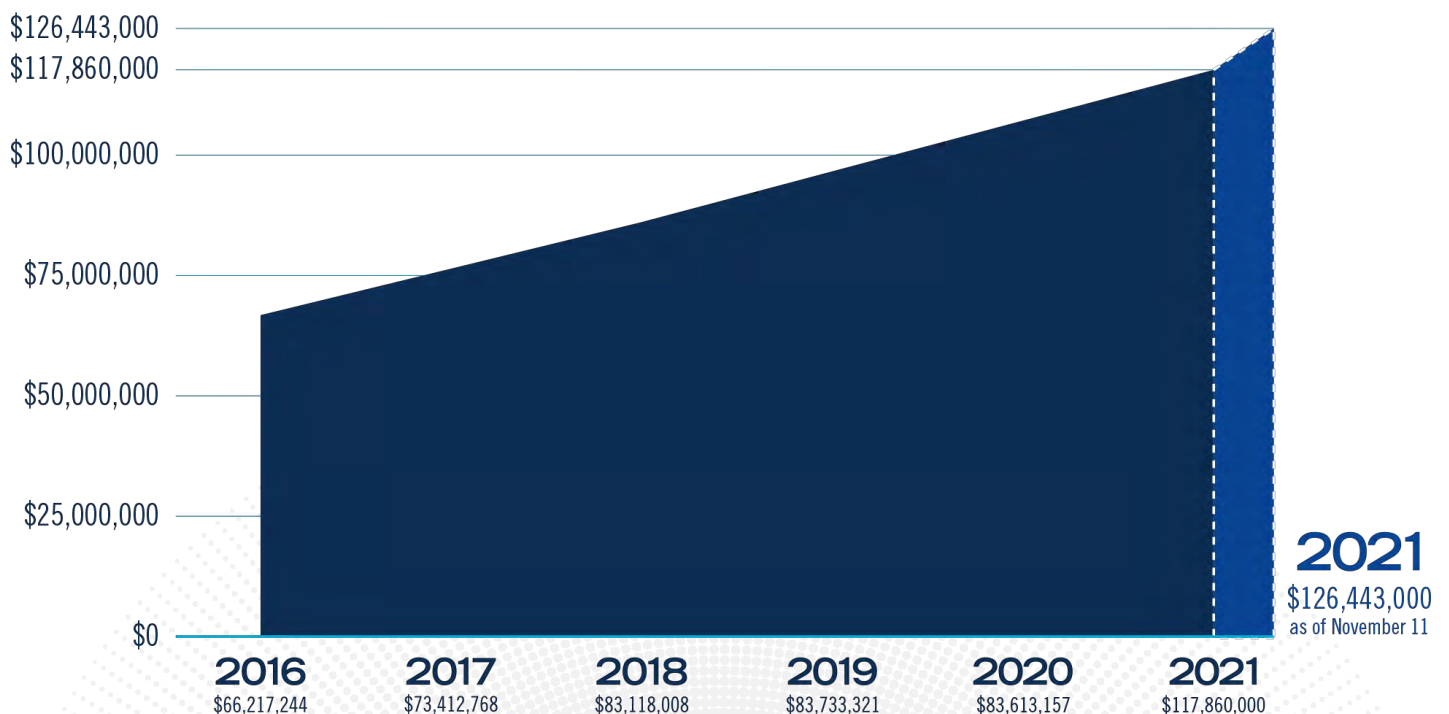
After another incredibly volatile year in U.S. and Global markets, I am incredibly grateful to share that in 2021 our endowment continued to grow. Over the past year the UAFS Foundation has modernized our operations partnering with Graystone Consulting to truly grow and care for your investment in this university. Their portfolio management strategy carefully balances diversification and aggressive investment with diligent assessment to make minute by minute adjustments, maximizing our endowment. With more sophisticated and wider ranging tools we can move forward with detailed strategy and insight into how to best support the institution, now and well into the future.

Your support for this endowment means we can continue to empower everyone who chooses UAFS as the place they learn and work. It means that we can strengthen an endowment that provides millions of dollars in scholarships that change the trajectory of entire families. And it means that the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith can continue the legacy of serving the River Valley and all of its residents.

Your support is crucial to our success, and it is with great joy that I share these numbers with you.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement  
Executive Director, UAFS Foundation

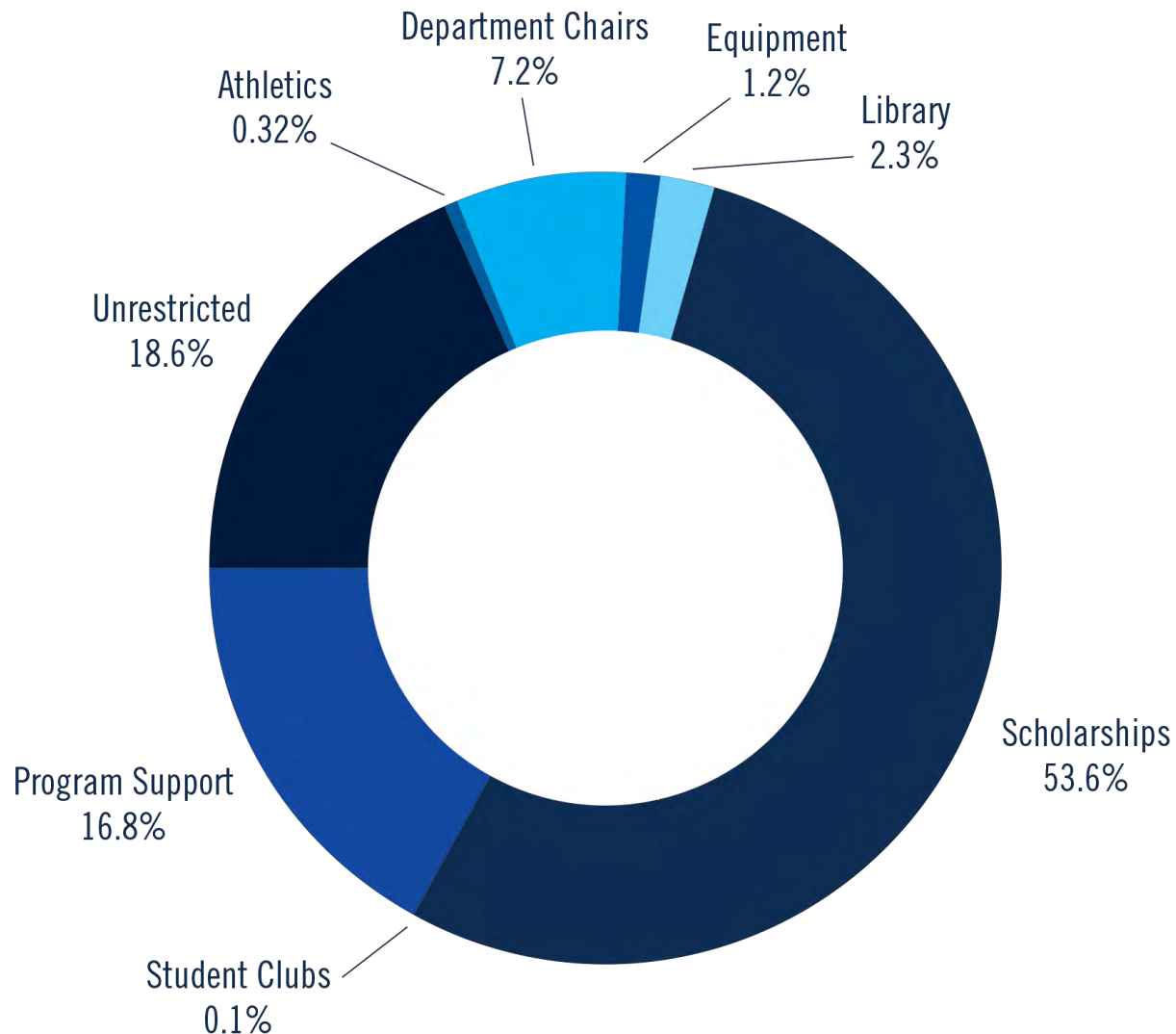
## Fiscal Year Ending







# UAFS Foundation Endowment Totals



The Foundation's portfolio growth was propelled by \$20.51 million of unrealized/realized gains and \$6.85 million in net deposits driven by new fundraising activity. Performance was led by global equities which returned 9.67%. The Foundation's investment program increased to \$117.86 million, on June 30, 2021.

Over the past five years, the Foundation's investment program has grown from \$74.90 million to \$117.86 million. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation was able to provide over \$5 million dollars in support to the University for scholarships, programs, equipment, library holdings, chair and professorship positions, student activities, and capital improvements.

The investment portfolio is well diversified across multiple asset classes and is designed to provide for the distribution requirements of the Foundation to support the University. Beginning January 2021, the Foundation engaged Graystone Consulting for management of the portfolio. Graystone Consulting is a separate business unit of Morgan Stanley.



UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS – FORT SMITH  
**FOUNDATION**

*Thank  
You!*



Thank you for considering the UAFS Foundation in your year-end giving plans. Please be aware that there are certain deadlines to receive charitable deduction credit for 2021. You will find each deadline listed below.



#### **ONLINE**

- To make your gift online, please visit [GIVING.UAFS.EDU](https://giving.uafs.edu)
  - Gift designation options are available through the online giving form.
- Deadline:** December 31, 2021 11 p.m. CST



#### **PHONE**

- For more giving options or any other questions, please call 479-788-7020 or 1-800-532-9094.



#### **MAIL**

- Please mail your gift to:  
UAFS Foundation  
P.O. Box 3649  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649

**Credit Card Deadline:** If sending a credit card gift by mail, it must reach our office by Friday, December 17, 2021, to ensure processing before year-end.

**Check Deadline:** If mailing a check, it must be postmarked by December 31, 2021.