

STETSON UNIVERSITY

President Wendy B. Libby's Tenure at Stetson University *A Decade of Achievements*

Recruiting the Best Students for Stetson

Since President Wendy B. Libby's arrival in 2009, undergraduate enrollment has risen nearly 50 percent to an all-time high of 3,150 students in Fall 2018. Law school admissions, credentials and rankings also have risen as the university has weathered the national decline in law school applicants; Stetson Law consistently ranks first in the country for trial advocacy and in the top three for legal writing. Total student enrollment across Stetson's four campuses reached 4,340 in Fall 2018.

Growing Academic Programs and Partnerships

Several new academic programs have been introduced at Stetson since 2009. Stetson's School of Business Administration inaugurated the Centurion Sales Program, increased its focus on experiential learning, launched the annual Templeton Business Ethics Case Competition and greatly expanded the Prince Entrepreneurship Program. Its School of Music continues to be devoted to undergraduate education, and its award-winning duPont-Ball Library developed an Innovation Lab where students use 3D equipment, virtual reality and more to bring projects to life.

Stetson's largest college, the College of Arts and Sciences – in addition to being charged with leading our Health and Science Initiative – added an interdisciplinary major in public health and a low-residency Master of Fine Arts of the Americas in creative writing, created a robust and focused college-wide program of undergraduate research, and redesigned the psychology major with a strong basis in research and statistical analysis. There also has been considerable growth in the college's environmental science and studies program, including the establishment of the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience, which focuses on research, policy and public education toward the development of sustainable environmental solutions.

At Stetson's College of Law, the Advocacy Center and Veterans Law Institute were created during Libby's tenure, and this fall, the college launched three new Master of Jurisprudence programs for non-lawyers.

University-wide, Stetson has focused on helping students secure internships, study abroad and gain experience in their fields of study to enhance their competitive advantage in the job market. Approximately 90 percent of Stetson students are employed or in graduate school six months after graduation.

Since 2009, several partnerships and articulation agreements have been established with other schools including AdventHealth University, Chatham University (Pennsylvania), Daytona State College's Quanta-Honors College, Seminole State College, University of South Florida, University of West Florida and Valencia State College. Stetson also added Air Force ROTC this year to its current Army ROTC cohort; since 2009, the Army cohort has grown from 15 to more than 100 cadets, and the Air Force cohort is expected to be just as robust.

Strengthening Stetson's Resources

The university's endowment has more than doubled in the past decade, to \$246 million. Stetson's four campuses have seen a significant reduction in deferred maintenance; the university now budgets two percent of the value of real assets for repair and renovation – a budget that is currently more than \$7 million per year.

Since 2009, the total amount dedicated to faculty salaries has increased 70 percent, with over 50 new faculty positions added in the past eight years to keep pace with student enrollment growth. Average full-time faculty salaries have increased by approximately 26 percent in the past decade.

The university also is nearing completion of its comprehensive campaign, *Beyond Success – Significance*, having raised more than \$210 million to date toward a \$200 million overall goal. Over the course of the campaign, more than 5,200 new donors contributed in excess of \$17.7 million, ensuring a well-stocked pipeline for future philanthropy. A celebration to mark the campaign's successful end is planned for November 2019 during Homecoming.

As the university's chief fundraiser, Libby helped establish the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence, the Hollis Family Student Success Center, the Marshall and Vera Lea Rinker Welcome Center, the Athletic Training Center, the David and Leigha Rinker Center for International Learning and the recently dedicated Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center.

Funds also were raised toward the renovation of the Carlton Union Building (CUB), which saw its footprint expand by nearly 50 percent. The CUB project was completed in January 2019.

In addition, plans are underway through a Health and Science Initiative to construct a new Health and Science building following receipt of an \$18 million campaign gift in April 2018 from longtime benefactors and Volusia County residents Hyatt and Cici Brown. It is the largest single gift in Stetson's history.

Enhancing Campus Life

In 2012, as part of its Strategic Plan, Stetson updated its values statement. The university promotes three core values – personal growth, intellectual development and global citizenship – with personal and social responsibility at its center. With approximately 35 percent of its student body diverse, the university has focused on equity and social justice. In addition, first-generation college students make up approximately one-quarter of Stetson's undergraduate population, and a significant number of students receive Pell Grants.

In recent years, Stetson has reinvigorated its Hillel program, which creates a home for Jewish students and enriches student life offerings. The university recently received a \$2 million gift toward the renovation and naming of the Jeffrey and Diane Ginsburg Hillel House on campus. New fraternity and sorority chapters have been established, including the recent additions of Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Gamma Rho, two of the “Divine Nine” historically Black Greek Letter Organizations.

Stetson also has increased its commitment to environmental sustainability over the past decade. Its conservation program has reduced water and energy consumption by 18 percent -- despite the growth on campus -- and inspired a student-supported solar array, which has just started producing electricity, on the roof of the CUB.

The Rinker Welcome Center was awarded Green Globe Certification and was named Outstanding Sustainability Project in the state by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association in 2017. The Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center is under review for certification through the Green Globe program. A Volusia County ECHO grant, which helped develop a native Florida botanical garden and a public, non-motorized boat launch ramp at the Aquatic Center site on Lake Beresford, also is supporting enhanced sustainability and water reuse at the building.

Expanding Athletic Opportunities

Libby ushered in the return of Hatter Football in 2013 after a 57-year hiatus and introduced women’s lacrosse and beach volleyball to Stetson’s roster of NCAA Division I sports. For the first time, Hatter Baseball earned a spot in the NCAA Super Regionals in 2018 and six players were drafted by Major League Baseball that summer. Club sports were added (totaling 17 to date) and today more than 1,300 undergraduates participate in club sports and intramurals combined. In addition, a golf practice facility is currently being developed with donor support.