

Summer 2021

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DIANE BONDAREF

Advocating for Patient Care for All

Gifts Provide a Voice for Grateful Patients

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RESEARCHCORNER



William Sharfman, MD Mary Jo Rogers Professor of Cancer Immunology and Melanoma Research

LEARN MORE

Dr. Sharfman is the primary investigator of several clinical trials at the Bloomberg~Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. He further discusses melanoma research and treatment protocols, as well as novel therapies for high risk patients with advanced melanoma, in a Hopkins at Home webinar: jhu.edu/hopkinsathome.

Improving Treatment with Immunotherapy

iagnosed with Merkel cell carcinoma at 92 years young, Margaret, a patient of mine, had no interest in going through chemotherapy. Though it is a rare type of skin cancer, Merkel cell carcinoma can grow quickly and become hard to treat if it spreads beyond the skin. So I recommended Margaret for a clinical trial led by the Bloomberg~Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, studying the immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab, or Keytruda, in Merkel cell carcinoma. She is the oldest patient in the study.

There was no reason not to try immunotherapy, especially for an older patient like Margaret. The treatment is well tolerated, the chances of major side effects are low, and there was a good chance it would help her in a meaningful way.

One year into treatment, Margaret's cancer isn't completely gone, but immunotherapy has held it in check and kept it from spreading. The clinical trial calls for her to receive infusions of the drug for another year. An active mother and grandmother, she walks 45 minutes each day, takes strength training and balance classes, and volunteers in her community.

Our very first studies using immunotherapy started 10 years ago, and many patients treated with these experimental therapies are still alive today. Immunotherapy has also provided the opportunity to treat many more patients with aggressive skin cancers, such as Merkel cell carcinoma and metastatic melanoma. We have gone from helping about 5 percent of patients with chemotherapy to 50 percent of patients, and that's all because of immunotherapy.

Despite the success of immunotherapies in fighting advanced skin cancers and many other cancers, there is much work to be done. Even with the tremendous response to immunotherapies for so many patients, there remain too many who do not respond. Our top research priority is to pursue the answer to that critically important question so that all melanoma and advanced skin cancer patients can enjoy a much-improved quality and length of life.

A LASTING GIFT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND

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Johns Hopkins graduate Don Kerr encourages legacy giving to provide enduring support for the Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

In 2018, Don Kerr (left) presented the Class of 1973 gift, which included support for scholarships, to former Krieger School Dean Beverly Wendland and Whiting School of Engineering Dean Ed Schlesinger. A

s a veteran management consultant, Don Kerr has spent decades helping companies improve their performance.

When he began contemplating a legacy gift to the university that put him on the path to that career in the first place — "I couldn't have done it without the training in economics I got at Hopkins" — Kerr did what any good consultant would do: his research. And he discovered that when it came to scholarship funds, Hopkins was operating at a competitive disadvantage.

"I became aware of just how extreme the competition among the top universities was," Kerr says from his home in Greenwich, Connecticut. That competitive need was not erased by the \$1.8 billion gift from fellow alumnus Michael Bloomberg to Hopkins in 2018. The university still urgently needs contributions from other donors to recruit deserving students from low- and middleincome families.

"It didn't solve the student aid problem for all time," says Kerr, who is devoted to making a Hopkins education accessible to the most promising students regardless of means.

Kerr and his wife established a gift through a trust to establish the Donald and Irene Kerr Scholarship Fund for undergraduates in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Not long afterwards, Kerr became involved with his 45th class reunion committee, which decided to establish a Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund for students in both the Krieger School and the Whiting School of Engineering. This activity led the couple to make an additional contribution to the trust specifically for the Class of '73 fund.

For Kerr, giving back to Hopkins is a family affair: His father was a member of the physics faculty, and continued on next page



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A LASTING GIFT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Kerr's own tuition was fully covered. "I always felt that I should repay the university someday," Kerr says.

Kerr's advisor at Hopkins, the renowned econ-

omist Carl F. Christ, earned his PhD at the University of Chicago, and after graduation, Kerr headed to Chicago's Booth School of Business, where he studied with future Nobel laureates George Stigler and Milton Friedman. He then spent 26 years with the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, where he led the company's financial services practice before setting up his own shop, DEK and Associates, in 2001.

Kerr continues to do strategic consulting work with senior executives. "But it's no longer 24/7," he says.

Which is just as well, since he has a newfound passion: encouraging his fellow classmates to make their own contributions to the Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

From the outset, Kerr had two goals in mind: raising enough money in outright gifts to get the fund up and running right now, and securing the fund's future through legacy gifts that will provide significant student aid in the years to come.

Kerr and 46 of his fellow classmates have already pledged the \$100,000 in cash contributions required to endow an undergraduate scholarship at Hopkins. Now his eye is on the long-term prize:

"I see the class scholarship as a way of combining my efforts along with those of other classmates to give something that really makes a difference"

> WARREN ROSMAN, 1973 CLASSMATE OF DON KERR

"We want to make it 10 times that size at a minimum," he says, explaining that the reunion committee hopes to solicit legacy gifts totaling \$1 million by the time their 50th reunion

rolls around.

Warren Rosman, an attorney in Cleveland who lived just a few houses down from Kerr during their senior year, was one of the first classmates to respond. Like Kerr, Rosman hailed from a middle-class family; and he and his wife are deeply committed to making higher education affordable to all.

Towards that end, the Rosmans have made a commitment to leave a portion of their combined estate to Hopkins. Some of those funds will establish the Warren and Debra Rosman Department of History Travel Fund to support travel and con-

ference fees for both undergraduate and graduate students. The remainder will help grow the Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

"I see the class scholarship as a way of combining my efforts along with those of other classmates to give something that really makes a difference," Rosman says.

Kerr agrees. Legacy gifts have already made the Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund the largest such fund at the university; and Kerr hopes that it will inspire other classes to consider making estate gifts as well. "It all adds up," he says.

THEIRLEGACYTOLD

Grace Wenzel was a labor and delivery nurse at Sibley Memorial Hospital, a Johns Hopkins community hospital in Washington, D.C., when she was diagnosed with stage IV melanoma. At 22 years old, she underwent treatments, immunotherapies, surgeries, and radiation therapy. Through it all,



Grace Wenzel was passionate about her work as a labor and delivery nurse.

she continued to work — helping laboring mothers, swaddling newborns, and supporting her coworkers. Her team of fellow nurses rallied around her, raising over \$30,000 from more than 250 donors to support the research of Evan Lipson, MD, Grace's oncologist at Sibley. Grace, who became a tireless advocate for melanoma research, passed away last year and left a gift in her will to further support Lipson's research in the



Joe Manfredi's legacy gift ensures enduring support for the School of Medicine.

prevention and detection of melanoma.

Joseph Manfredi was devoted to serving the community, especially that of his hometown city of Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was a city council member, chairman of the parking authority, and treasurer for the City of Elizabeth before becoming a marketing director for Johnson & Johnson. Joe returned to public service as the executive director of housing for the City of Elizabeth and in retirement as the executive director of Evergreen Cemetery, Hillside. A dedicated volunteer and U.S. Navy veteran, he also served on several local boards, including the Monmouth County Board of Education. His legacy lives on through the Joseph A. Manfredi Scholarship for Medical Education, providing financial aid for generations of Johns

Hopkins School of Medicine students.

Jim Wood received his bachelor's from the Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences in 1972. A "lifelong swim coach," he worked for the New Providence Community Pool in New Jersey during high school and continued as an assistant coach while



Johns Hopkins alumnus Jim Wood was a leader in the sport of swimming.

a student at Johns Hopkins and later as a coach and graduate student at the University of North Carolina. In 1997, he returned to New Jersey and founded Berkeley Athletics and opened a second location in 2015. Jim held many leadership roles at USA Swimming and was inducted into the American Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010. A generous gift from his estate supports the Johns Hopkins University Athletics swimming teams.

A CLASS ACT

BY BETH MORGEN

Led by a cohort of classmates, the School of Nursing Class of 1964 Terrace gift pays tribute to the past and welcomes the future. career epidemiologist at Hopkins, Diane Becker knows a lot about searching for things, so when she volunteered to help garner support for a gift to Johns Hopkins School of Nursing's building addition, she applied her investigatory skills to finding people — lots of people.

Her detective work paid off. Working with a committee of Class of 1964 Nursing graduates and leveraging a plethora of search tools, Becker reached some 100 classmates about funding a terrace in the building addition. The vast majority of the class contributed with current and planned gifts, raising more than \$500,000.

"You get a sense that the whole class pulled together," says Becker, who also holds master's and doctorate degrees from the Bloomberg School of Public Health. "A sense of unity is what we wanted to show and to have a legacy."

The Class of 1964 Terrace is part of a 45,000 square-foot expansion to the School of Nursing's Anne M. Pinkard Building located on the Johns Hopkins East Campus in Baltimore. An additional 25,000 square feet of the building was renovated, and the overall structure is open and bright with flexible learning classrooms, a more prominent entrance, and expansive glass surfaces. And while the building is future-oriented, it honors the school's mission of preparing nurse leaders — something that was especially meaningful to Class of 1964 graduates.

"I just feel good to be able to contribute in a positive and concrete way," says class member Lynne Wolfe, a nurse care manager for a behavioral health home program in Maine. "My hope is that the terrace will remind people of the history of the school — that it is built on the backs and life experiences of the classes that came before them."

The Class of 1964 Terrace is situated off of the building's fifth floor outside of the dean's suite. Martha Hill, the school's dean from 2001 to 2014, joined her 1964 classmates in raising funds for the terrace and contributed her own gift. To her, the space symbolizes the class's cohesiveness and commitment.

"We were a class that liked being together and enjoyed gatherings," she says. "Supporting the terrace as a space and a place where you could celebrate the value of relationships that are formed within the classes and among the classes greatly appealed to us."

The School of Nursing's Anne M. Pinkard Building is located on the Johns Hopkins East Campus in Baltimore. The now 167,000 square-foot facility is open and bright with a more prominent entrance and expansive glass surfaces.

The Class of 1964 Terrace is situated off of the building's fifth floor outside of the dean's suite. The vast majority of the class contributed to the space, raising more than \$500,000 through current and planned gifts



Members of the Class of 1964 gathered for this group photo at their 50th reunion. School of Nursing Dean Emerita Martha Hill is seated in the front row on the far left and classmate Diane Becker stands in the back row second in from the far right.

WILL KIRK

Q&A MAYER WARNER MARTIN Advocating for Patient Care for All

BY REBECCA RUARK



Community Psychiatry Programs at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center offer mental health services and outreach to the Baltimore community.

ayer Warner Martin has served on the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science's Psychiatry Advisory Board since its inception in 2006. She works to raise awareness for Community Psychiatry, a program which offers vital mental health and related services to patients in the Baltimore area, regardless of their ability to pay. Through a gift in her will, the proud Johns Hopkins alumna is establishing the Mayer Warner Martin Endowment for Community Psychiatry to improve patient care.

"We are extremely grateful for Mayer's generosity. This gift will make a lasting difference for disadvantaged patients of all ages and the clinicians who care for them," says James "Jimmy" Potash, MD, department director and psychiatrist-in-chief.

We talked to Mayer about the inspiration behind her commitment.

What inspired this commitment to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences?

The inspiration started with family. My ex-husband's father was Benjamin M. Baker, a Johns Hopkins 1927 School of Medicine graduate and professor emeritus. He was called "the clinician's clinician," for believing the most important thing to medicine was patient care, and I believe that, too. Without him, I wouldn't have known to seek out Dr. Ray DePaulo [university distinguished service professor, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences] for my depression, in the 90s. Later, my relationship with the department changed, and I went from a patient to an advisor, when I joined the Psychiatry Advisory Board. Really, my role was to "I think it's important to stand in for them, to be their representative, their voice, and to give back in their place," says Mayer Warner Martin of the patients served by Community Psychiatry.



educate myself on the breadth and depth of Johns Hopkins psychiatry and its funding needs.

Why do you believe psychiatry is often underfunded?

There is a stigma around mental illness that's still being fought today. One result is that psychiatry doesn't always receive the funding it should. Within the field, faculty and research receive more philanthropic support than the clinical piece. As a patient, I benefitted from a wonderful clinical experience, and I truly believe there's no place like Johns Hopkins for teaching, research, and clinical care. Care for the patient, all patients, is the bedrock piece of the institution, but it sometimes gets overshadowed.

Can you tell us more about your advocacy for Community Psychiatry?

If you're going to educate others, you have to educate yourself. That's what I did through my efforts on the board and on subcommittees and taskforces. The 36 or so clinics and programs that make up Community Psychiatry try to touch patients of all ages, all around Baltimore. We would begin by taking tours of the facilities and by asking division heads what they needed. There are always urgent needs - such as staff professional development, coats in winter, and transportation to and from clinics — and there are long-term needs. My advocacy work has been a wonderful learning experience. Then, the idea is to go out, educate others, and bring them into the fold as benefactors.

How did you come to focus on underserved communities?

In many cases, Community Psychiatry is serving the poor. These patients often aren't able to give back monetarily to the programs that benefitted them. So, I think it's important to stand in for them, to be their representative, their voice, and to give back in their place.

Why did you choose to establish the endowment with a planned gift, and what programs did you target?

Aside from annual gifts to fund urgent needs, the best way to help, long term, is to make a planned gift. I was informed by what I learned about Community Psychiatry and decided to support the underserved through the Johns Hopkins Adult Community Psychiatry Program and Children's Mental Health Center and Johns Hopkins Bayview Child, Adolescent, and Adult Outpatient Clinics - all in equal measure. Through my charitable donor advised fund, I'm also happy to give annually to jump-start the endowment. Believe me, these important clinics and programs appreciate knowing they're not forgotten!

MAKING NEWS

HUB from the johns hopkins news network

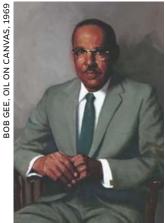
The HUB is the news center for all the diverse activity going on at Johns Hopkins. To see what's new, important, and just worth sharing, visit hub.jhu.edu.



With a \$20 million gift from the estate of trustee emeritus and alumnus Ralph S. O'Connor, the Johns Hopkins University and its Whiting School of Engineering established the Ralph S. O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute (ROSEI) to serve as the university's interdisciplinary home for ongoing research; to educate future energy leaders; and to support implementation, markets, and polices that promote a green energy future.



Victoria O'Keefe, a psychologist who focuses on culturally-driven behavioral health interventions in partnership with Native American communities, has been named the first holder of the Santosham Chair in Native American Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. The chair, endowed by a group of generous donors, is named for Mathuram Santosham, founding director of the school's Center for American Indian Health. O'Keefe is a member of the Cherokee and Seminole Nations of Oklahoma.



Johns Hopkins University and Bloomberg Philanthropies launched a \$150 million effort to directly address historic

underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative — named for one of the institution's most celebrated figures, a Black surgical laboratory supervisor best known for his work to develop a lifesaving cardiac surgical technique — will create new pathways for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to pursue PhDs in STEM fields.

a note from the SENIORDIRECTOR

his issue of *Planning Matters* features two extraordinary examples of the good that can be achieved when people rally together behind a cause — and they both involve class giving.

On page six, we meet members of the School of Nursing Class of 1964, who wished to leave their mark on a significant expansion and renovation of the school's Anne M. Pinkard Building. The Class of 1964 Terrace functions as a gathering and reflective space and serves as a reminder to today's nursing students of the legacy of excellence instilled by the graduates who came before them.

Likewise, alumni representing Johns Hopkins University's Class of 1973 wanted to carry on outstanding academic achievement by ensuring that all promising students, regardless of their means, have access to a quality education. With graduate Don Kerr among those leading the charge, classmates gave back to endow the Class of 1973 Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Outright gifts established the fund, and legacy giving will sustain it for generations to come. Read more on page three.

Indeed, it was a similar combination of gifts that enabled mental health advocate Mayer Warner Martin to augment her giving to the Johns Hopkins Community Psychiatry Program. Read more about the program and her inspiration to give back on page 8.

To learn about the many ways to support Johns Hopkins while also achieving your financial goals, please contact us in the Office of Gift Planning. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

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



Anne Doyle leads the Office of Gift Planning team at Johns Hopkins University and Medicine.

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Discovery of a cure for sickle cell disease 2011 Development of the first global map to track COVID-19 cases

2020

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