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Office of the President
September 13, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GIFT COMMITMENT FROM JANICE L. BRANNON
TO BENEFIT THE MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable gift totaling \$2,001,995.95 from Janice L. Brannon to establish and support three non-endowed undergraduate scholarship funds named the “The Paula L. Brannon Scholarship,” “The Scot A. Brannon Scholarship,” and “The Shaun R. Brannon Scholarship,” and a non-endowed graduate award named the “The Russell H. Brannon Graduate Student Award” in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Department of Agriculture Economics.

Background: In 2023, Janice Brannon made a charitable gift in memory of her late husband, UK agricultural economics professor Dr. Russell H. Brannon (1931 – 2020), and the couple’s daughter, Paula (1962 – 1999), an alumnus of UK’s Gatton College of Business and Economics (’85). To carry on the Brannon legacy, Ms. Brannon established the “Endowment for Promoting International Agricultural Awareness and Involvement: A Memorial to Russell H. Brannon and Daughter Paula” benefitting UK Agricultural Economics faculty, staff and students, and the “Douglas and Jane Leach Equine Research Honorary Fund” supporting equine research.

Ms. Brannon continues to honor loved ones by establishing three undergraduate scholarships, one in memory of Paula, and two in honor of her living children, Scot, and Shaun, plus a graduate award named for Dr. Brannon. The central theme of these scholarships and awards is to support students with “global thinking” regarding how a better world can be built through international exchange, communication and understanding.

Before joining the UK Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr. Brannon met Janice in Ethiopia, where the two discovered their shared love of international development. The couple spent time in Washington D.C., Argentina and Uruguay as part of Dr. Brannon’s studies and service at UK and other universities. Dr. Brannon served the UK Department of Agricultural Economics for 30 years, participating in international projects in Thailand and Indonesia during his tenure and served as Director of UK’s Office of International Affairs.

Janice Brannon earned a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley and a bachelor's degree in art education from UK. She is an author of books for children and pursues family genealogy. She often says, "Motherhood was my greatest love, and my three children are my delight." Ms. Brannon's gift will enable many UK students to share in their love of education and international development.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____