



Flagler forward

Groundbreakers AND *Wavemakers*



Dear Flagler Family,

At the time of this letter's writing, our Advancement team has been diligently sorting through the tremendous yield of our Seventh Annual Roar and Raise Giving Challenge: this year's event saw 2,056 donors raise over \$1.5 million for the people, programs, and places of our College. This extraordinary outpouring of support also helped us surpass our original \$65 million Flagler Forward campaign goal — a truly historic milestone for our institution.

As you know, philanthropy is the heart of the Flagler Forward campaign. It drives innovation across our campus and provides our students with a secure academic future. Events like Roar and Raise are powerful indications of our donors' commitment to launching Flagler into a thrilling new era.

In tribute to this loyalty and giving spirit, I am pleased to share with you the Summer edition of the *Groundbreakers and Wavemakers* newsletter series. Inside, you will meet two longtime benefactors of the College who have devoted their time, resources, and life's work to its growth. As you read their stories, I hope you will see the lasting impact that dedicated supporters can make — and feel encouraged to join them.

We've made remarkable progress so far, but there is still important work ahead. As we enter the final year of our campaign, several key initiatives remain, ranging from increasing need-based scholarship aid to funding innovative new facilities.

Together, we will meet these challenges head-on and continue building an ambitious future.

Sincerely,



John A. Delaney
President of Flagler College



A Legacy of Giving

BELOVED COMMUNITY MEMBER DONATES HOME TO FLAGLER COLLEGE

Ask anybody who knew Nettie Ruth Brown, and they'll tell you she was a "role model of success," a "matriarch," a "born leader," and most importantly, a "friend to all." The decorated St. Augustine resident devoted her life to mentoring young people and tirelessly participating in community outreach.

"Wherever Nettie went, she wanted everybody involved," said Nettie's sister, Gail Brown. "It didn't matter where you came from or who you were, she always wanted everybody to be together."

After passing in 2023, Brown willed her home on 141 Oviedo Street to Flagler College in a posthumous gesture of continued community support. The home will now be used to house visiting faculty in residence and to provide temporary accommodation for staff in search of long-term lodging.

In at the Ground Floor: Nettie at Flagler

According to her former secretary, Cheryl Manucy, Brown was in "at the ground floor" when Flagler College was established in 1968. Ever the champion of youth education, Brown was filled with pride to see the College's entry into St. Augustine.

Brown supported several scholarship funds, and she eventually became so involved with the College that if any of the local youth she mentored, whom she referred to as 'her kids,' expressed an interest in Flagler, she would put them in touch with the right people to help them apply. She would even write letters of recommendation for prospective students.

Perhaps Brown's most significant bond to Flagler, though, took the form of students who simply passed her home on their way to and from class. Often, these young people would take her garbage cans in or perform routine yard work. Such small gestures touched Brown, and she frequently enthused about Flagler students' kindness to her family.

Eventually, Brown's home became the site of many neighborly relationships with passing Saints, and she decided it would best survive her as a facility dedicated to new generations of the Flagler community when she was no longer there.

"Nettie loved the College and she loved the people," her sister said. "She knew there would be people who needed a place to live, and she wanted to leave something behind that would help them."



A Second Life

Brown's home on 141 Oviedo Street will now continue her lifetime legacy of giving, enjoying a second life as the Nettie Ruth Brown Faculty and Staff Cottage. The repurposed dwelling will open in Fall of 2025 and will provide housing for Faculty Scholars in Residence as well as new employees in between residences.

"Especially in these times, affordable housing is essential to recruiting and retaining high-quality faculty," said Vice President of Academic Affairs, Art Vanden Houten. "Ms. Brown's generous bequest will help us provide a resource that is lacking on many campuses across the country while also bridging the affordability gap for incoming faculty and staff. We are extremely grateful for her investment."

As a longtime supporter of the College, Brown has always been instrumental in pushing Flagler Forward. Now, her final gift will stand as a monument to her long life's work: providing shelter, helping those in need, and advancing Flagler's educational mission in the St. Augustine community.

When Manucy learned that Nettie had donated her home to the College, she had one thought: "That's Ms. Brown. She was always so generous when it came to anything that had to do with education."

FLAGLER'S FIRST STUDENT

Beverly Carmichael's Unwavering Support and Leadership



Beverly Copeland Carmichael '72, affectionately known as 'Bev,' has been a cornerstone of Flagler College's prosperity since her days as one of its pioneering students.

Her journey as a Saint began with the College's opening and continued through nearly a decade of dedicated service in various staff roles. A recent chapter of benefaction has brought her story full circle, with pledges to support the place and the people who are central to her identity.

Through gifts toward the historic preservation of Ponce Hall and the Donald and Beverly Copeland '72 Carmichael Family Endowed Scholarship for FlagSHIP to sponsor immersive student learning experiences abroad, Carmichael shows her affinity for Flagler's mission to cherish the past and blaze a new path forward.

"I only had the extraordinary opportunity to attend Flagler College when it started because I was awarded a full scholarship, which included room and board," she said. "I owe my career to that scholarship."

Carmichael was further inspired to create the Donald and Beverly Copeland '72 Carmichael Family Endowed Scholarship for FlagSHIP in response to the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust's \$12 million gift to the College in 2022. The Trust's gift addressed issues critical to the student experience and offered a match for endowed scholarships.

"I adore Tom Kenan [Kenan Trust Trustee] and enjoyed working with him during my time at Flagler. I wanted to support his initiative and help deserving students study abroad through the FlagSHIP Program," Carmichael said.

Because of the doors her scholarship opened, Carmichael deeply understood the power of donor support to change a student's life forever. Without it, she would not have been able to afford college and never would have experienced Flagler's beauty.

"So, that's what I want to do today," she said. "Not only help to preserve that magnificent, beautiful Ponce where I 'grew up,' but to help give another student such an opportunity."

Carmichael vividly recalls the Friday evening of her arrival in the fall of 1968, when she became the very first student to set foot on campus. As the younger sibling of a student at the College's sister school, Mount Ida, she was selected to join a small welcoming committee for the College and asked to arrive early and greet nearly 200 peers.

It was her first time seeing the grandeur of the College's grounds in person, and she was struck by the "faded elegance" of the Ponce, adorned with original posh furniture and ornate wallpaper designs from the hotel that had closed a year earlier.



"The rooms were just like they were when it had been a hotel. All the original furniture was here; the lobby and the Flagler room were just incredibly gorgeous," Carmichael said.

Following her graduation in 1972, Carmichael embarked on a brief teaching stint at Evelyn Hamlen Elementary, all while residing in the Ponce and serving as a Resident Supervisor in the dormitory.

"Then, Bill Proctor [the College's first President] asked if I would be interested in working for him or if I still wanted to teach," she said.

Carmichael went to work in Student Affairs as an Assistant to the Dean of Students. After receiving a promotion from the Dean, she advanced to the position of Assistant Dean of Students which she held from 1973 to 1976.

She admired Proctor's role as a guiding light in those early times.

"We developed a wonderful friendship," she said about her relationship with Proctor. "He's a magnificent leader and people all over the state of Florida, wherever you go, they know him, have a huge respect for him."

Carmichael spent the next few decades traversing the country from Washington D.C. to Wisconsin. During this time, she earned her master's and doctorate from George Washington University, served in a series of director roles, and even briefly returned to Flagler as the College's first Director of Development from 1986-1989.

In 2013, an opportunity arose for Carmichael to return to sunny St. Augustine and her cherished Flagler College for good. Under the leadership of President Bill Abare, Carmichael saw a chance to conclude her career where it began.

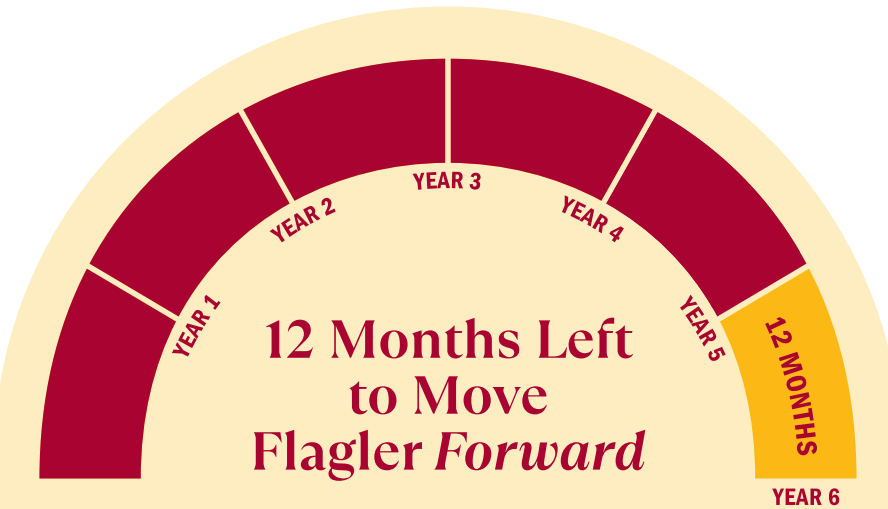
"When Bill Abare asked me if I would like to come back here, I was very touched and honored," Carmichael said about the offer to serve as Flagler's Vice President of Institutional Advancement. "I knew that this [job] would be the last thing I would do before I retired."

She embraced this opportunity as another way to give back to the College that had profoundly influenced her life.

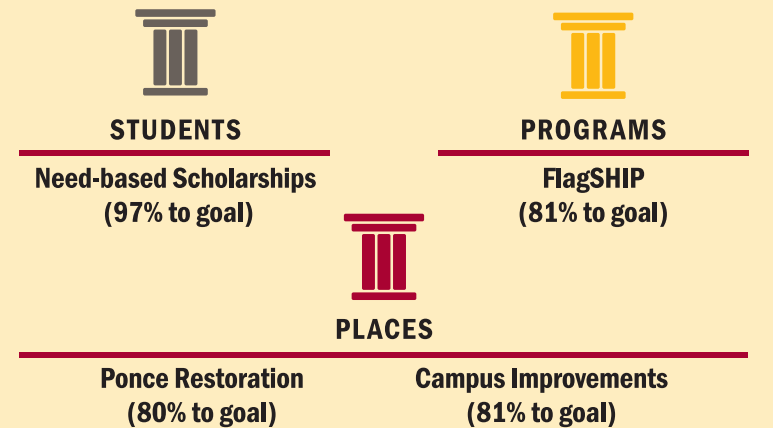
"Anytime I can help Flagler, I will help them," she said. "Even today, I'm so impressed by how President Delaney has taken command. His investment in the College has truly elevated it to national renown; I take a lot of pride in the direction we are going in."

In retirement, Carmichael remains a dedicated advocate for Flagler College, actively driving its mission as part of the Flagler Forward Campaign Steering Committee. Her contributions to the campaign underscore her lifelong commitment to the College's success and growth.

"Flagler College is just a part of me," Carmichael said. "It's a special place, not like any other."



REMAINING CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



\$71 million raised to date from **11,900 donors**.



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