forward thinking

Make it Possible:
Scholarship Campaign

> Thinking Beyond

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SUMMER 2015

Make it Possible
Thinking Beyond
think[box] Steps Ahead
Of “Supremest Worth”

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To Our Alumni and Friends:

When your generosity allowed us to pass our original $1 billion campaign goal last summer, we felt grateful—and inspired. The commitments so far already had made an enormous difference for our campus; at the same time, their impact underlined the importance of doing still more. We needed more endowed professorships to recruit and keep talented faculty. We needed more funds for long-needed construction projects for health education, social work, and science and engineering research. And, perhaps most pressing, we needed more scholarships to attract top students in an increasingly competitive admissions environment.

We emphasized these priorities in announcing our $1.5 billion expanded campaign last fall, and you responded with remarkable enthusiasm. This spring at Momentum, our annual celebration of our supporters, we announced that the campaign had created or completed 75 endowed professorships. On that May evening, the audience learned of an anonymous $6 million commitment for professorships at the School of Law and College of Arts and Sciences. The portion for law—$4.5 million—marked the largest commitment in the school’s history.

Last fall, we began renovations for think[box], the university’s $35 million innovation hub at the Case School of Engineering. In June, work began on a $9.2 million project at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. And fundraising continues with Cleveland Clinic on our 485,000-square-foot Health Education Campus including the schools of medicine, dental medicine and nursing.

And how have we done on scholarships? To date, Forward Thinking has raised $80 million to support undergraduates. The number is impressive, and we deeply appreciate every dollar. When you learn more about our students and their potential, however, you truly appreciate just how important this financial assistance can be. These awards do more than make Case Western Reserve more affordable. They touch the future.

Scholarships are so important that we have established a goal of $120 million for this priority, and also created new ways to give to them. In addition to the traditional endowed scholarship, we also have added an option called a term scholarship. Under this model, a donor can give $200,000 to create a single four-year named scholarship—or a smaller amount to a shared pool for a term scholarship. You can find more information about these models and how to give at case.edu/forwardthinking.

As you read this issue, you will see that many of the commitments received honor others. We appreciate the opportunities to recognize these individuals, and to see their legacy extend still further within our campus community. Thank you for being part of Forward Thinking; we look forward to sharing more exceptional stories in the months to come.

FRANK N. LINSALATA
CHAIR, FORWARD THINKING: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

“People invest when they have confidence. Thanks to the exceptional work of our faculty, staff and students, people know that this university will use their dollars wisely.”

— President Barbara R. Snyder, 2014 State of the University report
At age 9, Emily Bentley (CWR ’15) decided to take up the viola after most of her classmates opted for the violin. Bentley, from Centerville, Ohio, wanted to stand out from the crowd—something she hasn’t stopped doing since.

As Bentley developed as a musician, she came to appreciate much more about the viola than its relative lack of popularity among the grade-school set. It produces a deeper, mellower sound compared with its smaller cousin, the violin.

Her passion for the viola grew in high school, and Bentley eventually decided she would major in music. During her college search, she successfully auditioned and gained admission to several schools. But Case Western Reserve rose to the top, Bentley explained, because of its stellar music program and partnership with the Cleveland Institute of Music, as well as the financial assistance she received from the university.
Thinking forward

family,” said Linsalata, who, with his business, in civic life, even within my family, helped make me who I am—in college, he demonstrated leadership in student government and his fraternity. But none of it could have enrolled without the institution’s willingness to invest in talented students like Bentley extend their reach. As part of this year’s decision to expand the Farward Thinking campaign by 50 percent, to $1.5 billion, the university has launched a concerted program to increase dramatically the amount of financial assistance the university can provide to qualified students. Campaign Chair Frank N. Linsalata (CIT ’63) is the leading advocate for this increased emphasis. Today, the chairman of Linsalata Capital Partners is renowned for his business acumen and philanthropic engagement. And, even as a college student, he demonstrated leadership in student government and his fraternity. But none of it would have happened without the institution’s willingness to invest in a smart student from Akron who could not have enrolled without significant assistance.

wife, Jocelyne, committed $3 million in 2008 to support scholarships and enhance the student experience. “We need to do all that we can to make similar opportunities available to top students today.” To be clear, the scholarship campaign doesn’t only benefit students. The more resources the university has to provide the most promising admitted students, the more likely it is that Case Western Reserve will enroll those outstanding individuals. “To be honest, I probably would have sacrificed my highest preference [school] to save some money at a school I still really liked, but my financial aid package from CWRU made the choice easy,” Bentley said.

Bridging the Gap

Since 2007, the university has experienced enormous success in attracting large numbers of immensely accomplished high school seniors to apply to Case Western Reserve. Not only have applications nearly tripled, but the academic qualifications of enrolling students have improved dramatically every year. For many students and families, though, the decision to enroll at Case Western Reserve or another top-ranked institution ultimately rests on one factor: affordability. More than four out of every five students receive financial aid from Case Western Reserve. That figure puts the university third among members of the American Association of Universities, which includes the top 62 comprehensive research universities in the U.S. and Canada, among them Harvard, Stanford and the University of Chicago.

Drawing students from a range of backgrounds and perspectives enhances the campus environment and opportunities for everyone to learn. That’s a principle Bentley upheld as a resident assistant, working with first-year students to build an inclusive community, and in her own educational experiences. “There were so many people in one place that were so invested in learning,” she said of the university’s student culture. “I could come home and tell my friends about the bacteria I dissolved in the lab so I could examine their genetic guts. And my friends were willing to listen to me talk about that, as long as I listened to someone else’s computer programming story.”

Temi Omilabu (CWR ’17), of Katy, Texas, who will be a junior in the fall, said Case Western Reserve has helped her branch out and interact with a wide array of people. “It’s easier to live when you understand other people and can see their perspectives and where they come from,” said Omilabu, who holds dual citizenship in the U.S. and Nigeria. “It also just makes life enjoyable. It’s always fun to learn about others and see what other people’s experiences are.”

Where Possibilities Become Reality

Omilabu and Bentley have benefited from financial assistance from several sources at Case Western Reserve, including the Alexandra Piepho Learning and Life Scholarship (see page 9). The scholarship recognizes students who, among other criteria, exhibit a broad scope of learning interests through their coursework and activities.

Omilabu entered Case Western Reserve planning on a career in health care. But her focus grew after taking humanities and social sciences courses, and she declared a major in English. Omilabu expects the bridge bioethics courses, exploring how her varied academic pursuits interplay. “It’s the best of both worlds,” she said.

She took her interest in bioethics to the world in May, traveling to Amsterdam for a 16-day Case Western Reserve study abroad program focused on death, dying and euthanasia. Following that trip, Omilabu will spend eight weeks working in Nigeria in a consulting internship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers International Ltd.

“The faculty here really encourages you to try things that you usually wouldn’t,” said Omilabu. “You have the ability to take a variety of things … but it’s so cohesive at the same time.”

The excitement of discovery has even relayed to her experience on the university’s women’s track and field team, which she joined during her sophomore year. A sprinter in high school, she transitioned to the discus, hammer and weight throw for the Spartans. “I guess the potential [for throwing] was always there,” she said. “I just never thought of it, and my coach really brought that out and worked with me.”

Temi Omilabu (CWR ’17)

“The faculty here really encourages you to try things that you usually wouldn’t. You have the ability to take a variety of things … but it’s so cohesive at the same time.” —TEMI OMILABU (CWR ’17)

Some students are so cohesive at the same time.”
Since 2007, the university has experienced enormous success in attracting large numbers of immensely accomplished high school seniors to apply to Case Western Reserve.

Bentley, the violinist, also forged harmony among many competing priorities, but not without exacting effort. “The common joke among music majors is that people assume you do your science major for a job and you do your music major for your relaxation or fun,” she said.

“That totally underestimates how much work goes into it. … Playing my instrument can be relaxing, but doing the entire [music] major has been such an intense effort.”

She expected that intensity, but not that a third major would soon follow. Already pursuing a minor in French, Bentley realized the subject’s major requirements were within reach. Diligent planning allowed her to fold the extra courses into her schedule, which also included research in the laboratory of genetics Professor Peter Harte.

She investigated proteins involved in the embryonic development of flies. “I didn’t just do this to get into college, so why would I give them up?” Financial assistance from the university, along with Bentley’s multiple student jobs and her family’s support, allowed her to graduate unencumbered by student loans. She’s tremendously grateful for the scholarships she received and the opportunities that Case Western Reserve has provided.

Bentley arrived at the university intimidated by the prospect of delving into laboratory research with faculty—now she aspires to it as a career. “Our scholarship campaign seeks to transform possibilities into reality for talented students,” she said, “regardless of their family’s financial circumstances,” university President Barbara R. Snyder said. “We have made remarkable progress and are grateful to our alumni and friends who have already contributed to the scholarship campaign.”

“Five percent of_case is now being supported by scholarships,” said Barbara R. Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University. “We have made remarkable progress and are grateful to our alumni and friends who have already contributed to the scholarship campaign.”

Three years later, the Case Western Reserve community still feels like family for Richard and Wendy Piepho. Their daughter, Alexandra—known as Ally—died unexpectedly of natural causes at home on Dec. 21, 2012. She had just returned to Naperville, Ill., for winter break after her first semester on campus, and already had forged strong friendships and a love for the place among them an art history course with Professor Catherine Scallen.

As her mother put it, Ally loved Case Western Reserve “from day one.”

The university held a memorial service for Ally that February, and Richard and Wendy returned to campus and heard how their daughter had touched so many in so short a time. In the weeks and months that followed, the couple began considering ways to extend Ally’s legacy, even through different avenues. The Piephos crafted the scholarship criteria and found inspiring classes, among others.

First-Year Applicants

$17.9 million in scholarship support during the 2015 fiscal year alone. Building on that momentum, the university is working to engage even more individuals in the scholarship campaign. Gifts of any amount can help to further this initiative. And donors at certain levels also will have opportunities to connect with the student benefiting from their generosity—showing the next generation of Case Western Reserve alumni the importance of giving back.

“It was important [to do],” Wendy said, “because we knew Ally would have loved being here.”

Even from her first days of orientation, Ally carefully planned activities so she could experience as much as possible. On one day, for example, she chose to tour the back of the house at Severance Hall because it might be her only chance to do so. Many other activities held at the same time appealed, but she figured she could try those later.

As organized and focused as she was, she also always made time for others. Her generous personality also meant she made many friends, becoming well known as a caring spirit.

As the scholarship’s first recipient in the 2014–15 academic year, Emily Bentley (CWR ‘15) felt more than gratitude. She was also deeply overwhelmed as she learned more and more about the scholarship’s namesake.

“She clearly cared about this place so much that her parents wanted to continue that,” Bentley said. “It made a big difference to me.”

Tomi Omilabu (CWR ’17), who was a junior in the fall and was awarded the 2015–16 scholarship, said she initially was nervous about talking with the Piephos. She wasn’t sure she could live up to the honor.

“But I met them and they were so kind and welcoming and genuine,” Omilabu recalled. She enjoyed hearing stories about Ally and having the opportunity to share stories about herself.

The couple also have appreciated getting to know the first two recipients of the annual scholarship.

“We like meeting them because they’re like Ally—full of energy, full of promise,” Wendy said. “It’s the excitement of the learning, and she was just so passionate about that.”

The couple return to campus for events like homecoming and the grand opening of the Trinam Veale University Center. (Richard Piepho even kept tabs on the Trin’s progress through the construction webcam.) “It’s always great when we come back,” he said. “The people here are friends.”

Endowing a scholarship in Ally’s memory has continued to spur the exploration and empathy she valued so much. As Wendy said, “We want her legacy to continue.”
President Barbara R. Snyder has uttered the phrase so often that it is practically a mantra: “Faculty are the heart of a university.” The reason is simple: Professors are the people who teach and learn, discover and explain, increase knowledge and deepen understanding. They benefit the world with their breakthroughs and change student lives with their lessons and advice.

When Case Western Reserve University began planning its first capital campaign in more than two decades, then-President Snyder and other leaders knew faculty would play an essential part. Yes, the effort has brought dollars for building projects and student scholarships, but endowed chairs leaders knew faculty would play an essential part. Yes, the effort has brought dollars for building projects and student scholarships, but endowed chairs leaders say the institution needs more. Endowed chairs are among the appreciates every one of those investments in scholars and scientists, campaigns, Forward Thinking than 75 endowed professorships during the campaign, bringing the campus-wide total to at least 300. As much as the university expected to raise between $25 million and $40 million, and to use some of those investments in scholars and scientists, leaders say the institution needs more. Endowed chairs are among the key components of efforts to attract top scholars and keep the best from leaving. “It really is the key to our future,” President Snyder said. “Endowed faculty positions mean that much to Case Western Reserve.”

Watch a video to learn how endowed professorships make a difference at Case Western Reserve at bit.ly/EndowedChairs.

Championing the Humanities

As a classicist, Peter E. Knox, PhD, looks back to uncover insights buried, sometimes literally, for millennials. As the inaugural Eric and Jane Nord Family Professor, he also peers forward to champion the humanities in exciting ways at Case Western Reserve University.

When Jane Baker Nord (GRS ’76) and the Eric and Jane Nord Family Fund endowed the professorship through $2.2 million in gifts and commitments, they established the principle that this scholar serves as director of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities. In 1996, Jane Baker Nord and her late husband Eric (CIT ’39, HON ’98), committed $3 million to create the center and support the renovation of Clark Hall, where the center continues to be housed today.

Knox, who earned his bachelor’s degree and PhD in classics from Harvard and taught for nearly 25 years at the University of Colorado, joined Case Western Reserve in January. He quickly began planning programs to support faculty and student research as well as events to engage the public.

“I was very interested in the kind of job that goes with running the Baker-Nord Center,” Knox said. “But it really was because of this endowed chair that I can do that job and continue as an active scholar.”

Knox shared that his passion for the classics stems from his deep interest in literature. As an undergraduate seeking to come to terms with the works of T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound and others, Knox shifted his focus to the Greek and Roman poets upon whom those authors drew. He eventually abandoned his plans for law school and, after a year of studying in Europe, returned to pursue an academic career in the classics.

Knox, who also taught at Harvard and Columbia, has published six books and more than 100 scholarly articles and reviews. Even with that impressive legacy, Knox said it’s what he doesn’t know that inspires his continued research. “Every time I return to a text that I think is familiar to me, I find layers of meaning that were opaque to me before,” he said.

For instance, Knox began his academic career with a project on the Metamorphoses of Ovid. And now, nearly 30 years later, he’s in the early stages of preparing a new edition of the poem for the Loeb Classical Library. “I’ve barely started the first draft and already I am discovering how little I knew when I first wrote on that work,” he said.

As a humanist, Knox explained that he can’t simply delegate the task of reading a book or selecting works for an anthology to an assistant. He must do the research himself. “And to do that just takes time,” he noted.

Through the professorship and its research fund, Knox has found some of that time. In June he traveled to the American Academy in Rome for two weeks of intensive writing. Away from the distractions and responsibilities of the office, he worked on an edition of Greek and Latin poetry by Renaissance scholar Angelo Poliziano that’s nearing completion.

Knox expected the project would involve a relatively straightforward translation and annotation of the works. But he soon discovered that he needed to take a step back and educate himself on 15th century Florentine society and culture. That foundational work helped Knox come to a better understanding of the place of Poliziano’s poetry in his own time, so he could better convey it to a 21st century readership.

Knox also seeks to provide that context for his students, most of whom are reading classical works for the first time. An anthology of Roman literature, which he co-edited with J.C. McKeown, features commentary on how the pieces were received in later literature, art and film—and how they remain relevant to readers in ensuing centuries. They’re now working on a companion anthology of Greek literature.

Studying the humanities continues to empower students to be successful, said Knox, whether they’re pursuing medicine, engineering, law or another career. He noted that he certainly enjoys when students go on to graduate studies and academic careers in the classics.

“But if that was the only purpose of what I did as a teacher, then really I would have very little purpose,” Knox said. “That’s why the scholarship and programming supported by the Baker-Nord Center and the Nord Family Professorship exist for the benefit of all students as they develop as engaged professionals and citizens.

The gift, Knox related, sends a powerful message about the importance of the humanities. He said he appreciates the flexibility afforded by the professorship, which enables him to teach, conduct research, and direct the center.

“It’s a privilege, and with privilege comes responsibility,” Knox said of holding the endowed chair. “I feel very strongly that I have a responsibility to live up to the trust that the university and the donor placed in me and to give back to the institution.”
Embracing the World of Languages

Global traveler and renowned publishing leader Eirik Børve never set foot on the campus of Case Western Reserve. Yet three years after his death, he has left an extraordinary legacy to the university through the vision and persistence of trustee Thalia Dorwick, PhD (FSM '66, GRS '73).

Dorwick, chair of the board’s Academic Affairs and Student Life committee, worked for nearly a decade to bring a $4 million commitment to Case Western Reserve. She is the adviser to a trust that Børve created to advance foreign language instruction in the U.S., the trust’s commitment established an endowed professorship in modern languages along with a fund for foreign language and global learning initiatives.

“Because Eirik had Alzheimer’s for many decades, I have had a lot of time to contemplate the nature of this gift,” Dorwick said. She spent many hours consulting with Cyrus C. Taylor, PhD, chair of the College of Arts and Sciences, about the impact and implications of the commitment.

“Thalia’s gift is a huge, huge step forward for us,” Taylor said. “It’s an opportunity for us to celebrate and support the richness of the world of languages in which our students and faculty and alumni all thrive.”

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The Eirik Børve Professorship in Modern Languages will carry on that commitment to innovative teaching at Case Western Reserve. The inaugural recipient is Yasuhiro Shirai, PhD, known for pioneering work at the University of Pittsburgh regarding precisely how people learn a first or second language.

After offering her a contract to work on that textbook, Børve recruited Dorwick, then a tenured, award-winning university professor, to work full time at a publishing firm he founded. She would go on to serve as sponsoring editor of modern languages with Random House and McGraw-Hill Education Group’s vice president and editor-in-chief of humanities, social sciences and languages.

“Eirik did truly influence foreign language teaching in this country, in particular because he was the first publisher to recognize the importance of the communicative language movement, which is now the norm in language instruction,” Dorwick said.

Dorwick likewise didn’t set out for a career focused on higher education, instead planning to become a high school teacher. However, upon completing her bachelor’s degree in Spanish at Flora Stone Mather College, she was offered admission to Case Western Reserve’s doctoral program and a teaching fellowship in modern languages. The university also gave Dorwick her first experience abroad—living and traveling in Spain for a year.

“I truly owe my professional life as a teacher, scholar, publisher and textbook writer to the education I received here in the modern languages department,” she said.

Even though she earned all of her degrees here and has served on the board since 2003, she still found the process of defining the trust’s commitment an opportunity to learn still more about the university.

Advancing the university’s strategic priority of internationalization also proved immensely rewarding. “How wonderful it has been to feel a great sense of personal satisfaction,” Dorwick said, “while at the same time helping this great university ‘think beyond the possible.’”
Recognizing Extraordinary Vision

Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust, Trustees Receive President’s Award for Visionary Achievement

A simple yet powerful maxim guides the extraordinary philanthropy of the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust: help people and organizations help themselves.

That principle emanates from the lives of the trust’s namesakes, Kent Hale Smith (C’17), and his wife, Thelma. And it continues today through the dedicated leadership of its trustees, William B. La Place and Phillip A. Ranney (LAW ‘61).

To recognize their generosity and vision, President Barbara R. Snyder honored La Place, Ranney and Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust with the 2015 President’s Award for Visionary Achievement during commencement ceremonies May 17 at the Veale Convocation, Recreation and Athletic Center.

Thelma Smith, listen to either trustee speak of the Smiths, and the sense of their admiration and affection becomes palpable.

Kent H. Smith co-founded Lubrizol Corp. and served as a trustee of Case Institute of Technology as well as its interim president from 1958 to 1961. Later named an honorary trustee of Case Western Reserve University, he ardently advocated for the university throughout his life.

The Smiths founded the trust in 1971 as the 1525 Foundation, an anonymous gift-giving entity. The couple found great satisfaction in directing attention toward the many organizations benefiting from their gifts.

Only after Kent Smith’s death in 1980 and 2007, respectively, La Place and Ranney have worked tirelessly to carry forward the trust’s tradition by honoring the couple’s priorities through the trust and its foundation predecessors.

President Snyder said, “Bill La Place and Phil Ranney have carried out beautifully the legacy of Kent and Thelma Smith.”

During the grand opening, “It’s also a great beacon to the university. Her son, Joe Brown, President Barbara R. Snyder, Mary Kerr and Joe Brown

Caring for an injured patient in a helicopter takes professionals who can handle challenges from lift-off to landing. In a rapidly changing environment, they draw on their creativity, experience and resourcefulness.

People with those same qualities collaborated to ensure Case Western Reserve University students can learn to provide hospital-level care in the nation’s first critical-care transport simulator built in an actual helicopter.

Those supporters gathered for the simulator’s grand opening this spring and recounted how the project moved from dream to reality.

For more than a decade, leaders at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing envisioned building a simulator for students specializing in flight nursing in the acute care nurse practitioner program. But the project truly gained momentum after Mary Kerr, PhD, RN, dean of the nursing school, heard a simple suggestion: “You should meet my son Joe.”

Kerr was attending a Case Western Reserve event where she spoke with people with those same qualities. “It’s also a great beacon to the university. Her son, Joe Brown, is president of Hartzell Propeller, an advanced propeller design and manufacturing technology company in Piqua, Ohio. He also is chief operating officer of its parent corporation, Tailwind Technologies Inc. And Connie Brown assured Kerr that her son would love to help.

Joe Brown did want to help—and even would bring more talent to the project. He reached out to a friend, Jerry Gregoire, founder of Redbird Flight Simulations, an Austin, Texas-based company that builds simulated flight training equipment for pilots. The effort had gained another advocate.

“Every once in a while you get to work on a project like this where you actually get to put your hands on,” Gregoire said. “It makes it much sweeter.”

The men brought creative minds together, and the vision for a flight simulator took off. The original idea grew in ambition, incorporating a moving platform and mimicking the vibrations of an actual flight. Things started to fall into place. As Gregoire put it, “the project had a real halo around it.”

A retired Sikorsky S-76 helicopter—filled with mud after Hurricane Katrina and found in a helicopter graveyard in Oldsmar, Fla.—would soon become the refurbished body. When looking for interior equipment, the project team discovered the EMS interior purchased in Louisiana, by coincidence, came from a life flight helicopter that had been used by MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland before it was decommissioned.

This state-of-the-art simulator gives students experience working in a confined area with limited equipment and supplies while remaining in a safe environment. It also features screens instead of windows to display what professionals would actually see during a flight. And attached cameras allow students and instructors to review sessions and enhance learning.

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**Historic Gift Supports Collaborative Learning at Mandel School**

Mildred Schuch Higley (FSM ’18), a YWCA in Cleveland, she educated Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. SAS ’22 exemplified dedication as advances in education, research, and faculty space that encourages a volunteer. For example, with the design reflects carpentry so she could better lead of the school’s main building. More than 90 years after Higley graduated and began a career in social work and a life of civic involvement, her family continues to carry forward its connection to the Case Western Reserve University Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. The Higley Fund, a supporting organization of the Cleveland Foundation, has made a $1 million commitment toward the renovation of the school’s main building. The $9.2 million renovation project aims to provide students, staff, and faculty space that encourages interaction, teamwork and broad collaborations. The design reflects advances in education, research, technology and sustainability since the building was completed in 1990.

The Higley Fund’s commitment—the largest single contribution in its history—will help create more collaborative research and education spaces. In recognition of the commitment, the school will name a wing of the second and third floors of the renovated building the Albert and Beverly Higley Research Commons. Since its founding, the Higley Fund also has contributed more than $273,000 in scholarships and youth-centered research grants to the Mandel School. Beverly and Albert M. Higley Jr.—the son of Mildred and Albert M. Higley (CLC ’17)—established the Higley Fund in 1994. Today it embodies the philanthropic spirit of three generations of the Higley family. Two of Beverly and Albert Higley’s children, Bruce G. Higley and Sharon Higley Watts, represent the next generation as members of the Higley Fund board. “Our connection to Case Western Reserve University began nearly a century ago,” said Bruce G. Higley, president of the Higley Fund and chairman of the Albert M. Higley Co., a construction firm founded by his grandfather. “This commitment to the Mandel School reflects that legacy, as well as our belief that well-constructed spaces can have a transformative effect on what happens inside them.”

The Higley Fund of the Cleveland Foundation focuses on social service organizations providing basic needs to those living in Greater Cleveland. It has contributed to organizations such as the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Food Bank and Salvation Army. “This gift ensures the next generation of Mandel students will thrive in an environment focused on collaborative learning and innovative research that strengthens the compassionate care provided in Greater Cleveland and beyond,” said Sharon Higley Watts, first vice president of the Higley Fund.

**Inspiring a Community of Giving**

As volunteers, Halley Fowler Martens (SAS ’07) and her husband, Rob Martens, worked to ensure that a wide range of voices informed planning for the Mandel School’s building renovation. Now the couple hopes to increase engagement with a commitment to match gifts to the project dollar-for-dollar up to $150,000—part of a $750,000 commitment they made to the initiative. “As a member of the Mandel School’s campaign committee, I have worked closely with faculty, staff, architects and community leaders—experiencing firsthand the transformative impact the Mandel School has had on people, organizations and communities near and far,” Fowler Martens said. “As a result of this ongoing involvement, Rob and I were transformed in the process. We want to encourage more people to support the school and its renovation campaign.”

Their contribution also will honor two individuals who played key roles in Fowler Martens’ social work education and career: Mandel School Assistant Professor Zoe Breen Wood, PhD (SAS ’12), and John Lisy (SAS ’77). Lisy is the executive director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center, where Fowler Martens completed her final semester of field placement. The renovated building will include a suite of offices and a classroom named for Wood and Lisy, respectively.

A “wall breaking” renovation and centennial celebration kick-off event June 29 marked the beginning of construction on the first phase. Meanwhile, fundraising continues for the remainder of the project. The matching gift challenge closes Oct. 10 to coincide with the Mandel School Reunion Weekend. For more information on supporting the project, visit msass.case.edu/BuildTheChange.

**Honoring a Noble Legacy**

As a student at Western Reserve University during the Great Depression, Donald Noble (CLC ’40) earned his degree in accounting in seven years while holding several jobs. His persistence and hard work eventually led to a position with Wooster, Ohio-based Rubbermaid, where he advanced to become CEO in 1959. Leader of the company for more than 20 years, Noble gained respect not only for his success at generating profits, but also for his integrity within his company and the larger community.

To honor Noble’s legacy, the Noble Foundation has committed $500,000 to establish the Noble Commons, an atrium-style addition on the first and second floors of the renovated Mandel School building. The space is designed to encourage students to make connections and form relationships—just as Gayle Noble (SAS ’88) is grateful to have done. The Mandel School helped Gayle Noble by laying the groundwork for her more than 20-year career as a private practice therapist. She and her husband, David Noble—Donald Noble’s son—had previously established scholarships at the school through the Noble Foundation. Building on that generosity, the foundation’s new commitment seeks to enhance opportunities for collaboration.

“Noble Commons will be that gathering place,” Gayle Noble said. “After all, it is a social work school and you need access to each other in a warm environment to connect and learn.”
Donors around the world—797 in total—came together on April 22 to go All [in] for Case Western Reserve for its third annual Day of Giving. In 24 hours, they made commitments totaling $289,006.23—a record.

This year’s Day of Giving shifted from summer to spring to give students a chance to be part of the activities—and show far-away alumni just how much energy fills the campus once the weather starts to warm.

“Celebrating the Day of Giving in April gave us an opportunity to showcase the difference that donors are making at Case Western Reserve and share how deeply the campus community appreciates that generosity,” John Templeman, director of annual giving, said. “We’re grateful not only for the outpouring of support from so many people, but also the tremendous example they set for students.”

—JOHN TEMPLEMAN

797 DONORS
From 35 states and 5 countries

183 FIRST-TIME DONORS
23% of all 2015 Day of Giving donors

$289,006.23 RAISED
A Day of Giving Record
Case Western Reserve University’s think[box] has emerged over the past three years as a national leader in helping people turn promising ideas into tangible products. The open-to-everyone innovation hub has garnered attention not only from other universities, but also the first-ever White House Maker Faire and national media, including The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Through the generosity of more than 70 donors, think[box] itself will emerge this fall from its temporary, 4,500-square-foot location on the lower level of the Glennan Building. The first phase of the seven-story, 55,000-square-foot renovation project will open in the Richey-Mixon Building on the southwest corner of campus. The new space will offer more than additional room; it will include new, more advanced equipment, multiple spaces for brainstorming, offices for entrepreneurial advisers and more. Meanwhile, fundraising continues for the second phase.

“On think[box]’s forward thinking 2015 we have welcomed an average of 3,000 monthly visits—and more than 100,000 total since December 2012. “The most rewarding thing about working on think[box] is meeting people,” Ferre said. “It has been

opportunities

think[box] Steps Ahead
Through Generous Support, Key Partnerships

Ferre and Crisanti have secured a federal grant and produced more than a dozen prototypes using the equipment available in the pilot version of think[box]. “It was a nice progression starting off with the laser cutter, and then proceeding to the bigger toys like the MakerBot and then the large-scale 3-D printer,” Ferre said.

When their early attempts didn’t hold up to repeated use, the 3-D printer enabled Crisanti and Ferre to make a reliable product with ABS plastic and polycarbonate. In January, Lacks invited them to come to Lesotho, a small country surrounded entirely by South Africa, with his senior design class, whose members designed and built solar electric systems for families. Crisanti and Ferre field tested the charger and met with farmers and others who earn $1 to $2 a day to gauge their interest.

Crisanti and Ferre are continuing to refine their prototype with the goal of completing it this summer. “We learned that no matter how hard you try, it is virtually impossible to create a masterpiece on the first go-around,” Ferre said. With each new pedal they print, they find small flaws that lead to improvements, he added.

“The donators supporting the new think[box] are supporting the next wave of creativity and furthering the maker movement,” student Ian Ferre (CWR ’17) said. “I can’t wait to see what kind of things are created in think[box] in the years to come.”

Ferre, who will be a junior in the fall, and classmate Samuel Crisanti (CWR ’17) have capitalized on think[box] in developing a foot-powered cellphone charger for people without ready access to electricity. They initially generated the idea in a class called “Engineering for the World’s Poorest,” taught by Daniel Lacks, the C. Benson Branch Professor of Chemical Engineering. Since then,
opportunities

Investing in Innovation

More than 70 supporters have generously provided funding for think[box], including:

Cloud L. Cray (CIT ’43) and Sally Hunter Cray (FSM ’45)
Ben Gomes (CWR ’90)
The Lubrizol Foundation
The Mandato Family
A. Malachi Mixon
The Burton D. Morgan Foundation
Eric and Jane Nord Family Fund
Nottingham Spirk
J.B. Richey (CIT ’62)
Barry Romich (CIT ’67)
Larry Sears (CIT ’69) and Sally Zlotnick Sears (FSM ’72, LYS ’74)
The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust
The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation
The Mandarin House
The State of Ohio
Sally Zlotnick Sears (FSM ’72, LYS ’74), committed $5 million to launch the renovation.

“It’s a very competitive world out there, so we would like to give everyone who passes through think[box] at least one step ahead,” added Sears, who founded Hexagram Inc. (now Aclara Technologies), which develops wireless meter-reading technologies for utilities.

Along with Larry and Sally Sears, other generous supporters are fueling the evolution of think[box]. A. Malachi Mixon, retired executive chairman of the board of Invacare, and J.B. Richey (CIT ’62), Mixon’s friend and colleague, donated $5 million. Richey created the first full-body CAT scan. In addition, Barry Romich (CIT ’67), co-founder of the Prentke Romich Co., a maker of devices that help people with speech disabilities to communicate, donated $2 million. And the state of Ohio awarded $1 million to support the project. In June, the Lubrizol Foundation joined with The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust and The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation to commit a total of $2 million ($1 million from Lubrizol), and $500,000 each from the other two organizations to support innovation at think[box].

Key partnerships also will help think[box] provide students, faculty and others with an advantage. Earlier this year, Nottingham Spirk, a global product design and business innovation firm known for creating some of the world’s most popular consumer items, announced it will create an environment of partnership and innovation on the building’s first level. Nottingham Spirk will work with promising technologies developed in think[box] and mentor the students to find the markets that are most appropriate, and move quickly to commercialization.

In addition, the Burton D. Morgan Foundation awarded a grant to Case Western Reserve University to establish the Burton D. Morgan Suite for Entrepreneurship on the sixth level. It will house satellite offices of the Blackstone LaunchPad student entrepreneurship program, as well as the law school’s Intellectual Property Venture Clinic—both of which earlier received generous support from the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

Opening activities for think[box] are planned for this fall. For more information, visit engineering.case.edu/thinkbox.

“The donors supporting the new think[box] are supporting the next wave of creativity and furthering the maker movement.” —IAN FERRE (CWR ’17)

Of “Supremest Worth”

University Raising Funds to Restore Mather Quad

Rooted in a rich history as the former home of the Flora Stone Mather College for Women, Mather Quad today continues to house two fundamental disciplines at Case Western Reserve University—the humanities and social sciences.

The liberal arts live on through the very name Guilford House—the second building on the quad and the first dormitory for the College for Women, Mather Quad opened in 1892. Established in 1899, as the former home of Annie O’Neill, it is home to the Department of English, Modern Languages, and Sociology.

As a result, Mather Quad is a central gathering point for the exchange of ideas and a hub for student life, much like it was in the 1890s and early 1900s, when the students in the College for Women of Western Reserve University—later renamed the Flora Stone Mather College for Women—called it home.

A core group of philanthropists helped Mather Quad take form more than a century ago. And now a new era of generosity can honor the past and sustain Mather Quad as the epicenter of the humanities and social sciences.

Students relax on the Mather Quad, framed by Haydn Hall on the left and Guilford House on the right.

Flora Stone Mather

Opened in 1989, Clark Hall is the quad’s oldest building. Today it is home to the Department of Philosophy and the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities.

The other buildings on the quad provide space for the Departments of English, Modern Languages, Music, Art History and Art, Classics, Political Science, History, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology.

R

To sustain the enduring value of the liberal arts, the university has begun fundraising to restore the buildings on Mather Quad so that faculty, staff and students can benefit from enhanced facilities. The effort aims to address buildings in need of significant upgrades and renovations, including Clark Hall, Guilford House, Haydn Hall, Mather House and Mather Memorial.

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giving

Creating a Positive Future

Ana Lucia de Mattos Barretto Villela looks forward to the moment when journalists stop asking about an Alana Foundation project. As the foundation’s president, she actually loves to talk about its efforts to improve children’s lives. It’s just that she’s come to know that when the media recede, it means she’s spurred others to follow her lead and take up a cause.

For now, she is still getting questions about the foundation’s nearly $5 million investment in Case Western Reserve University Professor Alberto Costa’s work to identify promising therapeutics for Down syndrome. Yet this year the foundation engaged a second scientist to partner with Costa, MD, PhD, and extend the reach of Down syndrome research. Li-Huei Tsai, director of MIT’s Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, is the co-lead investigator on the new collaboration, which also brought $1.7 million from the Alana Foundation to the Massachusetts campus.

Villela said she tries to anticipate the future through the foundation’s philanthropy, ferreting out promising initiatives overlooked by others. The foundation’s support jump-starts these efforts to ensure they can become “what they’re supposed to be in the world,” she said.

The foundation’s projects have ranged from aiding underprivileged communities in Brazil, to investigating new sources of energy, to limiting the use of commercial messages targeting children.

The work with Case Western Reserve, meanwhile, began with a meal between Costa and Villela in her home. The professor of pediatrics discussed not only the details of his research, but also his personal stake in it. Costa has devoted his life to research on Down syndrome since he learned that his newborn daughter, Tyche, now 19, had the condition. Since 2006, he has published several pioneering studies exploring the impact of existing medications—such as Prozac and memantine, an Alzheimer’s medication—on cognition, memory and spatial understanding.

Villela and foundation staff evaluate potential grant recipients with great rigor, but intuition and emotion also play a role. Villela said she must trust those carrying out the work. “After meeting him in person, looking in his eyes, knowing that he’s also a father, knowing that he’s concerned, as I am, about Down syndrome, it was easy for me to do,” she said of supporting Costa’s research.

The foundation initially committed more than $3.2 million to Case Western Reserve to support a modest animal study and a large landmark clinical trial. This year the foundation added two $1.7 million awards—one each to Case Western Reserve and MIT—to test the effects of new chemical compounds on cells involved in cognitive function.

Costa’s three threads of research related to Down syndrome—all made possible by the Alana Foundation—have the potential to offer enormous new insight regarding the intricacies of how the condition develops and ways that scientists might reverse the deficits it causes in cognition and function. That said, he also urges caution: Down syndrome is among the most complicated neurological disorders that exist.

Villela takes the long view on Costa’s research. She has confidence that learning more about Down syndrome will ultimately benefit all of humanity, yielding insights about the mind and overall health.

Drawing inspiration from her own children, Villela wants to create a better, more sustainable world for future generations. “I love to see positive messages getting around,” she said. “They are all messages of possibilities, of positive things that can happen and are happening in the world.”
Be part of Extending Our Impact

Learn more at case.edu/forwardthinking