



## Endowed Eminent Scholars Directory

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- **Alico Corporation Chair in Financial Management & Planning**  
*In Honor of Ben Hill Griffin, III.*

Alico Corporation established a second chaired professorship in the College of Business in Finance. The focus of this chair is on the management of financial resources.
- **Alico Corporation Chair in Market Development & Analysis**  
*In Honor of Dr. W. Bernard Lester*

Alico Corporation established a third chaired professorship in the Lutgert College of Business in Market Development and Analysis, with a focus on evaluating and pursuing market opportunities.
- **Alico Corporation Chair in Operations Management & Strategy**  
*In Honor of Ben Hill Griffin, Jr.*

Alico Corporation established a chaired professorship in the College of Business in Operations Management and Strategy. This position focuses on strengthening the management of operations and strategic positioning of agri-business and other organizations in new value-added to technology driven dimensions of the industry.
- **Backe Chair in Renewable Energy Endowed Fund**

John D. Backe, President of the Backe Foundation Inc., established this chaired position for an eminent scholar to teach renewable energy at the undergraduate and graduate levels; conduct research on this emerging field and disseminate his or her research as widely as possible; conduct outreach activities including seminars and symposia for the community about the benefits of renewable energy; and support the efforts of the local Economic Development Councils (EDCs) to attract industry partners in renewable energy.
- **Bernese B. and Sidney R. Davis Chair for Landscape Design, Horticulture Education and Research**

This chair focuses on leadership, knowledge and cutting-edge research that will enhance the education received by FGCU students and bring prominence to the University.
- **Moorings Park Professorship of Managerial Accounting and Eminent Scholar**

This chaired position in accounting will take a leadership role in: developing accounting research and service initiatives, developing interdisciplinary academic programs, and enhancing the college's reputation for research and external service with an emphasis in accounting system issues related to health and long-term care organizations.

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➤ **Southwest Florida Endowed Chair of Nursing**

Involved individuals from Southwest Florida came together to establish the Southwest Florida Endowed Chair of Nursing at the University of South Florida at Fort Myers. The fund was transferred to FGCU and continues to be used for its original intent - to serve the needs of health-care students and professionals.

➤ **Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration and Management Endowed Fund**

This eminent scholar will have expertise in the field of tropical systems and ecology, including exotic vegetation, habitat restoration and native systems. In this honored position, the professor will enhance the education of students majoring in Environmental Studies or Environmental Science at the University, positively impact the environment in Southwest Florida, enhance the reputation of the University's partner, Naples Botanical Garden, and bring prestige to the University and its Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center at the Naples Botanical Garden.

➤ **The Uncommon Friends Eminent Scholar Chair of Ethics Endowed Fund**

The Uncommon Friends Foundation and friends established this chair to develop and lead the implementation of a program which will focus on the issues involved in dealing with the moral dilemmas which business and other professionals increasingly face in making decisions today. The substance of the program is based in part on the personal values and ethical standards which Jim and Ellie Newton and their five Uncommon Friends who frequented Southwest Florida demonstrated in their business and professional lives.

➤ **Whitaker Eminent Scholar Chair in Science Endowed Fund**

The Whitaker Foundation established an eminent scholar chair in the College of Arts and Sciences to direct and provide leadership for the planning, development and implementation of the Science, Math and Technology Education building made possible by The Whitaker Foundation.

➤ **Myra N. Williams, Ph.D., Eminent Scholar Endowed Fund**

Dr. Myra Williams knows first-hand what it takes to become an accomplished pianist. As a teenager, she devoted long hours to mastering the instrument. Her talent and hard work won her a piano solo with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Although she pursued a career in science rather than music, becoming a successful executive in the pharmaceutical industry, she remains dedicated to the piano and music in general, serving as a board member for the Naples Music Club.

Her husband, Dr. Van Zandt Williams, Jr., spent more than two decades as vice president of development for Princeton University.



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They have established an endowed eminent scholar. The title of Myra N. Williams, Ph.D., Eminent Scholar in Science will be conferred upon an Eminent Scholar following an international search. The honored scholar will have earned an International reputation for academic excellence. Brilliance will have been demonstrated in such areas as research, scholarship, teaching, and professional service.