

## Restoring the Past – Building the Future Campaign Update

Barton Academy Foundation

October 2019

### We're almost there. Please give now!

“A group of thoughtful, committed Mobile citizens has done what some thought impossible – they’ve raised millions to save Barton!”

– Elizabeth Stevens, Barton Academy Foundation President.



Barton Academy Foundation board members, left to right: John D. Peebles, Schley Rutherford, Jr., Karen Outlaw Atchison, Geri Moulton, Jaime W. Betbeze, Elizabeth P. Stevens, Dr. Carolyn Lee Taylor, Stephen Carter, Martha L. Peek, Irvin Grodsky, Denise Browning, R. Allan Gustin. Not pictured: Raymond Bell, Nicholas H. Holmes, III and Chresal D. Threadgill.

After years of watching historic Barton Academy languish and fall into disrepair, a small group of concerned citizens and representatives of Mobile County Public Schools met to craft a plan to bring Barton back to life. Former superintendents Dr. Roy Nichols and Martha Peek, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Lee Taylor and attorney Jaime Betbeze were early leaders in the effort. In 2012, when the Board of School Commissioners secured a \$100-million bond for school construction, Commissioners Levon Manzie, Ken Megginson, Reginald Crenshaw, Judy Stout and Bill Foster supported earmarking \$4 million to stabilize and restore the exterior of the Barton and Yerby buildings. This work

was completed in 2015.

In 2012, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Barton Academy Foundation, was formed to raise awareness and private funding to restore the interior of the monumental Greek Revival building. Today, the board of the Barton Academy Foundation – with the help of donations from more than 500 individuals, corporations, institutions and foundations – has raised very close to the \$10 million needed for the interior renovations.

In December of this year, the Foundation will obtain financing for construction to begin, and students should be walking the halls of Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies in the fall of 2021!

### The time is Now for you to help reopen Barton!

Barton Academy is Alabama’s oldest public school, and building it required one of the state’s first fundraising campaigns. In 1826 a small, history-making group formed a school board. By 1830 they’d bought an entire city block upon which to build a monumental school – a bold vision for growth in a city of only 13,000 citizens.

But fundraising was slow, and the state legislature eventually allowed the group to raise funds through a lottery. They broke ground in 1836 with \$50,000 in lottery funds, a \$15,000 municipal loan and private donations, including a large gift from Henry Hitchcock, one of Alabama’s founding fathers.

Today a new group is closing in on a \$10 million goal to reopen Barton. **With less than \$700,000 left to raise, we need your help.** Gifts of any size are appreciated and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. While we’d love to receive your entire gift before Dec. 31, 2019, payments can be made over the next four years. But as in your personal life, postponing payment will cost Barton money.

Please go to the pledge form on page 3, tear it out, and make a gift or pledge NOW! Or go to [www.bartonacademy.org/donate](http://www.bartonacademy.org/donate) and make a gift by credit card or PayPal.

## Recent donors

Thank you for bringing us closer to our goal! Please give at [www.bartonacademy.org/donate](http://www.bartonacademy.org/donate) or mail a check to Barton Academy Foundation, P. O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601. To make a gift of stock or other assets, email Foundation treasurer Denise Browning at [db@hunterventures.net](mailto:db@hunterventures.net).

### Donors August 15 – September 27:

Anonymous  
Backes Family Fund  
Jean Alice and Joe Basenberg  
Jaime Betbeze  
Paul and Tootsie Bridges  
Holle and Donald Briskman  
Mary Kate S. Cook  
David DeLaney  
Joe and Carol Eskridge  
Patricia Watters Ezell  
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors  
Amelia Ferniany Harrington  
General Guy L. Hecker  
Heritage Homes  
Dr. Charles Boyette Hunter  
Linda Ingram  
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. McCafferty, III  
Ceil and Tom McGehee  
Courtney McGowin  
Lisa Mitchell Charitable Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Moore, III  
Oakleigh Belles  
Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Peebles, III  
B. Greer Radcliff  
Rotary Club of Mobile  
Mickie Russell  
Saad Realty Partners, LLC  
Martello Scott  
Mary Hunter Slaton  
Ann Marie Kilpatrick Terry  
Tony and Tish van Aken  
Skipper and Stoky Walters  
Ken Welch

### *In memory of Bill Hines:*

Henry and Barbara Brewster  
Goodwyn | Mills | Cawood  
Ann Bedsole Holmes  
Matt and Karen McDonald  
Ronald and Virginia Snider

Find a full list of all donors on our website: [www.BartonAcademy.org](http://www.BartonAcademy.org)

# Why We Support Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies

## Jim Backes

In memory of  
James McMurtrie Backes

My father, James Backes, graduated from Barton Academy months before the great stock market crash of 1929. His generation has been described as “The Greatest Generation” because of the way they overcame so many obstacles: global economic collapse, a Second World War, and a “Cold” War waged even to the frontiers of space. I am truly proud of my father and those of his generation who bequeathed to us the economic well-being and (mostly) peaceful world that we enjoy. In the 1920s, few adults would have guessed that these teenagers would have been able to face up to these challenges, let alone overcome them. But they sent these children to school, where family values of respect for knowledge and hard work were reinforced, and where their natural curiosity about the world was stimulated and developed. The American commitment to universal education as the primary requisite for democracy and national well-being was richly rewarded by his generation, but who is to say that they will be the greatest?

We are happy to participate in this campaign to build the Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies because it is our hope that coming generations will benefit from our commitment to universal education, especially in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. With so much of Mobile’s recent economic growth fueled by capital investments from the offspring of enemies my father fought against in the 1940’s, our community is a great example of the benefits of the global economy. Our hope is that the



students of this Academy will, through their emphasis on global issues, become future leaders for our community, our state, our nation, and the world.

## Tom McGehee

President, Rotary Club of Mobile

At its September board meeting, the directors of the Rotary Club of Mobile voted to donate \$25,000 to sponsor a classroom

within Barton Academy. Since its founding in 1914, the club has focused its resources on supporting charitable causes in southwest Alabama with an emphasis on our youth.

Interestingly, the first major project undertaken by our club was another \$25,000 project back in 1931. Those funds established an orthopedic ward for children at the Mobile Infirmary. The polio epidemics of the time had left many children incapacitated, and the club sought to assist them in the road to recovery. Nearly 90 years later that ward operates as the Bedsole-Rotary Rehab Center.

The Rotary Club of Mobile has given an average of \$100,000 annually to numerous organizations such as Goodwill-Easter Seals, Girl Scouts, Mobile Infirmary, the Mulherin Custodial Home, MARC, Alabama School of Math and Science, Wilmer Hall, the Dumas Wesley Center, and the Augusta Evans School.

The establishment of the Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies is a project which is right in line with the long history of the Rotary Club of Mobile. The Academy’s goal of preparing young Alabamians to compete in an increasingly competitive world is just as important today as our \$25,000 commitment back in 1931 to assist disabled children. We are happy and proud to be part of this project.



# Great ways you can help in our final push!

## Donate from your Retirement Account

If you're 70-½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 from your individual retirement account directly to Barton Academy Foundation (BAF). This is known as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD. The contribution will count toward your required minimum distribution and isn't included in your adjusted gross income. To be tax-free, however, the donation must go directly from your IRA account to BAF without passing through your hands. A \$10,000 donation could thus escape +\$2,500 in income tax. Consult your financial adviser if you are considering a gift to BAF in 2019 to see if this would benefit you. If you have already made a pledge, you may use this method to pay your pledge. Contact BAF board treasurer Denise Browning at [db@hunterventures.net](mailto:db@hunterventures.net) for more information on transferring assets to Barton Academy Foundation.

## Honor Your Ancestors with a Gift to Barton Academy

Naming a room or space within Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies is an excellent way to ensure that your family name remains a part of Mobile's history.

Naming opportunities range from \$10,000 (8' fence section/\$2,000 per year for 5 years) to \$4,000,000 (Yerby Building). Other options include classroom spaces at \$25,000 (\$5000 per year payable over 5 years) and science labs at \$250,000.

For as little as \$1,000, you can have your name or the name of a family member engraved on a prominent donor wall in the lobby.

The complete list of remaining naming opportunities is available online at [www.bartonacademy.org](http://www.bartonacademy.org).

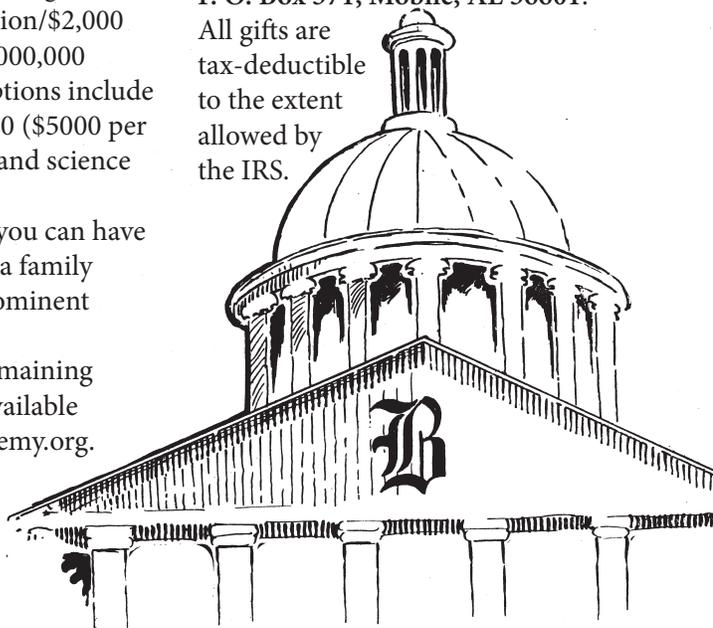
## Donate online

To make a gift using PayPal, simply visit [www.bartonacademy.org](http://www.bartonacademy.org) and click on "Donate."

## Donate by mail

You may also mail a check to **Barton Academy Foundation, P. O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601.**

All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.



### In support of the *Restoring the Past – Building the Future Campaign*, I/we make the following commitment:

Donor Information (please print):

(Circle one) Mr. and Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) as you prefer to be listed in publications\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s)

\$4,000,000 To name Yerby School building on the Barton campus

\$1,000,000 To name the Library/Digital Learning Center

\$500,000 To name the Collaborative Learning Tech Lab

\$250,000 To name a computer lab or fine arts studio

\$100,000 To name the principal's office, Entry Hall/Historic Exhibit, or Govt. St. Gate Entrance

\$50,000 To name a staff office, nurse's office, first aid room, vault, or gate entrance

\$25,000 To name a classroom

\$10,000 To name 8' section of wrought iron fencing

\$5,000 1836 Society

\$2,500 Founders Society

\$1,000 Listing on donor plaque

\$500     \$250     \$100     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will pay my/our pledge over \_\_\_ years. (5 years maximum, please)

As an initial payment on this pledge, I/we are enclosing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We intend to make scheduled payments beginning \_\_\_\_\_ via:  
(month/year)

Check     Stock\*     Other\*     Credit card through [www.bartonacademy.org](http://www.bartonacademy.org).

\*Donors who wish to make pledge payments via stock or other methods will receive further instructions from the Barton Academy Foundation Campaign Office.

Please send pledge reminders:  Annually     Semi-Annually

Please contact me about including the Barton Academy Foundation in my will or trust.

\*\*  I/we wish to remain anonymous.

**Return form to Barton Academy Foundation  
P. O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601 • (251) 434-8498**

These Bartonians will be a lot happier when the goal has been reached!  
Put some spark in their lives at [www.bartonacademy.org/donate](http://www.bartonacademy.org/donate)



### Ghosts at Barton?

Just in time for Halloween, the October issue of *Mobile Bay Magazine* includes a story of a recent paranormal investigation at Barton. The vacant landmark has long been a haunt for ghost hunters. It was used as a hospital during the tragic yellow fever epidemic of 1853 and again for treating Union soldiers during the Civil War – the sorts of events that make for a spirited ghost tale. We won't spoil the story's conclusion, but we are sure this Greek Revival gem of Mobile's history is likely very lonely. You can remedy that by making a donation today to bring life back to these halls as the new Barton Academy for Advance World Studies.



**Barton Academy Foundation**

P.O. Box 571

Mobile, AL 36601-0571

[www.bartonacademy.org](http://www.bartonacademy.org)