



Advancement Committee

2000 ~ 2020

LIVING THE UWC MISSION BY ACTION AND EXAMPLE

*Dedicated to the vision and work
of Shelby Davis and Phil Geier*



HOW DO YOU CREATE THE BIGGEST UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE WORLD FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

By Geeta Anand

Like many things, it began with a problem.

It was the year 2000, and Phi Geier, then president of the United World College-USA, was watching in frustration as the school graduated dozens of talented international students each year, most of whom couldn't pay the cost of tuition at U.S. colleges and universities.

Geier had recently befriended Shelby Davis, the owner and operator of a successful mutual fund company. Looking for a way to give back to the world after a wildly successful career in the stock market, Davis had donated \$45 million to the UWC-USA to renovate Montezuma Castle, endow the school and create a scholarship program for U.S. students.

The two men had forged such a close relationship that Davis was now asking Geier's advice about how to handle a request for a gift from Davis's alma mater, Princeton University. Geier suggested his friend fund scholarships at Princeton on the condition they be awarded to UWC graduates who qualified for admission. That way, Davis could help Princeton and also assist the international students graduating from the UWC.

Davis liked the idea so much that he made the same offer to four other colleges that had close relationships with his family – and the Davis United World College Scholars Program was born. In 2000, 43 UWC graduates enrolled at the five participating colleges: Middlebury College,

Wellesley College, Colby College and the College of the Atlantic, in addition to Princeton. Davis promised the colleges significant need-based scholarship support toward the tuition cost of each student they successfully matriculated that year – and in the future.

From there, "it grew into opportunities unforeseen even in my wildest imagination," Geier says.

Five years later, in 2005, when Geier was retiring from being president of the UWC-USA, it was Davis's turn to approach him with an idea for the scholarship program. "He said, 'if you want to be entrepreneurial and grow this thing, I'd be happy to underwrite it. You'd have no limits on students or dollars,'" Geier recalls.

Geier accepted, and soon they set up the headquarters of the new scholarship program at Middlebury College, which had been one of the pilot program's most enthusiastic partners.

Since then, the two men have expanded the program exponentially so they are now funding undergraduate scholarships of up to \$25,000 annually for more than 3,500 UWC graduates from more than 160 different countries at 99 U.S. colleges and universities. This year alone, they offered scholarships to more than 1,000 international students, although just how many will come and remain in the country is in flux because of the pandemic.

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Revenue through December 31, 2020

\$1,420,451

Toward \$2 million

Davis Family Challenge Grant Goal

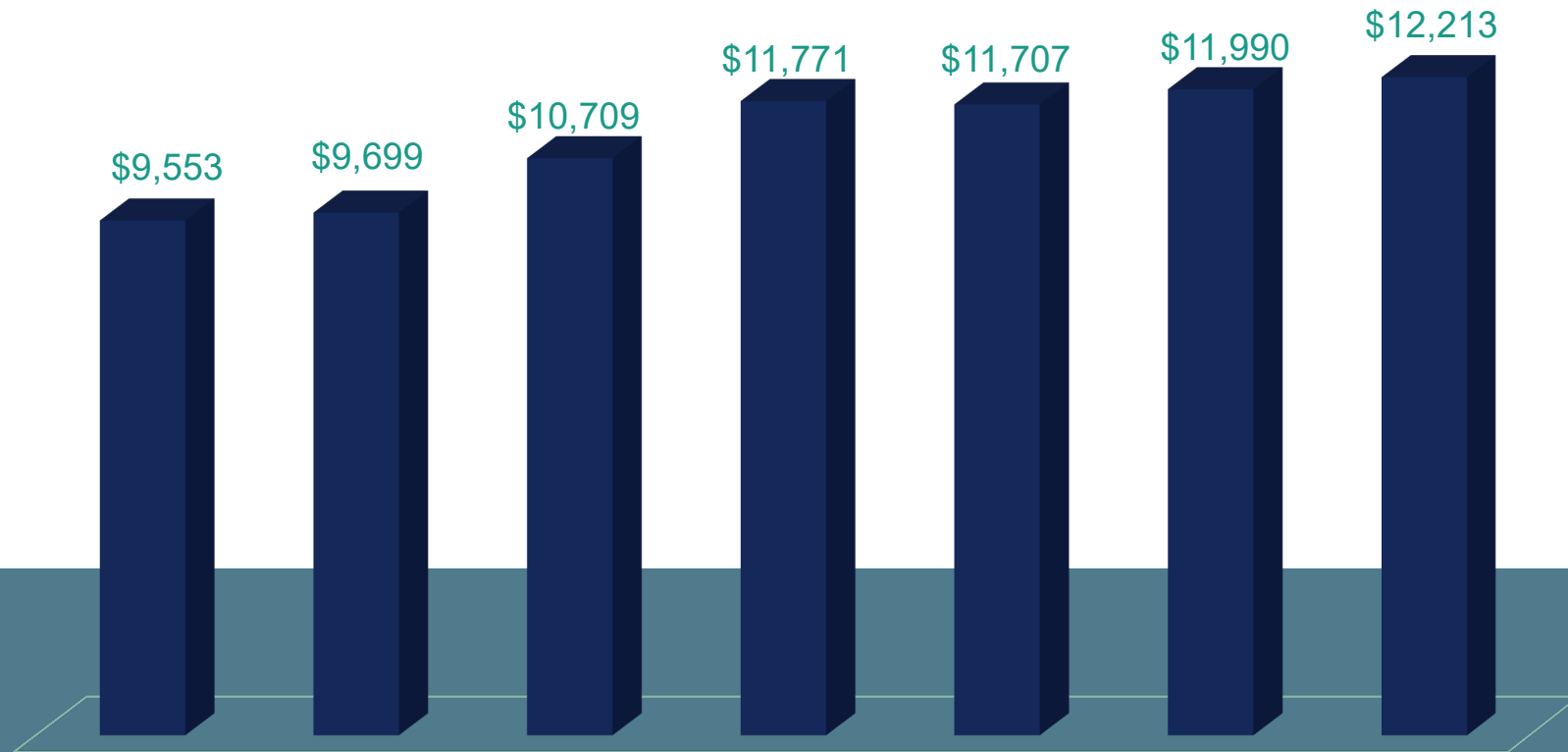
- Last year for the same period: \$1,262,274
- Earlier alumni participation due to #GivingTuesday
- Monthly giving program is growing
- Includes \$147,600 of in-kind contributions YTD
- More than \$450,000 in grant proposals under active consideration



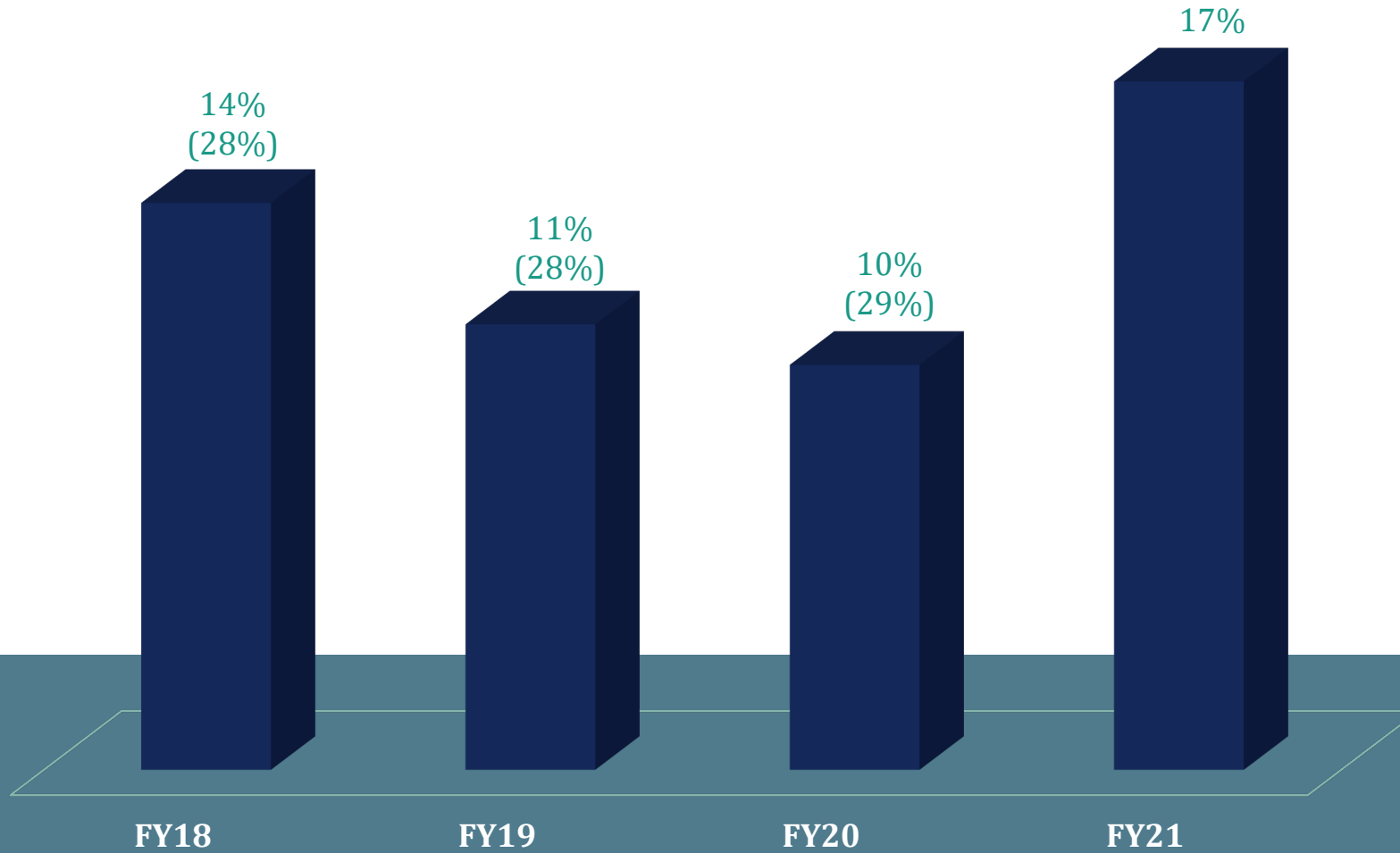
UWC-USA

Monthly Giving

June-December 2020



Mid-Year Alumni Participation





By Fiscal Year-End (May 31, 2021):

- Will exceed the \$1.5 million budgeted in FY21
- Anticipate exceeding the \$2 million Davis Family Challenge grant;
- Pending successful grant application, anticipate achieving \$2.3 – 2.5 million