

Benefactor

An Update on Private Support for George Mason University

Summer 2006

The Story Continues . . .

Volgenau Gift Sets Record—and New Pace

No sooner were the gifts tallied and the books closed on *The Campaign for George Mason University* than more exciting news hit—Mason would be the beneficiary of a blockbuster gift, one that would exceed any amount ever given to the university by an individual or a couple.

The news made headlines in numerous media outlets: Ernst and Sara Volgenau had committed \$10 million to the School of Information Technology and Engineering to help position Mason as a national and international leader in the IT field. The surprise announcement came during an event in October marking IT&E's 20th anniversary and the launch of the school's 2010 Campaign for private support.

"What a way to begin the next chapter in the story of our young university!" remarked university President Alan Merten. "I am truly grateful for Ernst and Sara's leadership support. This level of generosity is absolutely essential to our drive to create a world-class teaching and research institution."

The Volgenaus' gift will usher in a new era for the IT and engineering program, assisting in the recruitment of top students and faculty and enabling investment in biotechnology, knowledge management, information security, and much more. In recognition, the school has been named the Volgenau School of IT&E—Mason's first named school.

"I am excited about the opportunities our school now has to make significant progress in creating new world-class research programs in critical technical areas within the next few years," said Lloyd Griffiths, dean of the Volgenau School. "Without the Volgenaus' gift, it would have taken decades to achieve similar results."

Ernst Volgenau is founder and chairman of SRA International, a leading provider of information technology services that has headquarters in Fairfax. His affiliation with Mason spans nearly a decade. He is a member of the Board of Visitors and the IT&E Executive Advisory Board, and is a former Mason Foundation trustee. He also serves the university as a distinguished professor of information technology and engineering.

"My company employs a number of George Mason graduates and student interns, and I know other technology companies recruit regularly on campus as well," said Volgenau. "Sara and I are honored to be part of the effort to produce more highly-skilled engineers and scientists to meet industry needs."

Focused Initiatives Respond to Growth

In addition to the 2010 Campaign in the Volgenau School, the Campaign for the Community Performing Arts Center at Prince William and the Campaign for Mason Students are well underway. Together, the three targeted campaigns, featured in this issue, seek \$43 million to respond to the changing needs of a burgeoning region.

"With an enrollment of nearly 30,000, we've become the largest university in Virginia," said Mason Foundation President Judy Jobbitt. "These three focused initiatives will help address the demands of our evolving community."

And so, the story continues.

Ernst and Sara Volgenau, center, with Dean Lloyd Griffiths, President Alan Merten, and Rector Sid Dewberry at the announcement of the naming of the Volgenau School—Mason's first named school.

"Sara and I are honored to be part of the effort to produce more highly-skilled engineers and scientists to meet industry needs."

—Ernst Volgenau



Victoria Prouty



Campaign for Mason Students

Encouraging Growth and Achievement

FACT:

As with many other colleges and universities, enrollment and tuition are on an upward trend at George Mason.

RESPONSE:

Through the Campaign for Mason Students, dramatically increase the number of merit- and need-based scholarships and expand student resources and services.

Petersons' \$1 Million Gift Bolsters Effort

A recent \$1 million leadership gift for music scholarships from Carolyn and Milt Peterson and their family foundation has significantly bolstered campaign efforts to encourage academic achievement and personal growth.

"Thanks to the Petersons, we are now more than halfway to our goal of raising \$8 million by 2008,"

said Jimmy Hazel, JD '84, volunteer chair of the Campaign for Students and a Mason Foundation trustee. "Their generosity, and that of many others, will ease the impact of rising tuition costs and record-breaking enrollment and help Mason attract talented and deserving students."

The Petersons' history of service and commitment to the university and its students approaches three decades. Their earlier gifts to the arts,

public policy, and athletics include an endowment for music scholarships initiated in 2000.

Carolyn Peterson, who was a charter member of the university's Arts Gala Committee, serves on the Mason Foundation Board of Trustees and the Arts at Mason Board. She is also co-chairing the Sponsorship Committee for the *Arts, by George!* scholarship fundraising event to be held September 30 on the Fairfax Campus. Milt Peterson was a patron chairman of the Arts Gala and member of the Fund for the Arts Advisory Board.

Enriching Lives

The Campaign for Mason Students—which began its quiet phase in 2004—is not only seeking to increase the number of merit- and need-based scholarships. It also aims to create additional opportunities for student-faculty collaborative research, enhance University Libraries' collections, strengthen the Honors and study abroad programs, and expand outreach services.

The campaign is drawing gifts of all sizes from a wide spectrum of donors, ranging from alumni, former scholarship recipients, faculty, and staff, to corporations, foundations, and trusts. In addition to the Petersons' support, a sampling of these gifts includes:

- \$250,000 from Bill and Eleanor Hazel, and their children, to establish the William A. Hazel Family Scholarship Endowment for undergraduate students across the university.



"Coming from a single-parent family of five, scholarship assistance was vital to my academic success. I'm now in graduate school, something that wasn't even imaginable before I set foot on the campus of George Mason."

—Sarom Sok, '04

- \$130,000 from the Wachovia Foundation to fund full, four-year academic scholarships for graduates of Mason's nationally-recognized Early Identification Program for at-risk teens.
- \$50,000 from Catherine Baum, '81, to help fund the digitization of the Libraries' Planned Communities and New Towns Collection, which contains oral histories, architectural plans, and other documents on Reston and similar communities.
- \$250,000 from Beers & Cutler and its founding partner Jim Beers, to create the James R. Beers Scholarship Endowment for accounting students within the School of Management. The gift is the largest corporate scholarship gift in the school's history.
- \$25,000 from Jim Larranaga—Mason men's basketball head coach who recently took the team to the NCAA Final Four—and his wife, Liz. Their gift established a scholarship endowment in memory of his parents to assist student-athletes.
- \$500,000 from Cecil Van Alsbury to create an endowment in honor of noted economist Thomas Sowell to help undergraduate students, preferably those who study economics.

"Support for this campaign is fundamental to our mission as a university," said Provost Peter Stearns, academic chair of the campaign. "Ultimately, George Mason stands with its students. The campaign will enrich their lives and enable us to maintain the type of diverse and talented student body of which we are so very proud."

For more information, call 703-993-8850.



Evan Cantwell

Professor Susan Bachus and student Allison Slusser, participants in the Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program, examine images of rat brains.



Campaign for the Community Performing Arts Center

Opening Access to the Arts

FACT:

Changing demographics and rapid growth within the Prince William/Manassas region have resulted in increased demand for cultural programs and services.

RESPONSE:

Through a community partnership, build a multiuse performing arts center on the Prince William Campus to accommodate world-class performances and local productions, as well as educational, social, and business gatherings.

Providing a Cultural Link

The Campaign for the Community Performing Arts Center was initiated to raise \$15 million in endowment to assist Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and George Mason in the creation of a dazzling arts facility, estimated to cost \$36 million. The planned copper, glass, and brick structure will house, among other things, a soaring 1,166-seat performance hall reminiscent of a 19th century Italian opera house.

“This exciting project will have a transformational effect on the region,” predicted Bill Reeder, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “We envision a nexus of lively activity—a town square for the arts—and we look forward to working with Prince William, Manassas, and the area’s private sector to make the project a reality.”

The new center will not only showcase local, national, and international performances, it will offer the university and area secondary schools access to performance and rehearsal studios for student productions, competitions, and hands-on training. And, the two-story, glass-enclosed grand foyer will provide an attractive venue for business, civic, and service organizations in the region.

Take a Seat!

To encourage support from the private sector, the center’s campaign committee has launched the “Take a Seat” initiative, which will recognize donors who make gifts of \$2,500 with a seat in the performance hall inscribed with their name. Numerous other naming opportunities also exist. (See chart.) Chairing the volunteer committee are former Manassas Mayor Marvin Gillum and former county Board of Supervisors’ Chair Kathleen Seefeldt.

Among the corporations and foundations in the region that have already provided major support are the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (\$50,000), Dominion Foundation (\$100,000), Micron Technology (\$75,000), and Buchanan Partners LLC (\$200,000). Gifts from individuals include \$100,000 from Jana Yeates and \$25,000 from Mason alumnus

Renderings by Holzman Moss Architecture



The dazzling 1,166-seat performance hall will be reminiscent of a 19th century Italian opera house.

Larry Czarda, PhD '97. Both Yeates and Czarda are members of the campaign committee.

“The thing I treasure most about this community is its enthusiastic support for truly worthy projects,” said Yeates, who leads the campaign’s marketing and outreach efforts. “This is one of those projects, as it will enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the entire region.”

According to Reeder, community enthusiasm is helping to push the project forward. To build on that momentum, a ceremonial groundbreaking at the Prince William Campus on June 7 will be held to recognize major donors to date and provide “a flavor of what’s in store” for patrons of the center. If all goes as planned, the target date for the facility’s completion is spring 2009.

For more information, call 703-993-8607.

A Sampling of Naming Opportunities Community Performing Arts Center

Performing Arts Center Complex	\$5 million
Grand Foyer	\$500,000
Rehearsal/Performance Studio	\$300,000
Plaza Entrance	\$250,000
Performance Hall Family Boxes	\$25,000–\$250,000
Seats	\$2,500

Visit <http://communityperformingartscenter.com> for additional naming opportunities.



The two-story, glass-enclosed grand foyer will provide an attractive venue for business, civic, and service organizations in the region.



2010 Campaign

Answering the Call of the IT Community

FACT:

The region's growing technology industry is increasingly turning to George Mason for manpower and expertise.

RESPONSE:

Through the 2010 Campaign, recruit top IT students and faculty, expand research and academic space, and encourage new partnerships between faculty and industry.

Creating Opportunities

With the record-setting \$10 million gift commitment from Ernst and Sara Volgenau and other support, the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering is more than halfway to its goal of raising \$20 million by 2010. The success of the 2010 Campaign will solidify Mason's role as a major player in the region's IT and economic development.

While the Volgenau commitment is designated to recruit top students and faculty and invest in critical areas of study, the remainder of the funds to be raised will help construct a state-of-the-art facility on the Fairfax Campus that will push the limits of information technology. The planned building is scheduled for completion in fall 2009.

"We are committed to building a dynamic IT workforce and bringing together faculty who are dedicated to the integration of education, research, and business," said Lloyd Griffiths, dean of the Volgenau School. "I look forward to continuing to cultivate mutually beneficial alliances and strengthening our IT&E program to be one of the best in the country."

A Collaborative Relationship

According to Griffiths, the collaborative relationship between the Volgenau School and the business community is an integral component of the school's success. Consider the following:

- The majority of Mason's IT students are employed in the region's workforce.
- Technology advances in industry are integrated into the school's curriculum through joint research projects.
- Faculty members often serve as industry consultants, bringing "real life" perspective back to the classroom.
- Industry professionals furnish on-site laboratories and frequently serve as instructors within the school.

This dynamic relationship is reflected in the composition of the school's advisory board—whose members are alumni, faculty, and industry leaders—and the support received to date for the 2010 Campaign. Among those participating in the campaign are Alan Harbitter, PhD '02, who created a charitable lead trust that will fulfill a commitment of \$260,000 for IT scholarships and operations; IT Professor George Donohue, who is providing \$50,000 to the school's building fund; and Thomas Hewitt, who is also contributing \$50,000 for the new building. Harbitter and Hewitt are both members of the school's advisory board.

"Our campaign motto is *A Great Foundation for an Excellent Future*," said Griffiths. "And at this stage, the future looks very promising."

For more information, call 703-993-1752.



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Mason Athletics

Celebrating in Style!

Sporting their NCAA Final Four rings and name badges, the men's basketball team—shown above with Coach Jim Larranaga, right, and President Alan Merten—headlined Mason's Final Four celebration. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Patriot Club's scholarship fund.

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