Terp Pride and Generosity Across the Generations

**LINDA BLANKENSHIP ’76, ’85** attributes much of her career progression and success to the education she received and time spent at the University of Maryland (UMD). After earning her undergraduate degree from the School of Public Health, Linda worked in academic advising at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

While working full time, she pursued her graduate degree at UMD and received a Master’s in the Counseling and Personnel Services program through the School of Education. She quickly moved up the career ladder and spent almost two decades at UMBC, transitioning from academic advising to the Registrar’s Office, and then another tenure of similar length as the Registrar at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, which she retired from in October 2019.

Themselves strong advocates of public education, Linda’s parents, Alvin and Jeanette Blankenship, with Linda’s encouragement, named UMD the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust, which established the Blankenship Family Endowment upon their passing. Continued on page 2
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Alvin had been CEO of an engineering firm and was very proud of his efforts to provide opportunities for women in the field.

Since 2015, the endowed fund has supported this initiative by awarding scholarships for deserving students in the A. James Clark School of Engineering. Students participating in programs such as the Society of Women Engineers or Flexus may be considered for this award.

Wishing to honor her parents’ memory, Linda and her wife, Jill, have augmented the endowment through a bequest commitment in their own estate plans.

“This year, I received thank you letters from two students who received scholarships through the family endowment, which was really heartwarming,” says Linda.

An avid sports enthusiast and season ticket holder to UMD’s women’s basketball games, Linda has also made a bequest commitment to support student-athlete scholarships in women’s basketball.

“Looking toward the future is just the right thing to do. I’ve had a rewarding life and career. It’s a privilege to be able to help future students realize their own aspirations.”

— LINDA BLANKENSHP "76, ’85

“I am so grateful to receive the Blankenship family scholarship. My parents are self-employed, and this financial support is so helpful to my family, especially during times like these. I am honored and motivated by this investment in my college education.”

— MADELINE FORD

computer engineering major and 2020-2021 scholarship recipient

6,376 donors to the general MPP endowment

23 students awarded scholarships

88 donor-named funds
2 Ways to Make the University of Maryland a Part of Your Legacy

When you include a gift to UMD in your will or name us as a beneficiary of your retirement plans or other assets, you create a legacy that will impact generations to come.

THE BEST PART:

These gifts are easy to make and they don’t require you to part with assets you may need today.

NAMING UMD AS A BENEFICIARY

1. Log on to your provider’s website.
2. Update your beneficiary, including the percentage you’d like each to receive. Or print the form and return it in the mail.
3. Notify us of your intention so we can thank you and ensure your gift is used as you intend.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

1. Contact the Office of Gift Planning or return the enclosed reply form to request sample language you can use to make a gift.
2. Make an appointment with your attorney to create or update your will.
3. Notify us of your intention so we can thank you and ensure your gift is used as you intend.

Learn more about easy ways you can make an impact at UMD. Return the enclosed form to request your FREE copy of 4 Simple Gifts That Deliver Big Results. Or, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 866.646.4UMD or giftplanning@umd.edu.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY:

Give the Gift of Education

The Clark Challenge for the Maryland Promise will establish a $100 million endowment to provide need-based scholarships to undergraduate students in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Current cash gifts receive a dollar-for-dollar match from the university and the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, allowing your gift to go further and put a UMD education within reach of even more deserving students.

For more information, visit promise.umd.edu
News From Washington

THE CARES (CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY) ACT was passed in 2020 to offer relief to residents, businesses and nonprofits in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. We are excited to share that some benefits were extended (and, in one case, increased).

GIVING UPDATES IN 2021:

1. For those who itemize on their taxes, the universal charitable deduction has been extended and upgraded. The new deduction is $300 for single filers and $600 for married couples filing jointly.

2. Contributions to nonprofits are generally limited to a percentage of a taxpayer’s adjusted gross income (AGI). The CARES Act lifted this cap from 60% to 100% in 2020. Now, it’s been extended into 2021. Any excess contributions can be carried over to the next five years.

3. The required minimum distribution (RMD) was suspended in 2020. This year, those 72 and older must again take this distribution from their IRA. Consider putting yours to work for UMD with a tax-free gift! Contact the Office of Gift Planning for details.

HELP US CROSS THE FINISH LINE!

UMD has reached $1.4B of our $1.5B goal for Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland. You can help us reach our goal. Take advantage of this year’s special tax incentives to make a gift today. Contact the Office of Gift Planning to see how you can take part.

Office of Gift Planning
866.646.4UMD • giftplanning@umd.edu

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