CREATIVE giving

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www.MUSCgiving.org

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A Promise Fulfilled

MUSC concludes its Partnership of Promise capital campaign after banner year in giving

It was a celebration unlike any other held in the Medical University's history—a black-tie gala to celebrate a victory that at times seemed almost unachievable.

On November 5, 2010, more than 200 friends and supporters gathered at Charleston Place Hotel to celebrate the successful conclusion of the university’s $300 million Partnership of Promise campaign—one year early and $55 million over its dollar goal.

University President Ray Greenberg said that the campaign’s success was especially notable in that it took place in spite of such adverse economic conditions.

“When we launched our capital campaign, we felt $300 million was an ambitious but achievable goal. Of course, at the time, none of us could have anticipated the economic downturn that would take place in the midst of that effort,” said Greenberg. “But nor could we have foreseen the incredible outpouring of support that would follow. There’s no way we could ever adequately thank people for that.”

Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2010, more than 37,000 people, businesses and organizations made nearly $355 million in gifts and pledges to the Partnership of Promise campaign.

These funds will enable the university to establish endowed chairs, build new facilities, provide scholarships and support programs that otherwise wouldn’t be possible under its current economic circumstances. All of these assets will place the university in a much stronger position to recruit and retain the best faculty and students in the country, thereby “raising all boats” at the university, said Greenberg.

“The Medical University is driven by the talent and dedication of the people who are here. So our goal is to recruit the most outstanding individuals we can find anywhere in the world and bring them to South Carolina,” said Greenberg. “Whether you’re talking about an endowed chair or a new research facility paid for with private dollars, all of these things are entitlements in this very competitive marketplace that we’re in for the best talent. That, more than anything else, is what private philanthropy drives.”

While Greenberg was pleased with having exceeded the campaign’s financial goal, he said the true measure of its success defies quantification.

“In the final analysis, this campaign wasn’t about achieving a certain dollar figure. What it was really about was serving the population of students we educate and patients we care for. In that sense, there’s no way to effectively measure the full extent of the campaign’s success. Its impact is literally infinite because it will affect people’s lives in ways that we can only begin to guess, not just today but from this day forward.”
Sywolskis make second major gift in two years

Generous funding keeps important research moving forward

Two years after kicking off the Partnership of Promise capital campaign with a $250,000 gift, Bob and Karen Sywolski have bestowed an additional $2 million upon the MUSC Foundation to support important research and program development in urology, cardiovascular disease and environmental biosciences. The Department of Urology will receive $500,000 to fund the McCullough Endowed Chair for Urologic Disorders. Department Chair Thomas Kane, M.D., says the endowed chair is critical to the department’s ability to move more important medical research forward. “The money covers the time, equipment and supplies needed to conduct research and obtain the pilot data required to apply for major grants,” said Dr. Kane. “Without the seed money, we can’t hire the brightest people into the endowed chairs where they can apply their skills and take us to the next level.”

The Sywolskis moved to Charleston from New York 11 years ago when Bob was recruited to become the president and chief executive officer of Charleston-based software developer, Blackbaud, Inc. The couple has shared an intense interest in MUSC and its research activities ever since. "Dr. Ray Greenberg introduced us to their work and we quickly realized there was something special going on at MUSC. "The Sywolskis’ gift is in the Sywolski’s 2% million gift is in the Environmental Biobiosciences Program, which is headed by medical professor and former White House physician, Larry Mohr, M.D. The program is in line to receive $250,000 for research and education. Before serving as the personal physician to two U.S. presidents and their families, Mohr received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina. His postgraduate education includes a medical internship, residency training in Internal Medicine and fellowship training in Pulmonary Medicine, all at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Mohr was presented the Forbes Award as the most outstanding resident in his class, and subsequently served as Chief Medical Resident at Walter Reed. Currently, Dr. Mohr directs the multidisciplinary, university-wide research program in environmental biosciences. He has been the principal investigator of multiple research grants and serves as an advisor to postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in the biomedical sciences. Mohr also authored a number of scientific and medical publications and lectures both nationally and internationally. “Larry is an exceptional physician and scientist," says Karen Sywolski. "We think the work he’s doing in environmental medicine is important, and we want to support him in any way we can." In addition to making a major financial commitment to the capital campaign, Bob and Karen Sywolski have also given generously and selflessly of their time, energy and exceptional talent for connecting with people.

Bob ensured the capital campaign’s public launch in 2008 and remained instrumental to its success through his service on its leadership cabinet, which led the effort to its extraordinary successful conclusion. "The fact that the community would provide such strong support, especially during such uncertain economic times, is extraordinary. Our leadership team did a tremendous job," said Greenberg. Thomas Kane, M.D. agrees, but isn’t entirely surprised by the campaign’s ultimate successful outcome given the Sywolski’s involvement. "Bob Sywolski is an entrepreneur of rare skill, with amazing analytical abilities and a tremendous business sense," says Dr. Kane. "He and Karen are extremely kind and caring people. They are completely dedicated to each other and to making the world a better place for all."
THE PARTNERSHIP OF PROMISE
Capital Campaign Victory Gala
November 6, 2010
Charleston Place Hotel
Generously sponsored by Force Protection, Charleston Place Hotel and the MUSC Foundation
Susan Pearlstine gives $1 million for one-of-a-kind sarcoidosis center

By all outward appearances, Susan Pearlstine was the picture of health and well-being, a successful business owner, prominent civic leader, humanitarian, world traveler, devoted mother of three. When she developed small eye-related symptoms, including a dry cough and blinding eye pain, she was naturally dismissive: “I must have a sinus infection,” she told people. Her doctor was writing a prescription for antibiotics and sending her on her way.

The next day she could barely see, and her eyes had taken a frightening turn in appearance. “It looked like someone colored in the whites of my eyes with a red magic marker,” says Pearlstine. It was December 23, and she had an overseas trip coming up in six days.

An ophthalmologist diagnosed Pearlstine with uveitis and referred her to an ophthalmologist, who immediately sent her for pupil and cranial nerve exams. “It was really quite astonishing,” says Pearlstine. “I had those red eyes one eye and next thing I’m in the hospital having all these tests.”

Chex X-rays showed plausible granulomas, rod-like foreign bodies in the anterior chamber, the hallmark of a disease called sarcoidosis. Pearlstine canceled her trip.

Sarcoidosis can cause inflammation in many organs of the body. Symptoms range from dry eyes and swelling of the knees to coughing and skin lesions. The disease is multisystemic and its symptoms often mimic those of other maladies, sarcoidosis is easily misunderstood, even after diagnosis.

PEARLSTINE BELIEVES THAT THE MUSC TEAM IS ALREADY DOING A LOT OF THE RIGHT THINGS TO PROVIDE CoORDINATED CARE. SHE REPORTS THAT ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS KNOW THEIR NURSES BY NAME AND OFTEN COMMENT ABOUT THEIR CARE. “I feel so fortunate. And I want to give back.”

Susan Pearlstine, with Dr. Marc Judson

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- The Duke Endowment
- The Medical University of South Carolina
- MUSC Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
- MUSC Department of Surgery
- SCANA Corporation
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