1984 2026

A GILDED AFFAIR

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

Phoenix Ball

06•06•2026

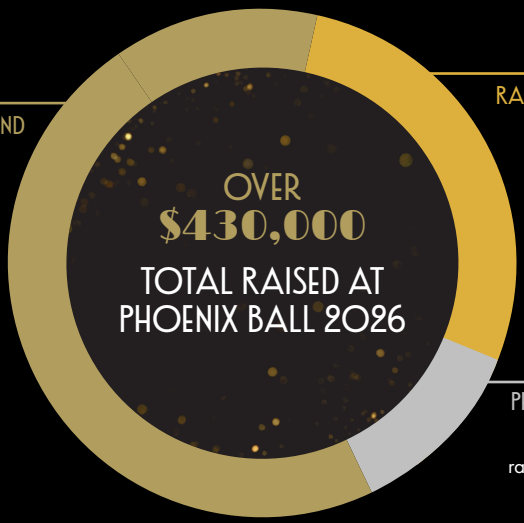
IMPACT REPORT 2026

PHOENIX BALL CHAIRS

John and Traci Pope



Cumberland University is providing this 2026 Impact Report in gratitude to the 2026 Phoenix Ball leaders for helping transform lives through the power of education.



RAISED FROM SPONSORS AND TICKET SALES
~$288,075

RAISED DURING PHOENIX BALL LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION:
~$99,992

PHOENIX BALL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
raised ~$48,220 during the Scholarship Paddle Raise

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** Indicates double maroon sponsorship

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LUCREZIA BANDINI (LU) CLASS OF 2026

Recipient of the Monty and Pace Pope Scholarship for History and International Students

"As an international student from Italy, arriving here felt like stepping into a whole new world. The Cumberland community made me feel seen, loved, and truly at home in a place far from home. In Professor Alan Hutchison's speech class, I gained something even deeper: real confidence. He transformed my fear of speaking into a strength that carried over into my job, sports involvement, and to one of my proudest moments: serving as a commentator for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with Warner Bros. Discovery. I realized how far CU has brought me while speaking to a global audience without nerves or shame! CU isn't just classes or a campus; it's where moving to a new country became a great opportunity. I am endlessly grateful to Cumberland University for giving me that chance to start fresh and thrive."

To learn more about Lu's story check out the video that was shared with Phoenix Ball guests:



JENNA JACOBS CLASS OF 2027

Inaugural Recipient of the Phoenix Ball Endowed Scholarship

"As a first-generation college student and adoptee, education has always been my way to build a better future for myself. School hasn't always been easy, especially without a family blueprint to guide me, but the support I've found from faculty and peers on campus has completely changed my experience. Coming to Cumberland as a freshman with an associate's degree, I never imagined that a year later I'd be President of Psi Chi and a Presidential Ambassador. Realizing what I'm capable of with the right support has made me want to push myself even further. My spot on the Dean's List since 2024 and my National First-Generation Recognition Award represent my dedication to hard work."





2026 PHOENIX BALL ALUMNI ATTENDEES

To check out the recap of the 2026 Phoenix Ball scan the QR code

Thank you to the 2026 Patrons Party hosts Jeff and Shelly Peterson! Check out the event photos by scanning the QR code

Cumberland
UNIVERSITY