

ALUMNI AWARDS & DONOR CELEBRATION



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Conservatory Great Room
State Botanical Garden of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Reception
5:00—6:00 p.m.

Dinner
6:00—6:45 p.m.

Program
6:45 p.m.

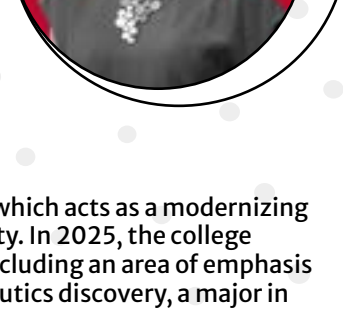
WELCOME FROM DEAN ANNA STENPORT

Welcome to the 2026 Alumni Awards and Donor Celebration. Congratulations to all Franklin alumni on your career successes to date. The wide variety of professional endeavors represented here today makes the University of Georgia shine in the brightest light of accomplishment and impact.

For over 200 years the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences has brought together the arts and sciences as the cornerstone of UGA. Now, as we enter our next quarter century, we look to continue our legacy of championing the intersection of the arts and sciences.

This year we introduced our Innovation Initiative which acts as a modernizing force on arts and sciences curricula at the university. In 2025, the college enhanced experiential learning and curriculum, including an area of emphasis in artificial intelligence, a new master's in therapeutics discovery, a major in neuroscience, as well as three new online masters. Additionally, as part of the Innovation Initiative, we have placed an increased focus on student success and experiential learning opportunities for students across all disciplines. Whether students are putting a scientific theory into practice in a lab environment; performing on stage; engaging in a capstone or internship; or exploring museums, national parks, and other cultures, cities or countries via Study Away, all of these initiatives provide opportunities for students to put their classroom learnings into practice in real-world environments.

Today, we not only recognize our Alumni Award winners, but we also thank our donors. The philanthropic contributions of our supporters play a vital role in shaping the future of the college. Your continued commitment helps us fuel our academic excellence and research innovation. Thank you for joining us today and for your ongoing support and partnership in our mission. We are truly grateful for your dedication to Franklin.



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Danny Lee, BS Computer Science '18

This year's Young Alumni Award honors Danny Lee, a Google software engineer whose early career reflects the ambitious and exceptionally curious spirit of the Franklin Spark. During his time at UGA, he served as a teaching assistant in software development courses, won the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award for the computer science department, and remained active in the Asian American Students Association and UGAHacks. Since graduating, he has returned to Franklin for career panels to mentor students, demonstrating the collaborative and forward-thinking energy that defines Franklin graduates.



MID-CAREER AWARD

Asma Sharafi, MS Chemistry '13

The Mid-Career Award recognizes Asma Sharafi, whose leadership in battery technology and clean energy exemplifies the innovative mindset at the core of the Franklin Spark. Currently CTO of Ensury, she previously held roles at Ford Motor Company and PowerCo US—Volkswagen's North American battery company—supporting electric vehicle development, and her numerous research publications further highlight her commitment to advancing scientific solutions that shape the future of sustainable technology.



LIFETIME AWARD

Dr. Charles Dasher, BS Physics '68

The Lifetime Award celebrates Dr. Charles Dasher, whose five decades of contributions to medicine and education reflect the sustained excellence, curiosity, and leadership central to the Franklin Spark. From his residency and fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to his continued work as a professor and his legacy funding the Susan Dasher and Charles Dasher, MD Professor of Physics at UGA, Dr. Dasher's career embodies the enduring influence of a Franklin education.

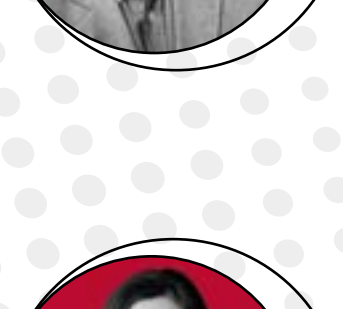


DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Jeff Arnold

AB Communication Studies '18

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Jeff Arnold, a visionary entrepreneur whose transformative work in digital health demonstrates the innovative and forward-thinking nature of the Franklin Spark. As the founder of WebMD and Sharecare, Arnold has reshaped access to health information worldwide. His career is a powerful example of how creativity and science-driven innovation can work together to make a global impact.



COLLEGE SERVICE AWARD

Becky Winkler

AB Psychology '98

CERT Women's Studies '98

The College Service Award honors Becky Winkler, whose dedication to service reflects the community-driven creativity and leadership inspired by the Franklin Spark. During her time at UGA, she served as co-president of Campus NOW, the university affiliate of the National Organization for Women. After founding a successful management consulting firm, she created a fund that established an Endowed Chair in Women's and Gender Studies. Today, as a Trustee for the University of Georgia, she continues to support academic excellence and expand opportunities for students and faculty.



INNOVATION AWARD

Caitlin LeMoine

BFA Graphic Design '15

The Innovation Award is presented to Caitlin LeMoine, a creative director whose work in immersive art captures the wildly creative and boundary-pushing essence of the Franklin Spark. From her time as design editor at The Red & Black to her current role at Meow Wolf, LeMoine has built a career defined by imagination and interdisciplinary collaboration. Her recognition on Blooloo's 50 Immersive Influencer List underscores her role as an innovator shaping the future of experiential art.



FAMILY AWARD

Betsy and Dr. George Crossley

Betsy: BS Microbiology '77

MS Microbiology '80

George: BS Microbiology '77

MS Microbiology '80

The Family Award honors Betsy and George Crossley, whose decades of leadership and service exemplify the ambitious and community-centered qualities of the Franklin Spark. Betsy's work in public service in Brentwood, Tennessee, and George's impactful career in cardiology reflect their shared commitment to improving lives and supporting educational excellence. Their dedication extends to Franklin students through the Crossley MIBO Grad Student Travel Grant, which fuels research, discovery, and academic growth.



THANK YOU DONORS! YOU MADE LAST YEAR A SUCCESS

\$2M+
for graduate support!

\$2.2M
for undergraduates and experiential learning!

\$16.5M
IN TOTAL GIFTS!

\$3.2M
for faculty support!

Franklin is a community strengthened by generosity. Your support connects alumni, students, faculty, and friends in a shared purpose, and tonight is a reflection of that collective impact. Thank you for being part of our Franklin family.

1ST GIVING SOCIETY:

Cornerstone Society with 70+ donors

7,400 GIFTS FROM 6,480 DONORS!

CREATED 5 NEW PROFESSORSHIPS

"Thank you to our generous donors for supporting impactful initiatives at Franklin. Your contributions are driving positive societal change!"

— Dean Anna Stenport



VISION

A nationally-recognized leader bringing together the arts and sciences, uniting tradition with innovation and advancing multidisciplinary research and educational excellence through a community of creative scholars, curious learners, and critical thinkers who make a difference locally and globally.

THE FRANKLIN SPARK

The characteristics of the Franklin Spark unite us across the arts and sciences. These traits are undeniably ambitious, exceptionally curious, wildly creative, incredibly innovative, and tomorrow's leaders. When the arts and sciences come together, innovative multidisciplinary collaboration takes place, spearheading academic and research excellence.

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