

# Benefactor

An Update on Private Support for George Mason University

2007



## Because of the Campaign, Because of You Campaign Gifts at Work



Judith Marshall Jobbitt

**T**he Campaign for George Mason University, our first comprehensive fundraising initiative, was truly a catalyst for innovation and advancement.

Through the generous support of 45,256 donors and the leadership of Campaign Chair Sid Dewberry and university President Alan Merten, the seven-year campaign successfully concluded in 2005 with \$142 million raised. I am pleased to report that the impact of that support can be felt today in all facets of the work we do. From

academics to athletics, from research to cultural opportunities—campaign gifts are making a difference.

This special issue of *Benefactor* provides a sampling of campaign gifts at work. You will read about how support from the private sector is helping to save lives, create opportunities, foster professional development, facilitate conflict resolution, and much more.

Because of the campaign, because of you. Thank you for your belief in George Mason University.

Vice President, University Development and Alumni Affairs  
President, George Mason University Foundation

## Improving Health, Saving Lives

*\$10,000 in Campaign Gifts Helps Advance Research Breakthrough*

**S**ometimes, private support can have a far-reaching impact of life-saving magnitude.

A powerful example of that statement can be found in the work of Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Abul Hussam. At a critical juncture in his research into unsafe drinking water, \$10,000 was provided by his department to help underwrite testing. That support, from a fund of alumni gifts made during *The Campaign for George Mason University*, helped validate an important breakthrough that is now improving health and saving lives.

Hussam's quest began when he learned firsthand the frightening consequences of drinking unsafe water drawn from the shallow wells often used in his native Bangladesh and other developing countries. His family in Bangladesh had been drinking water that contained three times the toxicity level of arsenic, and arsenic

poisoning may have been a factor in his father's death.

It was from that revelation that Hussam embarked on a long journey, one that involved years of research and testing that culminated with the creation of an innovative but simple and inexpensive household filtration system. The filter is now being used by thousands of people in Bangladesh to remove arsenic from their drinking water.

The creation of the filter led to Hussam's recent selection as the recipient of the Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability Gold Award from the National Academy of Engineering. He also received \$1 million in prize money that he is dedicating to increasing filter production, quality control, and training capacities so that more of the units can reach the households of Bangladesh and other developing countries.

*The most satisfying aspect of working on this project is seeing people drinking clean water and feeling better, and for some, the melanosis has been reversed.*

*It is truly gratifying to see results of our scientific knowledge at work in the field for the betterment of human conditions.*

—Abul Hussam



Professor Abul Hussam with the filter unit he developed

Photos by Evan Cartmell



“The most satisfying aspect of working on this project is seeing people drinking clean water and feeling better, and for some, the melanosis [poisoning] has been reversed,” said Hussam.

“It is truly gratifying to see results of our scientific knowledge at work in the field for the betterment of human conditions.”

# Because of the Campaign, Because of You...

## Attracting Top Law Students

Since 2001, Mason's School of Law has been cited as one of the top 50 law schools in the nation, boasting a strong faculty and attracting high-caliber students to its corridors on the Arlington Campus.

The Richard R. Murphy Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in memory of a beloved and gifted Mason law professor who died tragically in 1997, has advanced the school's standing by helping to attract academically gifted students. Funded throughout the campaign by family, friends, alumni, and faculty, the scholarship is awarded annually to individuals who, like Professor Murphy, demonstrate excellence in the study of law.

"This scholarship, and the reasons behind creating it, are based on what Professor Murphy stood for," said Robert Coleman, JD '99, a Murphy Scholarship recipient. "His philosophy was to compete based on your intellectual drive to do well...to be for something you cared about. It was part of his ethics."

Creative Services



Professor Richard Murphy

## Enriching Special Education

Inclusion, opportunity, and encouragement are just some of the words that best describe the remarkable work of Mason's Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities. Thanks to campaign support totaling \$4.2 million from the late Arthur and Elizabeth Kellar, this unique institute—named in memory of one of their daughters—has increased the productivity of thousands of children and adults through instructional workshops, model training programs, postsecondary educational initiatives, and many other life-changing services.

In recent years, the institute has embraced the potential of assistive technology in improving the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Computer software that provides a visual representation of outlined information, an alternative keyboard for people with physical disabilities, and a screen reading device for those with vision impairment are some examples of how the Kellars' philanthropy continues to make Mason a thriving leader in the areas of special education and disability resources.



## Enabling International Dialogue

Global awareness has become a leading issue of our times. At Mason, with its multifaceted focus on global ethics, policy, education, and much more, it is a key part of the university's vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Globalization Dialogues Project within the Center for Global Studies—initiated thanks to a \$63,000 campaign gift from George and Trish Vradenburg—has further enriched and diversified the discussion of vital issues among policymakers and the public. The project will enable the center to become an increasingly prominent resource among nongovernmental/humanitarian organizations, as well as intergovernmental organizations and multinational corporations. The initiative will help build their capacity to constructively debate such topics as intellectual property rights, agricultural subsidies, environmental sustainability, and global trade.

"Through this project, we are designing a process that will enable policymakers and activists to talk across the divide," said center director Peter Mandaville.



## Encouraging Talent and Creativity

The impact of Donald and Nancy de Laski's philanthropy on the College of Visual and Performing Arts during *The Campaign for George Mason University* is nothing short of transformational. Without their more than \$4 million in support, the annual summer Potomac Music Academy to engage young talent would not exist, nor would a scholarship endowment for music, dance, and theater students. And, the recent renovation of existing space to create 15 new music practice rooms and teaching studios would still be just a pipedream.

"Our motivation is not about trying to give people the opportunity to be professional artists, but about individuals being better able to round out their lives," said Don de Laski. "Nancy and I wanted to be part of making that happen."

The impact of the de Laskis' foresight and generosity will continue to be seen in the form of an expanded performing arts academic facility at Fairfax to better accommodate the college's increasingly popular programs in music and dance, and resulting enrollment growth. The facility is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

Evan Cantwell



Don and Nancy de Laski, with President Alan Merten, cut the ribbon opening new music practice studios.

Evan Cantwell



Pomata Professor of Neuroscience Layne Kalbfleisch

## Exploring the Brain's Mysteries

The term professorship that Len Pomata and his wife, Ginger, created through their \$100,000 campaign gift to the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study has resulted in exciting explorations into the human brain.

As the Pomata Term Professor in Cognitive Neuroscience, Layne Kalbfleisch has devised a series of nonverbal behavioral exercises to study environmental influences on structural brain development. Last year, she began working with a powerful new tool that provides a real-time look into the organ as it is functioning—helping to further decipher its mysteries.

Kalbfleisch's ongoing research into the developing brain, from childhood through old age, could have long-term impact in treating Alzheimers, attention deficit, and other brain disorders and diseases.

## Electronically Preserving the Past

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has been an instrumental force in expanding the Center for History and New Media's use of cutting-edge digital media to collect and assess recent history through the creation of online digital memory banks.

Through campaign support exceeding \$1.2 million, the foundation funded the center's September 11 Digital Archive—a searing collection of stories and images that is now housed in the Library of Congress—and the innovative Exploring and Collecting History Online science and technology project. As well, the Sloan Foundation continues to support the center's work with recent contributions totaling \$275,000 to create another vivid collection of imagery and firsthand narratives from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

"The Sloan Foundation's generosity has greatly strengthened our ability to incorporate multiple voices, reach diverse audiences, and encourage popular participation in presenting and

preserving the past," said center director Roy Rosenzweig, holder of the Mark and Barbara Fried Term Professorship. Rosenzweig is a recipient of the prestigious Richard W. Lyman Award for his work in advancing humanistic scholarship.



Evan Cantwell



Evan Cartmell

Lovey Hammel, '88

## Fostering Entrepreneurship

The annual Young Entrepreneurs Academy is just one way the Lovey Hammel Fund for Excellence in Entrepreneurship is helping to spark the imagination of the next generation of business owners. Last year's conference attracted more than 80 graduate and undergraduate students who participated in interactive workshops and engaged in networking opportunities with successful entrepreneurs from throughout the region.

Hammel, '88, is a former chair of the Mason Foundation and co-founder and president of Employment Enterprises, one of the 500 largest female-owned businesses in the country. Her company gave \$50,000 during the campaign to create the Hammel Fund to further enhance the School of Management's initiatives in entrepreneurship education. The fund will also help support the annual Research in Entrepreneurship Conference, along with other initiatives designed to empower aspiring business leaders.



Laura Sikes

Dwight and Martha Schar

## Spearheading Regional Analysis

Under the direction of Stephen Fuller, the inaugural holder of the Dwight Schar Faculty Chair, the School of Public Policy's Center for Regional Analysis has become the authoritative source of information on economic, housing, and employment trends in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Schar's \$1 million campaign gift has further advanced Fuller's research on the changing economic structure of the region, and the impact of the evolving role of the federal government as a major source of new jobs and business activity within the overall economy. His work is based on a series of indicators he developed to track the current and near-term performance of the area's economy.

"Stephen Fuller is a highly respected figure in this region and beyond," said President Alan Merten. "His work as the Schar Chair is proving to be a strategic link between academe and economic development."

## Growing the Next IT Generation

Alan Harbitter, PhD '02, believes in the importance of giving back to the school and the community that gave him so much—and has put that belief into action. He, and his family, committed to a gift of \$100,000 during the campaign to establish a scholarship endowment at the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering to help grow the next generation of IT students. He has also established trusts that will contribute five times that amount to benefit the Foundation and the Volgenau School. In addition, Harbitter facilitated a corporate endowment that provides an annual scholarship.

"I owe this community a lot," said Harbitter, CTO of Nortel Government Solutions Inc. "I built a successful business here. My kids grew up here and benefited from an excellent local school system. The presence of a strong research and higher education facility in the area is absolutely essential if we are going to continue to be business and technology leaders."

The endowments have helped attract talented students—individuals who may not have had the opportunity to attend college without scholarship support—and have strengthened the school's reputation for innovation and excellence. The Harbitters' support for the Volgenau School's building fund will help finance the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility that will house additional teaching and research space for future IT leaders.



Evan Cartmell

## Facilitating Conflict Resolution

For more than 26 years, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) has led the nation and the world in the teaching, theory, and practice of resolving deep-rooted conflicts. During *The Campaign for George Mason University*, Edwin and Helen Lynch, now deceased, and their family contributed property and funds totaling \$10.7 million to advance ICAR's mission through the development of an international research and retreat center dedicated to conflict resolution.

Ed and Helen's dream to facilitate peaceful dialogue and exchange is now on the path to reality at their Point of View property—120 acres of pristine land on Mason Neck bordering the Potomac River. The architectural firm Bushman Dreyfus is putting the finishing touches on a master plan outlining the vision and concept of the new center. Once the master plan is completed, the design phase will begin. Concurrently, Nadim Rouhana, holder of the Henry Hart Rice Chair of Conflict Resolution, is formulating the center's research agenda and programmatic content. And preparations are being made to renovate the Lynch home to accommodate faculty offices, student housing, and meeting space.

All of this activity will help lead to ICAR's launch of a major fundraising initiative for additional private funding to build the center and endow its operations and program activities.



Evan Cartmell

"Communitas" bronze by Azriel Awret, Fairfax Campus

## Opening Doors for Teens

For Early Identification Program (EIP) director Hortensia Cadenas, the impact of the ongoing generosity of the Freddie Mac Foundation and Booz Allen Hamilton is best reflected in the smiling faces of the hundreds of participants in the nationally recognized four-year college preparatory program for teens challenged by socio-economic circumstances.

"The beauty of the story is its domino effect as EIP participants grow up and lead positive, successful lives," said

Cadenas. "The strong partnership between these generous organizations and EIP is a golden example of what can be accomplished when business and education join forces to pursue shared goals."

Freddie Mac and Booz Allen Hamilton are lead contributors to EIP's Strengthening the Family Workshops, which promote parental involvement and a better understanding of college financial aid opportunities. Freddie Mac also supports EIP's Summer Academy, an academic enrichment and college preparation program.



Staff and participants celebrate EIP's recent 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Evan Cartmell

CHHS Professor Lisa Pawloski

## Furthering Professional Development

During the campaign, Camille Barry, MSN '86, PhD '92, challenged fellow alumni to join together to raise awareness and funds for professional development and research opportunities within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS).

Through Barry's generosity and that of those who responded to her challenge, more than \$20,000 was raised to create the CHHS Faculty Achievement Fund.

Among the educators benefiting from Barry's initiative is Lisa Pawloski, associate professor and chair of Mason's Department of Global and Community Health. Pawloski, who has a special interest in biocultural approaches to nutrition and health among adolescents, recently traveled to Nicaragua and Thailand to explore the emergence of obesity in developing countries. Her fieldwork was financed, in part, by the fund Barry helped to establish.

Recently, Barry and her husband, Tanel Beeren, have made a \$75,000 commitment to establish the Camille T. Barry Nursing PhD Scholarship Endowment. CHHS Dean Shirley Travis characterized Barry's ongoing dedication to her alma mater as "an inspiration to all of us connected to advancing the quality and reputation of our health and human services program."

# Campaign Gifts at Work

## Advancing Excellence in Forensics

Mason's award-winning forensics team received a major boost during *The Campaign for George Mason University* through the leadership of forensics alumna Diane Pape Reed, '89. She, along with a group of fellow alumni, helped raise more than \$100,000 for the team by contacting past team members and faculty and staff associated with forensics. Sheryl

Friedley and Bruce Manchester, current and emeritus faculty members, respectively, from the Department of Communication, also helped spearhead the group effort.

The result was the creation of the Forensics Alumni and Friends Endowment Fund to support students and strengthen the team's competitiveness through scholarship assistance, team events, and recognition programs. Considering the team's ongoing achievements, the effort paid off. Under the direction of Peter Pober, a nationally renowned forensics coach recruited following the success of this fundraising

initiative, the intercollegiate speech team continues its legendary four-decade run as one of the best in the country. To date, the team has garnered more than 37 national championships and won over 15,000 trophies.



2006-07 Forensics Team

Evan Cantwell



C. Harrison Mann Jr., right, at groundbreaking for George Mason College, Fairfax, 1963

## Digitally Archiving History

The late C. Harrison Mann Jr. was a distinguished member of Virginia's General Assembly and key figure in the founding of George Mason University. A collection of Mann's papers pertaining to his political career, including a handwritten draft manuscript about Mason's creation, is one of the University Libraries' earliest and most significant collections.

Now, thanks to a \$5,000 campaign donation from Mann's grandson, Thomas Gates—and a matching gift from the Wachovia Foundation—the Mann Collection has been digitized and made more easily accessible through the Mason Archival Repository Services, a permanent archive for digital scholarly and research materials.

"I am pleased that, through the generosity of Thomas Gates and his wife, Annette, we have been able to play a part in bringing the life work of C. Harrison Mann to greater light," said John Zenelis, university librarian and associate vice president of Information Technology.

## Creating Champions

Because of friends like Alan and Amy Meltzer, Mason has built a quality men's basketball program, one that took the team on its Cinderella run to the NCAA Final Four in 2006. As loyal supporters

and active fans, the Meltzers helped create champions through campaign contributions exceeding \$250,000 in support of the Patriot Club scholarship fund and men's basketball.

And, that's just for starters. Most recently, the Meltzer philanthropy has included a half-million-dollar commitment to

further strengthen the men's basketball program both on the court and in the classroom.

"I applaud the Meltzers for their tremendous support of athletics at Mason," said men's basketball head coach Jim Larranaga. "Their generosity has been a tremendous boost to our efforts to compete at the next level."



Alan Meltzer

Intercollegiate Athletics

## Touching Students' Lives

The impact of the 87 scholarship endowments created during *The Campaign for George Mason University* will be felt for generations to come. It is our pleasure to share a few recent words of appreciation from several of Mason's scholarship recipients:

*I look forward to giving back to my school and to my community, and thank you for your confidence and willingness to invest in me.*

*I thank you not only for this scholarship but also for changing my life. Someday, I hope to help others, as you have shown me the power of generosity.*

*I now have the opportunity to be a better person for my children. You have reminded me that in this, I am not alone.*

*I have you to thank for giving me a boost and will always keep you in my heart.*

*You have touched the lives of my family and friends, and the impact has been truly wonderful.*



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#### Mission

The Mason Foundation, University Development, and Alumni Affairs support the university's advancement by

- building relationships
- developing resources
- managing assets
- engaging communities

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