

Celebrating Planned Giving

Planned giving is a fundamental piece of Bolles advancement efforts, and we are honored to highlight some of them in this year's annual report. Bequests, charitable trusts, gifts of annuities and other financial gifts solidify the School's future — ensuring an *All Things Possible* educational experience for generations of Bulldogs to come. At the same time, planned giving is one of the most meaningful, deeply personal ways families can support the School and its mission. These gifts come from the heart! As a community, we are fortunate to be sustained by generations of donors who understand the power of planned giving. It is with utmost gratitude that we continue to build upon this longstanding legacy of generosity and assemble new opportunities for Bolles excellence. We are pleased to celebrate this cornerstone of Bolles philanthropy.



AT THE HEART

The Trainers

PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

When Dr. John and Alice Trainer arrived in Jacksonville to begin his tenure as The Bolles School's sixth President and Head of School, it did not take long for John's genuine warmth and people-first leadership style to leave an impression. Known for his ability to connect with others, Trainer made relationship-building with students, faculty and staff an essential part of daily life at Bolles. Even Verlander Hall was a place to develop connections, discuss ideas and on occasion, plan pranks with students and colleagues. By the end of his first year, the culture at Bolles transformed into something resembling an enthusiastic team.

"No student would walk by me without saying good morning," he laughed. "Visitors reported students at Bolles were friendly, respectful, helpful and comfortable engaging with campus guests — key characteristics to their finding success in the real world."

Trainer's approachable nature and authentic interest in others helped shape a culture of community that continues to define The Bolles School today.

That same spirit of connection and preparation is reflected in the John and Alice Trainer Endowment for the President and Head of School Discretionary Fund, a generous planned gift the Trainers have established to ensure Bolles leaders are always ready to seize opportunities that shape the School's future. With its focus on leadership and board development, faculty advancement, student success through financial assistance when needed, and the preservation of Bolles Hall, the endowment reflects the couple's belief that good preparation and strong relationships — ones built on trust, respect and shared purpose — are the foundation of excellence at Bolles and beyond.

"We worked carefully in setting up this gift to give the President and Head of School a small wherewithal to accomplish something unusual — maybe realize an unexpected opportunity," John explained. "If it is an institution worth saving and preserving, you want to make gifts that will exist in perpetuity. There is only one way to do that, and that is through an endowment. For us, it was a natural choice."



Alice and Dr. John Trainer Jr. h'12

The endowment also reflects the Trainers' deep appreciation for Bolles Hall, which became a focus of their care during John's tenure and an object of celebration during the School's 75th anniversary. With John's support and keen interest, Alice lovingly tended to the Hall's furnishings, artwork, seasonal décor, architectural details and event planning opportunities, working with parent volunteers, faculty and staff to preserve the beauty and traditions students had grown to cherish over the School's history.

"Students so revered Bolles Hall that they looked forward to taking classes there, even when conditions weren't perfect," Alice said. "They saw it as an honor, and we always wanted to preserve that feeling."

John's decade as Head of School from 2001 to 2012 was defined not only by his commitment to the new *All Things Possible* statement for the Bolles community and reverence of the School's tradition of excellence, but a new chapter of campus expansion and financial stability for the School. Under Trainer's leadership, the School received its first \$1 million-plus gifts, including funding for the Bent Center, the Peyton Boathouse and Rice Family Crew Complex. Historic additions were also made to the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach and Middle School Bartram campuses. Endowment funding turned a corner, Board and School leadership

opportunities expanded, even globally. Business relationships in the community were solidified. These changes laid the foundation for the sustained growth and family culture The Bolles School champions to this day.

Whether on campus or at home, family has always been an important blending of the two to John and Alice Trainer. Married since 1967, John and Alice have three children and eleven grandchildren, several of whom have attended Bolles over the years. Son John attended Bolles from grades 7-9 before his father left JU in 1984 for the presidency of Lenoir-Rhyne College in North Carolina. Bolles graduates include granddaughters Monique Trainer '09 and Cami Trainer '13. Grandsons Jesse Williams '26 and John Williams '26 are due to graduate in the spring. The former Headmaster himself was made an honorary member of the Bolles Class of 2012 by the Board of Trustees upon his retirement here.

"This part of our adult life was maybe the most meaningful," Alice reflected. "We felt a real love here — for the institution, the kids, the faculty, and the parents who were so committed. They all became as much a part of our extended family as anything else, ensuring that we too were committed to the Bolles mission and principles."

That commitment is rooted in John's distinguished career in education and independent school leadership, which include serving as professor, dean, vice president and later Senior Director of Development and Acting Chief Advancement Officer at Jacksonville University and as President of Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina. Alice served alongside her husband throughout his career, supporting every school community with gracious service to others. Every role underscored the Trainers' commitment to community and a tradition of being prepared to succeed. It is a legacy they humbly leave at Bolles.

"Students who enroll here and experience Bolles' opportunities are well prepared," John said. "A lot of that happens in the classroom, but much of it comes outside: in conversations with teachers, coaches and staff, in challenges overcome and in friendships. That comprehensive preparation for life is Bolles' greatest gift. We hope our gift will aid in continuing those traditions and goals as well as aiding in supporting new goals that have been added recently and will be developed in the future."