Kuehner Provides $15 Million for Personalized Cardiovascular Research

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 600,000 Americans die of heart disease every year, making this group of disorders the leading cause of death in the United States. Heart disease also is the leading cause of death worldwide. In order to strengthen Washington University’s ability to advance lifesaving discoveries that transform heart disorders into manageable conditions, alumnus Kim Kuehner, MBA ’77, has committed $15 million through outright and planned gifts to establish and endow the Kim D. Kuehner Program for Personalized Cardiovascular Medicine in the School of Medicine. The program will provide a permanent source of funding for innovative research aimed at improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease.

“This new program will allow us to leverage our leadership in personalized medicine to develop tailored approaches to cardiovascular disease that focus on patients’ individual genetic makeup or the biology of their condition,” says David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “Mr. Kuehner’s exceptional generosity and deep interest in addressing a significant health challenge will benefit patients around the globe.”

Accelerating Discovery

Mr. Kuehner’s gift extends his support for Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University. In 2017, he provided $2 million to name the Kuehner Family Court in Anabeth and John Well Hall, currently under construction at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. His decision to establish the Kuehner Program for Personalized Cardiovascular Medicine was motivated by a desire to broaden the impact of his philanthropy.

“I am involved with several organizations that promote the arts and education in St. Louis,” Mr. Kuehner says. “When I began to explore opportunities to support cutting-edge medical research, I knew I wanted to work with Washington University. I have the utmost confidence in the medical school. I’m thrilled to be able to contribute to breakthroughs that will help so many patients and families.”

The Kuehner Program will fund competitive research grants within the School of Medicine. Each year, the school will issue a call for proposals from faculty members. A panel of leading scientists and physicians at the medical school will award grants to the most promising projects in the emerging field of precision cardiovascular medicine. Emphasis will be placed on early-stage research that, if successful, has the potential to attract additional funding from government agencies, foundations, or corporations.

According to Dr. Perlmutter, the program represents the next phase of the School of Medicine’s personalized medicine initiative. “We laid the groundwork by developing a network of collaborative research centers, many of them funded by dedicated benefactors like Mr. Kuehner, that provide specialized expertise in genomics, immunotherapy, gene editing, and other critical areas to researchers throughout the medical school,” he says. “The Kuehner Program marks the beginning of our efforts to couple these resources with disease-specific personalized medicine programs to advance groundbreaking therapies for specific patient populations.”

Continuing a Family Tradition

Mr. Kuehner’s enthusiasm for investing in Washington University was inspired by his parents. Howard and Hortense “Horty” Kuehner met while both were students at Washington University. They went on to establish the Harry C. Hartkopf Professorship in Econometrics and Statistics at Olin Business School in 1994 in honor of Horty’s father, a former president of Cass Bank & Trust Co. who played a lead role in building the bank’s invoice-processing business, which was incorporated as Cass Information Systems in 1984. Among their other gifts, Howard and Horty endowed a scholarship in the Sam Fox School in memory of their daughter, Kerry Kuehner, EMBA ’87, a talented artist and graphic designer, and two scholarships in the Olin School, one in honor of Kim and one in memory of Kerry.

Kim Kuehner, who retired in 2016 after a nearly 40-year career as a men’s clothing retailer, has childhood memories of his father spending many evenings on the telephone encouraging friends and colleagues to join Washington University’s Annual Fund giving club, the William Greenleaf Elliot Society. “He was so proud to play a role in the university’s ascent from streetcar college to world-class university,” Mr. Kuehner says. “My parents’ commitment to the university really impressed me.”

Carrying on his family’s tradition, Mr. Kuehner’s latest gift will help transform the School of Medicine into a powerhouse for personalized medicine. “While this contribution reflects my interest in medical research, it also continues my parents’ long history of supporting Washington University. It means a great deal to me to know that everyone in my family would have been happy about my decision to establish the Kuehner Program.”

– By Mary Lee

Building Support for Personalized Medicine

Kim Kuehner’s commitment to establish the Kim D. Kuehner Program for Personalized Cardiovascular Medicine is the latest in a series of significant gifts and commitments made through Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University to further the School of Medicine’s personalized medicine initiative. Previous gifts and commitments from generous alumni and friends created the following:

- Elizabeth H. and James S. McDonnell III Genome Institute
- Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs
- Edison Family Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology
- Debra and George W. Couch III Biomedical Research Building
- Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Distinguished Professorship
- Sanford C. and Karen P. Loewenstein Distinguished Professorship in Medicine
- James and Juanita Wittmer Professorship in Medicine

Kim Kuehner’s latest gift will foster pioneering research and serve as a catalyst for discovery in personalized cardiovascular medicine.
World-Class Facilities

Facilities Gifts Help Create an Exceptional Environment for Learning and Discovery

When Washington University’s board of directors made the decision in 1894 to move the university from aging and crowded quarters in downtown St. Louis to a hilltop site on the unnamed western edge of Forest Park, a significant challenge arose: How would the university raise the money needed to fulfill its vision for a monumental campus that would inspire learning and discovery?

As it had done many times since the university’s founding in 1853, the board turned to loyal and dedicated alumni and friends for support. By mid-1899, the board, led by Robert S. Brookings, had secured gifts to sponsor the first six structures on the new campus. Brookings himself committed $200,000 for an administration building that was later named in his honor. Other donors included Adolphus Busch, Samuel Cupples, Elizabeth Liggett, and Stephen Ridgley, whose names also are memorialized on the Danforth Campus.

Over the years, generous donors have made it possible for Washington University to provide facilities that attract top faculty members and students and allow them to work at the highest level of achievement. Their gifts, like the ones featured on these pages, have strengthened the university’s ability to offer an exceptional teaching, research, and living environment that ensures bright minds reach their full potential.

Chatman Family Lobby Will Welcome Visitors to Danforth Campus

Ira Chatman, AB ’75, knows how important a student’s first impression of a college can be. When he arrived on Washington University’s Danforth Campus nearly 50 years ago, he realized almost immediately that an extraordinary experience awaited him.

“I still remember when I first walked up the steps and passed through the archway of Brookings Hall,” he says. “That was very impressive. I was the product of a small rural public high school in the Missouri Ozarks, and I had been given the opportunity for a world-class education. That’s something that changes the trajectory of a person’s life.”

To help ensure that future generations of students envision the life-changing possibilities of a Washington University education during their first visit, Dr. Chatman and his wife, Deborah, have made a $200,000 gift to help establish a new main entrance to the Danforth Campus in support of the east end transformation project. In recognition, the university will name the lower-level lobby in the Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center the Chatman Family Lobby.

Currently under construction, the Sumers Welcome Center will serve as a starting point for campus visitors as well as a destination for current students. The center, with a transparent design that will provide sweeping views of Brookings Hall, will house the undergraduate admissions and student financial services offices and will offer meeting rooms and multiple indoor and outdoor gathering spaces. Visiting students and their families will enter the Chatman Family Lobby directly from a new underground parking garage.

“Deborah and I want to be involved with students’ first steps as they make their way into the university,” Dr. Chatman says. “The current building project shows that the university has a real respect for tradition but also is determined to march forward into the future.”

Dr. Chatman believes his education at Washington University laid the foundation for his professional success. After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the university, he completed his medical degree at the University of Missouri–Columbia and a residency in anesthesiology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

He went on to found Interventional Pain Management, a medical group and outpatient department of Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home, Arkansas, where he has practiced for more than 25 years. An active member of numerous medical organizations, he is board-certified in anesthesiology, pain management, and addiction medicine.

Dr. Chatman began supporting Washington University soon after completing his undergraduate education. In the years since, he and Mrs. Chatman have provided gifts for Arts & Sciences, the School of Engineering & Applied Science, the University Libraries, scholarships, and other purposes. “Each of us who benefits from the kind of opportunity that Washington University offers should give back,” he says.

The Chatmans’ gift for the Sumers Welcome Center also reflects their appreciation for the role the university has played in their children’s lives. One of their daughters, Ariel Chatman Kleczewski, BS ’06, and their son, Cieland, BS ’09, earned undergraduate degrees in the School of Engineering & Applied Science as part of the University Libraries, scholarships, and other purposes. “Each of us who benefits from the kind of opportunity that Washington University offers should give back,” he says.

The Chatmans’ gift for the Sumers Welcome Center also reflects their appreciation for the role the university has played in their children’s lives. One of their daughters, Ariel Chatman Kleczewski, BS ’06, and their son, Cieland, BS ’09, earned undergraduate degrees in the School of Engineering & Applied Science as part of the eastern transformation project. In recognition, the university will name the lower-level lobby in the Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center the Chatman Family Lobby.

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Leading Together

Bauers to Establish and Endow Deanship in School of Medicine

While a student at Washington University, Trustee Emeritus George Bauer, BS ’53, MS ’59, considered a career as a physician. He even worked part time as an orderly at Jewish Hospital. Then he encountered the 650 Magnetic Drum Data Processing Machine, one of IBM’s first computers. He taught himself to program and used the computer to write his engineering master’s thesis.

“It just blew me away,” Mr. Bauer says. “So when IBM offered me a job, I couldn’t turn it down.” Although he didn’t attend medical school, Mr. Bauer and his wife, Carol, have provided significant leadership and support to hospitals in their community, and they recently made a $5 million commitment to Washington University that will expand their impact on human health. The gift will establish and endow the George and Carol Bauer Deanship in the School of Medicine. Income from the endowment will enable the current dean and his successors to invest in the medical school’s highest priorities and advance a bold vision for biomedical research.

David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine since 2015, will be appointed the inaugural George and Carol Bauer Dean. A national leader in academic medicine with more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Perlmutter is spearheading the School of Medicine’s personalized medicine initiative to revolutionize medical research and patient care. He is particularly interested in a promising new area of personalized medicine research that focuses on slowing age-dependent degeneration by targeting and enhancing autophagy, a clean-up process that occurs within cells.

Mrs. Bauer’s interest in health care began more than 40 years ago, when she started volunteering at Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Connecticut. Her involvement led to her tenure as president of the hospital’s board and later her training and 15 years of service as a chaplain. She also has served nearly 20 years as a board member for Americares, an international health-focused relief and development organization. Mr. Bauer, who retired from successful careers with IBM and as an investment banker, currently is a board member for Norwalk Hospital and the Western Connecticut Health Network.

“We see what’s going on in hospitals and health care in the United States,” Mrs. Bauer says. “We understand the importance of the deanship and all that Washington University School of Medicine is doing in its work as a leading research institution.”

Mr. and Mrs. Bauer are longtime supporters of Washington University. They have provided generous gifts for scholarships and an endowed fund that offers emergency assistance to students. They established the George and Carol Bauer Professorship in Organizational Ethics and Governance at Olin Business School in 2007 and made a $10 million gift through their family foundation in 2011 to help expand facilities at Olin with the construction of Bauer Hall. In 2016, they launched the George and Carol Bauer Leadership Center at the business school with a $5 million gift.

“Carol’s dad was an electrician, and my parents were farmers,” Mr. Bauer says. “We are fortunate to have resources that our parents never did. We support Washington University because we believe it will put the blessings we have been given to good use.”

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says, “I am profoundly grateful to George and Carol Bauer for the breadth and depth of their commitment to Washington University. The George and Carol Bauer Deanship will build on a history of exceptional leadership at the medical school and bolster the efforts of Dean Perlmutter and future deans as they seek to advance the science of human health and the practice of compassionate health care.”
Silbert Professorship Celebrates Career of Devoted Researcher and Teacher

David Silbert came to Washington University in 1962 after earning his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He and Shirley, a graduate of Stanford University School of Medicine, married while they were interns. After a brief stint in the Washington, D.C. area, where David served as a research associate at the National Institutes of Health, the couple returned to the university in 1966. David completed a postdoctoral fellowship with P. Roy Vagelos, MD, then head of the biochemistry department, and joined the faculty, while Shirley finished her residency. She went on to serve at St. Louis University before joining the pathology department at St. Luke’s Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri.

A thoughtful and innovative scientist, David pioneered the use of genetic methods to analyze the roles of cell membrane components, eventually focusing his studies on the function of lipids and lipid-processing enzymes involved in signal transduction. Beyond the lab, he developed and presented the biochemistry curriculum to medical students and helped train graduate and postdoctoral students. He was widely recognized as a generous and supportive colleague and teacher.

Heidi Rath Hope, PhD ’89, who performed her thesis research in David’s lab, describes him as her “science dad,” a professor who kindly and calmly guided her forward in her research and career. “He knew how to let you go just far enough before he stepped in to help,” she says. “He expected you to work hard, but he also encouraged you to be well-rounded and have a normal life.”

A reference from David played a key role in helping her land her first job as a senior research investigator with G.D. Searle. His example inspired her involvement in science outreach. “When you have great mentors like David, you feel a need to give back,” says Dr. Hope, now a member of the leadership team at St. Louis-based Confluence Discovery Technologies.

In honor of his contributions as an educator, the biochemistry department established the David F. Silbert Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in 1996 to recognize graduate students who excel in teaching medical school courses. After his death, his wife, colleagues, and friends established the David F. Silbert Summer Fellowship, which provides stipends for medical students to conduct research projects.

“The fellowship has inspired many medical students to consider careers in research,” says John Cooper, MD, PhD, the Raymond H. Wittcoff Professor in Biological Chemistry and head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics. “That’s particularly appropriate since David was a physician who dedicated himself to science.” Dr. Cooper says the professorship created by Shirley will enhance his department’s ability to recruit and retain exceptional faculty members and support their research. It also recognizes the enduring relationship between Washington University and the Silbert family, including David and Shirley’s children: Seth, MD/PhD ’01, Judy, BFA ’88, and Jonathan, MD ’95, MA ’93. “They have been important members of the university community for many years,” Dr. Cooper says. “This professorship will preserve their legacy for generations to come.” —By Mary Lee

Endowed Positions Recognize Faculty Members and Leaders Who Change the World

Washington University’s international reputation as a premier teaching and research institution rests in large part on the excellence of its faculty. Exceptional teachers, scholars, and scientists attract the most talented students. Together, they solve the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Endowed faculty positions provide a powerful tool for recruiting and retaining the best professors, program directors, and deans. They recognize the contributions of outstanding academic, scientific, and administrative leaders and provide increased support for their work. Investing in these positions ensures that we can continue to build a truly great university that benefits our community, our nation, and our world.

From the start of Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University through June 30, 2017, 129 endowed positions were established. This includes 17 positions created during the 2016 to 2017 fiscal year, which is detailed on this page.

Directorship

Peter G. Sortino Directorship of the Gephart Institute for Civic and Community Engagement

Donor: The Danforth Foundation

Professorships Funded by Donors

Daniel J. Brennan, M.D. Professorship in Neurology

Donor: The Estate of Daniel J. Brennan, M.D.

Harvey R. Colton Professorship in Pediatric Science

Donors: Mrs. Susan J. Colton and family, colleagues and friends of Harvey R. Colten, and the Department of Pediatrics

Lee Hunter Distinguished Professorship in Engineering

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Brauer

Sanford C. and Karen P. Loewenthal Distinguished Professorship in Medicine

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Carl Loewenthal

Henry Elliot Mallinckrodt Professorship in Medicine

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mallinckrodt Jr.*

Stanley A. Sawyer Professorship

Donor: Stanley A. Sawyer*

Stanley A. Sawyer Professorship

Donor: Stanley A. Sawyer*

Dr. Barry A. and Marilyn J. Siegel Professorship in Radiology

Donors: Drs. Barry A. and Marilyn J. Siegel

David F. and Shirley W. Silbert Professorship in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

Donors: Drs. David F.* and Shirley W. Silbert

James and Juana Wittmer Professorship in Arts & Sciences

Donors: James F. and Juana L. Wittmer

James and Juana Wittmer Professorship in Medicine

Donors: James F. and Juana L. Wittmer

Professorships Funded by Other Sources

Ralph Walter Mills Professorship in Radiology

Sherwood Moore Professorship in Radiology

Hugh Monroe Wilson Professorship in Radiology

Coaching Position

Estakhri Family Men’s Soccer Head Coach

Donors: Pete and Mary Estakhri

*Deceased
Stanley Sawyer and Samuel Eddy spent a total of more than 60 years as faculty members at prestigious universities. They shared an insatiable curiosity, a relentless desire to pursue knowledge, and a deep commitment to educating students. Their unshakeable belief in the importance of their work led both to dedicate their lives to teaching and research—and their estates to supporting Arts & Sciences at Washington University.

Distinguished Researcher, Supportive Mentor

When Ann Podleski, MA ’81, PhD ’96, was finishing her doctorate in mathematics at Washington University in the mid-1990s, she juggled that work with the demands of a full-time position as a professor at Harris-Stowe State University. After spending her days teaching students, she dedicated her evenings to working on her dissertation with guidance from her faculty adviser, Professor Stanley Sawyer.

“I could go to Stan’s office or call him at 11 p.m., and he would be there to help me,” she says. “He was extremely kind, patient, and interested in my work. The human capital he invested in me inspires me to give the same things to my students every day.”

Before his death in August 2017, Mr. Sawyer committed capital of a different kind to extend his legacy in the Department of Mathematics. Through an estate gift, he contributed funds for the department to establish professorships in statistics, his area of expertise.

“This gift will help us recruit and retain outstanding faculty members and strengthen our statistics group,” says John McCarthy, chair of the Department of Mathematics. “That will have a big impact on our ability to collaborate with colleagues across the university and meet the increased demand for training students in the field.”

Born in Juneau, Alaska, Mr. Sawyer earned a doctorate in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology in 1964. He held faculty positions at New York University, Brown University, Yeshiva University, the University of Washington, and Purdue University before coming to Washington University in 1984. He served as a professor in the mathematics department until his retirement in 2013. He also held faculty appointments in the School of Medicine.

During his time at Washington University, Mr. Sawyer increasingly focused his research efforts on genetics and evolutionary biology. He developed a fruitful partnership with Daniel Hartl, former head of genetics at the School of Medicine and now a faculty member at Harvard University. In the early 1990s, they developed an innovative mathematical model to estimate natural selection pressures and mutation rates in genes. Mr. Sawyer went on to create a widely used computer program to analyze DNA and identify gene conversions. Mr. Sawyer’s friends and colleagues describe him as a polymath—a person whose knowledge and interests span a variety of subjects. “When Stanley got interested in something, he would lay his hands on every book he could find on the topic and become a real expert,” says Victor Wickerhauser, professor of mathematics.

After studying the validity of DNA fingerprinting, he often served as an expert witness at criminal trials. And after learning the TeX markup language to typeset papers containing complicated formulas, he wrote a guidebook on the system with Washington University mathematics professor Steven Krantz.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Sawyer published 80 scholarly articles. He taught a wide range of mathematics courses and mentored 12 doctoral students and many master’s degree candidates.

Professor Wickerhauser says Mr. Sawyer completed paperwork to direct his estate to the mathematics department shortly before his death. “He didn’t have any close relatives, and I think he decided Washington University was his family.”

The gift will have a lasting influence on the department, Mr. Wickerhauser adds. “Stanley was one of the most charming human beings I have ever met,” he says. “He was a person who had an enormous capacity to enjoy life and to understand it. He was a huge asset to the department and an all around fine individual.”

From Alumnus to Celebrated Professor

Like Professor Sawyer, alumnus Samuel Eddy, AB ’50, MA ’31, possessed a deep curiosity that informed his work as a scholar and teacher. A longtime professor of classical history, he pursued a broad range of historical interests. “He constantly investigated new scholarship and documents to add depth and human color to his knowledge and the content of his courses,” says Emeritus Professor Frederick Marquardt, who was his colleague at Syracuse University.

According to Mr. Marquardt, Mr. Eddy once studied the use of tree rings in California to trace climate change as far back as 650 B.C. He correlated that information with historic evidence to identify periods of prolonged drought that could have contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire.

Also like Professor Sawyer, Mr. Eddy, who died in April 2015, had a deep commitment to his profession and to Washington University that led him to make a significant gift through his estate to benefit Arts & Sciences. The funds will be used to support professorships and teaching or research in history.

A St. Louis native, Mr. Eddy earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history at Washington University, where he wrote his master’s thesis on the Roman imperial enlightenment. After earning his doctorate in ancient history at the University of Michigan, he served as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska and the University of California at Santa Barbara before joining the history department at Syracuse University in 1986. He retired as an emeritus professor in 1999.

Mr. Eddy taught criminal justice surveys of ancient Greek and Roman history as well as courses on European history, including a research seminar on the origins of World War I. He was a superb lecturer, Mr. Marquardt says. “His presentations were lucid, supported by just the right amount of factual detail, illustrated by colorful personalities, and colored by biting, irreverent humor.” One student described him in a course evaluation as “a combination of Albert Einstein and Jack Benny.”

Mr. Eddy drew students into historical material and challenged them to think about the relevance of past events in the present. His work will continue through his generous bequest to Washington University.

“This is an enormous gift for our department and our students,” says Peter Kastor, chair of the Department of History. “Endowed professorships enable the university to recruit exceptional faculty members who in turn attract great students to our campus. And additional funding for graduate education will enable us to help our students in wonderful new ways. Professor Eddy’s support for our professors and their students will enhance our efforts to generate new knowledge and train the next generation of scholars.”

—By Mary Lee
Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Boeing Co. Increases Support for Scholarships and Student Programs

This past fall, 62 students in Washington University’s School of Engineering & Applied Science and Olin Business School started the academic year with less worry about the cost of their education. These young men and women were the first of an expanded cohort of students to benefit from increased scholarship support provided by the Boeing Co.

Boeing, a longtime sponsor of scholarships, is helping a record number of students at the university achieve their full potential through a $3 million commitment made in late 2016. The five-year pledge raised the company’s total contribution to Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University to more than $6.8 million.

“Increasing resources for scholarships is one of Washington University’s most important priorities and a key goal of our Leading Together campaign,” says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “We are grateful that Boeing shares our vision of a future in which every student has access to educational opportunities that allow them to develop their skills, pursue their dreams, and build a better world.”

At the School of Engineering & Applied Science, the company’s commitment boosts the number of Boeing scholarships awarded to undergraduate students each year from 17 to 45. This includes 16 scholarships for students enrolled in the University of Missouri—St. Louis and Washington University in St. Louis joint Undergraduate Engineering Program. The commitment also supports Washington University’s Summer Engineering Fellowship Program, which enables a diverse group of undergraduate students from across the country to engage in engineering research.

“Boeing is committed to inspiring and preparing the next generation of innovators through its support of exceptional young engineering students,” says Kristin Robertson, vice president and chief engineer for Boeing’s Strike, Surveillance, and Mobility division. “We are honored to partner with Washington University and the University of Missouri—St. Louis to help today’s students become the engineering leaders of tomorrow.”

Beyond the engineering school, Boeing is providing additional funding to support graduate scholarships for eligible U.S. military veterans enrolled in Olin Business School, increasing the number of business scholarships the company sponsors each year from 8 to 17. In addition, the company is supporting the Olin Veterans Association to help veterans at Olin make a successful transition into the business world. The association connects students to the business community through internships, mentor partnerships, employer site visits, and networking events.

“One in seven Boeing employees has served our nation in the military and brings leadership, commitment, and a unique perspective to the workplace,” says Shelley Lavender, EMBA ’03, senior vice president of the Strike, Surveillance, and Mobility division and a member of the Olin Business School National Council. “Our gift will help ensure that today’s veterans have the opportunity to achieve their educational goals and prepare themselves to continue to have an impact in their communities.”

Boeing has a long history of investing in Washington University. The relationship began in 1956, when the university received its first grant from the McDonnell Aircraft Corp., which became the McDonnell Douglas Corp. after a merger with the Douglas Aircraft Co. in 1967. The combined corporation went on to merge with Boeing in 1997. Over the years, the three companies have provided significant support for university students, faculty members, and programs.

“The longstanding relationship between Boeing and Washington University has touched every aspect of our mission to teach, discover, and serve,” Chancellor Wrighton says. “We are fortunate to count the company among our most generous and supportive corporate partners.”

Gaurav Garg Family Makes Commitment to Ensure Excellence in Engineering

As a teenager living in India before the internet revolution, Gaurav Garg, BS ’88, BS ’88, MS ’90, relied on the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* and word-of-mouth to learn about Washington University. He found that research uncovered by family friends spoke highly of the university, and it offered degrees in his areas of interest: computer science and electrical engineering. Still, attending the university was something of a leap into the unknown. “I didn’t know anybody there,” he says of his arrival on campus. “In fact, I didn’t know anybody within 500 miles of St. Louis.”

Despite the initial challenge of unfamiliar surroundings, Mr. Garg thrived at Washington University, immersing himself in the humanities and economics as well as engineering courses. This broad education helped ignite his intellectual curiosity and laid the foundation for a successful career as a tech entrepreneur and venture capitalist. “In my world, everything is interdisciplinary,” he says. “Innovation comes from the fact that you’re breaking down silos. I’ve always been very thankful that I experienced that at the university at such a young age.”

Inspired by the training he received—and the relationships he has formed with faculty members, administrators, and students as a member of the School of Engineering & Applied Science National Council—Mr. Garg recently made a $1 million commitment to the school with his wife, Komal Shah, an investor, art collector, and former tech industry executive. The gift, which pushed the engineering school over the $150 million mark for Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University, will establish the Gaurav Garg and Komal Shah Lectureship and support undergraduate scholarships, facilities, and other needs.

The passion for pursuing new opportunities that brought Mr. Garg to Washington University has played a central role in his career. After several years of working as an engineer for a data communications firm, he founded Redback Networks in 1996. The company developed hardware and software to manage broadband services. In 2001, he decided to try his hand at investing. It proved to be a smart move. As a partner at Sequoia Capital, a prominent Silicon Valley venture capital firm, he demonstrated a knack for identifying and nurturing prominent technology companies.

In 2013, he joined forces with a partner to found Wing, which invests in early-stage business technology startups. Recognized as one of the world’s leading venture capitalists, Mr. Garg has made multiple appearances on *Forbes* magazine’s Midas List of top tech investors and was named Silicon Valley Venture Capitalist of the Year at the 2014 Technology Fast 500 Awards. He has received Distinguished Alumni Awards from both Washington University and its School of Engineering & Applied Science.

Mr. Garg, who recently was elected to the Board of Trustees for Washington University, is impressed with the St. Louis startup scene, including the Cortex Innovation Community, formed in 2002 by the university and other area institutions. “I was stunned at how much is going on at Cortex,” he says. “It shows that if you want to have great, innovative places, you have to pull from some of the world-class excellence like Washington University.”

Reflecting on his career and his involvement with Washington University, Mr. Garg is quick to point out the similarities. “The greatest pleasure of being a venture capitalist is watching someone build an institution,” he says. “Likewise, there are a lot of people at the university who can do great things, and I want to hang on for the ride.”

— By James Williams
Leading Together
Alumni, Parents, and Friends Gather for Final Regional Campaign Events

When *Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University* was publicly launched during a gala dinner in St. Louis on October 6, 2012, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton asked guests to raise their glasses to “a new era of continuing this great dream we call Washington University.”

Since then, nearly 7,000 alumni, parents, and friends have toasted the university at 32 regional campaign events across the country, from Los Angeles and Seattle to Boston and Miami. During these events, attendees celebrated their connection to Washington University and heard from guest speakers, including Chancellor Wrighton; *Leading Together* Chair Andrew Taylor and other campaign leaders; and scholarship recipients, who shared stories about the ways their lives have been transformed through the gift of education.

Washington University Trustees Harry Seigle, AB ’68, and Ann Rubenstein Tisch, AB ’76, have provided outstanding leadership as national co-chairs for regional campaigns for *Leading Together*. Dedicated teams of campaign volunteers in each city or region assisted with planning events, ensuring that all achieved record-setting attendance. Their efforts have helped Washington University raise more than $643 million for *Leading Together* through regional campaigns, more than double the amount that was raised in the regions during the university’s previous campaign.

The last regional campaign events for *Leading Together* were held this past fall in the seven cities listed below. Photos from those events are featured on this page. To view more photos from these and other regional campaign events, visit together.wustl.edu/kickoffgalleries.

- October 19, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- October 24, Nashville, Tennessee
- October 26, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- November 14, Cleveland, Ohio
- November 15, Columbus, Ohio
- November 15, Portland, Oregon
- November 16, Cincinnati, Ohio

The spirit of Washington University • Summer 2018
Nine years ago, Washington University embarked on a mission to provide a strong foundation for our future. Now, as we near the conclusion of Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University, we are on the brink of remarkable success. Thanks to more than 157,000 generous alumni, parents, and friends, we met our initial campaign goal of $2.2 billion more than two years early and have raised record amounts for scholarships, facilities, and academic programs. These achievements would not have been possible without tremendous support from our trustees and national council members, who helped create the Plan for Excellence that laid the groundwork for Leading Together, and the many dedicated volunteers around the globe who have contributed time and expertise to bolster our efforts. With exceptional leadership from campaign Chair Andy Taylor—as well as John McDonnell and Sam Fox, chairs of the campaign’s initial quiet phase—Leading Together already is having an impact across the university.

While we have much to celebrate, we must not forget that there is more work to be done. Through the Plan for Excellence, we identified $4 billion as the amount needed to fully realize our strategic objectives. We have responsibility to steadfastly press forward so we can meet the challenges of tomorrow and continue serving students and society with distinction. With Leading Together drawing to a close, now is the time for our community to unite in support of our great institution. All gifts received by June 30, including pledges to be paid by June 30, 2023, will count toward the campaign total. I hope you will join us in this historic endeavor. Together we can ensure a successful conclusion for the campaign, and, more importantly, strengthen our university’s ability to contribute to the betterment of our world.

- Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor, Washington University