From the Johns Hopkins News Network

Johns Hopkins University rose to No. 7 in the U.S. News & World Report’s best college rankings. Key factors in the university’s ranking include small class sizes, academic performance of incoming students, and high graduation rates. Johns Hopkins was also among the nation’s best schools in terms of ethnic diversity, value, innovation, research, and creative projects for undergraduates. The university was No. 9 last year.

A new Johns Hopkins University study finds your posture can make a big difference in how fast your body absorbs a pill. The wrong posture can delay how fast the medicine is broken down and absorbed—by as much as an hour. Researchers examining the mechanics of drug dissolution and the natural anatomy of the stomach found that taking a pill while lying on your right side shortens the time it takes for medicine to be absorbed.

Johns Hopkins welcomed the first cohort of Vivien Thomas Scholars this fall. Twenty scholars joined the university to pursue PhDs as part of a new $150 million initiative to address historic underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Vivien Thomas, one of the institution’s most celebrated figures, was a Black surgical laboratory supervisor best known for his work to develop a lifesaving cardiac surgical technique. The initiative is backed by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

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
An Eye on Artificial Intelligence

Combining human strengths with technological innovations to provide better patient care  
By T. Y. Alvin Liu, MD

Many people are familiar with virtual assistants, like Tesla’s self-driving function or Amazon’s Alexa and Apple’s Siri. But did you know ophthalmologists are using similar artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance patient care?

In general, the concept behind AI is to make a computer or machine act as though it were human. Though there are many different types of AI, deep learning is one form that is particularly good at pattern recognition in image and language analysis. The very nature of deep learning was inspired by how the human brain processes visual information, and its rise is particularly important in medical fields that employ imaging.

Ophthalmology is one of the leaders in the medical deployment of deep learning, and the retina—which we examine via imaging—is at the forefront. We’re using this technology to better treat major blinding diseases like age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal vein occlusion. All impact clear, sharp vision and can negatively affect day-to-day activities. Age-related macular degeneration is especially common and is the leading cause of central vision loss in people over the age of 50 in the U.S., when patients often engage in very visual activities, like reading, watching television, and enjoying their grandchildren.

We are using AI to produce more precise predictions, tailor treatment, and give better prognosis for patients. These aren’t just shiny research tools—they’re powerful technologies that we are integrating into clinical practice to provide patients with instantaneous feedback and predictions. With this information, we can fine-tune an individual patient’s management and improve final vision outcomes.

Our goal is not to replace doctors. Instead, we’re adding more tools to our toolbox. Like our use of superhuman X-rays and CT scans, what’s most powerful is how we employ these tools to enhance the patient-provider interaction. These technologies give clinicians more time to do what we, as humans, are good at. Building trust, strong connections, and good relationships with patients is the advantage humans have over computers.

LEARN MORE

Dr. Liu is partnering with the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering to integrate artificial intelligence into precision medicine as part of a university-wide initiative. The team is starting with the retina with the goal of employing images and AI to personalize ophthalmic care for all patients.
Relationships Today, Reassurance for Tomorrow

A mix of planned and current-use gifts support students in perpetuity

STORY BY SARA FALLIGANT · PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM BURGER

While planning a trip to Germany in 2008, Jill McGovern, PhD, and her husband, former Johns Hopkins University President Steven Muller, wanted to make sure their estate plans were in order. They began revising their wills and decided to commit to investing in future students accepted to the Bologna Center, now the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe.

“Steve had the benefit of studying on both sides of the Atlantic,” McGovern says. “We recognized the value of that.” Initially, McGovern and Muller opted to endow fellowships only through their wills, supporting master’s-level students who would spend the first year of their program studying in Bologna, Italy, and the second year in Washington, D.C. They requested that German students be given preference for the fellowship as a tribute to Muller’s German roots.

Then, they thought again. Their gift would only be realized when they were no longer here.

“We would never get to know these students, never have the pleasure of watching them study and then begin their careers,” McGovern remembers.

“So, we made gifts for current use and extended the benefits of these gifts by including provisions in our wills to provide endowment funding for the fellowship program.”

To date, there have been 14 recipients of the Jill McGovern and Steven Muller Fellowship — SAIS graduates working around the globe in international finance and clean energy, at startup companies, and even as the chief-of-staff to the German ambassador to the U.S. — whom McGovern calls her “German children.”

“I have had the great privilege and satisfaction of getting to know all of them,” she adds. “They’ve pursued interesting careers in different places around the world, and many now are married and have children themselves. Because it’s Hopkins, we get the best students. So, it’s a wise investment. The return on investment is evident, and what our students are doing is making a difference in the world already.”

McGovern established a similar program with both current-use and legacy giving for undergraduates at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute. The scholarship funds a student for four years, and McGovern especially enjoys watching the recipients’ progress and attending their performances.

The current recipient, Jiacheng Li, is a pianist from China who just completed his second year.

“He’ll call me and say, ‘I’m going to come to D.C. and see you. Let’s go to the National Gallery of Art,’” McGovern says, adding Li hasn’t been able to return home for several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. “We actually have a date planned next month.”

For McGovern, current-use gifts and sustained funding of these gifts through stipulations in her will are both vital to advancing Hopkins’ mission. Current-use gifts allow donors the ability to connect with the recipients of their gifts, be it following a faculty member embarking on cutting-edge research or meeting a D.C.-based fellowship student for a cup of coffee. And endowing these current-use gifts through her will gives her the satisfaction of knowing her gifts will last well into the future.

Current-use gifts also address the priorities of Johns Hopkins at that moment.

In celebration of its 75th anniversary in 2019, SAIS set a goal to increase graduate student fellowships. To help support that mission, McGovern used current-use funds to match other donor gifts with a five-year commitment and the opportunity for the donors to name the fellowships.
The model was so successful — some alumni donors joined together to create a fellowship, and another alum used the matching opportunity to name two fellowships — that McGovern later partnered with the Hopkins-Nanjing Center to provide the same opportunity in honor of the center’s 35th anniversary in 2021.

“[Steve and I] made gifts for current use and extended the benefits of these gifts by including provisions in our wills to provide endowment funding for the fellowship program.”

— JILL MCGOVERN —

These new gifts will expand her existing commitment to the McGovern-Muller Fellowships at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, which are also supported by current-use and legacy giving.

“That means we have students who might decide to come to the Hopkins-Nanjing Center because they have a fellowship,” she says.

Though McGovern has found immense joy in connecting with current students, she’s also proud to support the future of Johns Hopkins through her estate.

“There has to be this kind of investment to make sure there’s future funding for faculty members, fellowships, research, teaching — all the aspects of the work that the university does,” McGovern says, adding that the commitment through her estate plan will perpetuate the fellowship programs at SAIS and Peabody. “It’s very reassuring to me to know that this is going to continue.”

McGovern’s leadership gifts have allowed alumni donors to deepen their connection to their alma mater, and her current-use and legacy giving has provided students the opportunity to pursue their intellectual passions. But she says she’s the one who has gained the most.

“I’m the one who benefits,” she says. “I’m truly the one who benefits.”
John Greene traces the start of his collection of 2,000 maps to 1978, when he wandered into a map store in London. “I was just blown away with the antiquity and the information,” he says, remembering his purchase that day of a 1690s map of Maryland and Virginia.

For the next 40 years, he kept an eye out for maps to add to his growing collection. He focused on different subjects over time, including instances where cartographers were misinformed—the collection has 25 maps showing California as an island—or of thematic maps, which portray the geographic patterns of invisible subject matters. Most of the collection dates from the 1830s all the way back to the 1500s.

By 2020, Greene was purchasing maps 30 times a year and began thinking about the future of his collection. He and his wife Linda agreed that the maps should be accessible to people who can use the information they provide.

Johns Hopkins maps librarian Lena Denis describes maps as the original form of data visualization, as can be seen in this 1894 map from the collection, depicting the time in different major cities around the world relative to Washington, D.C.
When researching possible recipients, the Greenses were impressed by the responsiveness of the Sheridan Libraries team, not to mention their management of similar collections. Therefore, without any prior affiliation to Johns Hopkins, in 2021, they donated the John and Linda Greene Map Collection.

Johns Hopkins maps librarian Lena Denis, A&S ’11, says Greene was participating in a long history of map collecting.

Universities like Johns Hopkins traditionally collected maps as they were being made with the latest information, she says, particularly as professors worked with governments during wartime. This means that university collections are overrepresented with late 19th to mid-20th century maps, unlike in private collections, which can focus on aesthetics and historical significance.

“John was collecting ... not only maps of Maryland and Baltimore, but things he found compelling with a very global span,” Denis says. “It lends to even more research interests that are currently relevant for us.”

The maps catalogued thus far are already supporting the research of students like Julia Mendes. By studying the collection’s early maps of the Americas, Mendes is tracking changes to the Caribbean over the centuries, from the erasure of native place names to shoreline erosion due to climate change.

“Working with the collection has been absolutely amazing,” says Mendes. “This opportunity has been a massive important part of my first semester here at Hopkins. I feel like it gave me a lot of direction.”

John and Linda Greene, who share a passion for education, look forward to seeing what Hopkins researchers discover through the collection.

“This collection is a labor of love. I really wanted to leave something that could be beneficial for others in the future, and by giving these maps to Johns Hopkins, I’m comfortable that that’s what’s going to happen,” John Greene says. “Even if only 10 people ultimately use them, that’s still 10 people who are able to find the answers they were looking for about the world because of my collection.”

Many objects found on the Johns Hopkins campuses are gifts from generous alumni and friends. Every object offered for donation is carefully evaluated to see whether it fits with the Johns Hopkins mission before it is accepted. If an object is deemed a suitable gift, the Office of Gift Planning ensures there are no issues surrounding the object’s procurement or ownership prior to its donation.
A Hospital for Today and Tomorrow

Life-saving surgery spurs a decades-long relationship between a family and Suburban Hospital

STORY BY ELENA CONWAY • PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA HELFERT

On April 5, 1991, a trip to Suburban Hospital—a Johns Hopkins community hospital located in Bethesda, Maryland—saved Cathy O’Donnell’s life.

That day, a car accident left her with no pulse at the scene and a low chance of survival, but a five-hour surgery ensured she’d pull through. The experience—plus the five weeks that Cathy stayed at the hospital—left a lasting impression.

Cathy and her husband Earle found ways to remain connected to Suburban in the following decades, supporting the hospital’s recent 300,000 square-foot building addition, serving on the hospital’s foundation board—and making a commitment to the hospital’s future in their estate plan.

“Suburban Hospital relies heavily on the dedication of grateful patients and community members,” says Stacey Geldin, director of development at Suburban and a longtime friend of the O’Donnell family. “Cathy and Earle exemplify that dedication, not just at the hospital, but as volunteers in their community.”

We talked with the O’Donnell family to learn more about their longstanding relationship with Suburban.

What has inspired your continued support for Suburban Hospital since the ’90s?

Cathy: My doctors have such personal empathy for their patients. They and the Suburban Hospital staff have done so much for me in saving my life and keeping me sane after the accident and through the subsequent surgeries I needed. I just feel I have to give back, and I’ll never give back enough. Suburban remains the community hospital for me, my friends, and my family. I want it to always be there so that the next person who’s involved in a really bad accident has a good, safe place to go where the doctors are amazing, and where the nursing staff is caring and considerate.

You both supported Suburban’s recent campus enhancement project. What encouraged you to get involved?

Earle: I’ve been impressed in Suburban’s determination to engage in this expansion, which has dramatically changed much of the hospital. It’s near the top of its class, which primarily helps the community. Suburban has become much more than a neighborhood hospital. How can we, as part of the community, not be equally committed to Suburban?
Cathy and Earle O’Donnell began a longstanding relationship with Suburban, their community hospital, when doctors there saved Cathy’s life after a near-fatal car accident. They support the hospital’s current needs—and its future with a commitment in their estate plan.

What inspired you to make a gift to Suburban through your estate plan, and what do you hope it will achieve?

Earle: We hope it’ll be a good example for our kids to model, and to some degree that’s already been successful. Our kids are hitting a career level where they can start thinking about giving philanthropically, and we’re in dialogue with them about their giving plans and how we can contribute to them. I think the underlying principle is you’re always trying to foster the good, and the longer the impact of that good, the better. Certainly the equipment we’ve contributed to in the hospital has a very long life, but people are perpetual. If what we do today can help people today, then there’s something blessed about my gifts continuing to do good for people long after I’m no longer here. Isn’t that a wonderful feeling?

Cathy: We want to make sure the hospital is here for the long term. Not just while we’re alive, but long into the future. Suburban is a hospital for today and tomorrow, and we want to make sure that tomorrow is funded.

“I think the underlying principle is you’re always trying to foster the good, and the longer the impact of that good, the better.”

— Earle O’Donnell —
Their Legacy Told

PATRICK HUGHES was a longtime advocate for cancer research. He served on the Johns Hopkins James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute Advisory Board and was its ambassador to the Johns Hopkins Legacy Society. He died on March 18, 2022. Hughes was grateful for the patient care both he and his sister MARY PAT O’LEARY, who predeceased him on Oct. 4, 2021, received at Johns Hopkins. Using retirement assets, they each made gifts to the Brady and Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center to help advance research in prostate and ovarian cancers. “It seemed like it was a no-brainer as we discussed jointly our estate plans,” said Hughes in Planning Matters’ fall/winter 2014 issue. “We could get together and... hopefully continue to help the cause.”

The scholarship fund established by Simeon “Moan” Margolis represents the gratitude he felt for being able to attend Johns Hopkins.

Helping people is the essence of the Margolis Family Endowed Scholarship Fund and had great meaning for its namesake SIMEON “MOAN” MARGOLIS. “I couldn’t have gone to Johns Hopkins without scholarships. I wasn’t thinking at the time that I should ‘repay’ them, but subsequently I realized that was an important thing to do,” he said in Planning Matters’ spring/summer 2014 issue. A 1953 graduate of the Krieger School, Margolis also earned medical and doctoral degrees from the School of Medicine in 1957 and 1964, respectively. He died on May 16, 2022. He was director of the division of endocrinology and metabolism in the Johns Hopkins Department of Medicine and associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Medicine, retiring as professor emeritus. The scholarship fund supports students in the School of Medicine.
Members of the Johns Hopkins Legacy Society reunited for a special luncheon on September 15 to celebrate their outstanding gifts to Johns Hopkins University and Medicine. The luncheon, a tradition that began in 2016, was on hold for two years due to the pandemic. The event honors donors who have made a commitment to Johns Hopkins through their estate plans or life income gifts. More than 100 guests attended the luncheon held at the historic George Peabody Library in Baltimore.

As guests dined on a three-course catered meal, they heard from Johns Hopkins Sheridan Libraries and University Museums curators Earle Havens and Paul Espinosa. Havens, director of the Virginia Fox Stern Center for the History of the Book at Johns Hopkins University and the Sheridan Libraries Nancy H. Hall Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts, discussed the Women of the Book collection, currently on exhibit at the Peabody Library. Espinosa, curator of the Peabody Library, followed with a touching presentation on the Linda F. and Julian L. Lapides Collection of Children’s Literature, featuring classics like Munro Leaf’s *The Story of Ferdinand* and *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey.
More Income For You, A Legacy For Johns Hopkins

New Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

A Johns Hopkins charitable gift annuity provides income to you and future support for Johns Hopkins.

Take advantage of new rates and these benefits:
- Guaranteed income for you and/or a loved one
- Favorable treatment of capital gains, when you fund your gift with appreciated stock or other securities
- Potential tax savings, including a charitable income tax deduction

Calculate your income and tax benefits by visiting giving.jhu.edu/ways-to-give/gift-planning/gift-calculator/ or contact us for a personal proposal.

The chart shows rates for immediate payment. You can also delay payments and receive potentially higher rates with a deferred charitable gift annuity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>85</th>
<th>80</th>
<th>75</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>