Landmark Gift to Penn Nursing
Addressing health care inequity in underserved communities

Foundation for Innovation

Modern Libraries for Modern Times
Dear Friends,

This is a unique time at Penn, full of expectation and opportunity as we look ahead to welcoming our incoming President-elect Liz Magill on July 1. Since concluding The Power of Penn Campaign last year, we are also feeling the momentum of advances fueled by philanthropy that continues to move the needle at the University.

Some amazing gifts have come in this year from passionate donors, including a landmark gift to Penn Nursing to improve health care access in underserved communities, a milestone gift to benefit multiple programs at the Weitzman School of Design, and investments in initiatives that will take the sciences at Penn to the next level.

It is beyond exciting to see such progress made possible through the support of alumni, parents, and friends all over the world. I count myself and all of you who are receiving this publication in that number of supporters, and I hope that reading stories like those in this issue inspires you to engage even more with Penn. If these topics pique your interest, I encourage you to reach out to your staff contacts in the Development and Alumni Relations office or be in touch with me directly at bandeen@upenn.edu—I’d be delighted to hear from you.

Wishing you a healthy, happy summer,

Bonnie Miao Bandeen
C’80, WG’85, PAR’16
Chair, Trustees Development Committee
INVESTING IN
Health Care Access and Excellence

The Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program tackles inequitable access to health care in underserved communities.

Somewhere in America, a cough is being downplayed because the closest medical office is over two hours away, or packed with patients being served by overburdened caregivers. That cough could be a sign of a preventable disease, but will be ignored until it becomes a major health issue. Too often, this is the unfortunate reality for people who face obstacles to care because of a lack of providers and health facilities.

Elsewhere, a nurse is finishing a long road of education and training, determined to alleviate health care challenges in underserved communities. However, those dreams may be diverted by student loan debt that demands they follow a different career path.

A transformative $125 million commitment from Emeritus Trustee Leonard A. Lauder, W’54, aims to tackle both health inequity and student debt, charting a new course for nursing education and community health access in the United States. The gift, which is the largest ever made to a U.S. nursing school, establishes the Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program at Penn Nursing. This first-of-its-kind program will provide free graduate education for nurses committed to delivering care in underserved rural and urban communities.

“Now more than ever, the country needs greater and more equitable access to quality primary care—and highly skilled nurse practitioners are the key to making that happen,” said Lauder, Chairman Emeritus of The Estée Lauder Companies. “The program will ensure that more Americans receive the essential health care services that everyone deserves.”

Lauder’s visionary philanthropy is timely as the world grapples with the immediate and ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to increasing stress and burnout among care providers, the pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the health care system, including disparities in health outcomes and access to services.

Demographic data across the states show that COVID-19 mortality rates are more than twice as high in Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations as in white populations. These health risks also affect groups considered at lower risk for serious disease progression, such as 18-to-49-year-olds. The data also reveal that in historically underserved communities, heightened mortality can be attributed to underlying conditions that have gone untreated or unknown because of an inability to access quality, affordable health care.1 Nurse practitioners can deliver high-quality primary care to people of all ages, such as treating common illnesses, managing chronic conditions, and providing preventive care that helps patients stay healthy.

Beyond the pandemic, Americans living closer to the poverty line are at greater risk of mortality from the leading causes of death in America, especially those living in rural communities. While low-income rural and urban communities face similar risk factors for health disparities, geographic isolation poses a unique challenge for rural residents, exacerbating the lack of access to health services. Studies show that rural populations have experienced lower life expectancy, and the disparity in mortality rates between rural and large metropolitan areas tripled from 1999 to 2019.2

“Like many Americans, I’ve asked myself, ‘Do communities across the country have access to good health care in their neighborhoods?’ Many do, but many do not,” said Lauder. “I saw the fault lines deepen in our health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic, and I wanted to take action now.”

With their advanced clinical training and graduate education, nurse practitioners have the knowledge and skill to supervise and manage critical aspects of care in a decision-making capacity, from diagnosing patients, to ordering and interpreting tests, to prescribing medication. The Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program will be vital in stemming potential provider shortages and expanding access to care.

I want dedicated, talented people to be able to fulfill their professional ambitions—to ensure that others live healthier, better, and longer lives. What work could be more essential, more noble?

- LEONARD A. LAUDER, W'54

“This pathbreaking program will improve the health of underserved patients and families by uniquely preparing primary care nurse practitioners, who will work with them in their communities,” said Antonia Villarruel, Margaret Bond Simon Dean at Penn Nursing.
MODERN LIBRARIES for MODERN TIMES


Penn’s libraries are among the most vibrant and vital spaces on campus. They are where physical and digital resources converge, where new methods and technologies for understanding and utilizing data are put into practice, and where people come together to share knowledge and learn from each other.

The Penn Libraries’ facilities are as unique as the collections within them. Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center frames the “Split Button” sculpture in the heart of campus. The ornate interior of the Fisher Fine Arts Library is one of Philadelphia’s most stunning spaces. The Albrecht Music Library is home to tens of thousands of sound recordings. And the Education Commons in Weis Pavilion offers 3D printing and access to a makerspace.

Providing such vast and varied resources requires abundant vision and expertise—which Constantia Constantinou, the H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries, has in spades. “The Penn Libraries proactively addresses essential information challenges and opportunities in our ever-changing world. In building deep and distinctive collections, preserving knowledge, and increasing equity in information access, we have the ability to inspire, to offer hope, and to change people’s lives.”

When many people envision university libraries, the image they conjure up is one of endless shelves of dusty books and students studying in silence. But that picture is severely outdated. There are still plenty of quiet places for students to study, but there are also spots for them to learn data science, conduct virtual dissections, and turn their ideas into reality using digital fabrication tools. The next time you’re on campus, stop in to see the future unfold.
GLOBAL COLLECTIONS
The Penn Libraries is home to numerous collections that highlight voices too often at the periphery of academic research. Its Indo-Caribbean collection illustrates the distinct culture of the region through popular commercial publications and niche items such as souvenir magazines and family histories, while the Africana studies and African American studies collections help document the experiences and histories of the African diaspora across centuries.

RESEARCH DATA AND DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The modern world is driven by data. The challenge is how to make sense of the explosion of information. This new program at the Penn Libraries teaches members of the community about digital tools and methods, helps researchers make their data more accessible, and fosters informed and ethical data communities at Penn.

WHAT THE LIBRARIES MEAN TO ME
If you’re part of Penn, you’ve undoubtedly used the Libraries. Here, several community members share their perspectives on what makes the Penn Libraries system a unique, necessary, and treasured part of our academic experience.

I love the Penn Libraries, especially the rare books collection. I only discovered it this past fall, but I was absolutely blown away. I am now working there and taking a course on medieval manuscripts. So it’s actually become a big part of my life.

— Alii Waller, C’24
History of Art major

The virtual scope of the Penn Libraries means the collections and thought leadership transcend geography for global consumption. I chose to dedicate myself to the Penn Libraries because I was inspired by the vision of tech-enabled accessibility to support the entirety of Penn and beyond.

— Ali Cudby, C’91, WG’97
Penn Libraries Board of Advisors

The Penn Libraries collections are essential to our academic community. I assign my Yiddish students research projects in the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive to enrich their knowledge of Jewish culture through song. Letters and documents in the Irene Eber gift of the Yedidya Geminder Memorial Collection of Sino-Judaica inform my course “China and Jews” and are essential to my own research.

— Kathryn Hellerstein
Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures

The Penn Libraries is the only part of the University that touches on every other part—academics, cultural, social, and the greater community. My family’s deep involvement with the Penn Libraries enables us to have an impact on the rest of Penn through one touchpoint.

— Jeff Seltzer, W’78
Penn Libraries Board of Advisors

The Penn Libraries’ impressive collections have grown in recent years in large part through generous donations of priceless materials, including the works of renowned photographer Arthur Tress, the collection of author and artist Ashley Bryan, rare photographic glass plates by Edward S. Curtis, and collections of Americana and early American Judaica, among many others.

PHILANTHROPY AT WORK IN THE LIBRARIES
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Foundation for Innovation

A historic commitment will strengthen Penn’s leadership in the sciences.

This is a pivotal moment for the sciences at Penn, capping a decade of stunning advances: novel cancer immunotherapies, the first reversal of genetic blindness, and, most recently, the foundational technology behind the mRNA vaccines that are saving millions of lives around the globe. And that’s just the beginning.

Transformational discoveries do not happen overnight. Scientific knowledge grows incrementally over time. Breakthroughs occur after years of collaboration by researchers who share a relentless commitment to science. Carl June is eloquent about the decades it took to develop CAR-T cell immunotherapy. The story of Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó’s chance meeting and their years of working together in relative obscurity has become an iconic tale of scientific derring-do that ultimately enabled the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines.

Penn recognizes that moving the needle in science requires deep expertise, strong infrastructure, and consistent funding. That’s why the University is investing $750 million over the next five years to support critical advances in medical research, energy research and technology, data science, and facilities for the physical sciences. This commitment will build on Penn’s strengths in collaborative, interdisciplinary work by teams of top-notch scientists, with a focus on areas critical to the future of society. It will help Penn recruit and retain eminent researchers, and it will create facilities designed precisely to support their vital work.

To get to carbon neutral by 2050, we need alternative sources for liquid fuels. We need more renewable energy sources. We need ways to store sun and wind energy. And we need all of this technology essentially yesterday. The Vagelos building will provide spaces conducive to the creative thinking, collaboration, and extensive lab work that it will take to generate actionable energy solutions at the scale necessary to curtail climate change.

Karen I. Goldberg
Vagelos Professor of Energy Research

Areas of Focus

Faculty recruitment and retention is a key goal for each of the four areas.

Advance Health-Related Initiatives + Novel Therapeutics

- Increase research space at the Perelman School of Medicine
- Catalyze new discoveries in priority areas, including mRNA biology, vaccine development, immune health, cellular engineering, and gene therapy
- Support public health initiatives through the Edos LGBT+ Health Initiative at Penn Nursing

Karen I. Goldberg, Vagelos Professor of Energy Research

Drive Energy + Sustainability Research

Advance critical research to:
- Diversify energy sources and storage
- Improve energy efficiency and sustainability
- Monitor, sequester, and transform climate-changing pollutants

Karen I. Goldberg, Vagelos Professor of Energy Research

Strengthen Infrastructure for the Physical Sciences*

- Reimagine and renovate the David Rittenhouse Laboratory
- Construct a state-of-the-art Physical Sciences Building

*The University’s investment provides partial funding for these projects, but philanthropy will be vital to their completion.

Robert Ghrist, Andrea Mitchell University Professor

Lead in Data Engineering + Science

Support innovation in three broad areas:
- Scientific research and experimentation
- Design and engineering of autonomous systems
- Methodologies to understand the human brain

The Innovation in Data Engineering and Science Initiative, led by Penn Engineering, is developing data-driven approaches that can transform scientific discovery, engineering research, and technological innovation.

Zhiqiao Jiang, C’22, ENG’22, and Christopher B. Murray, Richard Perry University Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering, explore novel ways to improve human health through nanoscale technology.

Karen I. Goldberg, Vagelos Professor of Energy Research

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Penn Arts & Sciences is substantially upgrading its infrastructure for the physical sciences by renewing the historic David Rittenhouse Laboratory and constructing two custom-designed buildings. These projects will create a centralized hub of state-of-the-art spaces, benefiting everyone from first-year science students to award-winning research teams.

“These three construction projects will take Penn’s physical science facilities to a whole new level,” said Steven J. Fluharty, Dean, Penn Arts & Sciences, and Thomas S. Gates Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience.

“These spaces will help us recruit even more top faculty to Penn because we can provide them with labs equipped to support their research programs. This investment in infrastructure will also enable Penn students to interact with top scientists in spaces specifically designed for research, teaching, and learning.”

The David Rittenhouse Laboratory (DRL) is home to two departments—Mathematics, and the Department of Physics and Astronomy—known for groundbreaking contributions to their fields (including three Nobel Prizes!) and excellence in undergraduate teaching. But the building, which opened during the Eisenhower administration, has not been substantially upgraded since. DRL will be reimagined and renovated to create a top-notch facility that will help attract and retain the talented faculty and students who are the lifeblood of those departments. It will make possible cutting-edge research and facilitate excellence in teaching. Features of the project include updated classrooms, collaborative learning environments, informal meeting areas, and other spaces designed for the pursuit of math and science.

“An overwhelming scientific consensus exists that human activity is having an unintended negative impact on the global environment. The Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology—made possible by a leadership gift from P. Roy Vagelos, C’50, PAR’90, HON’99, and his wife Diana—will accelerate the pace of scientific advances in sustainable energy at Penn, forging the path to urgently needed solutions.

The Vagelos Laboratory will house two key programs: the Vagelos Institute for Energy Science and Technology, which addresses a wide range of scientific challenges related to energy, and the Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research (VIPER), a dual-degree program for undergraduates seeking to pursue interdisciplinary research in sustainable energy science and technology.

Construction on the Vagelos Laboratory is underway and scheduled for completion in 2024. The project requires an additional $22 million in philanthropic support to meet the $173 million cost.

Physical Sciences Building
33RD AND WALNUT STREETS

A foundation in the physical sciences is a fundamental element of an undergraduate education. Students trained in Penn’s classrooms and labs will become the scientists who contribute to groundbreaking discoveries, sustain Penn’s vital innovation ecosystem, and serve as scientific leaders around the world.

The new Physical Sciences Building, currently in the planning phase, will house modern research facilities, technology-equipped classrooms, state-of-the-art teaching labs, and collaboration spaces. It will be strategically located between the David Rittenhouse Laboratory and the Vagelos Laboratory, and near Penn Engineering, which will also have research space in the building.

I’m excited about the prospect of the new energy center at Penn, which I’m sure will inspire both professors and students to explore the frontiers of renewable energy and hopefully save our world from a climate disaster.

Andy Eskenazi, C’22
VIPER GRADUATE

This is extremely exciting for us. All the science that we do will benefit from new space. That will not only help the terrific faculty we have now; it will help us in recruiting and retaining future faculty.

Mark Trodden
FAY R. AND EUGENE L. LANGBERG PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VAGELOS LABORATORY FOR ENERGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
pennprideimpact4

The Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology
32ND AND WALNUT STREETS (PICTURED)

Architectural rendering courtesy of Behnisch Architekten.

David Rittenhouse Laboratory
33RD AND WALNUT STREETS

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Features of the project include updated classrooms, collaborative learning environments, informal meeting areas, and other spaces designed for the pursuit of math and science.
Light-filled art and design studios. Dedicated exhibition spaces. Flexible areas for informal gatherings, juries, and student or faculty meetings. Classrooms. Makerspaces. Room for research centers to assemble teams for new initiatives. Outdoor gathering spaces.

The Weitzman School of Design will put historic preservation and architecture innovation on display when it renovates the Morgan Building on 34th Street and adds a new wing on its south side. It will be named Stuart Weitzman Hall after designer and footwear icon Stuart Weitzman, W’63, reflecting his enduring commitment to the success of Penn students and his extraordinary ongoing support of the School.

The building was originally designed by the Philadelphia firm Cope & Stewardson in 1890 and sits directly across 34th Street from three other Weitzman facilities: Fisher Fine Arts Library, Meyerson Hall, and the newly renovated Stuart Weitzman Plaza. Its transformation into Stuart Weitzman Hall will be the first significant building project at the School in 55 years. The new design is by the renowned architecture firm KieranTimberlake, whose work includes the U.S. Embassy in London and whose founding partners are Weitzman School alumni who have served as practice professors at the School.

“I am excited to bring new life to a remarkable 19th-century building in the heart of campus and to provide top-notch facilities for the Weitzman School’s exceptional faculty and students,” Weitzman said.

Describing the building as a “diamond in the rough,” Frederick Steiner, MRP’77, MA’86, PhD’86, Dean and Paley Professor at the Weitzman School, said: “Stuart is seizing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a difference in the daily lives of students and faculty, and to enable the School to grow and adapt in the future.”

**PLANS UNVEILED for STUART WEITZMAN HALL**

Long before Parasite and Squid Game captured America’s cultural consciousness, Eminent Trustee James Joo-Jin Kim, W’59, G’61, Gr’63, was creating connections between Philadelphia and Korea. In 1968, he founded the sales office of his family’s Korea-based semiconductor manufacturing company in Philadelphia. In 2011, he endowed the James Joo-Jin Kim Program for Korean Studies at Penn Arts & Sciences. Now, he, his wife Agnes, and the James and Agnes Kim Family Foundation have made a $25 million gift to elevate the program into an academic center, in addition to creating a new program for neurovascular surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine and supporting immersive global experiences for graduate students.

**JAMES KIM AND FAMILY EXTEND A LEGACY OF SUPPORT WITH A MULTIFACETED NEW GIFT**

**The James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies** at Penn Arts & Sciences will be an academic engine with long-term support for scholarly and community-focused activities. The gift will expand the Center’s existing physical space, endow a professorship, launch a global conference, create fellowship opportunities, and sponsor a global forum.

**The Kim Family Neurovascular Surgery Program** at Penn Medicine will create a new endowed professorship and a neurovascular innovation lab, as well as establish a comprehensive platform for the development of new technologies for treating neurovascular disorders, from initial design to translation into patient care.

**The Kim Korean Studies Fund at the Lauder Institute** will support students who wish to take part in three distinctive immersion programs: the Korean Language and Culture Track, the East Asia Regional Immersion, and the Global Knowledge Lab.

As a young immigrant arriving to the United States from Korea, the University provided me with a world-class education while instilling in me an unwavering work ethic. The knowledge and character I gained at Penn helped to pave the road to my success, and I hope this gift helps to pave that road for others.

**James Joo-Jin Kim**
W’59, G’61, Gr’63
Emeritus Trustee
Inspired visions from new leaders are changing the face of ARTS & CULTURE at PENN

Christopher Woods
WILLIAMS DIRECTOR
PENN MUSEUM

“Our galleries are an open conversation with our visitors, making it possible for people to see themselves—and each other—in our magnificent global collection, and in doing so, uncover our shared humanity. As part of our new strategic vision, we will open reimagined presentations of the Eastern Mediterranean and ancient Egypt and Nubia galleries, which communicate the relevance of the past to the urgent issues of today. Integrated into a world-leading academic institution, our interdisciplinary research enables us to tell a diversity of human stories in entirely new ways.”

Zoe Ryan
 DANIEL W. DIETRICH II DIRECTOR
 INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

“ICA is in the process of creating a new strategic vision to advance our mission as a hub of art and ideas that supports projects that challenge assumptions and encourage courageous conversation. Within the context of the ongoing public health crisis and the fight for social justice, it is especially vital that cultural institutions examine our agency as institutions for change.”

William Cullina
F. OTTO HAAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MORRIS ARBORETUM

“We provide a place of respite, beauty, and learning where the joy and wonder of the natural world inspire all who visit to be enthusiastic ambassadors for plants and our fundamental dependence on them. We have kicked off a transformational new master plan that will expand research and educational opportunities, provide a more accessible and welcoming place for guests, and strengthen our leadership around environmental stewardship and sustainable design.”

Ihsuk Shin, PhD, GEE’61, GRE’66, made a generous gift and created a charitable remainder trust to establish a fellowship that provides ongoing support for graduate students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

A number of alumnae made gifts to support excellence in Women’s Basketball, including Loretta McNulty Kelly, C’76, who gave $50,000; Barbara Albom, W’84, who gave $50,000; Amy Tarr, C’97, and Haris Hadzic, who gave $40,000 to a combination of basketball and lacrosse; and Shelly Bowers Hayes, ENG’95, who gave $25,000.

$250,000 from Aedas and Andrew T. Wen, GAR’90, created the Aedas Fellowship Fund for architecture students at the Weitzman School of Design. Fellowship recipients will be offered a summer internship at one of the firm’s five offices in the People’s Republic of China.

SEE THEIR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AT WORK IN THIS 2-MINUTE VIDEO:
penpri.de/impact6

Philanthropy touches every part of the University. Through the support of our engaged and generous donors, Penn is able to inspire impact locally and globally. Here is a small sample of recent gifts that are fueling the University’s drive to advance knowledge for good.
Santosh Govindaraju, ENG’97, W’97, gave $250,000 to upgrade and name the South Asian Studies Seminar Room at Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, while Kenneth Robbins made a $400,000 bequest that includes his collection of books, ephemera, and artifacts from the Indian subcontinent.

Stephanie and Dan Zilberman, both WG’01, gave $500,000 to name the Director of the Lippincott Library at the Wharton School for a term of five years, a position held by Marcella Barnhart, pictured. The Zilbermans also gave $250,000 for a Huntsman Program Global Immersion Fund and $200,000 to support Jewish music at the Libraries.

Ronald J. Kramer, W’80, and Stephanie B. Kramer gave $250,000 to establish the Penn Live Arts Career Development Fund, which provides students with opportunities to gain real-world experience in the performing arts and entertainment fields.

Vithala Rao, GR’70, made a $100,000 gift to create the Paul E. Green Marketing Camp Fund to welcome faculty and students to Wharton and honor the late Wharton faculty member Paul Green.

Benny Hu, WG’78, gave $50,000 to The Wharton Fund to support ongoing priorities and new opportunities at the School, and served as a challenge donor to inspire giving among members of the Class of 2022 as part of their Class Gift campaign.

The Ibn Sina Foundation gave $950,000 to build a pipeline for more diversity at the Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology, which includes summer program participation and scholarship support for underrepresented high school students.

Penn GSE received generous scholarship gifts from Allison Blitzer, C’91, David Blitzer, W’91, and the Blitzer Family Foundation, and Susan M. Cotton, GEd’69, and Douglas L. Cotton, WG’69.

Paritosh Thakore, W’86, and Hemal Mirani, G’97, WG’97, made a gift to establish the Thakore Family Program in Global Justice and Human Rights at the Perry World House.

The China Education Initiative (CEI) will promote increased understanding and an ongoing exchange of ideas between the United States and China. Wang Chen, E’95, GEN’95, W’95, and Robin Yuxiang Ren, C’95, E’95, and Linda Ying Ye through the Linda Ye and Robin Ren Family Foundation provided generous funding to make CEI seminars accessible to all students.

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Longtime volunteer fieldwork and collections photographer Elizabeth (Jean) Walker, SW’74, made a $100,000 gift to support the Egypt and Nubia Galleries at the Penn Museum and to name six seats in the newly renovated Harrison Auditorium.

Penn Medicine’s 10th annual 5K for the Institute on Aging & the Memory Mile Walk raised $46,000 to support research and novel treatment for aging-related neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s.

Evan Michael Roth, C’92, W’92, and Lindsay B. Roth gave $500,000 to establish two new scholarships at the University: an endowed Undergraduate Scholarship and a Social Justice Scholars Program term scholarship at the School of Social Policy & Practice.

Alexandra Armour, C’12, gave $75,000 to establish a Young Alumni Scholarship in honor of her 10th reunion.

Allison Hart, C’98, and Jed Hart, W’89, gave $2.5 million to Penn Medicine and $500,000 to the Psychology Department at Penn Arts & Sciences to foster greater understanding of the human brain.

Daphne King Yao, C’91, and Geoffrey King, W’93, gave $1.5 million to create the Alice C. King, CW’63, Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund, which will bring visiting artists to campus to participate in teaching and other programs intended to foster cross-cultural understanding and goodwill between the United States and China.

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