We’re almost there. Please give now!

“A group of thoughtful, committed Mobile citizens has done what some thought impossible – they’ve raised millions to save Barton!”

– Elizabeth Stevens, Barton Academy Foundation President.

After years of watching historic Barton Academy languish and fall into disrepair, a small group of concerned citizens and representatives of Mobile County Public Schools met to craft a plan to bring Barton back to life. Former superintendents Dr. Roy Nichols and Martha Peek, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Lee Taylor and attorney Jaime Betbeze were early leaders in the effort. In 2012, when the Board of School Commissioners secured a $100-million bond for school construction, Commissioners Levon Manzie, Ken Megginson, Reginald Crenshaw, Judy Stout and Bill Foster supported earmarking $4 million to stabilize and restore the exterior of the Barton and Yerby buildings. This work was completed in 2015.

In 2012, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Barton Academy Foundation, was formed to raise awareness and private funding to restore the interior of the monumental Greek Revival building. Today, the board of the Barton Academy Foundation – with the help of donations from more than 500 individuals, corporations, institutions and foundations – has raised very close to the $10 million needed for the interior renovations.

In December of this year, the Foundation will obtain financing for construction to begin, and students should be walking the halls of Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies in the fall of 2021!

The time is Now for you to help reopen Barton!

Barton Academy is Alabama’s oldest public school, and building it required one of the state’s first fund-raising campaigns. In 1826 a small, history-making group formed a school board. By 1830 they’d bought an entire city block upon which to build a monumental school – a bold vision for growth in a city of only 13,000 citizens.

But fundraising was slow, and the state legislature eventually allowed the group to raise funds through a lottery. They broke ground in 1836 with $50,000 in lottery funds, a $15,000 municipal loan and private donations, including a large gift from Henry Hitchcock, one of Alabama’s founding fathers.

Today a new group is closing in on a $10 million goal to reopen Barton. With less than $700,000 left to raise, we need your help.

Gifts of any size are appreciated and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. While we’d love to receive your entire gift before Dec. 31, 2019, payments can be made over the next four years. But as in your personal life, postponing payment will cost Barton money.

Please go to the pledge form on page 3, tear it out, and make a gift or pledge NOW! Or go to www.bartonacademy.org/donate and make a gift by credit card or PayPal.
Recent donors

Thank you for bringing us closer to our goal! Please give at www.bartonacademy.org/donate or mail a check to Barton Academy Foundation, P.O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601. To make a gift of stock or other assets, email Foundation treasurer Denise Browning at db@hunterventures.net.

Donors August 15 – September 27:
Anonymous
Backes Family Fund
Jean Alice and Joe Basenberg
Jaime Betbeze
Paul and Tootsie Bridges
Holle and Donald Briskman
Mary Kate S. Cook
David DeLaney
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Ken Welch

In memory of Bill Hines:
Henry and Barbara Brewster
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Ann Bedsole Holmes
Matt and Karen McDonald
Ronald and Virginia Snider

Find a full list of all donors on our website: www.BartonAcademy.org

Why We Support Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies

Jim Backes
In memory of James McMurtrie Backes
My father, James Backes, graduated from Barton Academy months before the great stock market crash of 1929. His generation has been described as “The Greatest Generation” because of the way they overcame so many obstacles: global economic collapse, a Second World War, and a “Cold” War waged even to the frontiers of space. I am truly proud of my father and those of his generation who bequeathed to us the economic well-being and (mostly) peaceful world that we enjoy. In the 1920s, few adults would have guessed that these teenagers would have been able to face up to these challenges, let alone overcome them. But they sent these children to school, where family values of respect for knowledge and hard work were reinforced, and where their natural curiosity about the world was stimulated and developed. The American commitment to universal education as the primary requisite for democracy and national well-being was richly rewarded by his generation, but who is to say that they will be the greatest?

We are happy to participate in this campaign to build the Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies because it is our hope that coming generations will benefit from our commitment to universal education, especially in a world that is increasingly interconnect-ed and interdependent. With so much of Mobile’s recent economic growth fueled by capital investments from the offspring of enemies my father fought against in the 1940’s, our community is a great example of the benefits of the global economy. Our hope is that the students of this Academy will, through their emphasis on global issues, become future leaders for our community, our state, our nation, and the world.

Tom McGehee
President, Rotary Club of Mobile
At its September board meeting, the directors of the Rotary Club of Mobile voted to donate $25,000 to sponsor a classroom within Barton Academy. Since its founding in 1914, the club has focused its resources on supporting charitable causes in southwest Alabama with an emphasis on our youth.

Interestingly, the first major project undertaken by our club was another $25,000 project back in 1931. Those funds established an orthopedic ward for children at the Mobile Infirmary. The polio epidemics of the time had left many children incapacitated, and the club sought to assist them in the road to recovery. Nearly 90 years later that ward operates as the Bedsole-Rotary Rehab Center.

The Rotary Club of Mobile has given an average of $100,000 annually to numerous organizations such as Goodwill-Easter Seals, Girl Scouts, Mobile Infirmary, the Mulherin Custodial Home, MARC, Alabama School of Math and Science, Wilmer Hall, the Dumas Wesley Center, and the Augusta Evans School.

The establishment of the Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies is a project which is right in line with the long history of the Rotary Club of Mobile. The Academy’s goal of preparing young Alabamians to compete in an increasingly competitive world is just as important today as our $25,000 commitment back in 1931 to assist disabled children. We are happy and proud to be part of this project.
Great ways you can help in our final push!

Honor Your Ancestors with a Gift to Barton Academy

Naming a room or space within Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies is an excellent way to ensure that your family name remains a part of Mobile's history.

Naming opportunities range from $10,000 (8’ fence section/$2,000 per year for 5 years) to $4,000,000 (Yerby Building). Other options include classroom spaces at $25,000 ($5000 per year payable over 5 years) and science labs at $250,000.

For as little as $1,000, you can have your name or the name of a family member engraved on a prominent donor wall in the lobby.

The complete list of remaining naming opportunities is available online at www.bartonacademy.org.

Donate online
To make a gift using PayPal, simply visit www.bartonacademy.org and click on “Donate.”

Donate by mail
You may also mail a check to Barton Academy Foundation, P.O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

In support of the Restoring the Past – Building the Future Campaign, I/we make the following commitment:

Donor Information (please print):
(Circle one) Mr. and Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other ______

Name(s)

Name(s) as you prefer to be listed in publications**

Address

City State Zip Code

Email Address

Preferred Telephone

Signature(s) ** □ I/we wish to remain anonymous.

Return form to Barton Academy Foundation
P. O. Box 571, Mobile, AL 36601 • (251) 434-8498

*Donors who wish to make pledge payments via stock or other methods will receive further instructions from the Barton Academy Foundation Campaign Office.

Please send pledge reminders: □ Annually □ Semi-Annually

□ Please contact me about including the Barton Academy Foundation in my will or trust.
These Bartonians will be a lot happier when the goal has been reached! Put some spark in their lives at www.bartonacademy.org/donate

Less than $700,000 left to raise!

Ghosts at Barton?
Just in time for Halloween, the October issue of Mobile Bay Magazine includes a story of a recent paranormal investigation at Barton. The vacant landmark has long been a haunt for ghost hunters. It was used as a hospital during the tragic yellow fever epidemic of 1853 and again for treating Union soldiers during the Civil War – the sorts of events that make for a spirited ghost tale. We won’t spoil the story’s conclusion, but we are sure this Greek Revival gem of Mobile’s history is likely very lonely. You can remedy that by making a donation today to bring life back to these halls as the new Barton Academy for Advance World Studies.