



FORWARD

IMPACT REPORT 2016-17

"Our alumni's commitment to the college is demonstrated in many different ways, including helping students, coming back to share their wisdom in the classroom, serving on various external advisory boards or being part of Ohio State's workforce. Since

you can't pay back,

as Woody Hayes said,

you pay forward

and we have thousands of alumni who are paying forward." — Dean David Williams

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for your investment in the College of Engineering and the work of our faculty, staff and students to engineer a better world. Whether your passion lies in giving the gift of an education to students, supporting the work of our brilliant faculty or modernizing classroom spaces and technology, your generosity makes our work possible.

Of the nearly 8,000 donors who gave to the College of Engineering during the last fiscal year, more than two-thirds supported one of our scholarship funds or greatest priority funds. Your generous gifts to these funds truly supply the much-needed momentum to keep us moving **FORWARD**.

Whether you realize it or not, by coming together to support these key priorities of the college and each of our 12 departments, your generosity has a profound impact on the student experience. Collaboratively, your gifts to the general scholarship funds supported 241 students last year. They bring in distinguished speakers like renowned aviator and STEM advocate Barrington Irving and Owens Corning CEO Michael Thaman, who not only share their wisdom with our students, but inspire them. They also fund conference expenses, enabling students to learn both by presenting their work and by interacting with leading researchers.

In addition, your gifts help make new hands-on learning initiatives a reality, such as HackOHI/O. What began in 2013 as a 100-student hackathon organized primarily by engineering faculty and students has grown into a true Buckeye collaboration that attracts more than 750 students from 25+ universities around the Midwest. In the pages ahead, you can read more about HackOHI/O and how one alumna inspired her company to get involved.

The stories featured in this issue of **FORWARD** illustrate just a few of the ways the College of Engineering transforms your generosity into learning, research and innovation that enriches lives here and around the globe. Your support empowers our students and faculty to make an impact today and in the future. We are energized by and grateful for your remarkable commitment to our college and its people.

Sincerely,



David B. Williams PhD, ScD

Monte Ahuja Endowed Dean's Chair
Dean of the College of Engineering
Executive Dean of the Professional Colleges





Banding together to help

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP) was more than a helpful academic program—it was a second family, explained Kevin Chenault ('17, aerospace engineering). One that supported him throughout his undergraduate experience, not just academically, but also financially.

Chenault is one of many MEP alumni who credit the program—especially the efforts of its longtime leader, former Assistant Dean Minnie McGee—with putting them on the path to success. When McGee retired in 2015 after 40 years of service, those passionate Buckeye engineers came together

to establish two scholarship endowments in her honor.

MEP Alumni Advisory Board Chair Herbert Robinson ('77, industrial and systems engineering) said he and his fellow alumni wanted to honor McGee for “going above and beyond what anyone would expect,” including following up with students after graduation, through graduate school and during their careers. She even continued to reach out to students who ultimately decided engineering wasn’t the right fit.

When the MEP board asked fellow alumni to join them in supporting two new scholarship

endowments in honor of McGee, the response was overwhelming. By the end of fiscal year 2016, 172 donors—spearheaded by generous gifts from Robinson and fellow board member Phillip Barnes—had donated more than \$215,000 to the funds.

By improving students’ financial lives, the board members saw the endowments as an extension of the mentoring, coaching and networking support the program has provided to nearly 2,000 underrepresented minority students since it launched in the 1970s.

“There are constantly gaps in funding for students, particularly



fellow Buckeyes



those finishing college,” explained Barnes ('01, electrical and computer engineering; '04, '10, biomedical engineering).

“We wanted students to feel that MEP is there for them, not just academically, not just socially, but also financially, which helps them say, ‘I feel invested in, now what more can I do?’”

Receiving the inaugural Minnie McGee MEP Eminence Scholarship—a one-year \$5,000 award—not only gave Chenault the time to focus on his studies, it also enabled him to give back.

“It affected me greatly. The scholarship basically paid for a semester of school,” he said.


“Having that free time meant I was able to give back to MEP and the engineering program by being more available for community service, including giving tours, talking to prospective students and tutoring.”

Thanks to donors’ generosity, \$13,000 in new scholarships were awarded to MEP students in 2017 to help them complete their degree programs.

Acknowledging that today’s students are facing as big or bigger challenges than ever, Robinson hopes the scholarships will reduce students’ debt burden and the stress of how to pay for their final years of school,

and enable them to achieve their dreams.

“I hope they will recognize what we have learned, which is that you cannot do it on your own, and that they will begin to give back,” he said.

By supporting future generations, alumni are ensuring that more students like Chenault will feel like part of the MEP family. Family that not only succeeds as engineers, but gives back to help others do the same. 

ABOVE: Herbert Robinson '77 (center) chats with Minority Engineering Program students (from left) Abrahm Williams, Jasmine Jones, Daniel Bond and Paloma Cooper-Reynoso.



Alum's generosity allows cancer researcher to pay forward

When alumnus Paul Bigley discovered an opportunity at Ohio State to support two of his passions—engineering and cancer research—he didn't hesitate to give back to the place that has meant so much to him.

The retired chemical engineer ('61) made a generous donation to support cancer research conducted by Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Professor Jessica Winter. The gift will help purchase equipment and train the next generation of cancer researchers.

"I'm just grateful for everything Ohio State has done for me," Bigley said simply.

The encouragement he received as a Buckeye engineering student was especially impactful. School was difficult for him at times, Bigley said, as he struggled to balance family obligations with his studies. But the support he felt from university administration pushed him to succeed.



Paul Bigley and daughter, Terri

Even more than his education, Bigley would say the greatest gift Ohio State has given him is the health of his daughter, Terri, a cancer survivor who was treated at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). Bigley was so impressed with the skill of Terri's surgical oncologist, Jeffrey Fowler, MD, and the care she received, that he made an additional contribution to support robotic surgery at the OSUCCC – James. And when he realized there was a way to support both chemical engineering and cancer

research simultaneously by contributing to Professor Winter, he jumped at the chance to show his gratitude.

"I'm just trying to give back to Ohio State what they gave Terri," he said. "I'm so impressed with all of the advancements happening at the university—how much people have progressed and what they're learning now. It's just unbelievable."

Bigley said he was especially "in awe" of Winter's work. His gift will support improvements to her microscopy lab, helping her team of researchers uncover a better way of delivering drugs to the brain to treat cancers and other neurological disorders.

"Meeting Paul's daughter, Terri, was an enriching experience," said Winter. "We discussed possible uses and I suggested that building infrastructure would be an important use of the gift—one that keeps on giving."

Having battled cancer herself, Winter's current research is focused on developing new



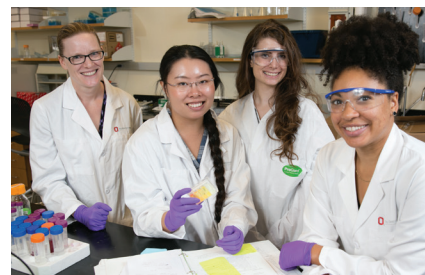
diagnostics and therapies for one of the deadliest brain cancers, gliomas, which have survival rates of only 12 to 15 months. Winter said most current therapies target tumor growth rather than tumor spread, thus she hopes to identify new therapies that can target invasion specifically. Her discoveries could potentially be used to treat other invasive cancers as well.

“Gifts like these are important because they engage researchers with cancer

survivors that drive our work and keep us at the cutting edge in research,” said Winter. “As a cancer survivor myself who was treated at the James, I am humbled by the support of Ohio State alumni and friends for cancer research. This generous donation allows me to pay forward and make whatever small impact I can to, very simply, stop cancer.” 🇺🇸

ABOVE: Professor Jessica Winter and biomedical engineering PhD student Lauren Cosby chat about a current research project.

BELOW: Winter and graduate student researchers Yixiao Cui, Atefeh Alizadehbirjandi and Lauren Cosby are developing new ways to detect and treat gliomas.



Sending Buckeye Love

In the rural village of Marwa, Tanzania, women and young girls spend five to seven hours each day collecting the water their families need to survive. But thanks to some passionate Buckeyes, Marwa's residents now have real hope of having clean, accessible water and a better life—one with educational and economic opportunities never before possible.

"The impact of not having water is severe," said Michael Hagenberger, associate professor of practice for civil, environmental and geodetic engineering. "The women and children don't get to go to school or be full citizens because of what they need to do just for basic survival."

Marwa villagers had a plan to solve their water crisis, but they needed outside expertise and funding to implement it. Hagenberger, School of Environment and

Natural Resources Lecturer Joseph Campbell and their students have been working to provide both as part of the Sustainable and Resilient Tanzanian Community program. The interdisciplinary service learning initiative brings together students from across Ohio State and the University of Dodoma to solve engineering and development challenges.

In June, a rainwater harvesting system designed by Ohio State engineers and funded by dozens of Buckeyes was installed on Marwa's medical clinic. It collects water through a series of gutters and stores it in a 28,000-liter tank.

During the two rainy seasons, the tank will collect enough water to meet the clinic's needs all year. Plus villagers no longer have to pay the clinic for the water they use, a charge that prevented some from accessing the otherwise free healthcare.

Patrick Sours ('17, civil engineering) recalled the villagers' reaction the first time it rained after the system was installed. "Seeing the excitement on the faces of the doctors and nurses made all the hard work that the team did worth it."

More than 100 donors gave \$10,250 total—more than twice the original goal—to fund the system. Thanks to their generosity, a second rainwater harvesting system will be installed on one of the village's schools in 2018.






The donations were raised in just one month using Buckeye Funder, the university's online crowdfunding platform that was established to connect individual donors to causes they care about. In fiscal year 2017, 177 donors gave \$15,855 via Buckeye Funder to support several College of Engineering service projects, outreach efforts and student conference expenses.

Hagenberger was touched to see that every alumnus who participated in the two previous Tanzania trips made a gift to support the project. "You get a sense of what the impact is on the students that even a year or two after graduation, they're still compelled to give."

While the Buckeyes have many more projects to tackle before Marwa's water woes are solved, the village celebrated this initial

success with a special ceremony. The women sang and danced, while some balanced buckets on their heads—a symbol of what they hope will one day be just a memory.

Civil engineering major Jasmine Johnson witnessed the power of paying forward. "You could not only see, but almost feel the amount of appreciation the villagers had for us being there and working our hardest to bring clean drinking water to Marwa." 

LEFT: Villagers collecting water.

ABOVE LEFT: Collaborating to construct 28,000-liter storage tank.

ABOVE RIGHT: Villagers celebrate project's success.



BY THE NUMBERS

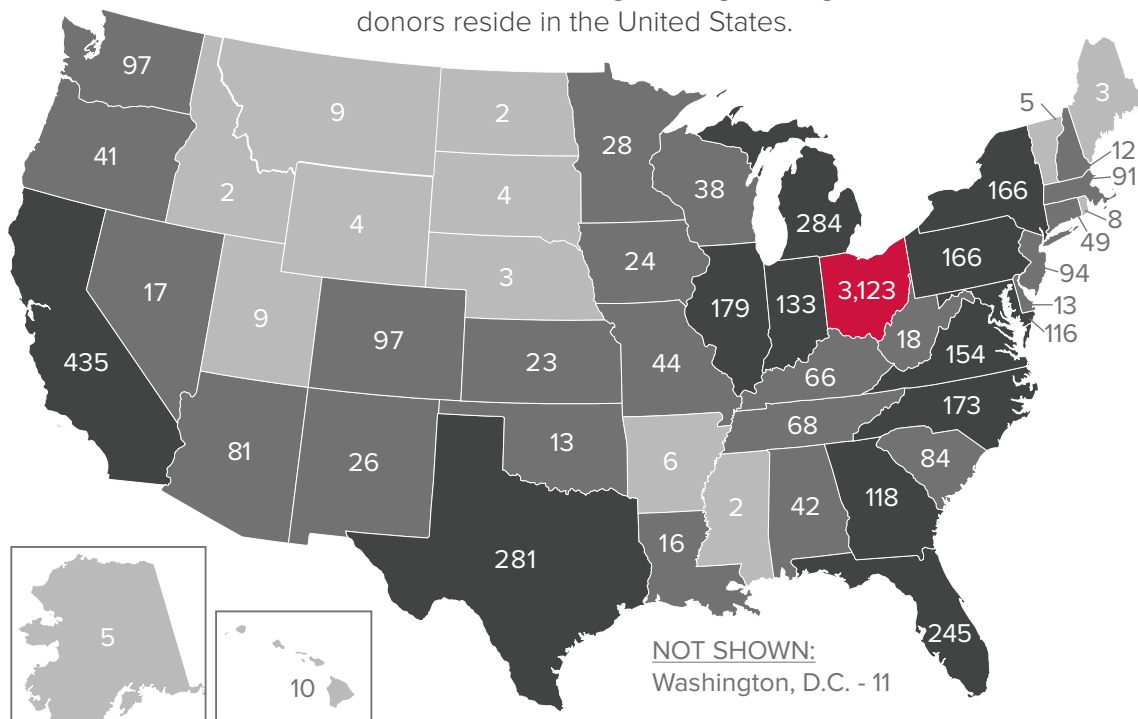
A closer look at gifts made to The Ohio State University College of Engineering in fiscal year 2017.

WHO GAVE?	No. of Donors	Total Cash Gifts
College of Engineering alumni	3,485	\$3,189,883
Other Ohio State alumni	962	\$996,067
Ohio State faculty and staff	284	\$337,615
Friends	2,405	\$1,618,748
Foundations and corporations	680	\$42,464,339
TOTAL	7,816	\$48,646,652



WHERE ARE THE DONORS FROM?

More than 99% of College of Engineering donors reside in the United States.



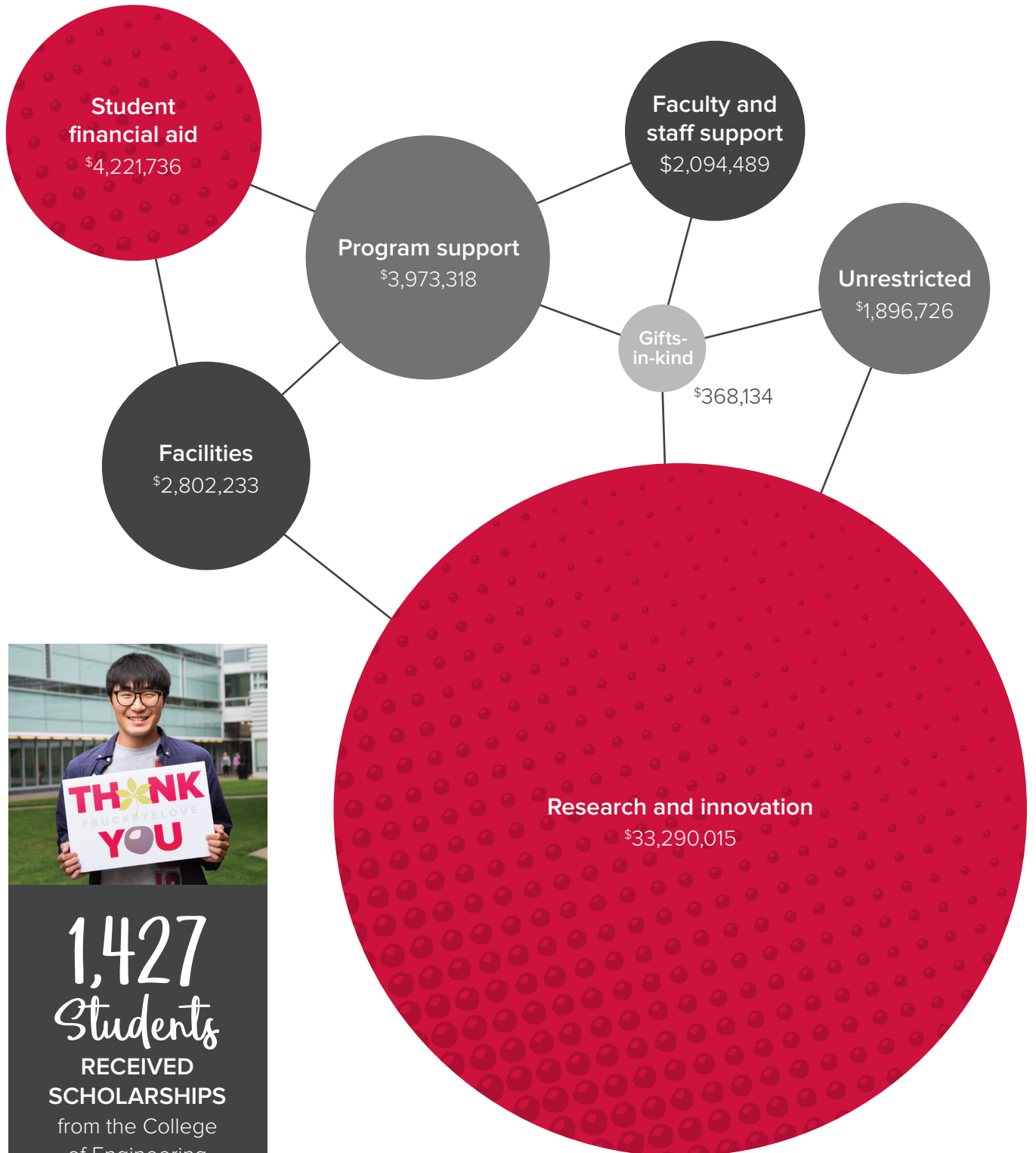
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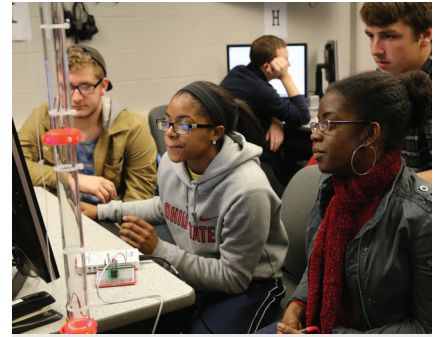
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WHAT DID THEY SUPPORT?



IMPACT FUNDS: *Greatest Priorities and Scholarships*



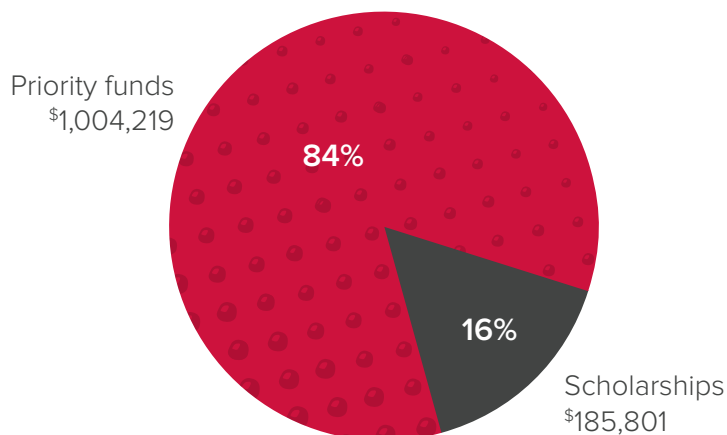
Donor support that provides the greatest flexibility to the college often comes through our Impact Funds. These funds enable college leadership to respond to emerging priorities and enhance educational opportunities.

There are two types of Impact Funds: scholarships and priority funds.

- **Scholarship funds** go directly to students to decrease tuition costs. Last year 241 students received scholarships from these funds.
- **Priority funds** provide unrestricted dollars to fuel student and faculty initiatives, such as student organizations, bringing prominent speakers to campus, assisting with professional conference costs, and upgrading classroom and lab spaces.

View the complete list of funds online at go.osu.edu/engfunds.

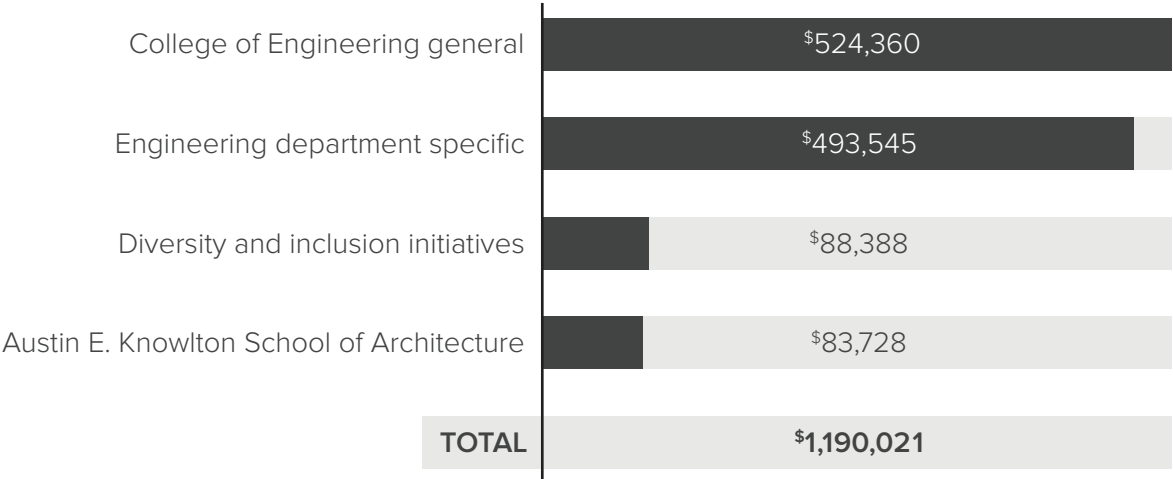
WHERE DID IMPACT FUND DONORS GIVE?



In fiscal year 2017, alumni, friends and organizations gave more than \$1.19 million to the Impact Funds, providing a much-needed broad base of flexible support from Buckeyes worldwide.

WHICH AREAS WERE SUPPORTED BY IMPACT FUNDS?

These totals include both scholarship and priority fund support.



“Our priority fund support affords us the opportunity to truly enrich the educational experience, and implement new initiatives proposed by our faculty and students to which we would otherwise have to say no. I cannot stress enough how grateful we are for donor support in this critical area.”

— Vish Subramaniam
Chair, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Alumni couple's legacy helps student dreams take flight

Buckeye Warner Wilson was a self-made man who overcame adversity to achieve his dreams, but he never forgot the good Samaritans who helped him on his path to success. A planned gift made in his and his wife's honor is fulfilling the couple's wishes to ensure others have the same opportunity to pay forward.

The Warner and Mickey Wilson Endowed Fund will provide financial support to a student in the Center for Aviation Studies who has overcome a hardship during his or her lifetime. A portion of the fund will

also improve access to children's aviation summer camps.

Daughter Marie and son Nathan remember aviation and education as the threads of their parents' life story.

"Dad was a self-made man, but he felt he had a good life largely because other people believed in him and helped him," said Marie. "That's why he wanted to do this—to help others who may need to know that someone believes in them and is willing to invest in them."

Tragically orphaned early in life, Warner endured a childhood that could have easily broken many. He grew up in foster care—poor and alone—but found solace at his local library after school. It was there that he developed his fascination with airplanes, reading every book he could find on aviation.

At the age of 18 with just 68 cents to his name, he landed a job at a plant that built planes, eventually learning to fly them. He trained pilots during



Aviation studies major Junn Shimizu is the inaugural recipient of the Warner and Mickey Wilson Scholarship.

WWII and later, after earning a bachelor's from Ohio State through the GI Bill, he worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, rising in the ranks to become chief contracting officer of the F-111 Project.

His wife, Mickey, was equally passionate about education and learning. A woman ahead of her time, the trailblazer earned degrees in microbiology from Ohio State in the 1940s, and enjoyed a successful career as a teacher and microbiologist.

The couple met and fell in love at Ohio State during a United Service Organizations (USO) dance when Warner was still in the service. *(continued on page 14)*

Legacy gift opens new paths for Seibel Brothers

Thanks to the Charles Nickel Engineering Scholarship, twins Aaron and Alex Seibel each discovered a passion for research.

The generous \$10,000 per year scholarship covers nearly all of Ohio State's annual tuition and fees, giving both Aaron, a biomedical engineering major, and Alex, a chemical and biomolecular engineering major, the freedom to nurture their new interest. Last summer they spent 15 hours per week assisting Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Professor Jonathan Song with his cancer research on the tumor microenvironment.

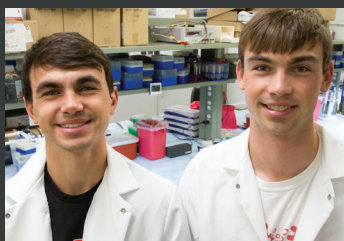
"There's a lot of really important research going on," Alex said. "Definitely one of the best parts about Ohio State is that it's very easy to get involved."

Because of their Buckeye experience, both siblings are planning to attend graduate school and hope to continue conducting research after graduation. Gaining hands-on experience in the lab now will help prepare Alex and Aaron to succeed in their pursuit of advanced degrees.

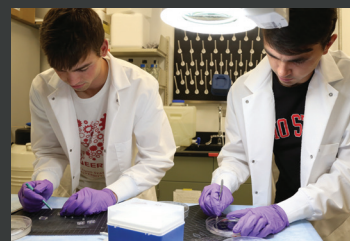
The Seibels are two of the 216 students who have benefitted from the generous donors who invested in student success via planned gifts. In total, more than 67 endowments at the College of Engineering were created by estate gifts, supporting faculty and research as well as student scholarships.

Although they can't personally thank Ohio State alumnus Charles Nickel—whose planned gift established the Nickel Engineering Scholarship—Alex and Aaron are so appreciative of his decision to give students the opportunity to identify and pursue their dreams.

"I'm just very grateful for his generosity," said Aaron.



Alex (left) and Aaron Seibel



Because of this, they knew they wanted to support other Buckeyes who struggled to overcome obstacles and shared a similar passion for planes.

With their scholarship, inaugural recipient Junn Shimizu can now make his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot a reality.

"I knew I wanted to become a pilot when I took a Young Eagles flight. It was the first time I flew in a small airplane and I was instantly hooked," said the aviation studies junior from Lexington, Ohio.

Like Warner, Junn was able to turn tragedy into triumph. As a child in his native Japan, he endured two surgeries and months of painful rehabilitation

to correct a congenital hip deformity that endangered his ability to walk. But worse was the bullying he faced from the other children in his hospital room simply because he could speak English.

"Eventually I learned to block out their attacks. It helped make me a positive and outgoing person willing to take on anything to achieve my goals," said Junn. "Receiving this scholarship has given me a confidence boost in my ability to continue my education at Ohio State."

In addition to the scholarship support, the Wilsons wanted to help more young people develop a love for aviation early in life, just like Warner and Junn

did. Their fund will help middle and high school students attend aviation summer camps in hopes that more choose the field as a career.

"Nathan and I are so happy to be honoring our parents in this way and fulfill their wishes," said Marie. "We loved them both very much and this is a way to keep on loving them." 🇺🇸

BELOW LEFT: Mickey carried this photo of her soldier with her during WWII.

BELOW MIDDLE: The Wilsons built their first house in this Springfield, Ohio, neighborhood.

BELOW RIGHT: Warner and Mickey during a trip to Alaska.



Young alumni pay forward

ZACH ADAMS '13

Chemical and biomolecular engineering



"Receiving my degree from the College of Engineering at Ohio State provided an

excellent framework on which I can continue to learn and thrive, and was made possible by the scholarships I received. They eased the financial burden immensely, which allowed me to focus on the rigors associated with an engineering degree. I give back to afford others the opportunity to develop that same framework and pay it forward like those who made it possible for me.

I chose to donate to the College of Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship Fund on the first Day of Giving. Two of my scholarship donors, Jim and Pat Dietz, put out a challenge to all of their current and former scholarship recipients to give back to this fund and they would match the contribution three to one. Jim and Pat have done so much for the college, myself and so many others that I felt it was only right to pay it forward as they had."

LAUREN BAIR '06, '09

Electrical and computer engineering



"When I was a young female student in electrical engineering, there were a few

times I questioned the possibility of graduation. The first was when another student told me I wouldn't make it because I was a woman. The second was when I flunked my first electrical engineering exam. And the third time was when the college fund was drying up and I still had two and a half years to go—and that was when I received the Byrne-Okey Scholarship!

The first two scenarios taught me perseverance and humility, but the third scenario taught me about cause and effect. Because I was so driven to be the best engineer I knew I could be, I was rewarded with scholarships when it was needed the most. I will always be grateful to the Byrne-Okey Scholarship Fund for allowing me to continue excelling in the field I love. I give to the John F. Byrne and Perry Okey Memorial Scholarship Fund in Electrical Engineering because I received it in college."

KATHRYN BLACKBURN '13

Electrical and computer engineering



"Having benefitted deeply from scholarship support myself, in the spirit of paying it forward

from the great Woody Hayes, I've always looked for ways to do just that. I give back to the college not just monetarily, but also in mentorship through the Women in Engineering (WiE) program. My involvement as a Women in Engineering industry mentor has been a wonderful experience and brings to life why I continue paying it forward.

I donate to the Women in Engineering program and double my impact with a company match from Battelle, where I work as a software engineer. I actually heard about Battelle through one of my mentors while in my undergrad program, and I wouldn't be at such a great company if it hadn't been for that introduction and support I received from the WiE program."

Helping Buckeyes GO GLOBAL

Education abroad programs can have a life-changing impact on students of all majors. For architecture students, experiencing great designs around the globe firsthand is imperative to becoming better problem solvers.

“To be a student of architecture and not travel means you really don’t understand the scale of these things that you’re looking at, the texture or how they tuck into a particular landscape,” Architecture Professor Jackie Gargus said. “All of that is really, really important.”

Last spring, 15 College of Engineering students were able to explore the roots and continued development of Cuba’s modern architecture, thanks to a generous gift from prominent Columbus architect and distinguished alumnus George Acock (’63).

Acock’s first trip to Europe, taken several years after he graduated, had a profound effect on him and his craft. “I thought I did pretty good when I went to Ohio State, but after I started traveling, I improved, and I’d like to see the students experience that.”

A long-time advocate for the Knowlton School of

Architecture’s education abroad programs, Acock’s gifts have supported international travel experiences for 55 Ohio State students since 2009.

“Through travel, you can learn how many different ways you can approach a problem and how you can creatively respond to that in your architectural practice,” he said.

Creating an education abroad program in Cuba has been a longtime goal of the Knowlton School, explained Gargus, one inspired by Acock.

“George Acock was an early visitor to Cuba long before most people had a chance to go and he was very impressed with the lively art scene and the fabric of these old colonial towns,” she said. “And for a number of years he’s wanted to make it possible for Knowlton School students to have an opportunity to visit.”

His most recent gift made the expensive trip accessible to students, enabling them to explore Cuba’s unique architectural environment firsthand.


“Without Mr. Acock’s funding this trip would have been completely impossible,” said Gargus, who led the 10-day visit.

Students explored Cuba’s contrasting architectural styles in the capital city of Havana as well as Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Miramar and Viñales, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

“We saw several different periods of really spectacular architecture. There was the colonial architecture that characterized old Havana and towns like Trinidad and Cienfuegos,” Gargus explained. “There was also a kind of art deco architecture from the 30s, 40s and even 50s.”

Senior architecture major Jack Raymond felt fortunate to take part in the trip and further his knowledge of architectural design around the world.

“The Cuba trip was a wonderful way to accumulate a new set of experiences, which broadened my awareness of architecture across the world,” he said.

Support like Acock’s ensures that all Buckeye architects—regardless of their financial resources—have the opportunity to gain the global perspective needed to thrive in the internationally connected world. 





Gift continues beloved professor's legacy at Ohio State

Carolyn Merry, a world-renowned scholar in remote sensing and geographic information systems, made an immeasurable impact on the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering (CEGE) and the lives of its students throughout her 25-year teaching career. And her positive influence lives on, thanks to her husband, Robert Redfield, who donated \$100,000 in 2017 in Merry's memory to upgrade the department's undergraduate education facilities.

Redfield describes Merry as a renaissance woman who was passionate about many things—the arts, sports, engineering, to name a few—but most of all she was passionate about education.

"Both of us were the first in our family to get a bachelor's degree and we prized the education that we were able to get," Redfield explained. "We felt that Ohio State focused correctly on students and raising the quality of the education they receive. Our ability to contribute to that was important to us."

Merry joined the CEGE department in 1988 as an assistant professor and climbed the ranks to become its first female chair in 2004. As chair, she spurred major improvements to department labs, offices, meeting rooms and equipment, all while continuing to teach.

After Merry died in 2014 in a tragic car accident, Redfield's new purpose became honoring her legacy. In addition to his annual donation to the department, he decided to make a special gift focused on its student facilities, a cause he knew had been important to her.

"We are very grateful for Bob's generous gift, which will help us create a capstone design studio or renovate several undergraduate laboratories," said CEGE Associate Chair Michael Hagenberger. "Carolyn felt both projects were crucial to the CEGE undergraduate student experience at Ohio State."


Hagenberger envisions a top-notch capstone design studio that incorporates a classroom, computer lab with the latest software, conference rooms for hosting group meetings, flexible student workspace, and a place

to hold lectures by industry professionals.

Plans are underway to revamp three undergraduate teaching laboratories—covering materials, geotechnical and structural engineering—including transforming the standard rooms into combined classroom and computer lab space with modern equipment and software. The new labs will enable more hands-on activities to be incorporated into the curriculum, such as adding a shake table to show how a building behaves during an earthquake.

Additional funding will be required to complete the projects and Redfield hopes others will join him in supporting the department's vision.

Knowing the doors that a quality education can open for students and how it can impact their lives, the fellow civil engineer is proud to pay forward and continue Merry's lasting legacy on the next generation of Buckeye engineers.

"I hope this gift improves the ability of the students to learn and ultimately graduate and be successful," Redfield said. "Carolyn and I both had wonderful careers because of our education." 

(from left) Student James Sevenoff, Robert Redfield, Michael Hagenberger and student Georgia Lindner stand outside of Hitchcock Hall, home of the CEGE department.



Engaged alumna inspires company to invest in student success

When Julia Armstrong ('14, electrical and computer engineering) attended HackOHI/O—Ohio State's annual hackathon—as an alumni mentor, she knew she was witnessing something special. A Harris Corporation engineer at the time, she had just taken on the role of recruiting students at her alma mater and was looking for ways to increase her company's involvement on campus.

"This event was so much more informative and beneficial than a formal interview process as far as a screening tool," said Armstrong of the hackathon, during which hundreds of students transform ideas into software and application prototypes in just 24 hours. "Because you're seeing students work on a team, face real problems, and handle technical challenges and stress. Then there's the open door when you're working with them to make a pitch about your company."

That positive experience and a similar one at MakeOHI/O, the university's hardware-oriented hackathon, empowered Armstrong to work with her company's philanthropic



foundation to sponsor OHI/O events in the 2016-2017 academic year. It helped, she added, that a fellow alum at Harris was an instant advocate.

"At Harris, we focus on how to utilize innovation to solve really tough problems. The hackathon is one of those things that give students a real opportunity to start honing those skills going forward," said Chris Young ('82, electrical engineering), president of Harris Corporation's Communication Systems segment. "I think it's that inherent belief that gaining hands-on experience really drives home what you're learning in the classroom."

Armstrong also encouraged the company to take its recruiting relationship with Ohio State to the next level by offering more valuable experiences to students—hands-on workshops, résumé reviews and partnering with groups like the Electronics Club and OHI/O. Strengthening that connection and increasing

the number of students interested in careers at Harris has been beneficial for all sides, she said. Harris' Rochester, New York, office currently employs approximately a dozen Buckeyes and hires new interns each summer.

"The quality of students coming out of Ohio State is incredible. The new ideas are just tremendous and that's what those hackathons bring to light for students," said Young, who also sits on the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Industrial Advisory Board. "Every time I talk to interns or new hires, I come away energized by their enthusiasm and knowledge."





Through Harris' enthusiastic support and student outreach, Armstrong discovered a passion for working with the next generation of Buckeye engineers. In August, she returned to the College of Engineering as program director for the hackathons. Now, OHI/O isn't just getting an Ohio State alum, but a Harris alum as well, ensuring that strong connection will continue to grow for years to come.

As for how other alumni can engage their companies with their alma mater, Armstrong said the first step is giving some of your time.

"It starts with your initiative. And for me, when the company starts to see your passion and your involvement, they realize they can benefit from your interests and it might not cost a lot of money to make a big difference." 📺

LEFT: Larry King and his team received a Top 10 award at HackOHI/O for their drone that can be controlled in real-time via any 4G/LTE network.

ABOVE: Best hardware hack recipients David Frank (left) and Carter Hurd created an automatic coffee maker that can load its own filter and grounds, while also answering questions.

Thank You!

This report includes just a few of the many transformational stories and experiences made possible by you, our loyal supporters. We appreciate all you do for the college. Read more stories and learn how you can continue to make an impact at go.osu.edu/coeimpactreport.



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