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PLANNING MATTERS

Winter 2020

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Donors Suzanne Wright Fletcher and Robert Fletcher

JAFAR FALLAHI

A Family Affair

Honoring Parents' Legacy

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WILL KIRK

Michael E. Zerolnick, JD, CPA
Gift Planning Advisor
Office of Gift Planning

ASK THE ADVISOR

We want to hear from you!
If you have a question about how to meet your financial and philanthropic goals, ask the Office of Gift Planning. Email us at giftplanning@jhu.edu or call 410-516-7954 or 800-548-1268.

Giving in Uncertain Times: Consider Charitable Gift Annuities

In a time of market volatility, can assets be put to work for you *and* support Johns Hopkins? The answer is yes!

A Johns Hopkins charitable gift annuity (CGA) can be an excellent way to support the future of Johns Hopkins and provide income to you. Gift annuity payments are steady, reliable, and never subject to market volatility. And, in a world of paltry interest rates, a Johns Hopkins CGA could offer a higher rate of return — as much as 9.5% — than many conservative investments.

Benefits to you: In return for your gift of \$10,000 or more in cash or appreciated securities, Johns Hopkins enters into a simple contract with you, invests the funds, and pays up to two beneficiaries fixed income for life at a rate based on the ages of the beneficiaries. Tax benefits could include:

- an income tax deduction
- partially tax-free income
- favorable treatment of capital gains

For a personal CGA proposal based on your age and giving amount, contact the Office of Gift Planning to speak with one of our gift planning advisors. You can also use the gift calculator on our website: giving.jhu.edu/giftplanning.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY SARAH ACHENBACH

An endowed scholarship fund honors parents' legacy and carries on a passion for public health.

Suzanne Wright Fletcher, SPH '73, had a big decision to make. As a college sophomore in 1960, she wanted to pursue medicine, but a favorite professor was dissuading her. So, she turned to an expert: her father, Dr. Robert D. Wright, one of the first professors in the Johns Hopkins Department of International Health.

Bob Wright wrote his middle daughter a long letter, extolling the merits of medicine and the joy he had found in his calling. He even channeled his hero, Benjamin Franklin, noting his important contributions to medicine.

The letter did the trick. Suzanne became an internist, clinical epidemiologist, and national leader in breast cancer screening and prevention research, studying

public health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with husband Robert Fletcher, SPH '73. Today, they are professors emeriti in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School after pioneering careers in public health.

"It is difficult to imagine a more fulfilling life," Suzanne reflects.

In 1981 when Bob Wright died, Suzanne, along with her sisters Johanna Wright Parkes and Louise Wright Reza and their mother, Helen, memorialized Bob Wright's passion for international public health and his instrumental role in the field by creating the Robert D. and Helen S. Wright Scholarship Fund at Johns Hopkins. For nearly 40 years, supporting this endowment, which provides financial assistance to students in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, has been a family affair.

Until her death in 2002, Helen gave outright gifts to the scholarship, which her family has continued to do.

continued on next page

Bob and Helen Wright were lifelong sailors. Bob built the boat many years before, with sails sewn by his sweetheart.



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A FAMILY AFFAIR

“We’ve been involved in the international epidemiology clinical network and know so well the need,” Suzanne says of their gifts. “My parents felt strongly that funds needed to be available for students to be educated in this field.”

Each of the sisters has made provisions in her estate for the scholarship, and each is active in stewarding the scholarship, a joyful task that Johanna says has brought them closer together. “We are so proud of our parents and the exciting lives they gave us growing up,” she explains. “Their sense of commitment to what they believed in made them fantastic role models.”

“The scholarship fund carries forward what our parents spent their lives working toward,” adds Louise. “Our hope is that the fundamentals of preventative medicine will continue to expand, and people will explore new ways to get well and stay well.”

They’ve compiled the stories of Bob and Helen Wright’s life in a booklet that is given to the scholarship recipients. Included are Bob’s eloquent letter to then-college-aged Suzanne and his 1976 bicentennial address to the Maryland Public Health Association on his favorite Founding Father. The biggest story within the pages, though, is Bob and Helen’s boundless love for adventure

“We are so proud of our parents and the exciting lives they gave us growing up. Their sense of commitment to what they believed in made them fantastic role models.”

—JOHANNA WRIGHT PARKES

and community. In the 1950s, Bob Wright founded the University of Virginia’s Department of Community Health. Helen, a Virginia State Board Member of the League of Women Voters, easily convinced her husband to work by her side on civil rights issues. In 1963, Bob joined the Hopkins Department of International Health and, shortly thereafter, he and Helen went to Nigeria, where he served as founding chair of the Department of Community Health at the new University of Lagos College of Medicine, a Hopkins initiative.

Bob Wright created the public health curriculum and a family planning clinic, developed an environmental and occupational health laboratory, and more. “He glowed with the whole idea of teaching,” says Louise, who lived in Nigeria as a college student.

When Bob and Helen Wright returned to Baltimore and Hopkins in 1968 their adventures continued. In 1972, the Wrights sailed to Bermuda and back in a 31-foot sailboat. The only other crew were two young men, Bard Stebbins and Dan Baker, sons of fellow Hopkins faculty.

With each Wright scholar, Suzanne witnesses her parents’ transformative spirits live on. “It’s so important that others are able to benefit from their wonderful life,” she says.

THEIR LEGACY TOLD



TED FANTI

Elaine Eugster established a scholarship fund.

Professor **Elaine Koppelman Eugster** enjoyed a long career at Goucher College in Maryland, teaching mathematics and the history of science from 1961 to 2001. She earned a doctorate in the history of science from Johns Hopkins in 1969 and a master's in engineering and computer science from the

university in 1987. Elaine established the Hans Eugster Research Fund following the loss of her husband Hans P. Eugster, a distinguished Hopkins professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Through her estate, she made a generous gift to the fund, which supports departmental purchases and activities in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Born in Baltimore, **Paul Weifenbach** received his bachelor's in engineering from Johns Hopkins and was a sergeant in the Maryland National Guard. In 1981, he and his wife founded P.K.W. Associates, an informa-



A gift from Paul Weifenbach, *Philadelphia Lady* is a painting by Abstract Expressionist Grace Hartigan.

tion and technology services company. Through Paul's estate, he and his wife Karin Weifenbach, gave two paintings to the university, *Philadelphia Lady* and *Lady in White* by Grace Hartigan, an abstract expressionist artist.



One of Jacques Hager's gifts benefits the Children's Center.

Jacques Hager lived in Maryland and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. For 30 years, he was a beloved teacher for the Washington Board of Education. He established two endowed funds through his estate: one to support the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in caring for families with emergent

needs and the other to benefit Alzheimer's disease research in the Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center.

NOBEL MEDAL FINDS A HOME

BY BETH MORGEN

Tours of the Johns Hopkins Homewood campus start at Mason Hall, where alumnus Martin Rodbell's Nobel Medal is on exhibit and certain to inspire future students who dream of making their own discoveries.

“An object carries all kinds of associations, thoughts, and inspirations.”

Suzanne Richardson's words refer to a very specific object: her father's 18-carat gold Nobel Medal.

Martin Rodbell, a 1949 graduate of Johns Hopkins, received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1994 for his discovery of G-proteins, a critical class of proteins involved in cellular communication, particularly hormone function. He was working for the National Institute of Health in the 1970s when he made his breakthrough.

Understanding the structure and function of G-proteins and G-protein-coupled receptors has enabled researchers to make significant strides in understanding diseases like leukemia and cholera.

Rodbell, who died in 1998, grew up in Baltimore and attended the university on the GI Bill. He “always had fond feelings for Johns Hopkins, which is really where he first had this spark of interest in biochemistry,” says Richardson.



LARRY CANNER



Suzanne Richardson and her mother Barbara Rodbell in front of the Martin Rodbell Nobel Medal exhibit.

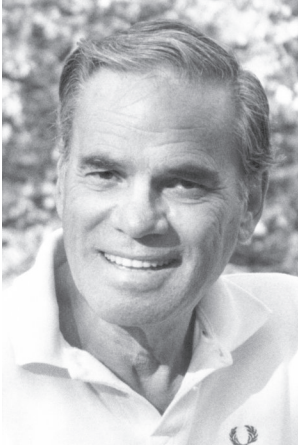
Above, right: Nobel Prize Medal in Physiology or Medicine, awarded to Martin Rodbell, A&S '49, 1994. University Campus Collections, Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries; Gift of the Rodbell Family.

When it came time for Richardson and other family members — including three siblings and mother, who just turned 94 — to decide on a place to give and exhibit Rodbell's medal, they chose Johns Hopkins.

Richardson says the Nobel Medal embodies Rodbell's personality and lifetime of work. “There was a feeling about this medal. My father's achievement was not just in science. It was in intellectual range, public service, and free knowledge. We really felt that it should be used in a way that he would want it to be, which is to inspire.”

The medal, on exhibit in Mason Hall on the Homewood campus, is certain to do just that.

COURTESY NOBEL FOUNDATION ARCHIVE



“Looking back it was a period in which my life experiences had kaleidoscoped into a wonderful sense of creativity shared with not only my immediate colleagues but with scientists from all over the world. My life as a scientist has been joyful in large part because of my wife and our four children ...”

This excerpt from an autobiography/biography was written at the time of Martin Rodbell’s award and later published in the book series *Les Prix Nobel/ Nobel Lectures/The Nobel Prizes*.

WILL KIRK



FROM LEFT: Twenty-eight people with ties to Johns Hopkins have received a Nobel Prize, including physician-scientist Gregg Semenza, a 2019 recipient of the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, and three other nobel laureates currently on the faculty — molecular biologists Carol Greider and Peter Agre, Med '74; and astrophysicist Adam Riess.

Q&A

FREDERICK KAUFFMAN

Forging new paths BY REBECCA RUARK



A gift from Frederick Kauffman honors his wife Ella, who graduated from Johns Hopkins in 1989.

When Frederick Kauffman was a young man, he came to a crossroads and had to decide whether to follow the path of industry or the path of academia. He chose academia, and built a successful life out of pharmacology research and teaching at three universities before he retired. But he didn't travel his path alone. His wife Ella, a passionate public health nurse, was always at his side. When Frederick's academic career brought the family to Maryland, Ella decided to further her education, earning her master's degree in public administration from Johns Hopkins in 1989. With Ella's passing, Frederick has honored her memory by establishing the Ella S. and Frederick C. Kauffman Scholarship Fund at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School.

We talked to Frederick about Ella, about their life together, and about what his commitment will mean for students.

What inspired this commitment to the Carey Business School?

Ella's life. While I pursued my academic career, Ella became a mother to our children, Elizabeth and Andrew. It wasn't until we returned to Maryland that she went back to work and school, and she was very proud to have graduated from such a fine business school. I thought this scholarship would be a good way to acknowledge Ella, in tribute to her long and interesting and wonderful life that I was privileged to share.

Can you tell us about Ella's career?

Ella had a long career with the Visiting Nurses Association, and she was working as a nurse when I first met her. After we moved, she worked in Chicago's North Side, an area of great need. When we returned to Maryland, she was in charge of various public health stations, and she kept up her work when we moved to New Jersey. Ella retired before I did and suffered a stroke in 2002, which meant I became the chief cook and bottle-washer for the last 12 years of her life. But they were 12 good years.

What was your life together in academia like?

At my first academic appointment in Buffalo, Ella was a part of a



STEVEN HERPPICH

women’s club consisting of wives of faculty members. They had the joking privilege of obtaining their “PhTs” — instead of PhDs — short for putting hubby through. Joking aside, she really did help me. It definitely takes two. Over my career, I was very fortunate to teach thousands of students.

Can you tell us about your history of giving to Johns Hopkins?

Ella and I began supporting the university through charitable gift annuities in 2005. This scholarship is a way to deepen our commitment, honor Ella, and help students in the business school that benefited her so much. By making additional, outright gifts to financial aid, I’ll be

able to see the first student awarded the scholarship in the fall of 2020.

How do you think Ella would respond to this tribute?

I remember us talking about her continuing her education at Carey Business School. She was so enthused. She received a scholarship from a local business that helped us out. It definitely encouraged her to continue with her education, and that’s what we hope this scholarship will do — encourage young people to pursue the path that Ella did. I feel privileged to be able to do that, and I’m sure she would feel privileged, too.

HUB

from the Johns Hopkins news network

The HUB is the news center for all the diverse activity going on at Johns Hopkins. To see what's new, important, and just worth sharing, visit hub.jhu.edu.



A group of private donors has given \$17 million to start the Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research at Johns Hopkins Medicine. The center, believed to be the first and largest of its kind, will use psychedelics to study the mind and identify therapies for diseases such as addiction, depression, and Alzheimer's.



WILL KIRK

Lawrence Jackson, a Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of English and History, launched the Billie Holiday Project for Lib-

eration Arts, an endeavor designed to document the history of African American life in Baltimore and foster intellectual ties between the university and the community. The project has included activities such as the inaugural Billie Holliday Jazz Concert held in Baltimore in September.



WILL KIRK

The Sheridan Libraries' Women of the Book collection, which made its debut in September, contains more than 425 books, manuscripts, and other printed ephemera produced between 1460 and 1800. The collection centers on the lives of nuns and holy women in Europe and parts of South America. It includes details of their daily devotions and records of their professions in their convents and religious orders.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Before time flies, I would like to look back on 2019 and thank a special group of donors who are an inspiration to all of us: the 1,735 members of the Johns Hopkins Legacy Society.

It was my great pleasure to help honor and celebrate these extraordinary individuals at the Fourth Annual Johns Hopkins Legacy Society Luncheon held in September in Baltimore. More than 120 members and guests filled the event space for engaging conversation, a delicious meal, and a thought-provoking presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Kahn, Andreas C. Dracopoulos Director of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics.

Legacy gifts have always been a source of strength and support for Johns Hopkins. They have endowed professorships and scholarships, expanded the resources of our museums and libraries, provided opportunities for young artists, helped to ignite and sustain innovative programs, and fueled discovery across the institution.

If you have already made plans to support Johns Hopkins' future with an estate or other legacy gift, please let us know so we can welcome you into the Johns Hopkins Legacy Society. Thank you to all who support Johns Hopkins, and best wishes in the new year.

Sincerely,
Anne Doyle, JD
Senior Director
Johns Hopkins Office of Gift Planning



Johns Hopkins Legacy Society members Ruth Lenrow and Mary Hyman, Ed '76 (MEd), reconnect at the Fourth Annual Johns Hopkins Legacy Society Luncheon.

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Taking a selfie standing on one leg isn't easy...

**...but a gift
of retirement assets is**

an easy way to give back to Johns Hopkins.
Plus, you and your family could benefit
from significant tax advantages.

