Distinguished Gift

Kurman Professorship Carries on a Tradition of Faculty Giving

By Kimberly Marselas

Midway through his medical career, gynecologic pathologist Robert Kurman, MD, received an offer to come to Johns Hopkins as the Richard W. TeLinde Distinguished Professor of Gynecological Pathology and Director of the Division of Gynecologic Pathology, one of the oldest and most highly regarded divisions of gynecologic pathology in the U.S. While the Professorship is within the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, there is a rich history of close collaboration with the Division of Gynecologic Pathology. “Since the first day I set foot at Johns Hopkins I have never had a single regret,” Kurman says.

Kurman’s clinical work and research involves diagnosing diseases affecting the female reproductive organs and discovering what causes various types of cancers to develop in these sites. He and his colleagues review microscopic slides from patients’ tissues that are sent by medical providers from throughout the U.S. and abroad. “Generally, the question is whether the slides are from a malignant or a benign disease,” he says.

“The label of cancer places an enormous emotional burden on the patient and her family,” says Kurman. “It is critical that we make an accurate diagnosis of cancer versus a benign tumor. This can be very difficult at times. The treatment for cancer is often aggressive, removing the uterus and ovaries and leaving younger women sterile and young and older women without the benefit of important hormones that play a key role in their health.”

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Did you know that you can use your traditional IRA to make a charitable gift to Johns Hopkins in 2016? It’s true — your retirement account can be a tax-efficient and simple way of making a gift. You can give during your lifetime and avoid the income tax normally associated with taking required minimum distributions from your IRA.

Who qualifies? Individuals who are age 70½ or older at the time of the charitable contribution may transfer funds directly from their traditional IRA to a qualified charity, such as Johns Hopkins.

How much can I transfer? Each individual may transfer up to $100,000 per year. If your spouse has a separate IRA, he or she can also make a charitable IRA rollover gift. Remember that any amount transferred can count toward your required minimum distribution.

What are the tax implications? The amount you transfer will not be included in your taxable income as long as it is transferred directly from your IRA administrator to Johns Hopkins. However, keep in mind that you are not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for this gift.

What factors make this the right gift for me? 1) you wish to make an outright gift to Hopkins that will have an immediate impact on our mission; 2) you do not need the additional income necessitated by your required minimum distribution; 3) you have already maxed out your charitable tax deductions for the year — the charitable IRA rollover operates separately from the tax rules that limit the benefit of individual charitable giving.

How do I make my gift? Consult with your tax advisor to make sure that a gift made through the charitable IRA rollover is a good fit for you. After that, simply contact your IRA administrator and request that a distribution be made directly to Johns Hopkins; at that time, you will also need to provide them with our tax ID number, 52-0595110, and contact information.

As you plan your charitable giving, consider using the IRA rollover to achieve your philanthropic goals. To learn more, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 410.516.7954, 800.548.1268 or giftplanning@jhu.edu.

Act Now to Achieve Tax Benefits in 2016!

Take advantage of tax-wise giving to Johns Hopkins with a charitable IRA rollover or gift of appreciated securities. To finalize your gift by Dec. 31, 2016 and receive tax benefits, here are helpful reminders:

Charitable IRA Rollover—IRA rollover contributions transfer directly from a traditional IRA to Johns Hopkins, so allow enough time to contact your IRA administrator to arrange your gift and to let us know your gift is on the way.

Appreciated Securities—Allow up to two days for an electronic transfer. For gifts of mutual fund shares or paper stock certificates, it is best to contact the Office of Gift Planning in early December.
Today, as Kurman transitions toward retirement after nearly 30 years with the University, he is working to ensure that a new generation of doctors and educators carries on his legacy of life-changing work.

He and his wife have made a gift commitment from their estate that will endow the Robert J. and Carole C. Kurman Professorship in Gynecologic Pathology in the Department of Pathology. The goal is to provide promising researchers incentive and freedom to advance the diagnosis and treatment of gynecological diseases.

“Bob built the best Division of Gynecologic Pathology in the country,” says Ralph Hruban, MD, the Baxley Professor and Director of the Department of Pathology. “He hired world-class faculty who collaborate to provide great patient care, impactful teaching and cutting-edge research. Without a doubt, Bob’s many trainees are his greatest legacy, many of whom now hold leadership positions around the world.”

**A History of Generosity, Collaboration**

When Kurman first arrived at the Division of Gynecologic Pathology, it consisted of himself and a resident — now the division has more than 40 junior and senior faculty. The TeLinde Professorship allowed Kurman to extend the division’s research arm. By supporting gynecological pathology faculty and fellows and using seed money to launch pilot studies and generate much-needed data, the faculty nearly quadrupled outside funding during his tenure.

Most recently, Kurman and his colleagues developed a model for ovarian cancer based on a variety of factors, including molecular genetics, that allow gynecologists to develop new approaches to diagnosis and treatment and investigators to explore avenues of research that will lead to new methods of screening and prevention.

T.-C. Wu, MD, PhD, one of Kurman’s first fellows and an internationally recognized leader in the field of human papillomaviruses and cervical cancer, has succeeded Kurman as Director of the Division of Gynecologic Pathology. He and Hruban say Kurman’s “significant contributions” to the field spared many women unnecessary treatments.

In 2014, Kurman stepped down from the TeLinde Professorship to allow the University to appoint another one of his former fellows, Ie-Ming Shih, MD, PhD, to that position. “Dr. Shih is one of the leading scientists in the field of ovarian cancer and the driving force in our ovarian cancer program, and this has resulted in Hopkins being an international leader in the field,” Kurman says. He remains indebted to Edward Wallach, MD, the professor emeritus and former Director of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics who recruited him to Johns Hopkins decades ago. The two were able to work side by side for years.

Kurman notes that because pathologists rarely meet with patients, the patients don’t recognize the critical role pathologists play in establishing a diagnosis to help direct treatment. As a result, grateful patients don’t often consider donations, one of the main sources of endowed gifts, to pathology departments. Kurman hopes his and his wife’s gift will spur other faculty members to become benefactors. In doing so, they would carry on a tradition of generosity to ensure that research, teaching and patient care at Johns Hopkins continue to excel.
Stu Richel, A&S ’64:
Shining the Spotlight on Hopkins Theatre

By Kimberly Marselas

Actor Stu Richel didn’t envision a life of one-man shows, voice work and last-minute callbacks. The former war photographer and successful corporate lawyer traded the business world for theater on a whim in the 1980s. Recently cast as J. Edgar Hoover, a deacon and a prosecution witness, Richel supports the Johns Hopkins Program in Theatre Arts and Studies.

How did leaving law change your life?
“I really leaped off the edge. General Electric Company was a great place to work, with terrific people, but I didn’t want to be a lawyer anymore. Then I entered the artistic fray, a much more free-wheeling and self-propelled environment.”

One of your first jobs as a working actor was with Northside Theatre Company in San Jose. What did you learn in those early years?
“I had written what I thought might be a one-man show and called the artistic director. That began a long relationship. I became the resident playwright and took on some fund-raising tasks. I very much cared about the success, the survival of this theater. Because of its live quality, theater can touch the heart and reach the soul in a way other artistic forms cannot.”

Why do you tend to focus your writer’s lens on real people?
“I’ve always been interested in matters of integrity and strength of character, those who have it and those who don’t, especially those who do have it fighting against those who don’t. I’ve written plays about Theodore Judah, an engineer who was the driving force behind the Transcontinental Railroad, and the Donner Party’s saga of courage and cowardice. Hard circumstances bring out the best, and worst, in us all.”

You’re busy promoting your latest play, “Vietnam…through my lens;” shooting print ads and appearing on Showtime’s hedge-fund drama “Billions” next year. Why do you stay connected with your alma mater, particularly the Program in Theatre Arts and Studies?
“Theater brightens the academic palette. And Director John Astin [A&S ’52] has a formidable background in stage and screen. He has given a chunk of his life to the care and feeding of the program. Last year, John invited me back, and we conducted a joint seminar on one-man plays. I performed snippets of my solo work, and John showed clips of his piece on Edgar Allan Poe. I was honored to share his stage. I also wanted to help the program along financially and get a return during my lifetime. Making a charitable gift annuity was useful for all of us.”

By funding a charitable gift annuity, Stu Richel receives guaranteed income and tax savings while supporting the future of the Johns Hopkins Program in Theatre Arts and Studies.
Their Legacy Told

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine are grateful to the generous alumni and friends who have remembered us in their estate plans and other planned gifts. We now celebrate a few of these benefactors and honor their legacy.

Vera Kohn established several charitable gift annuities and left a gift from her estate to endow research and scholarship funds for the Divisions of Cardiac Surgery and Cardiology and the Department of Oncology. Her generous gifts recognize the care that her first and second husbands received at Hopkins.

John F. “Jack” Dietz, A&S ’50, grew up in Baltimore and worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. His brother, Vernon, a former patient at the Harriet Lane Home, now Harriet Lane Clinic, at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center inspired Mr. Dietz to establish the Vernon R. Dietz Endowed Fund with several gift annuities and a gift from his estate. The fund supports the Harriet Lane Clinic in the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Children’s Center.

After earning degrees in chemistry, Thomas Edward Gompf, A&S ’48, ’49 (MA), ’52 (PhD), worked for the Eastman Kodak Company where he patented several inventions. Mr. Gompf established a charitable gift annuity and left a gift from his estate to support faculty and students in the Department of Chemistry.

What do a horseshoe crab, American cheese and the car seat have in common? They are among the 100 objects that, for better or worse, have made their mark on public health. The Bloomberg School of Public Health compiled the list to recognize the school’s centennial.

Redonda Miller, Med ’92, Bus ’04, has become Johns Hopkins Hospital’s 11th president and the first woman to hold the post since the hospital was founded in 1889. She most recently was senior vice president of medical affairs for the Johns Hopkins Health System and vice president of medical affairs for the hospital.

The U.S. Postal Service has new stamps featuring Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory space missions: “Pluto—Explored!” commemorates the flyby of Pluto by the New Horizons spacecraft, and “Views of Our Planets” shows Mercury from the MESSENGER mission.

Why Do You Give?

“Contributing to the Peabody Conservatory, where I gained an outstanding education, will enable the younger generations to follow their dreams of pursuing music as a career. It is paramount that we foster those who come after us in whatever profession we find ourselves.”

Keith Nash, Peab ’73, ’76 (MM)
Organist, accompanist and librarian (retired)
Johns Hopkins Legacy Society Member since 2015

We would love to hear your story. Share your connection to Johns Hopkins and why you support our mission by completing the card attached to page 7 or visiting rising.jhu.edu/giftplanning.
Loyal Commitment
Lasting Legacy
Luncheon Celebrates Gifts for the Future

On September 22, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine hosted the First Annual Johns Hopkins Legacy Society Luncheon to celebrate and honor those who have made a commitment to the future of Johns Hopkins University and Medicine through estate or life income gifts. The Legacy Society is named for Mr. Johns Hopkins, whose founding legacy gift established the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The Legacy Society Luncheon brought together more than 100 donors from across the institution to the Johns Hopkins Evergreen Museum and Library in Baltimore, where guests enjoyed a welcome reception and lunch, and meeting fellow legacy society members and university leaders.

The program featured Johns Hopkins.

Professor Stuart (Bill) Leslie, who is writing a new history of Johns Hopkins. He delivered an educational and entertaining presentation on the Shriver Hall Murals, located on the Homewood campus, and Hopkins alumnus (and legacy donor) Alfred Jenkins Shriver.

Janie (Liza) Bailey — Legacy Society co-chair and member of the University, Medicine, and Health System Boards of Trustees — provided opening and closing remarks. “I am very proud to be related to Johns Hopkins,” said Bailey, who is a third great-niece of Mr. Hopkins. “And I am certain that he would have been proud of the more than 1,500 members of the Johns Hopkins Legacy Society who have embraced his example by making a legacy gift to the university and medical system that bear his name.”

The Johns Hopkins Legacy Society was established in 2011 with 1,107 inaugural members. Since then, we have welcomed more than 400 new members and can now celebrate over 1,500 Hopkins donors who have made a commitment to Johns Hopkins through estate or life income gifts.
Inside – Why Do You Give?
We would love to hear your story. See inside for details.

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