

V A L D O S T A S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

ANNUAL FUND GIVING LEVELS

Those who give to VSU play a vital role in protecting and nurturing our tradition of academic excellence. Whether supporting a special campaign, helping build an endowment fund, or giving to the unrestricted VSU Excellence Fund, private donors ensure that the needs of students are met and that the University has the resources needed to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Donors to the VSU Annual Fund receive recognition according to the total annual giving they have made in a fiscal year.

Pine Society

The Valdosta State University Alma Mater reads “ ‘mong the stately pines of Georgia, glorious to the view, stands our noble alma mater, basking ‘neath the blue”. Those stately pines have been here longer than our university. Their roots keep them attached to VSU. The Pine Society is the initial giving level for VSU donors. Giving relationships start here, establish roots and grow, much like the stately pines have over the years. The Pine Society recognizes annual contributions between \$100 and \$999.

West Society

The West Society is named in honor of Colonel William Stanley West. Colonel West helped introduce the first bill to the Georgia Legislature to establish a college in Valdosta. West Hall and its iconic dome is the signature of Valdosta State University. It is the gateway to all the possibilities that a VSU education offers for those seeking knowledge. The West Society recognizes donors who contribute between \$1,000 and \$4,999.

Rea & Lillian Steele Society

The Rea and Lillian Steele society recognizes donors who contribute between \$5,000 and \$24,999 annually to Valdosta State University. Mr. and Mrs. Steele are the single largest benefactors in VSU history to date and their generosity was recognized by the naming of the Rea and Lillian Steele North Campus, home to the Langdale College of Business Administration.

President’s Circle

Membership in the VSU President’s Circle is reserved for donors who have made a personal commitment to the mission of Valdosta State University by making an annual contribution of at least \$25,000. President’ Circle members are a diverse group of unique leaders who all share the common bond of promoting excellence at Valdosta State University. Membership in the President’s circle allows donors to interact with the VSU President as well as other key administrative and academic leaders who shape the course for Valdosta State University.

Pearson Society

Each donor has a unique story. The Pearson Society, named after retired Professor of History, Dr. F. Lamar Pearson has a story as well. Dr. Pearson taught at VSU for 39 years. Over those years he made annual gifts to VSU. The gifts started small, and as he progressed in his career, they got a little larger. Over the course of his career, Dr. Pearson’s gifts totaled in excess of \$100,000. The Pearson Society is established to encourage a life-time of giving to VSU. Donors who reach a cumulative lifetime giving total of at least \$100,000 are recognized by membership in the Pearson Society.

The Jenkins Society

The Jenkins Society recognizes and honors, during their lifetime, individuals who have made provisions for future generations of VSU students and faculty through planned gifts. Named for retired faculty member, Dr. Brantley Jenkins and his wife Barbara, for their transformational estate gift to VSU’s first comprehensive capital campaign, *Invest. Ignite. Inspire: The Campaign for Valdosta State University*. Members are recognized on individual name plates on the Jenkins Society plaque located in historic West Hall.

Gertrude Odum Society

Named for former English Professor Gertrude Odum, who gave Valdosta State its first million dollar gift through a bequest in her will, membership in the Gertrude Odum Society is reserved for current and retired VSU employees who achieve a lifetime giving total of \$10,000. Members will receive recognition for their ongoing generosity in University and Foundation publications and reports, a special event each year to welcome new members and to celebrate the impact of private giving on VSU’s mission.

