McKelveys Make a Transformative Investment in Engineering

When Jim McKelvey Jr., AB ’87, BS ’87, enrolled at Washington University, he planned to study economics. Soon, his education took a more multidisciplinary path.

“I discovered my passion for engineering sophomore year and spent most of my senior year in the art school,” says Mr. McKelvey, who went on to earn a degree in economics from Arts & Sciences and a degree in computer science from the engineering school. “Although all three schools had a lasting impact on my life, I consider myself an engineer first and foremost.”

After graduating, Mr. McKelvey parlayed his broad-based education into a successful career as a serial entrepreneur. McKelvey celebrated for his ability to solve complex problems and lead teams that transform organizations and industries. A member of the university’s Board of Trustees, he is known for co-founding Square, a revolutionary mobile payment company that has empowered millions of people around the globe.

Now, he and his wife, Anna, have made a significant gift to transform engineering at Washington University for the benefit of students and the world. In recognition of their unprecedented commitment—the largest in the history of the School of Engineering & Applied Science—the school was renamed the James McKelvey School of Engineering during a ceremony on January 31.

“This tremendous gift will help us to advance the McKelvey School of Engineering into the next tier of top engineering programs in this country and the world,” says Aaron Bobick, the James M. McKelvey Professor and dean of the school.

“It will create new opportunities for our students and faculty, make a premier engineering education more accessible, and enable the school to be a catalyst for economic development in the St. Louis region and beyond.”

An Enduring Investment

The McKelveys’ gift establishes an endowment that will generate continued support for engineering education and research at Washington University for generations to come. Annual income from the endowment will fund scholarships and professorships and provide unrestricted resources that will allow Dean Bobick and future engineering deans to launch critical initiatives and respond to urgent needs.

“This investment comes at the perfect time, as we begin executing our strategic plan to strengthen every aspect of the school,” Bobick says. “We all associate Jim with passion, innovation, and impact, and now more than ever, as we look to the future, those will be the hallmarks of the school.”

The commitment also establishes a $30 million challenge to inspire additional support from alumni, parents, friends, and faculty and staff members. The McKelvey Engineering Challenge will match all contributions to the engineering school, in some cases providing $3 for every dollar donated. (See Page 8.)

In addition, the challenge offers matching funds for gifts to establish professorships for faculty members whose work connects computing with disciplines outside of the school. Known as Computing + X, this initiative recognizes the increasingly critical role of computer science in research and scholarship throughout the university.

“Computing touches almost every field in some way,” Mr. McKelvey says. “The Computing + X component of the challenge emphasizes cross-disciplinary opportunities that can benefit the university as a whole and spark exciting new ideas and pursuits.”

A Remarkable Legacy

The McKelvey family has been actively engaged in the Washington University community for more than 70 years. Mr. McKelvey’s father, James McKelvey Sr., earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the engineering school and went on to serve as its dean for 27 years. During his tenure, Dean McKelvey helped elevate the school, elevating it from a regional program to a nationally recognized institution. He greatly expanded the school’s enrollment, faculty, and endowment and launched new academic and research programs.

In 2016, Jim Jr. recognized his father’s many accomplishments by making a $3 million commitment to name a new engineering building at the university in his honor. Slated to open in 2021, James M. McKelvey Sr. Hall will be a hub for the university’s growing programs in computing and data science. His past giving also includes support for engineering scholarships and unrestricted purposes.

Like his father, Mr. McKelvey is a visionary leader. In addition to Square, he started LaunchCode, a nonprofit organization that helps recruit and train workers for technology careers; Third Degree Glass Factory, one of the most successful glass-blowing schools in the world; and several other ventures. He currently serves as an independent director of the St. Louis Federal Reserve and CEO of Invisibly, a micropayments company that aims to introduce an improved model for digital content and engagement.

“We are extremely grateful to Jim and Anna for their exceptional generosity and to the entire McKelvey family for their unwavering dedication,” Chancellor Andrew D. Martin says. “This is a great time for our engineering school. We are embarking on an exciting new era of innovation that will harness the tremendous potential of our talented students and faculty to address society’s greatest challenges. The possibilities are limitless.”

In addition to strengthening the engineering school, Mr. McKelvey’s gift will expand opportunities for students pursuing other disciplines to follow his path into the field. “Engineering education is becoming more and more important in the world, and we need to put the engineering skill set in the hands and heads of more people,” he says, “I am so proud to open the doors of the engineering school wider for students at Washington University and for those who aspire to learn and grow there.”

—By Tricia Hendricks
The renaming of the engineering school at Washington University was announced with great fanfare on January 31. Students, faculty and staff members, and friends gathered in the atrium of Uncas A. Whitaker Hall for a special ceremony. When it was revealed that the school would be called the James McKelvey School of Engineering, banners and balloons bearing the new name were released above the crowd.

The event, which paid tribute to the generosity of Jim McKelvey Jr. and his wife, Anna, was a fitting public celebration for an extraordinary commitment that touches every member of the university’s engineering community. The gift will expand opportunities for students, bolster faculty efforts to teach and perform groundbreaking research, accelerate the school’s growth and development, and strengthen its influence in our world.

“This is the most exciting thing that has happened to the engineering school in my 25 years here. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime gift that changes the nature of the school. It shows that alumni recognize the important role the school and the university play in our society. It will raise our profile, enhance our visibility, and enable us to have a significantly greater impact in everything we do.”

Phil Bayly
Lilyan and E. Lisle Hughes Professor
Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering

“When I was a student at the university, it was known as a streetcar school. My grandson from Jacksonville, Florida, who is now a senior in the engineering school, chose to come here because of the school’s national reputation. That speaks to the growth that has occurred because of Dean McKelvey and that will continue because of his son’s gift. My wife and I are fortunate to be able to contribute to the work that goes on at the school. We are privileged to be part of the Washington University engineering community.”

Dennis Kessler, BS ’60, MS ’64
President and founder, Midwest Family Business Advisors
McKelvey Engineering National Council member
Life Patron of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society with his wife, Barbara, AB ’63

In addition to his success as a serial entrepreneur, Jim McKelvey Jr. is a talented glass blower and author. A timeline of his accomplishments can be found below, with a focus on his relationship with Washington University.
The McKelvey Engineering Challenge will enable donors to have maximum impact on areas that mean the most to them—and on the engineering school’s highest priorities. Donors who participate will help the school earn the $30 million challenge amount pledged by Washington University Trustee Jim McKelvey Jr. and his wife, Anna, as part of their gift to transform engineering at the university.

The initiative will match gifts, pledges, estate gifts, and bequest commitments for the engineering school made through June 30, 2022—or until challenge funds are exhausted. Gifts can be designated for all areas in the school, including scholarships, professorships, research, programs, the McKelvey Engineering Annual Fund, and new facilities.

Match Eligibility Criteria
- Matching ratios vary by gift designation, ranging from $1 for every $1 provided or pledged to $3 for every $1 provided or pledged.
- Professorship gifts also will be eligible for additional elevation funding, offering the challenge’s greatest return on investment.
- Multiyear pledges payable over five years are encouraged.
- Matching funds received from corporations or other entities will count toward the donor’s contribution.

For more information, call 314-935-9379 or visit mckelveychallenge.wustl.edu.

Matching Engineering Details

“The endowed professorships created through this gift will help us attract and retain faculty members who are pushing the frontiers of knowledge and making critical contributions to our world. As a department chair, particularly in biomedical engineering, it would be impossible for me to recruit a high-achieving researcher without one of these positions. They provide invaluable recognition and support for faculty members who advance the reputation of the institution.”

Lori Setton
Lucy and Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

“Growing up in south Texas, a university education was only a remote possibility for me. My parents are first- and second-generation immigrants, and no one in my family had attended college. The scholarship I received made it possible for me to receive my education at a prestigious institution like Washington University—my dream school. Mr. McKelvey’s gift will give students like me the opportunity to broaden our horizons and follow our dreams.”

Elijah Peña
Computer science student and scholarship recipient
McKelvey School of Engineering
Class of 2021

2006
Publishes The Art of Fire: Beginning Glassblowing, a leading textbook for novice glassblowers

2009
Founds Square Inc. with former Mira intern Jack Dorsey, co-founder and CEO of Twitter

2012
- Co-founds Cultivation Capital, a St. Louis-based venture capital firm that invests in technology and life sciences companies
- Receives a Distinguished Alumni Award from the university’s engineering school

2013
- Co-founds LaunchCode, a nonprofit that provides education and job placement services for workers hoping to enter the tech industry
- Co-founds SixThirty, a business accelerator that invests in financial technology startups

2017
- Starts Invisibly, a company working to redesign online advertising and monetize digital content
- Becomes an independent director of the St. Louis Federal Reserve
- Joins the university’s Board of Trustees
- Receives the Robert S. Brookings Award from the university
Why I Give: Donors Share Their Reasons for Establishing Endowed Professorships

Great professors are the backbone of great universities. Exceptional teachers, scholars, and researchers extend the frontiers of knowledge and inspire students to become leaders capable of great achievement and service to society. Attracting and retaining outstanding faculty members is a priority for Washington University. Endowed professorships, a key strategy for achieving this goal, allow the university to recognize the contributions of dedicated faculty members and provide increased support for their work.

Beyond a commitment to strengthening the university, donors who endow professorships and other faculty positions are motivated by a variety of factors, including a desire to recognize outstanding teachers and mentors; give thanks for the institution’s role in their lives; and further its mission to teach, discover, and serve.

During Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University, 153 endowed positions were created, including the university’s first endowed deanships and coaching position. Spirit of Washington University editor Mary Lee spoke with an alumna, corporate partner, and former faculty member about their reasons for establishing positions.

Deborah Beckmann Kotzubei and Jacob Kotzubei Distinguished Professorship
Donors: Deborah Beckmann Kotzubei, AB ’91, and Jacob Kotzubei

When Deborah Beckmann Kotzubei arrived at Washington University in 1987, she was an Arts & Sciences student who wanted to pursue a career in automobile design. She changed her mind after taking a class in mechanical engineering. Shifting gears, she immersed herself in her liberal arts coursework, and a new passion for political science emerged—thanks in large part to several excellent teachers. She eventually chose to major in that field and economics.

Though she went on to complete a law degree at Columbia University, practice as a mergers and acquisitions attorney, and raise a family with her husband, Jacob, Ms. Beckmann Kotzubei never forgot her time at Washington University. Longtime supporters of Arts & Sciences, she and Jacob have provided gifts for undergraduate research and scholarships. In June 2018, they made a commitment to establish a professorship in Arts & Sciences. Ms. Beckmann Kotzubei also serves as a member of the Arts & Sciences National Council.

“Wealthy people need a moral and ethical compass,” Kotzubei said. “Washington University has given me and my husband a sense of meaning and purpose in the world.”

Deborah and Jacob Kotzubei made a commitment to Washington University to establish a professorship within Arts & Sciences.

Q&A with the Kotzubeis

What led you to establish a professorship in Arts & Sciences?

Deborah: For many years, I thought that if we ever had the opportunity and ability to endow a professorship, it would be one of the most powerful ways to help the university. My time at WashU was wonderful. The biggest reason my experience was so transformative was my professors. In particular, I had very deep conversations with many of my political science professors. They truly affected the way I think about life, both then and now.

As an undergraduate, I didn’t know this was so unusual. But after I began working as an attorney, many of my colleagues were surprised when I described the frequency and breadth of the interactions I had with my professors. No one I knew had that type of experience at other schools. I think it’s really important for the university to continue to offer an environment where outstanding faculty members can connect with students and have a profound impact on their lives.

Were there any particular professors who influenced you when you were an undergraduate?

Deborah: Bill Lowry, who is still a professor in the political science department, really awakened my desire to learn about government. He always believed in me and was a champion for me. I never took a class with the late U.S. Sen. Thomas Eagleton, but I became the first undergraduate research assistant to work for him after one of his graduate students recommended me. Professor Eagleton was an inspirational figure. And political science professor Lucius Barker taught an incredible constitutional law class. I decided to go to law school because of that course.

“I think it’s really important for the university to continue to offer an environment where outstanding faculty members can connect with students and have a profound impact on their lives.”

– Deborah Beckmann Kotzubei

How has your involvement with the Arts & Sciences National Council influenced your philanthropy?

Deborah: I enjoy coming back to campus for national council meetings. I feel like I’m a student again, and I want to learn everything. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear professors talk about their work. I love getting updates from the university. I often share articles with Jacob, and we discuss the importance of the research and scholarship that occurs there. We see our gifts as an investment in the future.

Mr. Kotzubei, what led you to join your wife in supporting Washington University?

Jacob: Debbie has always raved about her experience at the university, from the quality of the classes and professors to the lifetime friendships she formed with fellow students. And I have been so impressed with the research coming out of the university. I feel great about helping to ensure that tomorrow’s students can benefit from a community of excellent faculty members.
In April 2018, BJC HealthCare established a distinguished professorship at Washington University in honor of its former president and CEO, Steven Lipstein, and his wife, Susan, a retired physician assistant and Parents as Teachers educator. Mr. Lipstein led the nonprofit health-care system—Washington University School of Medicine’s clinical partner in the St. Louis region—for 18 years. During this time, BJC grew to 15 hospitals and more than 31,000 employees. He also served as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees.

Donor: BJC HealthCare

Steven H. and Susan U. Lipstein Distinguished Professorship in Public Health

Q&A with Laurence Meyer

In addition to the professorship, BJC has invested substantial resources in the university’s public health programs in recent years. The system endowed the directorship of the Institute for Public Health in honor of Larry Shapiro, former dean of the medical school, in 2016 and provided funds for annual and endowed scholarships for public health students at the Brown School in 2010.

Ross Brownson, an educational and practice leader in the field of evidence-based public health, was installed as the Lipstein Distinguished Professor on March 26. Brownson is an authority on the effects of the built environment and public policy on physical activity and obesity. A faculty member at the Brown School and School of Medicine since 2008, he also serves as director of the Brown School’s Prevention Research Center.

What was BJC's primary reason for establishing this professorship?

This distinguished professorship represents our desire to honor the legacy of Steve and Susan, who gave so much to BJC HealthCare, Washington University, and the St. Louis community. When the Lipsteins let us know that the time had come for them to move on to the next chapter of their lives, we wanted to do something lasting and meaningful to say thank you. Working with the university, we concluded that establishing a distinguished professorship in public health was the perfect way to recognize them.

Why did BJC choose to support a professorship in public health?

Those of us who have spent time around Steve and Susan know they are passionate about ensuring that all individuals have access to high-quality health care, education, and economic security. They reminded us that these are the foundations upon which stable families, neighborhoods, and regions are built. Unfortunately, that stability is out of reach for many. During Steve’s time at BJC, he helped us understand the social determinants that prevent our region from being a healthy community. These determinants include many of the challenges associated with poverty; job insecurity, lack of reliable transportation, food instability, and exposure to crime and violence.

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The traditional view of health-care delivery would have us believe that those are problems for others to solve. However, a true public health model seeks to identify innovative ways to address these social determinants. The sustainable gift of a professorship will allow the university to support an outstanding faculty member who can develop solutions for seemingly intractable issues that affect health.

What are your hopes for the position?

Ross Brownson is an internationally recognized expert in chronic disease prevention and applied epidemiology. We look forward to working more closely with him and other faculty members at the university to address the social factors that negatively influence the health of people in our region. We know that progress will require time, energy, and a willingness to stay in the game. We also know that we cannot afford to be complacent. We owe it to our community to approach this work with the same tenacity that we approach finding the next medical cures and educating the next generation of health-care providers.

Laurence H. Meyer Professorship

Distinguished economist Laurence Meyer served as a faculty member at Washington University for 27 years. During his tenure, he launched a consulting firm with two of his former students. The company, which used emerging computer technology to provide low-cost macroeconomic modeling services, quickly developed a reputation for its forecasting accuracy, and Dr. Meyer was recognized as a leading economic forecaster by Business Week.

Dr. Meyer left the university in 1996, after he was confirmed as a member of the Federal Reserve System’s Board of Governors. He served in that role until 2002. He currently is president of Monetary Policy Analytics, a Washington, D.C., advisory firm focused on global macroeconomics and monetary policy that he founded in 2016.

Along with his wife, Florence, Dr. Meyer made a commitment in March 2018 to establish a professorship in Arts & Sciences at the university through his estate. The couple also has provided gifts for scholarships and unrestricted purposes in Arts & Sciences.

Q&A with Laurence Meyer

How did you come to be a faculty member at Washington University?

When I was finishing up my doctorate coursework at MIT in the late ’80s, my mentor, Nobel laureate Franco Modigliani, told me he received a call from Washington University about a faculty position in the university’s Department of Economics. He thought I should go visit, I did, and I really liked the fact that it was an excellent school with a strong undergraduate program. It seemed like a good place for me to grow as an economist and scholar.

You stayed at the university for 27 years. What kept you here?

I absolutely love to teach. Nothing is more rewarding than having former students tell you how much they learned in your class. I take pride in their success. But as a professor, you must publish or perish, and I found that I didn’t really enjoy research. As I was concluding a three-year term as chair of the economics department in 1982, I sat back and thought about my life and my career. I decided I wanted to start a consulting firm. I told the dean about my plan and asked if I could stay on the faculty, John Biggs PhD ’33, who was vice chancellor for administration and operations at the time, was my champion. The university ultimately agreed.

I would not have been able to do this at other universities. That’s one of the reasons I have such an attachment to Washington University. It gave me opportunities to grow as an economist, get some visibility for my research, and begin working in the private sector. It opened the door for my public service with the Federal Reserve. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the university.

Interviews were edited for length and clarity.
During their 40 years of marriage, Rodger and Paula Riney have experienced many of life’s joys together. The founder of low-cost brokerage firm Scottrade and his wife have raised a family, built a successful business, and worked to serve the St. Louis community. They also have faced difficult challenges, including Mr. Riney’s cancer diagnosis and treatment and their parents’ battles with two neurodegenerative conditions: Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

These experiences have sparked in the Rineys a heartfelt desire to help others facing similar circumstances. “These diseases affect so many people and drain families emotionally, physically, and financially,” Mrs. Riney says. “We are committed to doing whatever we can to reduce the burden for the next generation.”

Toward that end, the couple has provided significant resources to Washington University School of Medicine and the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center to accelerate the efforts of physicians and researchers working to create better treatments for the disorders. Recent gifts totaling $35 million in expendable funding have been designated for research in three areas: $20 million for multiple myeloma, $10 million for Alzheimer’s disease, and $5 million for Parkinson’s disease.

“These gifts, which come with enormous passion and vision, are allowing us to pursue our best ideas with urgency and profound purpose,” says David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine. “Paula and Rodger’s generous support will help spur imaginative and innovative new avenues of research at the medical school.”

The Rineys’ latest contribution for multiple myeloma research, made in September 2018, augments a $5 million gift previously provided by the couple. The funding supports three studies that aim to harness the power of personalized medicine to advance new treatments for the blood cancer, which currently has no cure. The initial gift was made in 2016 after Mr. Riney was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and sought treatment from Washington University physicians at Siteman.

“The decision to be treated at Siteman was a critical one,” Mr. Riney says. “At a nationally ranked cancer center like Siteman, researchers are always developing new treatments that improve outcomes for patients. I’ve been very lucky.”

Like their gifts for multiple myeloma research, the Rineys’ support for neurodegenerative disease research was prompted by personal experience: Mrs. Riney’s mother lived with the effects of Parkinson’s disease for more than 20 years, and Mrs. Riney’s father and Mr. Riney’s mother each struggled with Alzheimer’s disease for many years.

The combined $15 million in funding the Rineys provided for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease research in February 2019 supports multiple projects that will fast-track investigators’ endeavors to generate and test new therapies for these conditions. These contributions follow their gift of $500,000, made in 2014, to develop techniques for visualizing the progression of Alzheimer’s disease in the brain.

Investing in the School of Medicine is a natural fit for the Rineys. In addition to bolstering world-renowned research programs, they wanted their gifts to benefit the city that has provided a hospitable home for their family and Scottrade, which was acquired by TD Ameritrade in 2017.

“St. Louis has been good to us. It’s given us a place to grow and prosper. We are so pleased that we can further cutting-edge research at an institution that is in our own backyard,” Rodger Riney says.

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The couple receives regular updates on the work supported through their gifts. And as a newly appointed member of the medical school’s national council, Mr. Riney is poised to learn even more about research taking place at the school. As their knowledge grows, so does their belief in the power of philanthropy to advance human health.

“We think it’s important for individuals who can afford it to help fund medical research,” Mr. Riney says. “If you find out that a family member has a serious disease, don’t just sit back and think it’s too big for you to do anything about it. Every gift helps get ideas for new treatments off the ground.”

Creating a Healthier Future: Rineys Donate $35 Million for Medical Research

What the Gifts Support

Multiple Myeloma Research

Key faculty members: John DiPersio, MD/PhD, the Virginia E. and Sam J. Golman Professor of Medicine in Oncology, and Ravi Vij, MD, professor of medicine

• Developing a promising immunotherapy technique called CAR T-cell therapy for multiple myeloma

• Characterizing multiple myeloma patient genomes and proteomes and mining the data to identify personalized treatment options

• Using tissue-engineered bone marrow created from individual patient cells to screen medications and identify the most effective treatments

Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Key faculty members: John Morris, MD, the Harvey A. and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology

• Establishing an Alzheimer’s disease clinical trial center to test new drugs and therapeutic approaches

• Expanding a biomarker collection that includes patient brain scans and blood and cerebrospinal fluid samples—a key resource for Alzheimer’s investigators throughout the university

Parkinson’s Disease Research

Key faculty members: Joel Perlmutter, MD, the Elliott H. Stein Family Professor of Neurology, and Brad Racette, MD, the Robert Allan Fink Professor of Neurology

• Examining how some patients with Parkinson’s disease develop dementia

• Developing a promising drug called carboxyfullerene (C3), which has been shown to reduce the effects of Parkinson’s disease in primates

• Assessing the role of brain inflammation in Parkinson’s and determining whether immunosuppressant drugs can counteract this inflammatory response

Through their gifts for medical research, Paula and Rodger Riney hope to improve the outlook for patients and families facing multiple myeloma, Alzheimer’s disease, and Parkinson’s disease.
Bernoudy Architecture Studio Will Provide Premier Environment for Architecture Education

It was a bold move. In 1932, William Bernoudy left his studies and part-time job at Washington University to apprentice with Frank Lloyd Wright. Living and working at Wright’s Taliesin estate in Wisconsin, the St. Louis native absorbed many lessons and began to discover his own architectural voice. After returning home, Bernoudy would design hundreds of structures, including the Saint Louis Zoo’s north entrance and Louis D. Beaumont Pavilion in Brookings Quadrangle.

This fall, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will dedicate the William A. Bernoudy Architecture Studio, thanks to a $1.5 million gift from the Gertrude & William A. Bernoudy Foundation. Located within the new Anabeth and John Weil Hall, the 6,580-square-foot studio will provide state-of-the-art facilities for the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design. “Over the last 10 years, graduate architecture enrollment has roughly doubled,” says Campus Leaders, the Ralph J. Nagel Dean of the Sam Fox School and E. Desmond Lee Professor for Collaboration in the Arts. “The Bernoudy Architecture Studio will meet this heightened demand with a versatile, light-filled space designed to support collaborative work and emerging 21st-century design practices. It’s an amazing addition to our campus and we are proud that it carries the Bernoudy name.”

Though influenced by Wright’s notion of organic architecture, Bernoudy based his practice on three distinct principles: the use of open interiors that maximize natural light; the use of gardens and landscaping to extend living spaces outdoors; and custom details and materials based on interviews with his clients. “A house is no longer a box divided into countless other boxes,” Bernoudy said in a 1936 speech. Instead, “the house is planned to become a harmonious part of its environment.”

The Bernoudy Architecture Studio will embody similar values of lightness and transparency, according to Heather Woofter, the Sam and Marilyn Fox Professor and director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design. “The flexible, open floor plan will accommodate intensive research, hands-on studio work, and conversations among students, faculty, and visiting critics. The stunning views of Brookings Hall recall Bernoudy’s own integration of the natural and built environments. It’s a space that invites the landscape inside.” In 2006, the Sam Fox School’s Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum dedicated its Gertrude Bernoudy Gallery in honor of Bernoudy’s wife. A familiar figure in the international art world of the mid-20th century, Gertrude was a Czech émigré known for her patronage of, and friendship with, artists such as Pablo Picasso and Henry Moore.

The couple met in the early 1950s, when the future Mrs. Bernoudy was looking for an architect to design her home. On a flight from California to St. Louis, she spotted one of William’s projects in Town and Country magazine and, as reported in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “declared that Bernoudy was to be ‘her’ architect.”

The couple married in 1953 and remained together until William’s death in 1988 at age 77. Gertrude died in 1994 at age 79. “Bill and Gertrude were true cultural leaders,” says John Schaperkotter, trustee of the Bernoudy Foundation. “Their deep love and sustained passion for world-class art and design helped shape the visual culture and built landscape of St. Louis as we know it.” “The William A. Bernoudy Architecture Studio, like the Gertrude Bernoudy Gallery, will inspire students for generations to come.” – By Liam Otten

Lasting Tribute: Named Spaces Recognize the Wrightons’ Exceptional Contributions

After nearly 24 years at the helm of Washington University, Mark S. Wrighton officially ended his tenure as chancellor on May 31. But thanks to the leadership of the Board of Trustees and the generosity of many alumni and friends, the names of the 14th chancellor and his wife, Risa Zwerling Wrighton, will live on at the university.

In addition, a portion of Hoyt Drive has been renamed Wrighton Way. This new entrance to the east end of the Danforth Campus connects Forsyth Boulevard to the Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center. Plans to name these campus spaces for the Wrightons were initiated last year by a group of trustees seeking to honor the couple’s exceptional contributions to the university. The group established the Wrighton Tribute Fund to allow members of the university community to express their gratitude to the former first couple. Nearly 600 gifts and commitments totaling more than $4.5 million have been received.

During the dedication of Wrighton Hall, Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus Craig Schnuck thanked the donors who helped the university honor the Wrightons. “Buildings across the university bear the names of great leaders who have left an indelible mark on this institution,” Mr. Schnuck said. “It is very fitting that Mark and Risa’s names join this esteemed group.” – By Mary Lee

1. From left, former provost Holden Thorp, Chancellor Andrew Martin, Risa Zwerling Wrighton, Mark Wrighton, Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus Craig Schnuck, and Arts & Sciences Dean Barbara Schaal participated in the ribbon cutting for Mark S. Wrighton Hall. 2. A banner in Risa Commons. 3. A new monument for Wrighton Way on the east end of the Danforth Campus. 4. Chancellors Emeriti William Danforth and Wrighton (Photos by Joe Angeles)
They say summer is a time to rest and relax—unless you’ve been at Washington University during this particularly eventful season! As Chancellor Wrighton wrapped up his tenure, I was busy taking the reins. I officially began my role as WashU’s 15th chancellor on June 1 after a five-month term as chancellor-elect. During that time, I listened to and learned from members of our community, met with leaders across campus and the region, and visited alumni and friends across the country. I re-established old friendships, forged new relationships and partnerships, and learned a ton about the university.

What an incredible time it has been! I’ve been blown away by our entire community: by students who are preparing to become local and global leaders; by faculty who conduct critical, life-changing research; by staff who bolster our students’ success and ensure we run on all cylinders; and by alumni and friends who emulate our WashU mission as they actively pursue their lives and careers. Because of your spirit and generosity, Washington University stands on a solid foundation.

As chancellor, a former WashU faculty member, and an alumnus, I am both honored and thrilled to help build on that foundation. I am also humbled by the opportunity to lead the university at a time when we must focus our resources to prepare for the future. As chancellor, I am committed to supporting research, teaching, and service—both through our undergraduate and graduate programs and through our schools and departments. As chancellor, I am committed to supporting the needs of our students and to ensuring that WashU remains a place where students can thrive.

As always, I am extremely grateful for the role you play in creating energy and momentum at WashU. I look forward to partnering with you in the months and years to come as we pave our collective path forward.

— Andrew D. Martin
Chancellor, Washington University