

Profile

Kyocera

Kyocera has supported the work of ceramics expert **Arthur Heuer, PhD** (front, right) for more than 20 years.



A common passion for the cutting edge and a shared vision for a brighter future have inspired more than two decades of collaboration between ceramics technology giant Kyocera and Case Western Reserve University.

Founded in 1959 by Japanese entrepreneur and philanthropist Kazuo Inamori, Kyocera manufactures a variety of products from industrial ceramics and solar panels to wireless phones and copiers. The company traces its support of Case Western Reserve back to the mid-1980s, when it endowed a ceramics professorship at the university.

Resident ceramics expert Arthur Heuer, PhD, was named the inaugural chairholder—a position he still occupies.

“Kyocera’s support has been enormously valuable,” Heuer says. “It includes a discretionary fund, which gives me the freedom to meet research needs as they come up.”

Kyocera maintained close ties with the university as its founder expanded his business and furthered his philanthropic interests through the establishment of the Inamori Foundation. The foundation’s \$10 million gift in 2006 established the university’s Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence.

“Dr. Inamori has given the university a unique opportunity to cultivate ethical leadership,” says Shannon French, PhD, director of the center and Inamori Professor of Ethics. “This generous gift supports innovative ethics research, teaching and educational events, as well as the recognition of achievements in global ethical leadership through the awarding of the annual Inamori Ethics Prize.”

Inamori says the gifts reflect his commitment to serving society.

“The future of humanity can only be assured through a balance of scientific progress and ethical obligation,” he says. “Both of the endowments made to Case Western Reserve support the advancement of this philosophy.”