

THE
SPIRIT
OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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Needlemans Commit \$15 Million to Catalyze Drug Discovery

During a celebrated career as a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine and an executive in the pharmaceutical industry, Emeritus Trustee Philip Needleman learned what it takes to move a drug from the laboratory to the market. And he acquired a knack for identifying opportunities to succeed in that process. A longtime member of the medical school's national council, Dr. Needleman has kept close tabs on advances at the school. Recognizing the potential of two promising areas of research, he and his wife, Sima, MSW '74, a retired medical social worker and volunteer leader at the Brown School, have made a \$15 million commitment to accelerate the development of new drugs to treat a wide range of conditions.

The gift provides expendable funding to establish two innovative centers at the School of Medicine. The Philip and Sima Needleman Center for Autophagy Therapeutics and Research, which will receive \$10 million, will further a nascent area of biomedical study and play a key role in focusing the school's efforts to address the aging process. The Philip and Sima Needleman Center for Neurometabolism and Axonal Therapeutics is being built around the breakthrough work of two faculty members who are pursuing new treatments for neurodegenerative disorders.

"We wanted to make a gift that is catalytic and leads to new therapeutics in the near term," Dr. Needleman says. "I've been looking for really bright people at the medical school who have novel ideas that could have a great impact. I think we chose two areas that will be really important."

According to David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine, the Needleman's gift reflects their passion for medical discovery and desire to improve human health. "Sima and Phil are dedicated partners who care deeply about our mission," he says. "This gift will enable us to combine existing expertise in new ways across departments in order to fast-track the often long and cumbersome process of creating new drugs and other therapies."

New Focus on Aging

Although it plays a critical part in maintaining cell health, the physiological process of autophagy was not widely known until recent years, when its emerging role in many diseases led to an explosion of interest in the field. The autophagy pathway functions as a recycling center for cellular debris, such as misfolded proteins, degraded



Sima and Philip Needleman's latest gift will advance cutting-edge research aimed at developing new treatments for diseases that affect millions.

lipids, and worn-down cell parts. When functioning optimally, it keeps many ailments and diseases at bay. But the process declines with age, opening the door to degenerative conditions that plague older adults.

Researchers at the Needleman Center for Autophagy Therapeutics and Research aim to help bring this vital process out of the margins and into the limelight. In order to prevent or treat age-related illnesses, they will work to identify and develop drugs that target key parts of the autophagy pathway. Their research has the potential to help patients with Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, cancer, and many other conditions.

Dr. Perlmutter, who will direct the center, envisions it as a key element of a signature School of Medicine initiative that centers on aging. Like the school's personalized medicine initiative, the aging initiative will unite research efforts across the school and provide an infrastructure that promotes success. "With this center, we are establishing aging as a top priority of the school and beginning to make progress toward measurable outcomes," Dr. Perlmutter says. "And we are excited to have Phil work closely with us every step of the way."

The center will be one of the few in the country dedicated to autophagy, which was first observed by scientists in the 1960s. Research on the process blossomed in the 1990s after the identification of autophagy-related genes in yeast. "We intend to have a real impact by becoming a leading institution in this area," Dr. Perlmutter says.

Exploiting a Discovery

While the autophagy center will be built from the ground up, the Needleman Center for Neurometabolism and Axonal Therapeutics creates a formal structure around a longstanding research partnership between Jeffrey Milbrandt, MD '78, PhD, the James S. McDonnell Professor of Genetics and head of the Department of Genetics, and Aaron DiAntonio, MD/PhD, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor of Developmental Biology, who will co-lead the center. The two began collaborating a decade ago to investigate the root causes of nerve degeneration, which is implicated in conditions such as Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis,

glaucoma, and peripheral neuropathy.

The center will help Drs. Milbrandt and DiAntonio to build on a 2017 discovery that emerged from their cooperative work. The scientists and their collaborators had zeroed in on SARM1, a protein involved in the destruction of axons, the long nerve fibers that transmit electrical signals throughout the nervous system. Many researchers had studied the protein. However, none had uncovered what the Washington University team found: SARM1 is an active enzyme that is key to the degenerative process. This unexpected

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– Emeritus Trustee Philip Needleman

finding opened the door to future work to create a drug to block SARM1 from triggering axon degeneration. Moreover, Drs. Milbrandt and DiAntonio realized that thousands of proteins with scaffold-like structures similar to SARM1 also could be active enzymes that may be similarly useful for developing new drugs.

The flexible funding provided by the Needleman's will allow the researchers to move quickly to exploit their discovery. "There's a sense of urgency," Dr. Milbrandt says. "This is the crowning achievement of our careers so far, and we want to be the ones to carry this work forward—we don't want to wait for normal grant funding

See Needleman Commitment, Page 7

A Time for Celebration

Gala held to recognize the historic impact of the *Leading Together* campaign and the selfless service of the Wrightons featured surprise announcements, touching tributes, and spectacular entertainment.



Clockwise from top left: Christy Beckmann, AB '70, and James Vykopal dance to the music of surprise gala performers Kool & the Gang; Chancellor Mark Wrighton and Risa Zwerling Wrighton, MBA '89, enjoy the gala program; and band member Shawn McQuillers sings one of Kool & the Gang's hits. (Photos by Joe Angeles and Sid Hastings)

The sounds of celebration filled the Majestic Ballroom at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel on December 7, when nearly 1,200 members of the Washington University community gathered to commemorate the success of *Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University* and honor Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and his wife, Risa Zwerling Wrighton, MBA '89.

The dinner gala featured special tributes, musical performances, and dancing. Guests included a number of the 4,300 volunteers and nearly 160,000 donors who helped make *Leading Together* the most successful fundraising campaign in university history. The campaign, which concluded on June 30, shattered its initial goal of \$2.2 billion by securing \$3.378 billion in gifts and commitments.

"We came together with a purpose and a plan, and in the end, we made something incredible happen," Life Trustee Andrew Taylor, executive chairman of St. Louis-based Enterprise Holdings and chair of the public phase of the campaign, told the crowd. "The remarkable generosity of those in this room and others around the world has created opportunities for a richer academic life for our students, advanced path-breaking discoveries, provided lifesaving medical care, and secured a brighter future for our world and our university."

Chancellor Wrighton noted that the impact of *Leading Together* is being felt across Washington University, and he thanked those who contributed to advancing the campaign's overarching goal of enhancing the university's leadership today to benefit America and the world tomorrow.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your investment in our mission of education, research, service, and clinical care," Wrighton said. "And thank you for what you will continue to do for this great university as we move forward into its next era of excellence and achievement."

Following performances by the Washington University Choirs and the Wind Ensemble, which played an original fanfare composed for the gala by assistant professor of music Christopher Stark, the program's focus shifted to recognizing the Wrightons' exceptional contributions to the university. The chancellor will conclude his term May 31, when he will be succeeded by Chancellor-elect Andrew D. Martin, PhD '98.

"When Chancellor Wrighton arrived in 1995, he pledged to 'build a better future for those who follow us,'" Life Trustee Craig Schnuck,

chair of the Board of Trustees, told the audience. "Thanks to his exceptional and inspiring leadership, Washington University has done just that for our students and faculty, and those they serve."

Mr. Schnuck also lauded Ms. Zwerling Wrighton for her "deep commitment to serving others and gift for connecting people," noting her efforts to create programs that enrich the lives of students and improve the St. Louis region.

Surprising the Wrightons, Mr. Schnuck announced several initiatives to recognize their accomplishments and selfless service, including the establishment of the Wrighton Tribute Fund to support university priorities. (See Page 4.) Life Trustee John F. McDonnell, DSc '06, MBA '14, and Mr. Taylor then took the stage to reveal that they had designated gifts for named fellowships in the McDonnell International Scholars Academy and named scholarships in the Enterprise Holdings Scholars Program, respectively, in honor of the Wrightons.

Mr. Schnuck also announced the naming of several Danforth Campus spaces in homage to the Wrightons. The Department of

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Chemistry's Laboratory Science Building will be renamed Mark S. Wrighton Hall in appreciation of the chancellor, an accomplished chemist. And College Hall in the heart of the South 40 residential community will be rechristened Risa Zwerling Wrighton Hall. In addition, Wrighton Way, a new walkway being constructed on the east end of campus, will connect Forsyth Boulevard to a landscaped court adjacent to the Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center.

The program ended with another surprise as the Wrightons stood on the stage with a prop TNT plunger. After a countdown, the two pushed the plunger, confetti cannons fired, and the funk band Kool & the Gang appeared at the back of the ballroom to perform their hits, including the chart-topping song "Celebration." ■

“The remarkable generosity of those in this room and others around the world has created opportunities for a richer academic life for our students, advanced path-breaking discoveries, provided lifesaving medical care, and secured a brighter future for our world and our university.”

– Life Trustee Andrew Taylor, chair of the public phase of *Leading Together*



1. Anthony Tillman, assistant provost for student success, and Lori White, vice chancellor for student affairs 2. Marilyn Fox and Sam Fox, BSBA '51, co-chair of the leadership phase of *Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University* 3. Regional campaign co-chairs Ann Tisch, AB '76, and Harry Seigle, AB '68 4. Stephen Brauer, vice chair and former chair of the Board of Trustees, and Kimmy Brauer 5. David Blasingame, AB '69, MBA '71, campaign executive director, and Robert Virgil, MBA '60, DBA '67, campaign chair for scholarships and fellowships 6. From left: Craig Schnuck, chair of the Board of Trustees; Nancy Schnuck; Peggy Newman, AB '72, JD '76; and Andrew Newman, vice chair and chair-elect of the Board of Trustees 7. Members of the Washington University Wind Ensemble 8. From left: John McDonnell, DSc '06, MBA '14, co-chair of the leadership phase of *Leading Together*; Chancellor Mark Wrighton; and Andrew Taylor, chair of the campaign's public phase (Photos by Joe Angeles and Sid Hastings)

Leading Together

Board of Trustees Launches Initiative to Commemorate the Wrightons' Legacies

When Mark S. Wrighton was selected from a pool of 350 candidates to become Washington University's 14th chancellor in 1995, he was a highly esteemed chemist with a 23-year career as a professor and provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Shortly after arriving on campus, he described his greatest challenge in a profile that appeared in the university's official newsletter. "The question that remains is, can I be creative in a role as an academic administrator rather than a scientist?"

As his tenure as chancellor comes to a close, the Board of Trustees and the university community have answered that query with a resounding "yes." To celebrate his visionary leadership, the board created the Wrighton Tribute Fund. This special fundraising effort honors the outstanding achievements and dedicated service of the chancellor and his wife, Risa Zwerling Wrighton, MBA '89.

"Mark and Risa have established a remarkable legacy at Washington University," says Life Trustee John F. McDonnell, DSc '06, MBA '14. "Through the Wrighton Tribute Fund, members of the university community have the opportunity to provide lasting testaments to that legacy."

Contributions to the fund will support university priorities, including scholarships and fellowships. The final designations will be based on the total raised.

As chancellor, Wrighton has overseen a period of tremendous growth in the university's national and international reputation, the quality and diversity of its student body, the productivity and interdisciplinary collaboration of its faculty, and the global



The leadership and dedication of Risa Zwerling Wrighton and Chancellor Mark Wrighton have profoundly advanced Washington University and the communities it serves.

reach and impact of its programs. Total enrollment has risen by 33 percent, and undergraduate applications have more than doubled. The number of faculty members has increased by 48 percent with the addition of more than 1,000 scholars, researchers, and clinicians. And the university's endowment has grown from \$1.96 billion in 1995 to more than \$8 billion today.

A social worker and former managed care executive, Ms. Zwerling Wrighton is known for her tireless efforts to enrich the lives of students and improve the St. Louis region. She is founder and director of Home Plate,

a program that matches Washington University undergraduates with local families that host them for dinners in their homes. She also is an academic adviser and ardent supporter of student-led philanthropies. In 2015, she played a leadership role in launching the university's Gun Violence Initiative.

"For more than two decades, Mark and Risa have served as stalwart leaders and compassionate caretakers for Washington University," says Life Trustee Craig Schnuck, chair of the Board of Trustees. "The Wrighton Tribute Fund will help us recognize their extraordinary accomplishments."

Chancellor Wrighton says he and his wife have been touched by the effort to honor them. "We are very grateful to the trustees and all those who have contributed to the fund. It has been a privilege for us to serve this great university, and it is extremely meaningful to be acknowledged in this way."

When they begin the next chapter of their lives on June 1—when Chancellor-elect Andrew D. Martin officially becomes chancellor—it will be a bittersweet moment, Ms. Zwerling Wrighton says. "I liken it to the experience of sending a child off to college. We know WashU will be very well cared for. But the nervous parents that we are, we bought a house right across the street from the university." — *By Mary Lee* ■



Make a gift online at gifts.wustl.edu/wrighton or call 866-645-6448.

Third Loeb Professorship Extends Family's Dedication to Medical Education

From a young age, Carol Loeb wanted to become a teacher. Passionate educators enriched her experiences at school and at home. But it was in a junior high school math class that she experienced what she calls her aha moment. "My teacher was an imposing figure, but I realized she was incredible," Mrs. Loeb says. "I wanted to be able to share my excitement about the subject like she did."

Now more than five decades into a career as an educator, Mrs. Loeb's enthusiasm for the profession is unchanged. She taught middle school and high school math for many years before becoming an SAT and ACT instructor at John Burroughs School and Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School. She and her late husband, Jerome, MA '64, former chairman of the May Department Stores Co., also put education at the forefront of their philanthropy. Through gifts made together and after Mr. Loeb's death in 2004, the couple has provided significant resources to enhance teaching and learning across Washington University.

Most recently, Mrs. Loeb made a \$2 million commitment to endow the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Professorship in Medical Education. Eva Aagaard, MD, senior associate dean for education and professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, was installed as the inaugural holder of the professorship in June. Known for her leadership in physician education, Dr. Aagaard came to Washington University in 2017 from the University of Colorado, where she was associate dean for educational strategy. She is spearheading



Eva Aagaard, MD, left, and Carol Loeb wearing the medallions they received when Dr. Aagaard was installed as the Loeb Professor in Medical Education

efforts to review and revise the School of Medicine's curriculum.

"The impact of this gift is profound and timely," says David H. Perlmutter, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine. "The world of health care and biomedicine is advancing rapidly, and Dr. Aagaard's tremendous efforts in curriculum renewal will ensure that the newest and most innovative ideas influence how we mold physicians of the future."

The Loeb family made their first gift to Washington University in 1965, a year after Mr. Loeb received his master's degree in math from the university. In 2001, they endowed the Carol B. and Jerome T.

Loeb Colloquium in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Their focus shifted to the medical school a year later, when they established the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Teaching Fellows Program. They endowed a professorship in the Department of Medicine in 2004. Mrs. Loeb established a second professorship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2009, and she has served on the School of Medicine National Council since 2010.

Mrs. Loeb says the couple's dedication to the School of Medicine reflects

their appreciation for the physicians who delivered exceptional care to their family over the years, including their daughter, Kelly, who required extensive treatment after she was born prematurely in 1968. "We wanted to ensure that medical students were trained to provide the same level of expertise and compassion that we received when Kelly was a patient."

Her passion for teaching and education make Mrs. Loeb an exceptional role model for medical school faculty members, Dr. Aagaard says. "I will endeavor to live up to the example she sets through my work as an educational leader and teacher."

— *By Libby Dowdall* ■

Improving Human Health

Pledge Brings Farrells' Support for Alzheimer's Disease Research to \$10 Million

Emeritus Trustee David Farrell's long association with Washington University and its School of Medicine has been built on personal relationships. Over the years, he developed friendships with a number of medical school faculty members, including the late I. Jerome Flance, AB '31, MD '35, who was his personal physician, the late David Kipnis, MD, former head of the Department of Medicine, and William Peck, MD, former dean and executive vice chancellor for medical affairs. His ties at the medical school were strengthened after he joined the school's national council in 2006.



Joe Angeles

David Farrell

A personal connection also inspired Mr. Farrell and his late wife, Betty, to provide generous support for Alzheimer's disease research at Washington University. Mrs. Farrell, who had the disease, was treated by John Morris, MD, the Harvey A. and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology at the School of Medicine. Before her death in November, the couple made a \$5 million pledge to advance the study of Alzheimer's and the identification of treatments to prevent or slow its progression.

"We are blessed in St. Louis to have outstanding doctors and scientists like Dr. Morris who are dedicated to coming up with answers

for this dreadful and devastating disease," says Mr. Farrell, former chief executive officer of the May Department Stores Co. "The amount of research being conducted on Alzheimer's disease at Washington University is impressive. The university has one of the leading Alzheimer's research centers in the country."

This latest pledge brings the Farrells' total contributions for Alzheimer's disease research at the university to \$10 million. The gift will provide expendable funds to further the work of faculty members who are investigating the tau protein, which has emerged as a major culprit in Alzheimer's.

"The buildup of tau is a key factor leading to damage in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease," says David Holtzman, MD, the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and chair of the Department of Neurology. Studies conducted by Dr. Holtzman and colleagues at the medical school have helped illuminate the protein's role in the disease.

"This generous and timely gift from the Farrell family will enable us to develop a better understanding of the tau protein and ways to reduce or eliminate its impact," Dr. Holtzman adds. "We plan to focus on targeting tau therapeutically."

The Farrells' legacy of service and philanthropy at Washington University extends far beyond the realm of Alzheimer's disease. In 2000, they established the David C. and Betty Farrell Distinguished Professorship in Medicine—currently held by Stuart

Kornfeld, MD—in partnership with the May Co. That same year, they named the conference facility in the Center for Advanced Medicine on the medical campus in con-

"The amount of research being conducted on Alzheimer's disease at Washington University is impressive. The university has one of the leading Alzheimer's research centers in the country."

– Emeritus Trustee David Farrell

junction with the establishment of the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center. Two years later, they made a leadership gift to build the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center at the medical school.

Mr. Farrell joined Washington University's Board of Trustees in 1979. He has served as an emeritus trustee since 2005. He and his wife were awarded the Robert S. Brookings Award in 2006 for their extraordinary dedication to the university. Additionally, Mr. Farrell received an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2007 and the William Greenleaf Eliot Society's *Search* Award in 2009.

Mr. Farrell hopes his support will help lead to a cure for Alzheimer's disease. "It brings me a great deal of satisfaction to assist with a vitally important endeavor," he says. "I feel very fortunate to be able to aid in this research." – *By Mary Ellen Benson* ■

Metcalfes Advance Innovative Study on the Effects of Early-Life Adversity

Poverty's most insidious damage occurs in a child's brain, according to Washington University psychiatrist Joan Luby, MD, a leading expert on emotional development and mood disorders in young children. Dr. Luby and collaborators have tied early-life adversity to alterations in brain anatomy and an increased risk of depression and other conditions that significantly affect well-being. They also have shown that early therapeutic intervention involving parents can ameliorate the impact of these conditions.

Dr. Luby's pioneering body of research attracted the attention of Emeritus Trustee Walter Metcalfe Jr., AB '60, and his wife, Cynthia. Compelled by its potential to improve the lives of vulnerable children, the Metcalfes have made a generous commitment of nearly \$4 million through outright and estate gifts to support Dr. Luby's work, including an innovative study she is leading that will systematically examine the impact of environmental stress on biological factors that affect child health and development.

The study, funded by an \$11.6 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), will follow 370 children in the St. Louis area from before birth to age 3. Dr. Luby, the Samuel and Mae S. Ludwig Professor of Child Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, is assessing emotional and behavioral development. Her co-investigators are evaluating brain development using magnetic resonance imaging; the gut microbiome, which influences nutrition; and the immune system, which affects susceptibility to infection.

The multidisciplinary study draws on a combination of research strengths unique to Washington University. "I can't think of

another institution where we could have put together this wide range of cutting-edge expertise," Dr. Luby says.

With the Metcalfes' support, Dr. Luby was able to expand the study to include a project focused on epigenetics, an emerging area of research that may prove critical to understanding how adversity affects brain development and health. Often described as the interface of nature and nurture, epigenetics investigates the influence of environment on gene expression.

Dr. Luby is grateful for the opportunity to enhance the NIMH study. "The Metcalfes provided funding that could be used immediately to build on a study that had just launched," she says. "The timing was perfect. This has accelerated the possibility of discovery. It is something every researcher dreams of."

The Metcalfes' gift extends the couple's longstanding support of the university and their civic engagement in the St. Louis region. "It's an investment in Washington University, in St. Louis, and at the same time in the future of mental health," Mrs. Metcalfe explains.

Mr. Metcalfe followed in his parents' footsteps when he attended Washington University, earning his bachelor's degree in history. Numerous family members also are alumni, including Mrs. Metcalfe's father. A member of the School of Medicine National Council since 2007, Mr. Metcalfe is chair emeritus of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, an international law firm that doubled in size under his leadership. The couple are sustaining charter members of the Danforth Circle Chancellor's Level of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society.



Joe Angeles

Cynthia and Walter Metcalfe's gift to support the work of pediatric psychiatrist Joan Luby, MD, and her collaborators was inspired by the promise of early intervention in addressing the impact of toxic stress on the long-term behavioral and mental health of children.

The NIMH study could lead to more targeted early interventions for young children at risk of developing or already facing depression, such as a pilot project involving parent-child interaction therapy that Dr. Luby is implementing in a local school district. "The power of the research is that it could have a real impact by informing public policy and funding for programs that make a difference early on in a child's life," Mr. Metcalfe says. "I don't know of anything that's more important than helping children grow up to lead productive, healthy lives." – *By Tricia Hendricks* ■

Serving Society

Cordells Establish Institute to Address 21st-Century Health-Care Challenges

The rise of precision medicine, which provides tailored treatments based on patients' genetic characteristics and environmental and lifestyle factors, has ushered in a health-care revolution with tremendous potential to improve lives. It also has introduced unprecedented challenges regarding privacy, information security, and intellectual property. If a physician develops a genetic profile to help treat a patient, for example, who should have access to that information? And who owns it—the patient or the physician?

Recognizing the urgent need for policies to address these and other difficult questions, alumni Joseph, LLM '08, and Yvonne Cordell, JD '88, have made a \$5 million commitment to establish the Joseph and Yvonne Cordell Institute for Policy in Medicine & Law. Launched on September 12, the institute facilitates collaboration between Washington University's School of Medicine and School of Law with the aim of guiding the ethically responsible development of data-driven health care. It is led by Neil Richards, the Koch Distinguished Professor in Law, and John Heusel, MD/PhD '95, professor of pathology and genetics.

"There are so many issues arising from precision medicine, genomics, and DNA mining, and no one knows what all the legal repercussions will be," Mrs. Cordell says. "It's important for the disciplines of medicine and law to come together so they can inform and learn from each other. We hope the institute will become a national and international leader in this area."

The Cordell Institute is the brainchild of Nancy Staudt, dean of the School of Law and the Howard and Caroline Cayne Distinguished Professor of Law, and Timothy Eberlein, MD, the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor and director of the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer



Yvonne and Joseph Cordell, center, with their daughters, Elizabeth, left, and Caroline, right, during the dedication ceremony for the Joseph and Yvonne Cordell Institute for Policy in Medicine & Law on September 12

Center. Dr. Eberlein also is the William K. Bixby Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at the School of Medicine.

"Dr. Eberlein and I were confident the time was right for an initiative to address the legal implications of advances in genomic medicine and other breakthroughs," Dean Staudt says. "Given its unique strengths, we also were confident Washington University was the right place for this initiative and that we had the right leadership. What we needed were visionary catalysts to transform ambitious ideas into reality. We found them in Joe and Yvonne Cordell."

The Cordells are accomplished entrepreneurs in the legal field. In 1990, they founded Cordell & Cordell in St. Louis. What began as a two-person general law practice has become the largest domestic litigation firm in the country, with more than 300 attorneys and 80 offices in the United States as well as

one in Great Britain. Mr. Cordell also is the founder of Cordell Planning Partners, which focuses on elder law and serves clients across Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas.

The creation of the Cordell Institute reflects the couple's longstanding dedication to the School of Law. Their contributions include providing support for annual and endowed scholarships and serving as volunteer leaders. Mrs. Cordell was a member of the law school's Scholarship Initiative Committee, and Mr. Cordell has served on the Washington University Law National Council since 2013. Valued advisers to Dean Staudt, they received Distinguished Alumni Awards from the school in 2017.

When the Cordells first heard about plans for the institute, they immediately understood its potential and were eager to provide seed funding. "We felt it was the best investment we could make," Mr. Cordell says. "All of us who are blessed with the opportunity to give want to have a lasting positive impact, and I believe the issues the Cordell Institute addresses will shape the 21st century in dramatic ways."

In addition to their \$5 million commitment, which will establish an endowment for the Cordell Institute, the couple is providing significant annual funding to support the initiative's initial efforts, which have included two academic symposia held in conjunction with the institute's dedication. "We are thrilled that this enterprise has launched," Mr. Cordell says. "We hope others will step forward with support to ensure its success." — *By James Williams* ■

Grateful Arts & Sciences Alumnus Endows Professorship in Industrial Organization

When James Langenfeld, MA '75, PhD '83, came to Washington University as a graduate student, he intended to focus his studies on urban and regional economics. But as he soon discovered, life doesn't always follow a planned path.

"It was clear based on supply and demand that professional opportunities in those areas would be limited down the road," Mr. Langenfeld says. "Thankfully, one of my professors at the time, Rick Warren-Boulton, is a leading expert in industrial organization and regulation. I never would have pursued a PhD in the field without his inspiration. I am grateful to the university for pointing me in the direction that would be most beneficial and successful."

To show his appreciation, Mr. Langenfeld has contributed \$2 million to establish an endowed professorship in Arts & Sciences. The James Langenfeld Professorship in Industrial Organization will be held by a Department of Economics faculty member who works in affiliation with the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy.

"This meaningful gift from an exceptional alumnus will have an important impact across Arts & Sciences," says Barbara Schaal, the Mary-Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor and dean of the faculty of Arts & Sciences. "It will enable us to strengthen our economics faculty by recruiting an out-

standing scholar in the area of industrial organization and also to advance the Weidenbaum Center's mission to address critical policy issues at the intersection of government and business."

Mr. Langenfeld is a longtime supporter of the Weidenbaum Center. Though he never took a class taught by center founder Murray Weidenbaum, he served as the celebrated economics professor's research assistant. "He taught me a huge amount," Mr. Langenfeld says. "The Weidenbaum Center funded my dissertation on automobile regulation. The center was the first to look at government-mandated price increases and the hidden costs of regulation. Murray was a champion for this project and shined a light on it like no one else had."

Mr. Langenfeld says his Washington University education provided a strong foundation for a career that has spanned multiple arenas. He has held leadership positions with consulting firms, completed several stints with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), including five years as director of antitrust for the agency's Bureau of Economics, and worked as a senior economist for General Motors. A longtime resident of Chicago, he moved to Washington, D.C., four years ago to serve as senior managing director at Ankura, a leading business advisory firm.

Currently an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Langenfeld previously

taught at three other universities, including Washington University. He has published more than 130 scholarly articles.

Among the highlights of his career, he says, is outreach he conducted while working for the FTC in the 1990s. "I spent a lot of time helping central and eastern European countries move toward market-based economies. It was very rewarding."

Mr. Langenfeld has received multiple awards for his work, including the Senior Executive Service Meritorious Service Award from the president of the United States and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and the FTC's Distinguished Service Award. Washington University presented him with a Distinguished Alumni Award during Founders Day in November.

"My education opened so many doors," Mr. Langenfeld says. "Washington University helped me discover my talents and interests. It gave me the opportunity to grow and mature personally, academically, and professionally. I had the time of my life there." — *By Joyce Romine* ■



James Langenfeld

Community Honors Distinguished Neurosurgeon and Faculty Leader

Members of the St. Louis and Washington University communities gathered in May to pay tribute to Ralph Dacey Jr., MD, and celebrate the establishment of a distinguished professorship in his name. Dacey, the Henry G. and Edith R. Schwartz Professor, has led the Department of Neurosurgery at the School of Medicine for 30 years.

Retired real estate developer Edward “Tee” Baur initiated efforts to create the professorship in honor of Dr. Dacey, who is internationally renowned for his expertise as a neurosurgeon, educator, and researcher. More than 40 donors contributed funds for the professorship. Leadership gifts were provided by Stephen and Kimmy Brauer, Joanne Knight, Virginia Orthwein, and Andrew and Barbara Taylor.

“Ralph is a person of uncommon integrity, dedication, and ability,” Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said at the event. “This professorship is a testament to his achievements.”



Left: Edward “Tee” Baur speaks at a reception celebrating the establishment of the Ralph Dacey Distinguished Professorship in Neurological Surgery. Above: Ralph Dacey Jr., MD, third from left, with members of his family, including, from left, son Ralph Dacey III; wife Corrine; granddaughter Dacey Cunningham; daughter Elizabeth Dacey Cunningham; and son-in-law John Cunningham (Photos by Mark Beaven)

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mechanisms to kick in. This gift will enable us to pull in collaborators now so we can drive the development of therapeutics.”

The researchers plan to focus their initial efforts on chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, a condition caused by nerve damage related to cancer treatment that is characterized by burning, numbness, and pain in the extremities. Their discovery also could lead to new drugs for other neurodegenerative conditions.

In addition to funding, the researchers have received valuable mentorship from Dr. Needleman, who has been meeting with them at a St. Louis Bread Co. café near his home. “We tell him about our project, and he offers advice and makes suggestions about the venture capital world and the pharmaceutical industry,” Dr. DiAntonio says. “His experience, contacts, and willingness to counsel us are helping to expedite the drug-development process.”

Motivated to Give Back

The Needleman’s exceptional dedication to Washington University stems in part from a desire to give back to an institution that shaped their careers and lives. After earning a master’s degree in social work at the Brown School, Mrs. Needleman worked as a medical social worker at Jewish Hospital before its merger with Barnes Hospital. She began in the obstetrics department and later joined the staff of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) program. Led by Washington University faculty members, the program was the first to successfully perform IVF in Missouri, and Mrs. Needleman and her colleagues were among the vanguard in their work with IVF patients. She later opened a private practice.

“Working at Jewish Hospital was a very rewarding experience for me,” she says. “Because the early years of the IVF program involved so many disappointments, I helped many patients and staff members cope with the process.”

Mrs. Needleman has remained involved at Washington University through her service at the Brown School. She was a member of the school’s alumni board and completed



Mark Miller

“Sima and Phil are dedicated partners who care deeply about our mission. This gift will enable us to combine existing expertise in new ways across departments in order to fast-track the often long and cumbersome process of creating new drugs and other therapies.”

– David Perlmutter, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine

a term as its president. She also has been a member of the Brown School National Council since 1998, serving in an emerita capacity since 2013. She received the Dean’s Medal from the school in 2006. She and her husband were awarded the William Greenleaf Eliot Society’s *Search Award* in 2011 in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the university.

Dr. Needleman’s relationship with Washington University began in 1964, when he came to the School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow. He continued his academic career as a faculty member in the pharmacology department, serving as department chair from 1976 to 1989. Widely recognized for his research on hypertension, he and his colleagues discovered the first angiotensin antagonist and atrial natriuretic factor, the hormone that allows the heart to communicate with the kidneys to modulate salt and water metabolism and blood pressure.

Separately, while studying the role of hormonelike substances called prostaglandins in arthritis, his lab discovered COX-2, a variation of the cyclooxygenase enzyme responsible for inflammation and pain in arthritis patients. After accepting a position with St. Louis-based Monsanto in 1989, Dr. Needleman led the development of the arthritis medication Celebrex, which inhibits COX-2. Approved by the FDA in 1998, the blockbuster anti-inflammatory drug has been used by millions of Americans.

Dr. Needleman, an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, was named president of Searle Research and Development, a subsidiary of Monsanto, in 1993. In 2000, he became senior executive vice presi-

dent of Pharmacia following the merger of Monsanto and Pharmacia & Upjohn. In 2004, he briefly returned to the School of Medicine as an associate dean to help launch the BioMed 21 initiative. He joined Washington University’s Board of Trustees in 2002 and has served as an emeritus trustee since 2010. He has been a member of the medical school’s national council since 2002.

Supporting Exceptional Scientists

In addition to their service, the Needleman’s have provided significant financial support for the School of Medicine and the Brown School. Through gifts to the medical school, they established the Dr. Philip Needleman Pharmacology Prize in 1989, the Philip and Sima K. Needleman Professorship in 2004, and the Philip and Sima Needleman Fellowships in Regenerative Medicine in 2013. At the Brown School, they have endowed three scholarships.

Much of their previous giving was motivated by a desire to help talented students achieve their full potential. Though their current gift focuses on research, at its root is a desire to invest in exceptional scientists. “I go back to my time in the laboratory and what would have had an impact on me,” Dr. Needleman says. “A gift like ours means that you don’t have to apply for grant funds every year. You can really stick to a problem and take risks.

“I have great confidence in the researchers we are supporting,” he adds. “Because I have lived in both academia and industry, I can see the special people who have that twinkle in their eye, who see over the horizon and know how to execute. I expect rapid progress from these two groups.” – *By Libby Dowdall*



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Closing Remarks

At my installation as chancellor more than 28 years ago, my predecessor, Dr. William Danforth, leaned over to me as enthusiastic applause arose after my speech outlining my goals for the future. Bill whispered in my ear, “Mark, they will never like you more except for the day you announce you are leaving.” Though I did realize a surge in popularity when I announced I would be concluding my term as chancellor, the support I have received from the Washington University community throughout my time here has never wavered.

I have been privileged to work with incredibly dedicated trustees, brilliant and ambitious academic and administrative leaders, talented and effective staff members, and gifted and driven students. We have been bolstered by our loyal alumni and many engaged and generous friends. My entire tenure has been a team effort, and I am very grateful to all who have played a role in this important work.

Together, we have achieved something extraordinary. Every school in the university is stronger, and we have launched major interdisciplinary initiatives that have enhanced our impact on society. This progress was achieved while preserving a community that is respectful and never complacent—one that always endeavors to do better and be better.

These enduring qualities ensure that Washington University will continue to strive to achieve its full promise and potential. Though I will no longer be steering the course as chancellor after May 30, I am delighted that I will continue to serve the university under the leadership of our chancellor-elect, Andrew D. Martin. I look forward to offering him the same support and encouragement that I have received over these many years.

— Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor, Washington University



Mark Katzman

Mark Wrighton

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