The Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation will donate $1 million to the Emory String Quartet in Residence if the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta (ECMSA) can raise another $1 million in private gifts in the next four years.

The funding will create an endowment to make the residency a permanent part of the cultural life of Emory and the Atlanta area. To encourage audiences to support the endowment, ECMSA is waiving ticket fees during its 20th anniversary season, which continues through May 2013.

“We want to give back to the community, which has been so good to us in our development, so all concerts will be free of charge this season,” says Artistic Director William Ransom, Mary Emerson Professor of Piano and Emory’s director of piano studies. “We hope the community will reciprocate during our ‘season of giving’ by contributing to the fund drive for the residency.”

Held by the award-winning Vega String Quartet, the String Quartet in Residence is central to Emory’s mission of educating heart and mind. The late Cherry Emerson 38C 39G initiated the residency as a pilot program in 2006 with a three-year gift, and the Katz Foundation is supporting it temporarily with annual gifts.

To invest in the residency endowment, contact Rhonda Davidson at 404.727.8002 or rhonda.davidson@emory.edu.


casey gendason 00C
President
Emory College Alumni Board

How to Recruit the Best Students

Selecting a university can be an overwhelming choice for prospective students, one that can be influenced by scholarship support.

When Emory College junior Claire Bailey 14C began researching universities, she knew she wanted to play a sport because athletics were a big part of her life throughout high school. After receiving a recruitment letter from Emory University, she visited the campus, sitting in on classes, talking to members of the softball team, and meeting current students.

“Everyone was very welcoming. There was a whole different vibe on campus from anywhere else I’d visited. It felt like the right fit,” she says. Bailey was thrilled to receive an invitation to play for the Emory Eagles softball team, but it was scholarship support—she is both a John Emory Scholar and a National Merit Scholar—that sealed her decision to enroll at Emory.

One of the most important elements of Emory’s success is the quality of its undergraduate students. While Emory is competitive with most peers in terms of the high quality of academic programs and the campus environment, a major challenge in attracting students is improving Emory’s ability to offer competitive scholarship programs.

Emory’s tuition and expenses are similar to those of its peers, but Emory lags in scholarship support. Private philanthropy can help provide need- and merit-based support that enables students to enroll in Emory College and, once here, focus their attention on academics, leadership, athletics, community service, and other interests and activities rather than on struggling to pay for their education.

For Emory College alumnus Pace Austin 10B, it was choosing not to play a sport that brought him to Emory. A football star on his high school team in St. Petersburg, Florida, Austin was recruited to play for two Ivy League teams but was offered no scholarship support.

“I really loved football, but I was deciding between playing football and paying my full way or getting scholarship assistance,” he says. Because his father and grandfather—Edward Robert Austin 69C and the late Edward U. Austin 44D—both attended Emory University, he applied and was accepted to the Emory Scholars program.

“I loved the school as an institution. My family history there, the feel of the campus, everything felt better to me,” says Austin, who graduated with a double major in history from Emory College and business from Goizueta Business School. He now works for financial industry research firm AlphaSights in New York after spending two years with Bloomberg L.P.

“Emory prepared me, not just academically, but to handle myself, to be someone who people respect and admire,” he says. “I don’t think I would have gotten where I am without Emory.”

To learn how to support scholarships at Emory College, contact Senior Director of Development Melissa Kontaridis at mkontar@emory.edu or 404.727.6181.

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