

Financial Spotlight:

One Couple's Will Commitment May Mean a Brighter Future for Health Care

Perhaps without ever intending to, Beth Sersig, M.D. (MED '84) and Christopher Brandt, M.D., Ph.D. (WRC '80, MED '84), have become examples of lifelong, dedicated alumni involvement at the School of Medicine. Both accomplished physicians in their fields, they focus their time and resources on advancing the future of health care.

Sersig is a staff physician and director of women's health at Case Western Reserve University Student Health Services. Brandt is a general surgeon at MetroHealth Medical Center, a professor at the School of Medicine and this year's recipient of the school's Kaiser-Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. Both have been active volunteers at the school and university levels.

One of the ways the couple has celebrated their commitment to the school is through their philanthropy. They have established an endowed scholarship and have made a will commitment to provide additional funds in the future. The scholarship supports School of Medicine students, with a preference to graduates of public schools within Cuyahoga County.

"It's getting harder and harder to attract students to medicine who are from underserved populations," Brandt observes. "While issues earlier in their educational experiences may impact their ability to be competitive students, they simply cannot get there without financial resources in medical school."



Bequests

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Case Western Reserve University has received much of its financial support through bequests over the years. Bequests are gifts made upon a donor's death, most often through a will.

A bequest can be given as a specific sum of money; a percentage of an estate; a gift of particular assets, such as shares of stock in a corporation; or a gift of the remainder of an estate after distribution to loved ones. They can also be carried out through other vehicles that become effective at the time of death: a trust, a life insurance policy, an IRA, or a deferred compensation or 401(k) plan. The manner in which the university is to use a bequest gift can be as specific or as broad as the donor wishes.

To learn more about making a bequest to Case Western Reserve, please contact John F. Shelley, executive director of planned giving, at 216.368.4460 or giftplan@cwru.edu.



"We wanted to 'pay ahead to pay back.' As first-generation doctors, we remain very much aware of the expenses of medical school."

~ Beth Sersig, M.D (MED '84)



ABOUT Turning Point

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