1934 UF GRADUATE CONCERNED ABOUT ETHICS IN BUSINESS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Concerned with the recent ethics scandals in businesses, University of Florida alumnus Ben O. Franklin wants to encourage UF students not to get caught in the same trend as they head into the working world.

In hopes that students follow this advice, it was announced today that Franklin, a lifelong resident of Gainesville and one of the first UF basketball season ticket holders, donated $100,000 in stock to the Elizabeth B. and William F. Poe Center for Business Ethics and Research at UF’s Warrington College of Business. Students in the program will not only report on their activities in the business ethics class, but will also report to Franklin annually.

Franklin graduated from UF in 1934 with a bachelor’s degree in business and has enjoyed a long career managing Franklin Crates, a manufacturing business started by his father in 1916 in Micanopy, Fla.

“Honesty, integrity and the relationships between business people should mean a lot to the students when they graduate,” Franklin said.

The Poe Center was established in 2004 when the Poe family of Tampa, Fla. endowed the center in honor of their parents. The center continues the work of the Poe Business Ethics Program, which has served the college since 1998. The Poe Center’s goals are to increase the visibility of ethical issues among college and university students, to provide forums for thoughtful analysis of important ethical problems in business, and to influence students to become competent and responsible business citizens.

-30-