Every day, University of Arizona supporters like you come together to make a lasting impact. You come together to solve challenges, make investments in faculty and elevate research to new levels. You come together to make education more accessible, to forge new ways of thinking and to honor those whose philanthropic stories inspire us to keep giving with purpose.

Today, we’re excited to come together around the University of Arizona’s new focus on transforming the student experience.

We hope you enjoy these stories about donors like you whose gifts bring our students, our faculty and our community together in incredible ways. Every gift contributes to the university’s purpose, and we thank you for being a part of the generous community that makes it all possible.
STORIES OF PHILANTHROPY

ANNUAL & ENDOWMENT REPORT

Individual Impact
Karl Eller 6

Campus Impact
Focused Investment 8
Amplified Impact 10

Community Impact
Building Bridges 12
A Gem in the Heart of Tucson 14

Global Impact
The Healing Power of Perseverance 16

Endowment Report 2019 18
A Committed Team 20
2019 Investment Performance 22
MVPs 24
Strategic, Dynamic, Together 26
Our Portfolio 28
Rigorous Evaluation 30
University of Arizona Foundation Leadership 36
Last year we planned, and now it’s time to act. The first priority of the university’s strategic plan is to elevate the student experience with 360 degrees of support and fuel wonder for students so they can create it for the world. When students wonder if a University of Arizona education is within reach, let’s make the answer a resounding “yes.” When they wonder how far it can take them, we can call on the full power of the Wildcat community to show them the universe of possibilities.

As we begin this journey, campus leaders share ways they will join with others in realizing the vision for student success.

The 360 Initiative

University and Foundation leaders lent a hand during move in day this fall.

How will you help students learn and thrive this year?

“I’m empowering and encouraging faculty, staff, parents and friends — everyone who cares about our students. Share your expertise and give the time and resources you can. It’s time to build a powerful support system into the University of Arizona experience for every student.”

Dr. Robert C. Robbins, president
The University of Arizona

“Our goal is to rally supporters around this worthy cause and raise $25 million in the next year. We’re determined to help donors understand how their generosity can have the most impact for students and to steward gifts with the highest level of care. In many cases, gifts to the UA will keep transforming students’ lives far beyond a donor’s lifetime. This is certainly true of Karl Eller, who we lost this year but whose generosity lives on.”

Ted Hinderaker, chair
The University of Arizona Foundation Board of Trustees

“I first and foremost want to serve as an advocate for all UA students. I’m excited to work on their behalf and help address their needs in new and innovative ways. I aim to better connect the university to the community. Most importantly, I want to prioritize access to student mental health services, because addressing this critical need will make students happier, healthier and more successful.”

Sydney Hess, student body president
The University of Arizona

Ted Hinderaker
John-Paul Roczniak

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FOUNDATION
This year we lost one of the University of Arizona’s greatest champions, Karl Eller. Karl was an alumnus, advocate and supporter of national stature. His decades of leadership and philanthropy transformed the university and inspired our community.

Karl’s connection to the UA was deeply personal, and his dedication to providing opportunity to students guided his family’s giving. He wondered how his own education could have benefited by a business entrepreneurship program, and then sought to make this opportunity possible for future students. The university is proud to carry on his legacy through our students in the college that bears his name and programs throughout our campus for generations to come.

“If there’s one thing I’ve learned over my years of working with Karl, it’s that the goal of his philanthropy has always been to give students the same opportunities he had,” said John-Paul Roczniak, president and CEO of the University of Arizona Foundation.

“Growing up on Sixth Street, he looked across the street to Arizona Stadium and the University of Arizona, and saw it as his gateway to the world. He knew that if he just got his education, he could make a better life for himself. So many times, we’d be driving to games and he would say to me, ‘Look at all these kids, JP. They have the whole world in front of them.’”

Over the decades, Karl and his wife, Stevie, have contributed millions of dollars to the UA to found the entrepreneurship program, name the business school and dance theatre and support student career development as well as teaching and research related to the free market economy. He served on the University of Arizona Foundation board of trustees for decades as well as the Eller College National Board of Advisors, a role in which he leveraged his corporate connections to benefit the college.

“What an honor it was to know Karl Eller. He used his education, intelligence and deep commitment to integrity to achieve the highest levels of success, while always keeping a little bit of Tucson ruggedness and authenticity,” said Paulo Goes, dean of the Eller College of Management.

“An extraordinary friend and benefactor, he is a role model for tens of thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff, who will forever have their names associated with Eller. Karl’s legacy will live on through them.”

— Kim Stoll

1928-2019

Honoring a Legacy

KARL

ELLER '52 ’81
Jim Wyant always wanted to teach and to found a company. When he was offered an assistant professor position at the University of Arizona 45 years ago, he was ready to take a leap of faith and move from industry into academia.

"I was so excited when I was given the offer. I didn't even negotiate a salary or anything," he says.

As Wyant's academic career progressed and he led the evolution of what was a center for optical sciences at the UA into a college, he also co-founded two optics companies.

"You have to have something that people want," Wyant told SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, reflecting on his business successes. "But ultimately, you have to love what you're doing. Even if I had gone bankrupt, I still would have had so much fun doing what I was doing."

Wyant's entrepreneurship generated benefits for him and his students. He recruited many excellent employees from his classrooms.

"They were so smart; they taught me so many things."

Wyant was able to continue his UA roles as both businesses began and grew. Out of gratitude to the university for its flexibility, Wyant and his family last year followed a $10 million scholarship gift made in 2013 with a $20 million gift. Wyant's generosity and leadership inspired the UA to rename the college the James C. Wyant College of Optical Sciences.

"This is money I made in optics — not money I made on the stock market or in real estate — it's money I made in optics. And — look around you — optics is everywhere! It's exciting to think about the future, because optics continues to grow," he says.

The recent gift is the largest for faculty support in UA history. It empowers the college to recruit a minimum of 10 endowed chairs. And, as with the Friends of Tucson Optics Scholarship campaign, this gift offers matching funds to inspire others to give.

– Katy Smith and Daneet Steffens

Wyant’s generosity and leadership inspired the UA to rename the college the James C. Wyant College of Optical Sciences.
The University of Arizona needs exceptional faculty to accomplish our bold goals for research and education. For the past two years, the Eminent Scholars Program, through the UA Office of the Provost, accelerated growth of endowed chairs by amplifying private gifts with additional state and university funds.

Like all endowed gifts, these chairs and faculty research funds will benefit the donors’ chosen causes in perpetuity. The difference is more immediate support and growth of each endowed fund. For the first five years, the endowment’s actual payout is reinvested while the Eminent Scholars Program provides funds directly to the college or center and an additional cash distribution for faculty support.

This amplification matters. For example, the qualifying gift of $5 million to the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine was augmented by the Eminent Scholars Program with an additional $1.75 million.

Vic Smith’s gift will support education, research and training in food safety through all stages of the complex product supply chain. “Over the years, Vic has been not only one of our biggest supporters, but also an inspiration to me to innovate and a leadership mentor,” says Shane Burgess, UA vice president for agriculture, life and veterinary sciences and cooperative extension. “He is especially excited that our food safety curriculum will be taught in Spanish as well as English, and so will be even more accessible to professionals already working in this industry.”
It’s Amy Spotted Wolf’s first day at the University of Arizona, her dream school. She recently transferred to the UA from Tohono O’odham Community College, or TOCC, and is eager to pursue her bachelor’s degree in the College of Education and go on to teach children from her tribe.

Spotted Wolf’s input helped shape “A Student’s Journey,” a new donor-funded program intended to increase the number of transfer students from TOCC and ensure their success. Over three years, project leaders from both schools plan to increase successful transfers from TOCC to four-year universities from 21% to 40%. They’re also resolved to make the UA more welcoming to TOCC transfer students and to prepare more to take on tribal leadership positions.

Transferring between the schools can be difficult. Many TOCC students don’t know how to pursue financial aid at the UA, are unsure how credits transfer, and lack dedicated staff to help them navigate these challenges. Compounding that, native students and their customs are often misunderstood, making it harder for them to fully engage and participate in campus life.

“A Student’s Journey” is designed to remove these educational barriers and begins by building participants’ familiarity with the UA when students are still at TOCC. They’ll also be helped by dedicated coordinators at both schools and peer mentors.

“A Student’s Journey” won the Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice annual challenge grant competition and $600,000 in total funding. This award supports projects that unite the UA and the community in addressing persistent social justice and environmental problems. UA leadership hopes that the effects of this grant go beyond its original scope of impacting 60 students over three years. In addition to seeking other external funds, plans include using the project to inform the UA community about how to be more respectful and helpful to native transfer students.

Amy Spotted Wolf says she wants to get involved in native student groups and encourage more Tohono O’odham students to attend the UA, which, she points out, is situated on the tribe’s ancestral lands.

“I want to be a positive role model and give them the sense that they belong here and they can achieve higher education.”

– Katy Smith

Over three years, project leaders from both schools plan to increase successful transfers from TOCC to four-year universities from 21% to 40%.

An Enduring Legacy

The Agnese Nelms Haury Program is celebrating five years of supporting work at the intersection of environment and social justice.

The program was established with a $50 million endowed gift from the estate of the philanthropist, who was passionate about investing in innovative scholarship at the UA.

A donor-advised fund board chooses which grants and faculty fellowships to fund, using the values that defined Haury’s life as a guide.

One reason the grant review panel chose this project is that it is in alignment with the UA’s goals to better support native students as part of the strategic plan, says Haury Program Director Anna Spitz.

Over three years, project leaders from both schools plan to increase successful transfers from TOCC to four-year universities from 21% to 40%.
Since the early 1890s, the University of Arizona has maintained a trove of wonders: a gem and mineral collection that has steadily grown — and just as steadily moved around campus, from the Douglass building to the State Museum, then to the old Engineering building, and on to its current home, the lower level of Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium.

Now, thanks in part to Allan Norville’s lead gift, the UA is expanding the museum and moving into the epicenter of the annual Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase in an iconic downtown Tucson landmark. The museum’s exhibit space will expand from 4,000 to 12,000 square feet, and the facility’s lower floor will house 8,000 square feet of research labs, meeting space and storage. Local and international mineral and gem groups will be able to gather in the meeting rooms.

“Mineral Evolution Gallery, detailing the origins of minerals
• Arizona Gallery, including a recreation of a Bisbee mine cave
• Minerals of Arizona
• Modern mining exhibit
• Crystal interactive lab
• Fluorescence Gallery
• Gem Gallery
• The Treasury, housing unique and exquisite gems and jewelry
• Rotating exhibits from collectors and designers from across the globe

The museum’s exhibit space will contain a treasure trove for visitors to explore.

We hope to see you at the new museum in downtown Tucson, slated to open in 2020. If you would like to support the completion of renovations and help keep us on track for opening, visit gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu or call 520-621-4105.

The Norvilles have been involved in Tucson’s gem and mineral community for decades. They founded the annual GJX gem and jewelry show, a direct result of Alfie’s vision and foresight. “At the time we opened in 1994, there had been discussion of moving the show to another city because there was a serious lack of exhibit space,” Allan says. “Alfie was totally responsible for the idea of the GJX Show, and her wisdom filled a void that allowed the Tucson Gem Show to remain here. She was a great ambassador of Tucson. Her presence and interaction with the gem dealers each year was incredible.”

“Alfie was the most giving, sharing person I have ever met,” Allan continues. “Without a question, she is the most deserving person to have this museum named after her.”

The Norville Family Photograph

The museum is slated to open in 2020 in the Historic Pima County Courthouse.
Andrew Weil never intended to go to medical school, practice as a physician or live in Tucson. And yet, following where his curiosity led him, he did all three – while translating his medical degree into a movement that has changed the practice of medicine.

The Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine, founded in Tucson 25 years ago, is now recognized as the leading integrative medicine program in the world. In March the center was renamed in Weil’s honor to recognize the $20 million in gifts the holistic-health visionary has committed to the UA.

It almost didn’t happen. As a student, on his way back from South America where he studied medicinal plants and healing, Weil shipped his English Land Rover to have it overhauled in California. He then drove to Tucson, intending a brief visit. The car broke down, it took six weeks to get it fixed, and the Old Pueblo proved irresistible.

Weil settled in Tucson and became a popular lecturer in the College of Medicine. Jim Dalen, then dean of the medical school, came to check out “the crazy guy” lecturing on natural and preventive medicine — heretic concepts in mainstream medicine at the time.

With Dalen’s encouragement and against the prevailing winds at the time, in 1994 Weil established the nation’s first formal training program in integrative medicine “in a broom closet in a trailer behind the College of Medicine, with a phone,” Weil laughs. What began as a two-year residential fellowship for four people has since become an international program training 80 fellows each year that has now graduated more than 1,500 alumni.

Weil’s gift will transform the center and take integrative medicine to the next level. In addition to naming the center, the commitment establishes named chairs in integrative medicine and research as well as an endowed program fund. The gift also launches a university-backed effort to create a new building on campus dedicated to the center’s work.

Weil, considered the father of integrative medicine, says that his gift marks the high point of his career at the UA — a gift that will help the center continue as a global leader in integrative medicine.

“He’s work has really changed medicine in very significant ways,” said Victoria Maizes, executive director of the center and holder of one of the named chairs. “Perseverance is definitely part of the formula. Our graduates are now impacting the lives of 8 million people — and many are the world’s leaders in integrative medicine, faculty and physicians in private practice. We’re training the world.”

– Cris Duschek

Weil’s gift will transform the center and take integrative medicine to the next level.
Karl and Stevie Eller wondered what students could achieve if they had access to entrepreneurship education.

Andrew Weil wondered how he could make integrative medicine available to all.

James Wyant wondered what it would take to exponentially grow research activity and student support in optical sciences.

These visions all started with wonder — and helped make the University of Arizona what it is today.