

What legacy
WILL
YOU
leave?



For many years, the stately oak trees at Toomer's Corner served as icons of Auburn's history and tradition. Today, the descendant oaks at Samford Park, grown from the acorns of those historic trees, remind us of the value of foresight and planning. Like those acorns, estate gifts create resources for opportunities both now and in the future, leaving a legacy that helps preserve the Auburn experience for generations to come.

A legacy gift is more than a donation; it is an investment in the future. Many members of the Auburn Family include the university in their will, enabling them to support Auburn beyond their lifetime.

Preserve the Auburn experience with a gift through your will

Because Auburn played an important role in your life, or in the life of a loved one, a gift through your will allows you to ensure that others benefit from the Auburn experience as well.

A gift through your will or living trust allows you to:

- Make a difference for future generations of the Auburn Family without altering your lifestyle or budget
- Benefit a college, school, or program that is important to you
- Honor or memorialize yourself or a loved one
- Establish a permanent endowment that provides a dependable source of funding in perpetuity
- Create or continue your legacy by providing important resources for Auburn after your lifetime
- Receive a charitable estate tax deduction
- Join Auburn's George Petrie Society, named for the beloved author of the Auburn Creed

We encourage you to contact our office to have a confidential discussion about how you can support Auburn University through your estate plans. We are committed to working with you to ensure your intentions and philanthropic goals are met.



Through The Auburn Creed, George Petrie, historian, professor, and the university's first football coach, left a legacy that defines and unites the Auburn Family. Today, the George Petrie Society honors the generosity of friends and alumni who remember the university in their estate plans.

If you have named Auburn in your will, we encourage you to let us know so that we can understand and document your wishes and appropriately recognize your commitment to Auburn University or Auburn University at Montgomery.

A Lasting Legacy of GENEROSITY

Ingrid Shavers-Lewis '15 is an educator who believes that learning is a lifelong process. It is this conviction, combined with her love of Auburn University, that led her to include a bequest in her will to create three scholarships for future Auburn students.

"My hope is that my gift will continue to give students what they need to transform their lives and develop a love of learning," she said.

Shavers-Lewis describes her own path to an Auburn degree as "perfectly imperfect." When she graduated from high school, she applied to Auburn University and "that other school" in the state. She was accepted to both and, unsure of which one to choose, asked her father for advice.

"I like that Bo Jackson," he replied, and so in 1985, her time on the Plains began. While on a school break, she took an exam for a well-paying government job, never believing she would land the position. She did, and after a hard decision, she left Auburn during the 1987 spring quarter. Shavers-Lewis describes this as a bittersweet time. Although she had a good job, she missed her Auburn Family and the shared experience of graduating with her friends.

Eventually, she married and had children, and the idea of returning to college was put on hold. At the age of 40, she decided to pursue what she had left behind. She obtained a bachelor's degree in

elementary education from a local university in Birmingham and then went on to receive her master's degree in collaborative education.

"But there was still a void," Shavers-Lewis said. "Even though I had received two degrees from other institutions, I had unfinished business with 'the love of my life,' Auburn University. I never had closure, and Auburn never left my heart. I was determined to finish what I started. It didn't matter how many degrees I received, if it wasn't from Auburn, it was just a substitute."

In 2014, she enrolled in Auburn's Education Specialist program. Despite unexpected surgeries that threatened to derail her dream, she graduated in 2015 with an Ed.S. and a 4.0 GPA.

"I began this journey in 1985 and it wasn't until 30 years later that I finally accomplished my goal," she said. "Out of all the degrees I have received, there is only one that hangs on my wall with pride — the one from Auburn."

Shavers-Lewis's accomplishments — and her foresight in creating a planned gift — will have a lasting impact on those who come after her.



SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR LEGAL DOCUMENTS

To include Auburn in your will, living trust, or other planned gift, we suggest that you share the following with your attorney or financial planner:

"I give (specific amount or asset, percentage of my estate, or the residual of my estate) to the Auburn University Foundation (Tax ID #63-6022422) or its successor organization, a nonprofit corporation as described in section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, located at 317 South College Street, Auburn, Alabama, 36849, to be used according to the most recently signed gift agreement on file at the Auburn University Foundation."



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From the front: Leaves of a new descendant Auburn Oak Tree at Samford Park

