Rising to the Challenge

A little more than a year ago, Stanford set out on an ambitious path. Our goal is to apply the resources of the university for the benefit of humanity—a mission in keeping with the charge presented by our founders, Jane and Leland Stanford. To meet that objective, we are focusing our research on solutions to the problems facing society. We are educating our students to become tomorrow’s leaders. We are tapping deeper into the breadth and depth that has defined Stanford’s excellence for more than a century. Through these efforts—and The Stanford Challenge—we strive to make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

As we pause momentarily to measure our progress in this five-year endeavor, it is clear that the Stanford community is rising to the challenge. Last April, we welcomed hundreds of alumni, parents, and friends to campus for the inaugural Stanford Challenge Volunteer Convocation. They are now actively engaged in taking the campaign message across the country. Their leadership will be vital to our success. And I am delighted to report that as of the one-year anniversary of launch, donors have pledged more than 300,000 gifts—at every level—to bring the campaign total to just over $3 billion of our $4.3 billion goal. Thank you all for your commitment and generosity.

Fueled by your support, Stanford is pioneering new directions in research and education, in laboratories, research centers, and classrooms across campus. Our scholars are making substantive contributions to environmental sustainability, international peace and security, human health, and other issues of local, national, and global significance.

Two recent events highlight these contributions. In October, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore. Six Stanford researchers played a prominent role in the panel’s work. Recently, we announced the Center for Ocean Solutions, a new venture aimed at developing enduring solutions to major ocean challenges and educating current and future marine leaders. The center represents a unique partnership between Stanford, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

Our efforts to improve K–12 education and strengthen the arts at Stanford also have been moving forward. This month, with the first round of seed funding from the K–12 initiative’s venture fund, faculty will launch a number of interdisciplinary projects focused on the challenges confronting our nation’s schools, teachers, and students. Faculty leaders and a newly appointed assistant vice president for the arts are working to infuse creativity into all fields of study, enrich arts programming on campus, and strengthen core arts departments. Planning is under way for world-class arts facilities, anchored by a new performing arts center.

We are reinvesting graduate education across our seven schools under the guidance of Stanford’s first vice provost for graduate education. To enhance the undergraduate experience, we are defining several new initiatives that build on what we have accomplished in recent years. At the same time, the foundation of excellence on which Stanford is built continues to grow ever stronger.

The campaign goals include a number of critical capital projects that will provide facilities for interdisciplinary teaching and research. The first such project to be completed opened its doors in November: The Jerry Yang and Akiko Yamazaki Environment and Energy Building provides a hub for environmental studies on campus. This issue of the Stanford Benefactor details our achievements to date in each area of the campaign.

This month we will launch Leading Matters, a series of events that will bring Stanford’s multidisciplinary initiatives to cities around the world. Over the next four years, we will spotlight the work of faculty and students from every corner of the university. I hope you can join us in a city near you.

Our accomplishments in just one year have been considerable, and I am gratified that the optimism with which we launched the campaign was well founded. But we have real work ahead to meet many of our objectives. Despite tremendous progress, we must continue to strive if we are to meet the challenges in front of Stanford—and the world. As we move forward, we will draw upon the spirit of collaboration and discovery that distinguishes this university, and we will depend upon the support of every volunteer and donor.

John L. Hennessy
President
The Initiative on Human Health

There has been significant progress in each of the five interdisciplinary research efforts that comprise Stanford’s Initiative on Human Health. Here are just a few highlights of the many accomplishments to date:

Neurobiologist Carla Shatz was appointed to lead the next phase of Stanford’s pioneering Bio-X program. Thus far, Bio-X seed funding and fellowship programs have helped to spawn innovative research collaborations among more than 300 faculty members in 50 departments on issues ranging from imaging to immunology.

Since the creation of the bioengineering department in 2002, Stanford researchers have led the field in developing biomedical technologies and therapeutics. The burgeoning department, which has outgrown its temporary space in the James H. Clark Center, will soon find a home alongside the chemical engineering department in a building planned for Stanford’s new Science and Engineering Quad.

In April 2007, the Stanford Cancer Center was awarded “cancer center” designation by the National Cancer Institute, branding it one of the premier research and treatment centers in the nation. The recognition is coupled with increased funding for research programs. Construction is expected to begin in 2009.

The first major project in a university-wide plan to integrate science, engineering, and medicine, the 200,000-square-foot Stanford Institutes of Medicine building (SIM1) will be home to the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. The building is set to be completed in 2010.

Funding Breakthroughs in Stem Cell Research

Considered one of the most important scientific frontiers of our time, stem cell research holds great promise for the future of human health. In particular, it has huge potential for targeting and remediying the root causes of illnesses such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disease, neurodegenerative disorders, and many diseases with a genetic component. Stanford’s School of Medicine established its leadership in this emerging field when Irving Weissman, the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Professor for Clinical Investigation in Cancer Research and professor of developmental biology and (by courtesy) of neurosurgery and biological sciences, isolated the first adult stem cell in 1988. Since then, Weissman has become the director of the Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine where he and his colleagues have continued to push the leading edge of discovery in exciting new directions. Today, their work is focused on discovering the means to regenerate healthy organs and tissues, create new embryonic stem cell lines, and target cancer stem cells.

Soon, thanks to sizable gifts from Lorry Lokey, ’49, and Regina Scully, the Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine will bring together investigators from a wide variety of disciplines to untangle the major challenge in stem cell biology, which will help open new vistas that will impact our communities locally and globally.

“While brilliant and creative faculty are capable of generating ideas that can transform science and medicine, the ability of their ideas to become reality depends on partnerships with visionary community leaders who help develop the resources needed to carry forth this work. Lorry Lokey and John and Regina Scully are such visionary leaders. “They have recognized the unique promise of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. But most importantly, Lorry Lokey and the Scullys have recognized that a unique facility like SIM1, which brings together basic and clinical scientists from numerous disciplines to untangle the major challenges in stem cell biology, will help open new vistas that will impact our communities locally and globally.”

—Philip Pizzo, the Carl and Elizabeth Naumann Professor and Dean of the School of Medicine

The other half of the Scullys’ gift will support construction of the proposed new Stanford Hospital—where someday many of these stem cell discoveries will translate into treatments for ailing patients.

“I have a real interest in igniting the fundraising efforts for the adult hospital,” he says. “Given the substantial needs of Stanford Hospital going forward, this type of support is extremely important.” Scully is currently a trustee of Stanford University, a director of Stanford Hospital & Clinics, a director for the Stanford Management Company, and a member of the Stanford Graduate School of Business Advisory Council.

Portions of this story are adapted from an article that originally appeared in Stanford Report.

Lorry Lokey, ’49, is a lead supporter of Stanford’s stem cell research efforts.
Gifts Help Build Neurosciences Powerhouse

Today, one in five Americans suffers from a debilitating neurological disorder such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, or stroke. As medical advances allow people to live longer, the likelihood increases that such a disease will deny them their independence, productivity, and capacity to enjoy life fully.

At the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford (NIS), a community of scientists, physicians, and engineers is committed to a single mission: to relieve, and one day prevent, the suffering that stems from nervous system dysfunction. Through the NIS, Stanford is working to uncover the genetic, molecular, and cellular processes of the brain and translate those discoveries into revolutionary treatments for people in need.

Critical to the institute’s success has been the financial backing of private donors. “These gifts are so transformational in accelerating research in the field of neurosciences, which is still in its infancy,” says Gary Steinberg, PhD ’79; MD ’80, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. “This support allows researchers the freedom to pursue projects that are nontraditional, but that could have a profound benefit for human health.”

In fact, one such gift helped develop the Department of Neurosurgery into the powerhouse it is today. Over the past 11 years, the department has grown from 5 to 28 faculty members and ranks second nationally in National Institutes of Health funding to neurosurgery departments. Steinberg credits early funding from donors like Bernard and Ronni Lacroute, who endowed his professorship in 1996.

When Steinberg first met the Lacroutes in 1995, Ronni had suffered a hemorrhage from a devastating cerebral vascular malformation that went misdiagnosed at a local community hospital. He recognized the severity of her condition and scheduled her for surgery just two days later.

“He saved my life,” Ronni recalls. “He was the most gentle, kind doctor I had ever met. When I came out of surgery, he was holding my hand.”

This experience motivated the Lacroutes to support Steinberg’s work—and that support continues today. Their contributions are now earmarked for his work in neuroregeneration, which aims to repair the nervous system and restore neurologic function. “I am very enthusiastic about the work Dr. Steinberg is doing and feel it must be funded,” says Bernard Lacroute. “His research is invaluable.”

James R. Doty, a former Stanford neurosurgery faculty member and entrepreneur, also understands the importance of supporting basic science research and used part of his $5.4 million gift to Stanford to create the James R. Doty Professorship in Neurosurgery and Neurosciences. That chair is being awarded to Pak H. Chan, professor of neurosurgery, to further his research on the cell death that occurs when patients suffer strokes, spinal cord injuries, and brain trauma. This is the largest single gift ever given to the Department of Neurosurgery.

“Dr. Chan is a world-renowned basic scientist who is researching neuronal injury and its consequences,” says Doty, who directs a neuroscience program at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Mississippi, and serves on the faculty of Tulane University. “It is basic medical research such as this that has laid the foundations for clinical medicine and that will be responsible for the gains in the future. I am honored to give this endowed chair to Stanford to support Dr. Chan and the important work in the neurosurgery department. It is truly world-class.”

In another area of funding for neuroscience, Vincent and Susan Borelli have made a $4 million gift to endow the Coyote Foundation Professorship. Greg Albers (above), director of the Stanford Stroke Center and professor of neurology and neurological sciences, is the chair’s first holder. The center brings together physicians from multiple specialties, including neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, internal medicine, and emergency medicine, and is focused on developing new approaches to diagnose and treat stroke. The Borellis were moved to help develop the program because of the care Vincent Borelli received at Stanford after suffering a stroke.

Their gift will help Albers continue his work on the acute treatment and prevention of cerebrovascular disorders, including his latest research on new techniques for imaging acute stroke.

PHOTO: Tracy Press

Honoring Donors—and the Environment

The first annual Stanford Challenge donor roll launches this month, and, in keeping with Stanford’s commitment to the environment and sustainability, the tribute to the campaign’s most charitable benefactors is paperless.

The listing honors alumni, parents, and friends whose gifts through October 10, 2007—the first-year anniversary of the campaign kickoff—total $50,000 or more. It appears online at our secure, password-protected Web site, honorrolls.stanford.edu. A special “Why I Give” feature offers donors a place to share what inspired them to help meet The Stanford Challenge.

In addition to endowing a professorship in Stanford’s Department of Neurosurgery, James Daly’s gift will support a new program to investigate novel strategies for treating spinal cord injuries and a collaborative project with the Dalai Lama on the neurological basis of human compassion and altruism. RIGHT: Gary Steinberg, PhD ’79; MD ’80, chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery and the Bernard and Ronni Lacroute-William Randolph Hearst Professor of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience. PHOTOS: Visual Art Services, Mark Tuschman.

Above: In addition to endowing a professorship in Stanford’s Department of Neurosurgery, James Daly’s gift will support a new program to investigate novel strategies for treating spinal cord injuries and a collaborative project with the Dalai Lama on the neurological basis of human compassion and altruism. RIGHT: Gary Steinberg, PhD ’79; MD ’80, chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery and the Bernard and Ronni Lacroute-William Randolph Hearst Professor of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience. PHOTOS: Visual Art Services, Mark Tuschman.

ABOVE: In addition to endowing a professorship in Stanford’s Department of Neurosurgery, James Daly’s gift will support a new program to investigate novel strategies for treating spinal cord injuries and a collaborative project with the Dalai Lama on the neurological basis of human compassion and altruism. RIGHT: Gary Steinberg, PhD ’79; MD ’80, chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery and the Bernard and Ronni Lacroute-William Randolph Hearst Professor of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience. PHOTOS: Visual Art Services, Mark Tuschman.

ABOVE: In addition to endowing a professorship in Stanford’s Department of Neurosurgery, James Daly’s gift will support a new program to investigate novel strategies for treating spinal cord injuries and a collaborative project with the Dalai Lama on the neurological basis of human compassion and altruism. RIGHT: Gary Steinberg, PhD ’79; MD ’80, chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery and the Bernard and Ronni Lacroute-William Randolph Hearst Professor of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience. PHOTOS: Visual Art Services, Mark Tuschman.
The Initiative on the Environment and Sustainability

Today, nearly 500 Stanford faculty members in a variety of disciplines are conducting environmental research on issues related to energy and climate, land use and conservation, oceans, and freshwater systems. A number of these efforts have been launched with seed funding from the Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Institute for the Environment. Their noteworthy contributions to the field include establishing new marine reserves on the California coast, developing more energy-efficient building designs and materials, measuring the economic value of natural resources, and studying how public attitudes toward global warming are changing. The newly constructed Yang and Yamazaki Environment and Energy Building provides a home for such work (see sidebar).

Stanford continues to set a new standard in training 21st-century environmental leaders through unique programs like the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Environment and Resources (see below). The Woods Institute’s Leopold Leadership Program has helped more than 100 academics hone their ability to communicate the science associated with complex environmental problems.

Training Leaders for a Sustainable World

Michael Mastrandrea, ’00, PhD ’04, is no stranger to raré air. The young scholar enjoys climbing to the top of mountain peaks and has been counted among the top environmental scientists and policy experts whose work helped the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) win the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore. Mastrandrea is an author of “Assessing the Risk of Critical Climate Change,” part of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, released in 2007.

“We’re all honored that the IPCC has been recognized in this way,” Mastrandrea says. “It highlights the power of these reports in establishing the scientific basis for climate change and motivating global climate policy.”

Mastrandrea was the first graduate of Stanford’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Environment and Resources (IPER), launched in 2001. IPER offers doctoral degrees as well as a joint master’s degree for students enrolled in Stanford’s schools of law, medicine, and business. Stanford is one of only a few institutions to offer such training, and the program attracts some of the most promising environmental leaders from around the world.

Donors like Jeanne, ’69, and Bill Landreth, ’69, are helping to make work like Mastrandrea’s possible. The Landreths have endowed two IPER fellowships—because of their interest in the environment and their connection to Stanford (both their children also attended the university). “We wanted to help get IPER off the ground,” says Bill Landreth, a member of the Advisory Council of Stanford’s Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Institute for the Environment. “I love to fish and hike, so this was a natural fit.”

The Chevron Corporation has taken an early lead in supporting IPER as well. The Chevron Graduate Fellowship in Environment and Resources Management provides support for students pursuing a joint degree with the Graduate School of Business. This year, four students are the beneficiaries. The corporation is also providing support for GSB faculty who conduct research on environmental and resource assessment issues.

“We’re looking for ways to increase the relationship between Chevron and Stanford, especially with environmental issues coming to the forefront,” says Mark Koelmel, general manager of earth sciences at Chevron’s Energy Technology Company. “We see the joint program as developing future managers out of Stanford who have a science background. Sustainably managing the world’s resources is very important to Chevron.”

In his work as a research associate at the Woods Institute, Mastrandrea creates computer models to analyze future climate risks and how policy solutions can reduce those risks—that is, he projects how policies will affect the climate and potential climate impacts.

IPER’s flexibility allowed him to study climate and atmospheric sciences at Chevron’s Energy Technology Company. “We see the joint program as developing future managers out of Stanford who have a science background. Sustainably managing the world’s resources is very important to Chevron.”

“It’s really a wonderful program,” Mastrandrea says of IPER. “It gave me the freedom to forge my own direction and learn the tools I needed to pursue my specific research.”

A gift from Bill, ’69, and Jeanne Landreth, ’69, coupled with matching funds from the university, has provided endowment funding for two IPER fellowships.

Photo: Steve Castillo

A Hub for Environmental Problem Solving

How can we meet the world’s energy needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Which policies will help to make sustainable agriculture mainstream? Is there a cost-effective way to get clean water to the rural corners of the earth?

These are just a few of the questions that will be tackled within the walls of Stanford’s new Jerry Yang and Akiko Yamazaki Environment and Energy Building, which opened late last year. Known on campus as Y2E2, the building is named for university trustee Jerry Yang, ’90, MS ’90, and his wife, Akiko Yamazaki, ’90, who committed $50 million to the project. Y2E2 brings together 500 students, faculty, and staff members whose work in a variety of disciplines is focused on the environment. It is the new home of the Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Institute for the Environment, the Precourt Institute for Energy Efficiency, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and several specialized research centers and teaching programs.

Exemplifying sustainable design and construction, Y2E2 uses less than half the energy of a similarly sized conventional building and only one-third the water. Four large algae, open from the underground level to the third floor, contribute to energy conservation by distributing air and light. In effect, the entire building serves as a laboratory for the research conducted inside.

Faculty and staff working in Y2E2 are grouped not by academic discipline, but according to the focus of their research. The atrium at the center of the “seas and estuaries” area has been named in honor of a $5 million gift from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (see story on facing page). The grand terrace, located outside the offices of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering on the second floor (above), will be named to commemorate a $1 million gift from Marian, ’54, and George Malloy, ’50, and a connection to Stanford that goes back nearly 100 years. George Malloy’s father enrolled at Stanford in 1909, and Marian Malloy’s father graduated in 1916 with a degree in civil engineering.

A host of other naming opportunities within Y2E2 still exist. The building dedication is scheduled for March 4.
issues. The institute also recently hosted the inaugural First Nations’ Futures Institute, offering young indigenous leaders from Hawaii and New Zealand exposure to the latest environmental science, as well as dialogue about how they can effect change in their communities.

New building projects on campus—in various phases of planning, design, and construction—will incorporate leading standards of sustainability. Stanford earned an overall grade of “A–” on the first sustainability report card issued by the Cambridge-based Sustainable Endowments Institute. And a group of students and faculty in the School of Earth Sciences have developed a pocket “Sustainable Choices” guide to help consumers understand the simple decisions that can reduce their carbon footprint.

Many of these accomplishments are detailed on the university’s new online site for campus-wide resources on the environment: environment.stanford.edu.

Woods Institute Launches Center for Ocean Solutions with Packard Foundation Gift

People have long depended on healthy oceans for food, recreation, and commerce. But this irreplaceable resource is in dire trouble, say marine scientists, largely because of human impacts—from pollution to poorly managed fisheries to climate change. Recent studies warn that unless we control global warming and begin managing the seas in a sustainable way, most of the world’s commercial fisheries will collapse within 50 years, along with the majority of coral reef and mangrove ecosystems.

To address these and other major threats to the marine environment, Stanford University, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute have joined forces to create the Center for Ocean Solutions (COS)—a unique collaboration that will bring together international experts in marine science and policy to find and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing ocean challenges. Researchers with Stanford’s Hopkins Marine Station, the oldest marine research lab on the West Coast, will play a prominent role in the center, and the university’s Woods Institute for the Environment will manage it.

Stanford received a $25 million grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to establish the new center in Monterey, including funds to endow its directorship. “The Center for Ocean Solutions will provide an essential bridge between the academic community and decision makers to ensure that we can bring the very best science to community and decision makers to ensure that we can bring the very best science to bear in designing solutions to the major challenges facing our coasts and oceans,” says Walter Reed, director of the foundation’s Conservation and Science Program. Packard provided an additional $7.5 million to support the Woods Institute’s Leopold Leadership Program and Stanford’s new Yang and Yamazaki Environment and Energy Building, which will house faculty and staff from COS and Hopkins when they are on campus.

“Unlike traditional academic partnerships, the Center for Ocean Solutions will have a results-oriented focus that brings experts together to develop new strategies that lead to real change,” says Barton H. “Buzz” Thompson, Jr., ’73, JD/MBA ’76 (Parent ’10), the Perry L. McCarty Co-Director of the Woods Institute and the Robert E. Paradise Professor of Natural Resources Law.

Part of the center’s mission is to improve graduate-level marine education in the region by developing student workshops and short courses on marine science and policy. The center also will sponsor fellowships for postdoctoral scholars and recent law and business school graduates, as well as offer training for decision makers from the public and private sectors.

Marine policy expert Meg Caldwell, JD ’85, a senior lecturer at Stanford Law School and the Woods Institute, and a former chair of the California Coastal Commission, will head up the center while the search for a director is conducted.

“One of our aspirations is to be really forward looking—not only acknowledging immediate threats but being able to look well ahead and say, ‘These are issues that are going to confront society in the next generation, which we should be dealing with right now,’” Caldwell says.

This story is adapted from an article that originally appeared in Stanford Report.

Barton H. “Buzz” Thompson, Jr., (left) and Jeffrey Koseff, the Perry L. McCarty Directors of the Woods Institute for the Environment and Co-Chairs of the Initiative on the Environment and Sustainability

PHOTO: L. A. Cicero/Stanford News Service

“The Monterey Bay area has a breadth and depth of marine research that is unparalleled in the United States. The faculty at Hopkins are among the very best marine biologists in the world. Right next door is the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which has a phenomenal capacity to reach people and teach them in a very understandable way about the oceans. Just up the coast is the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, which is a world leader in deploying technology for oceanic exploration. Through the Center for Ocean Solutions, we can bring together all of this science, engineering, and outreach expertise, and apply it to the policy realm to solve these critical environmental problems.” –Jeffrey Koseff, MS ’78, PhD ’83, the Perry L. McCarty Co-Director of the Woods Institute for the Environment, the William Alden Campbell and Martha Campbell Professor of Engineering, and the Michael Forman University Fellow in Undergraduate Education
The International Initiative

The number of students and faculty involved in the International Initiative continues to grow. The Presidential Fund for Innovation in International Studies has now awarded a total of $2 million for 13 faculty research efforts, such as a project using mobile phone technology to deliver a Stanford-developed course to students in Chile, Colombia, and Tanzania. The master’s program in International Policy Studies, jointly administered by the School of Humanities and Sciences (H&S) and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), has expanded from a one- to a two-year course of study. FSI continues to secure funding for the renovation of Encina Commons, which will bring key H&S and FSI programs under one roof. And in its third annual session, the Summer Fellows on Democracy and Development Program brought leaders from 23 transitioning nations to campus to meet with faculty and share insights on reform in their countries.

Passing the Torch: Perry Fellowship Trains International Security Leaders

When the U.S.S.R. collapsed in 1991, the former Soviet republic of Ukraine suddenly became the world’s third largest nuclear power. Bill Perry, ’49, MS ’50, then U.S. secretary of defense, drew upon a rare combination of technical and geopolitical expertise to help convince the Ukrainians to decommission their nuclear weapons. As in many instances, Perry was the right man in the right place to take a step toward peace.

Since then, Perry has remained active as a security advocate and has begun to focus on training the next generation of security experts at Stanford. Now a group of Perry admirers has endowed a fellowship in his honor to advance this effort.

The William J. Perry Fellowship in International Security enables a promising young scholar or professional, often in a field outside of the traditional domain of international relations, to spend a year at Stanford’s Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). The fellow joins a diverse community of scholar practitioners—including Perry—within Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies to research current threats from nuclear proliferation and terrorism, as well as disaster response and the causes and prevention of conflict.

Until now, CISAC fellowships have been underwritten with funding from private foundations and government agencies. Past fellows have included Jendayi Frazer, ’85, MA ’85, MA ’89, MA ’91, PhD ’94, assistant secretary of state for African affairs; K. Shankar Bajpai, former Indian ambassador to the United States, China, and Pakistan; and John Harvey, director of policy planning for the National Nuclear Security Administration. Establishing the first Perry Fellowship inaugurates CISAC’s effort to endow at least eight fellowships in perpetuity.

Franklin “Pitch” Johnson, ’50, a veteran Silicon Valley venture capitalist, and his wife, Carah, contributed the lead gift. Pitch Johnson first met Perry in the early 1960s, when Perry was seeking start-up funding for an electronics company.

“Pitch” Johnson, ’50, and Eileen Donahoe, MBA ’86, also helped endow the Perry Fellowship, based primarily on what Eileen Donahoe describes as “deep admiration for Bill Perry.” A former CISAC fellow and current affiliated scholar, she studies the rationale for using military force in humanitarian intervention. The fellowship program “gives young scholars the opportunity to do the in-depth thinking that needs to be done, but then to take that long-term, comprehensive perspective out into the world and influence policymakers,” she says.

Perry’s main concern today remains the threat of nuclear proliferation, especially the risk that terrorists will acquire nuclear weapons. Speaking to fellowship donors at CISAC’s celebration of his 80th birthday in October, he promised to “dedicate my remaining years to doing everything I can to reduce the dangerous nuclear threat which our country faces.”

“Once I have in doing that,” he continued, “is to try to bring along the young people who are going to replace us. That’s why I’m trying to do this at a university, where we are surrounded by young people who are ready to pick up this torch.”

Bill Perry, pictured above on the day he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1944, earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in mathematics from Stanford, followed by a PhD from Penn State. He then ran a research and development lab and founded a successful electronics company. He was often called upon to advise the government on national security technologies, which led to his appointment as undersecretary of defense in 1977. Returning to industry in 1981, he continued his policy work part time at Stanford and became co-director of the university’s Center for International Security and Cooperation in 1988. He was called back to Washington in 1993, first as deputy secretary and then as the 19th secretary of defense.

Today, Perry holds the Michael and Barbara Berberian Professorship, serving both in the School of Engineering and FSI. He is also a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and co-director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), has expanded from a one- to a two-year course of study.
Multidisciplinary Research Across the University

In addition to the university’s three major initiatives—on the environment, health, and international affairs—Stanford faculty and students from different fields of study are seeking solutions through collaborations on many other important topics. The Stanford Challenge has helped to launch the Lane Center for the Study of the North American West and the Stanford Center on Longevity.

A new Center for Nanoscience and Technology is being planned (see below), as well as the John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn Building for the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. The Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity gained funding for up to 10 new faculty members and six new graduate students. New support is furthering the missions of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research and the Hoover Institution.

In 2007, Stanford awarded the first round of faculty grants for innovation in the humanities to multidisciplinary teams bridging such fields as classics and political science. The university instituted a master’s program in public policy that draws professors from fields including business, economics, law, philosophy, political science, and psychology. And Stanford is actively recruiting some of the most sought-after scholars in the world to fill a new type of professorship that allows faculty to serve in multiple schools or departments.

The Nano Center: A Quantum Leap for Cutting-Edge Research

Electrical engineer Jelena Vuckovic builds photonic crystals that may enable rapid-fire lasers to accelerate Internet traffic by orders of magnitude. Chemist and J. G. Jackson and C. J. Wood Professor Hongjie Dai creates carbon nanotubes, specialized molecules that may target cancer and detect biohazards.

Though their expertise is in different fields, their work is centered on one thing: the nanoscale. The study and manipulation of materials measured in billions of a meter, or nanometers, is a rapidly expanding field that involves engineers, biologists, chemists, physicists, and others. And because the properties of matter at this level are fundamentally different, such efforts promise advances in every area of life, from ultrafast communications to more effective medicines and cleaner fuels.

Stanford’s new Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, scheduled to begin construction next year, will bring together hundreds of researchers like Vuckovic and Dai from departments all over campus. The facility will house sophisticated research tools far too costly for single departments to maintain, in state-of-the-art laboratories that control for noise, vibration, and light.

Jane and Herb Dwight, ’53, MS ’59, among the first donors to the Nano Center, were drawn to the project by a combination of technological savvy and historic personal connections to the university. Herb Dwight was a cofounder of Spectra Physics, whose products included the laser-driven bar code scanners that ring up groceries. He’s deeply familiar with the kind of science and technology to be explored in the Nano Center and with Stanford’s record in the field.

“Since the birth of quantum electronics in the middle of the last century, Stanford has been a recognized leader in applied physics and photonics,” says Dwight.

His most personal connection with the building, however, is decidedly low tech. His great-grandfather, John Duff McGilvray, led the stone-masonry company that erected Stanford’s first sandstone buildings. “He regarded Memorial Church as one of his finest creations,” Dwight recalls. “Stanford has been an integral part of my family history and a source of many rich experiences in our lives.”

Over the years, Dwight has served in numerous capacities at Stanford, including on the university’s Board of Trustees, and his interests on campus are wide ranging. Along with their gift toward the Nano Center, the Dwights are lead donors to a task force at the Hoover Institution examining Middle East ideologies, fundamentalism, and terrorism.

For his extraordinary involvement at Stanford, Dwight will be awarded the Gold Spike in April 2008, the university’s highest annual award for volunteer service.

When the Nano Center opens in fall 2009, it will be one of four buildings forming a new Science and Engineering Quad, Stanford’s largest building project since Herb Dwight’s grandfather helped assemble the original campus. On a recent tour of the site, Dwight inspected both exterior limestone and laboratory plans with the eyes of an engineer and a son of Stanford.

It’s hard to imagine anyone who could take a keener interest in how such a building is made—or what will be made by the people who use it.

Jane and Herb Dwight survey the site of Stanford’s future Science and Engineering Quad.

PHOTO: Steve Castillo
Improving K–12 Education

Through Stanford's initiative on Improving K–12 Education, scholars from across the university are joining with experts in the School of Education to tackle the challenges facing our nation's schools. Under the newly appointed leadership of Kenji Hakuta, the Lee L. Jacks Professor of Education, and Helen Quinn, '63, MS '64, PhD '67, professor of physics at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, the effort is coalescing around the themes of teacher training and development, policy, and leadership.

In December, the first round of seed grants was awarded to interdisciplinary teams of faculty pursuing projects aimed at K–12 education, stimulating new and innovative work on campus. Stanford researchers took the lead on three noteworthy projects last year that point the way to effective reform in California: an unprecedented investigation into the state's troubled education finance system, the development of a rigorous performance assessment for teacher-candidates seeking their credential, and a study identifying approaches and policies that will help close the achievement gap.

This past fall, the School of Education's entering cohort of teachers-in-training were the first to be offered loan forgiveness from the new Dorothy Durfee Avery Fund in return for their commitment to become public school teachers. And two new programs to strengthen the skills of up-and-coming school leaders will be launched this year. One is targeted at early-career K–12 principals (see story below); the other combines a master's degree in policy, organization, and leadership studies with an administrative credential offered by New Leaders for New Schools.

A Matter of Principals

Beginning in June, up to 15 early-career principals will come to Stanford to inaugurate a yearlong program designed to strengthen their skills, knowledge, and vision. The new Stanford Principal Fellows program is the product of a collaboration between the School of Education and the Graduate School of Business (GSB)—and is a priority for the university's recently launched initiative on Improving K–12 Education.

Focused study on critical topics such as strategic leadership, change management, accountability systems, and strengthening teaching and learning will accompany intensive monthly seminars at Stanford and problem solving meetings with colleagues and district superintendents at school sites. The goal is to provide emerging K–12 leaders with the knowledge and sustained support they need to drive change and create schools where students thrive. In its second year, the program will welcome a new cohort of more than 20 fellows.

Tory, '66, and Dick Agnich, ’66, longtime supporters of school reform in their hometown of Dallas, have made the innovative program the focus of their gift to Stanford. They believe that when it comes to the challenges facing K–12 education, it’s necessary to zero in on creative solutions like this one.

“The Principal Fellows program will help foster the kind of entrepreneurial leadership that is critical for K–12 education reform,” says Deborah Stipek, the I. James Quillen Dean and professor in the School of Education. “The program is designed to help promising principals make organizational changes that will promote the high levels of achievement we know students can accomplish.”

“By leveraging our location within Silicon Valley, that famous ‘laboratory’ for entrepreneurship, we will be able to connect school principals with resources to help them become successful innovators in the field,” comments Robert Joss, MBA ‘67, PhD ’70, the Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean of the GSB.

The program will initially focus on principals from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The idea is to generate within a few years a critical mass of educational leaders working from the same fundamentals and networked together.

“That’s what will make momentum for change possible,” says Tory Agnich.

The Agniches hope the program and the partnership between the schools of business and education will serve as a model and be replicated elsewhere. “All over the country, strengthening schools is going to require great leadership by school principals,” says Dick Agnich.

A gift from Dick, ’66, and Tory Agnich, ’66, will help fund the new Stanford Principal Fellows Program, a joint venture of the School of Education and Graduate School of Business.

PHOTO: Sheila Cunningham
Engaging the Arts and Creativity

The campus-wide Stanford Arts Initiative continues to deepen and expand the presence of the arts on campus. The initiative recently awarded the first round of 13 grants for faculty-driven projects, such as a production of the play Miracle in Rwanda accompanied by discussions with faculty in law, political science, history, and religious studies. Another round of 37 grants was awarded to students for projects ranging from novels and musical compositions to scholarship on architecture and theatrical design.

Stanford selected the acclaimed Polshek Partnership Architects to design the university’s new Performing Arts Center. Acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota, whose resume includes the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, will work on the new center’s Bing Concert Hall.

Students and scholars in the arts and humanities convened with counterparts in the sciences for a Stanford symposium on Music, Rhythm, and the Brain, one of the many recent events cosponsored by the initiative. Tony Award winner David Henry Hwang, ‘79, brought his new play Yellowface to campus as a work in progress, meeting with students and faculty as part of the annual residency at Stanford of The Public Theater in New York. And Stanford Lively Arts presented the West Coast premiere of “Book of Longing,” a collaboration between composer Philip Glass and poet/songwriter Leonard Cohen.

Reaching In: Gifts Bring the Arts into More Students’ Lives

It’s 10 p.m. in Stanford’s Kimball dorm, and the Ying Quartet is filling the lounge with a brand of chamber music the New York Times calls “riveting and uplifting.” It’s the kind of up-close experience that Stanford hopes will engage all students in the creative arts, whether they are passionate artists themselves or completely inexperienced.

The performance is part of Stanford’s university-wide Arts Initiative, co-directed by Jonathan Berger, the Billie Bennett Achilles Professor of Performance in the Department of Music and William R. and Gretchen B. Kimball University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, and Bryan Wolf, the Jane and William Hayden Jones Professor in American Art and Culture. Early donors to the initiative have provided funds to be used at Berger and Wolf’s discretion to ensure that “art happens” in every student’s life at Stanford.

Donors Jennifer, ‘71, and Phil Satre, ‘71 (Parents ’01, ’07, ’10); and Ron Johnson, ’80, likewise, want to help ensure that “art happens” in every student’s life at Stanford. PHOTOs: Courtesy of Jennifer and Phil Satre, and Ron Johnson

ABOVE: Arts Initiative donors Phil, ’71, and Jennifer Satre, ’71 (Parents ’01, ’07, ’10); and Ron Johnson, ’80, RIGHT, want to help ensure that “art happens” in every student’s life at Stanford.

PHOTO: Walter Colley Images

Sarah Ratchye, ’78, and husband Ed Frank, ’78, MS ’78, are longtime supporters of Stanford Lively Arts. He remembers coming home from a presentation by Stanford President John Hennessy and telling her, “We really ought to get behind this, because it combines two things we’re passionate about.” Ratchye is a professional artist and a trustee at the San Jose Museum of Modern Art. Frank is an executive at semiconductor company Broadcom and serves on the board of Carnegie Mellon University.

Passion is the key, says Frank. “The arts stir something very deep in human beings.” If more Stanford students are exposed to the arts, whether as participants or observers, whether as artists or as engineers,” he says, “I think the net result is that we will graduate students who are just fundamentally more passionate people. For us, it’s an important aspect of making and keeping Stanford a premier institution in the educational landscape of the United States.”

The Ying Quartet added a dormitory concert for students to their public appearance in the Stanford Lively Arts performance series.
Reinventing Graduate Education

Several exciting changes are taking place in graduate education at Stanford. Revamped curricula, expanded cross-disciplinary learning and research opportunities, and leadership training programs are being designed to better prepare students for the increasingly interconnected world in which they will live and work.

This month faculty will nominate candidates for the Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowships Program (SIGF), launched to provide independent support for highly talented doctoral students engaged in research that cuts across disciplines. SIGF is just one of several initiatives led by the new Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education (see sidebar). The Summer Graduate Student Institute enters its third year, offering intensive cross-disciplinary courses to students from throughout the university on topics from entrepreneurship to global warming.

Construction of the five-building Munger Graduate Residence complex is under way. The building, which will house 600 students, is slated to open in fall 2009. Site work has begun in preparation for the School of Medicine’s new Learning and Knowledge Center, and plans for the Knight Management Center, a new campus for the Graduate School of Business, as well as an academic building for the law school, and the School of Engineering Center are taking shape. Each of these facilities will provide state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate collaborative approaches to teaching and learning.

The Business of Preserving Our Planet

When the new Graduate School of Business (GSB) campus—the Knight Management Center—goes up on Serra Street in 2008, it will not only be a friendly environment, it will also be friendly to the environment. That’s because the GSB is working to make sure that the entire 360,000-square-foot project meets the highest environmental sustainability certification.

The earth-smart aspect of the new complex is being made possible by the GSB’s Campus Sustainability Fund, which has received $5 million—it’s first and largest gift to date—from C. Angus Wurtele, MBA ’61. Wurtele is presently the proud owner of Terra Valentine Winery in St. Helena, California.

“We talk daily about sustainable farming and organic wines, so the environment is very much on my mind,” he says. “I don’t think there will be one big solution to climate change and pollution, but rather a lot of smaller entrepreneurial efforts that will have a big impact. I see the new business school campus as one such noble project, and I hope my gift will inspire others to help bring it to fruition.”

The new campus, named for Philip H. Knight, MBA ’62, whose unprecedented $100 million gift paved the way for the project, is on track to meet LEED® Platinum standards—the highest certification offered by the U.S. Green Building Council. The new campus will feature numerous small buildings, which can be climate controlled more easily than one large structure. It will rely on the temperate Stanford weather for natural ventilation and will incorporate innovative heating and air conditioning systems, as well as some solar power. The complex will capture and treat a significant percentage of storm water runoff and will be designed for efficient water use.

Moreover, all of the Knight Center’s building materials will be non-toxic, and at least 50 percent of the previously developed site area will be restored with native or adapted vegetation (accomplished by putting the 900-car parking facility underground). Spaces and windows have been configured so that nearly 90 percent of occupants will have a direct line of sight to the outdoors.

The center is designed to support the school’s new approach to management and leadership education. It integrates collaborative workspace for faculty, flexible teaching facilities that accommodate a variety of class sizes as well as experiential and team-based learning, and inviting public spaces that allow for greater engagement with the Stanford campus as a whole. The GSB expects to break ground on the project this summer.

Wurtele was a member of the GSB Advisory Council from 1989 to 1998 and a volunteer for class reunions and the GSB’s 75th anniversary campaign in 1999. A former naval officer and a graduate of Yale, he was the longtime CEO of Valpar, formerly Minnesota Paints. He took over the business at the age of 27 after his father’s death and orchestrated a series of acquisitions that made it one of the nation’s leading paint and industrial coating companies. Wurtele and his wife, Margaret, now split their time between Wayzata, Minnesota, and the Napa Valley.

In honor of his upcoming 50th reunion, C. Angus Wurtele, MBA ’61, and his wife, Margaret von Blon, have committed $5 million to the GSB’s Campus Sustainability Fund.

A Bold New Approach

In January 2007, Stanford established the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE) to spearhead efforts to reshape and enhance graduate education. Building on the university’s well-established reputation for academic excellence and leveraging the colocation of Stanford’s seven graduate schools on one campus, the VPGE is working to pioneer a model of graduate education that complements disciplinary depth with multidisciplinary breadth to prepare students for leadership in the 21st century.

Collaborating with Stanford’s deans and faculty, the VPGE provides university-wide coordination and acts as the catalyst for innovation. The office promotes cross-school and interdisciplinary learning opportunities; offers leadership and professional development programs for students; supports continued investment in students, faculty, and academic departments; and advances graduate student diversity. Its work is infused with the spirit of experimentation and exploration.

The VPGE was created on the recommendation of the Commission on Graduate Education, a 20-member group appointed by President John Hennessy in 2004. Their comprehensive review was inspired by a group appointed by President John Hennessy in 2004. Their comprehensive review was inspired by a decade of improvements in undergraduate education at Stanford.

Patricia Gumport, MA ’82, MA ’86, PhD ’87, is Stanford’s first vice provost for graduate education. A professor in the School of Education and director of the Stanford Institute for Higher Education Research, Gumport’s expertise extends across a wide range of ongoing issues in higher education, including academic change, mission clarification, program review, and collaboration.

The Knight Management Center is being designed to support the Graduate School of Business’s bold new curriculum, which is focused on experiential, seminar-based, and team-oriented learning opportunities, as well as multidisciplinary collaborators that bring together students, scholars, and leaders from throughout the university.

RENDERINGS: Courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson architects

In honor of his upcoming 50th reunion, C. Angus Wurtele, MBA ’61, and his wife, Margaret von Blon, have committed $5 million to the GSB’s Campus Sustainability Fund.

PHOTO: M. J. Wickam
Extending the Renaissance in Undergraduate Education

One of the primary goals of The Stanford Challenge is to build on the many improvements in undergraduate education instituted in recent years. Since the launch of the campaign, progress toward that goal has been made in several ways.

The university committed an additional $5 million in financial aid for the 2007-08 academic year to help ease the financial burden of middle-income families, and more than $45 million has been added to the pool of endowed scholarship funding, including more than $7 million earmarked for international students.

Two new interdisciplinary paths are available undergrads: a concentration in biochemistry and an atmosphere and energy major. A $2 million Hoagland Award Fund has been established to support innovative approaches in undergraduate teaching at either the course or curricular level. And for the first time, every freshman has been matched with two advisors—one from the faculty or academic staff and one from the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Research—to offer more in-depth guidance.

The Old Union complex reopened last fall, providing a vibrant student center on campus, and planning has begun for a new undergraduate dormitory—the first step in a long-term plan to revitalize residential life (see sidebar).

Giving Back

An endowed scholarship provides the gift of a Stanford education to an accomplished and deserving student. And as Miriam Rivera, ‘86, MA ‘89, JD/MBA ‘95, and Bob Murphy, ’53, have found, contributing to an endowed scholarship can be one of the most satisfying ways to give back.

Few understand the impact of a scholarship better than Miriam Rivera. One of five children raised by a single mom in inner-city Chicago, Rivera admits that her mother probably never earned more than $10,000 a year. Hardship bred a strong sense of determination in the young woman.

“I experienced early on the low expectations people had of me as to what I could amount to. I fueled myself on sheer power of will in those years. I wanted to show people what I could do,” she explains.

And show them she did. Rivera attended Stanford—thanks to scholarship support.

“The best gift I had at Stanford was being able to fully engage in my studies and in the many opportunities that were available there, like studying overseas. Money did not stop me from doing what I dreamed about.”

Rivera’s story is inspiring. She went on to earn a master’s degree from the School of Humanities and Sciences and a joint degree from Stanford Law School and the Graduate School of Business. Most recently she served as vice president and deputy general counsel of Google. She has never forgotten the difference determination in the young woman.

Creating the Miriam Rivera and Clint Korver Family Undergraduate Scholarship is her way of giving back. The aid is satisfaction of Google. She has never forgotten the difference

Bob Murphy’s connection to scholarships runs through his long experience with the Stanford athletic program. He is often referred to as “Mr. Stanford,” and many will tell you that he bleeds Cardinal red. Everyone agrees that he is the authority on the history of Stanford sports.

“Murph,” as he is affectionately known, closed out his 43-year career as a member of the Stanford radio broadcast team at the 110th Big Game against Cal on December 1. The Stanford community honored Murphy in the press box before the game and with a rousing halftime tribute, during which both Cardinal and Bear fans offered him a standing ovation. The home team radio booth at Stanford Stadium has been named in Murphy’s honor. And of course, the Cardinal win was the icing on the cake.

Murphy was a Hall of Fame pitcher for Stanford, and helped lead the 1953 team to the College World Series. He served as sports information director and has been a tireless volunteer on the Athletics Hall of Fame committee, the Council of Chiefs, and at scores of athletic events. But his commitment to Stanford extends well beyond the athletics program. Over the years, Murphy has generously offered his time and support on campus in countless ways. In recognition of his enduring service to the university, he received the Stanford Associates’ Governors’ Award in 2006.

A tribute dinner in 1997, dubbed “An Evening with ‘Murph,’” opened the door to a Murphy scholarship. Throughout the event the guest of honor was treated to toasts and toasts by a number of old friends and colleagues “who [had] patiently borne the slings and arrows of his humor.” The gathering was a celebration of the entire history of the Stanford athletic program.

Proceeds from the evening were used to establish an endowed athletic scholarship in the name of Murphy’s only son, who passed away in 1985 after a two-year battle with a brain tumor. Tragically, Murphy’s daughter soon faced a similar struggle, hers against breast cancer. When she died, Murphy amended the scholarship fund to her name.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Defining New Priorities

Over the course of the past decade, undergraduate education at Stanford has undergone a fundamental transformation, thanks in large part to the success of The Campaign for Undergraduate Education. Most notably, interaction between students and faculty has increased dramatically through seminars, summer programs, and research projects. But there is still work ahead to keep Stanford at the forefront. New initiatives aimed at extending this renaissance are at the heart of The Stanford Challenge.

Ensuring access for the best and brightest students continues to be a primary goal. The Stanford Challenge strives to expand endowment support for undergraduate scholarships to reinforce Stanford’s commitment to need-blind admissions and help extend this opportunity to international students.

A new vision for residential life is taking shape, encompassing neighborhood-style communities, a rich program of educational and social activities, and expanded faculty engagement. Plans include a new quad on the east side of campus, the first phase of which will include the construction of a new dormitory on the current site of Crothers and Crothers Memorial halls.

Over the next four years, the campaign will seek to meet the growing demand for undergraduate research opportunities. And to help students navigate the myriad paths through Stanford, a comprehensive advising program is being developed that provides high-quality and individually directed academic and career advice for every undergraduate.

In addition, The Stanford Challenge offers the opportunity to strengthen and expand transformative programs throughout the university—from overseas studies and public service programs to intercultural and diversity experiences to athletics. A new Undergraduate Leadership Initiative is planned, comprising a comprehensive student leadership curriculum and both a summer Leadership College and an internship program.
Core Support

Outstanding faculty and students in traditional disciplines will always be the foundation of Stanford’s excellence, and their search for fundamental knowledge is often the key to breakthrough solutions. Continued investment in the university’s intellectual community is a high priority of The Stanford Challenge.

Endowed professorships and fellowships are among the most important tools we can employ to attract, retain, and cultivate the best and brightest, and they provide long-term funding for critical research. Since the launch of the campaign, 20 new faculty chairs have been established in Stanford’s core academic departments. These professorships enable the university to honor current faculty for their extraordinary contributions and often provide the competitive advantage needed to bring world-class researchers like Caroline Hoxby to Stanford (see below).

In addition, 20 new fellowships have been created through The Stanford Challenge, providing vital financial aid for graduate students in core disciplines. These young scholars make valuable contributions to basic research and bolster the teaching resources across the campus.

Bommer Gift Brings Star Economist to Stanford

Scott Bommer, ’88, is passionate about education reform and charter schools in the United States. He’s also passionate about Stanford, and he has wanted to give back in a way that would leave the kind of lasting imprint that the university has had on his own life.

“Endowing a professorship is a powerful way to do that,” says Bommer, whose gift of $2 million, in conjunction with matching funds from the Hewlett Foundation, has established the new Scott and Donya Bommer Professorship in Economics in the School of Humanities and Sciences. The chair’s first holder is Caroline Hoxby, one of the world’s foremost scholars on the economics of education.

“My wife, Donya, and I are thrilled to support this great teacher and researcher who’s active in a field that is so very interesting to us,” says Bommer, founding partner and managing member of SAB Capital Management. He also serves on the board of the Robin Hood Foundation, an organization that targets poverty in New York City, in part by working to improve education for youth through the creation of charter schools.

Hoxby comes to Stanford from Harvard, where she regularly received accolades for teaching. Her research on the economics of education, school choice, and education reform has received numerous awards, including a Carnegie Fellowship, a John M. Olin Fellowship, a National Tax Association Award, and the 2006 Thomas J. Foerdham Prize for Distinguished Scholarship. Hoxby is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and a member of the Koret Task Force on K–12 Education. She is also director of the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Endowed professorships give Stanford a distinct edge in recruiting scholars who are in high demand around the country and the world.

Hoxby’s move coincides with that of her husband, Blair Hoxby, a highly regarded scholar on John Milton and Renaissance theater. He joins the English department as a tenured professor.

“We’re both completely delighted to be here and are eager to put down roots in this new community,” says Caroline Hoxby. “Stanford is a fantastic academic environment.”

Hoxby says she is especially pleased to have a chair given by the Bommers. “We have a mutual interest in education reform in general, and charter schools in particular. I expect to learn about my own area of research each time I have a conversation with the Bommers,” she says.

Scott Bommer is a member of The Stanford Challenge Regional Committee. He previously worked at Siegler, Collery & Co., McKinsey & Company, and Goldman Sachs, and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. Donya, a 1989 graduate of USC’s School of Journalism, is a former television anchor for Fox Morning News in Philadelphia and Good Day Philadelphia. Since moving to New York, she has become active in several charitable organizations, and currently serves on the board of the New York City Ballet and New Yorkers for Children.

The Bommers’ gift qualified for matching funds from the university—made possible by the Hewlett Foundation’s unprecedented gift of $400 million to Stanford in 2001, the largest in the university’s history. The Hewlett match has enabled the School of Humanities and Sciences to build critical endowment support for professorships and fellowships, which are at the heart of the school, as well as for several important programs.

Scott Bommer, ’88, majored in economics as a Stanford undergraduate. Now he and his wife, Donya (pictured with their daughter, Loeie), have endowed a professorship in the department.

Portions of this story are adapted from an article that ran originally in the Stanford Daily.
Annual Giving Across the University

Throughout Stanford, annual giving provides a vital source of unrestricted funds. As a complement to endowed scholarship and fellowship funds, annual gifts directly support the university’s financial aid programs. They enable the school to meet high-priority needs as well as seize emerging opportunities. And much like venture capital, these gifts make it possible for Stanford’s deans to pilot new programs, thus seeding academic innovation.

The Stanford Challenge’s Atwell Match—a giving program created through an unrestricted bequest from a longtime annual donor—is helping to inspire current students and recent graduates to establish a commitment to annual giving. For more information on the match, please visit atwellmatch.stanford.edu.

Below, some of Stanford’s most loyal annual donors offer personal insights into the motivations behind their generous and consistent support.

**SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES:** Ann Murphy Daily, ’79

“Bill and I contribute to the School of Earth Sciences to support its efforts to find solutions to global problems. Under the extraordinary leadership of Dean Pamela Matson, the school is creating cutting-edge programs and exciting collaborations to address the enormous challenges we now face in the fields of energy and the environment. These programs and alliances promise to provide real answers to the very serious problems that confront the world today. ‘We’re confident that Stanford is developing solutions for today and for the future.’

Ann Murphy Daily, ’79, has volunteered for the School of Earth Sciences since shortly after her graduation. Since 1991 she has served as a member of the school’s Petroleum Investments Committee, including a term as chair. The committee manages two specialized endowed funds that provide important discretionary resources to support teaching and research in the earth sciences. Daily received the Governors’ Award from Stanford Associates in 2001. She and her husband, Bill, have graciously hosted receptions for Stanford alumni at their home. PHOTO: Courtesy of Karen Evans

**THE STANFORD FUND FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** Jon Streeter, ’78

“I believe in impact giving, and giving annually to The Stanford Fund—with its heavy emphasis on financial aid—is the best way to ensure that my dollars make a meaningful difference in the day-to-day lives of undergraduates. I see it as seed-funding talent.”

Jon Streeter, ’78, is a member of the leadership team for the Black Community Services Center Expansion Project. He served on the Special Gifts Committee for his 20th and 25th reunions, and is currently a member of the 30th Reunion Campaign Committee. He has been giving to The Stanford Fund (TSF) since his inception in 1994, is a member of the TSF Leadership Circle, and has generously supported the Black Community Services Center Building Fund. PHOTO: Courtesy of Jon Streeter

**THE STANFORD FUND PARENTS’ PROGRAM:** Marty and David Hamamoto, ’81 (Parents ’10)

“We are proud to contribute to the best undergraduate education and to support Stanford students and faculty—and the world’s future. Helping to ensure lives and learning is truly gratifying. And participating in the Parents’ Program makes us more a part of Max’s tremendous Stanford experience.”

Marty and David Hamamoto, ’81, parents of Mia, ’08, are the vice chairs of the Stanford Parent’s Advisory Board. They have served on the board since 2005 and will co-chair the effort next year. Marty Hamamoto served on the Think Again Steering Committee. David Hamamoto is a member of The Stanford Challenge Regional Committee. He has also served the university as a chair of his 25th reunion and a volunteer for The Campaign for Undergraduate Education. PHOTO: Steve Castillo

**HOOVER INSTITUTION and THE STANFORD FUND:** Dan Kirby, ’68

“The Hoover Institution brings great educational programs on the road to many different places, some of which I have been exposed to in the Palm Springs area. I am happy to support those programs and the outstanding faculty and staff that put them together. My undergraduate years were among the most fruitful of my life. It was an incredible experience to be surrounded by the smartest kids in the country, not to mention the smartest faculty. I realized early on that I had gotten more value than I paid for, and I am spending the rest of my life paying back.”

Dan Kirby, ’68, is a longtime Stanford supporter and volunteer. He began his volunteer career as a member of the Special Gifts Committee for his 30th class reunion. This year, Kirby is serving as a co-chair of his 40th reunion campaign. He has been a loyal donor to various annual funds, as well as other areas of the university, every year since 1973. PHOTO: Courtesy of Dan Kirby

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE:** Anne Lynn, MD ’75

“Given my family circumstances, scholarship assistance made the difference between attending college and medical school or not. Stanford gave me a wonderful medical education—one that was enhanced by a diverse student population. I feel a responsibility to return the favor to others in similar, limited financial positions.”

Anne Lynn, MD ’75, holds a faculty position in anesthesiology at the University of Washington’s School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center. She is grateful that financial aid enabled her to choose a medical specialty based on interest, not monetary return. She has been giving to the Medical School Fund and the School of Medicine Scholarship Fund since 1978. PHOTO: Courtesy of Anne Lynn

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING:** Pierluigi Zappacosta, MS ’78, and Enrica D’Ettorre

“Stanford engineering has made such an impact on our lives and our family. Stanford will be equally important to our son Francesco, MBA ’08, and all current and future students across campus. We support annual giving because our gifts allow the school to invest in students, faculty, and immediate needs where dedicated funding is not otherwise available.”

Pierluigi Zappacosta, MS ’78, and his wife, Enrica D’Ettorre, have been contributing to the School of Engineering and to Dean’s Fund for many years. Their philanthropy also includes support for engineering faculty research and other programs on campus. Zappacosta volunteers with the School of Engineering’s recently created Dean’s Circle Volunteer Council. PHOTO: Courtesy of D’Ettorre/Zappacosta

THE STANFORD CHALLENGE: STANFORD.EDU
Weiland established professorships at Stanford in fields that pioneered breakthroughs in medicine and science. The Martha Meier Weiland Professorship in the School of Medicine honors his mother. The professorship is held by Dr. Yock, a cardiologist who has invented devices for heart patients and has also helped develop Stanford’s bioengineering and biodesign programs. He and Weiland became close friends.

“My young sons loved playing with him,” he recalls. Among Weiland’s many other talents, “he made paper airplanes that were aerodynamically perfect.”

The Richard Hershel Weiland Professorship in the School of Humanities and Sciences, which honors Weiland’s father, is held by Stephen Shenker, a theoretical physicist who focuses on quantum gravity. Weiland also made gifts to The Stanford Fund; the Hoover House Circle; Symbolic Systems; the Feminist Studies program; and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community Resources Center.

Weiland’s bequest to Stanford will go even further to strengthen the university’s multidisciplinary programs. He directed his gift to several schools—including humanities and sciences, engineering, business, and medicine. And like most of the gifts made during his lifetime, Weiland’s bequest to the schools is unrestricted—allowing the respective deans to determine how to best apply his gift.

In the School of Humanities and Sciences, plans are under way to establish a Weiland Fellowship Program, providing funding for graduate students who would be encouraged to work across fields. Weiland also earmarked unrestricted endowment funds for the LGBT community, undergraduate education, and the university’s general purposes. As Schaefer puts it, with this bequest, “the true work begins.”

After learning to program his first computer in the eighth grade, Ric Weiland was hooked. He continued to gain expertise in this new technology in the years that followed and majored in electrical engineering at Stanford. Weiland began working on software development with his childhood friends, Bill Gates and Paul Allen, while still a student. He became one of the first five employees at Microsoft, where he influenced the shape of the future technology giant.

Weiland continued to design products for Microsoft until he retired in 1988. But his lifelong passion for innovation did not stop there. He became a philanthropist who tapped into his diverse interests to fund projects at the forefront of research—several of which have had a long-term effect on Stanford. Though he died tragically in June 2006, his legacy of giving continues. Weiland planned for Stanford and 19 other charitable institutions in his will. His bequest to Stanford is expected to approach $60 million, which will be the largest estate gift ever left to Stanford.

For Weiland, philanthropy was a true calling—and he put just as much work into it as he did his job at Microsoft. Stanford professor and friend Dr. Paul Yock agrees. “He was a meticulous philanthropist. He thought deeply about where his money could have the greatest impact.”

Early on, Weiland understood how multidisciplinary programs could be vital in building the university of the future. His gifts to Stanford over the past decade helped make that vision a reality. “Ric was interested in promoting collaborations wherever he could,” says his partner, Mike Schaefer.

For example, he created the Weiland Family Fellowship in Bioengineering to further work at the intersection of biology and engineering. He also supported Stanford Graduate Fellowships because he admired the flexibility that they offered to students.

Ric Weiland, ’76: Innovator in Technology and Philanthropy