

# WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019



## BUSINESS SCHOOL RENAMED

SILICON VALLEY VISIONARY JOHN CHAMBERS ANNOUNCED A GIFT OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO SUPPORT A RECENTLY ANNOUNCED START-UP ENGINE AT THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS.

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## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

### WVU Foundation

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Provided by multiple sources including but not limited to

**WVU Foundation and University Relations**

## MAXIMIZING PRIVATE CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

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**WVU Foundation**



**@wvufoundation**

# SECOND ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING BRINGS IN MORE THAN \$6 MILLION

Supporters of WVU donated more than \$6 million Nov. 14 during the University's second annual Day of Giving, more than doubling last year's total.

It was promoted as "One Day to Give Back" and donors responded making 3,004 gifts during the 24-hour online giving event totaling over \$6.2 million.

"Once again, our alumni and friends have shown incredible loyalty and support for West Virginia University," President Gordon Gee said. "More importantly, their support for our second Day of Giving shows that they want to do everything they can to ensure that future generations are able to have the same experience and education they received. One could not ask for more."

The Day of Giving's success was buoyed by several global matches and participation gifts, as well as those made at the college/school/unit level. Those included the first \$50,000 raised during Day of Giving being matched dollar-for-dollar, and the first 1,000 gifts of \$100 or more being matched up to \$100 each for an extra \$100,000. Donations made to any Greatest Needs Fund on Day of Giving were matched dollar-for-dollar by Frank and Jayna Alderman for an additional \$25,000. Pat and Alison Deem generously matched donations made to general scholarship funds on Day of Giving for another \$25,000. Also, a challenge by WVU President Gordon Gee and fiancé Laurie Erickson was met. They agreed to donate \$10,000 each if at least 100 Mountaineer couples donated on WVU Day of Giving.

In a participation challenge, Mountaineer Nation responded by sharing more than 2,000 photos on social media with the Mountaineer Mascot (current or former). That unlocked a \$20,000 gift from alumni Mike Escue and Alexis Pugh.

"The success of our second Day of Giving was beyond what I ever imagined, and I want to thank everyone who participated," said Mary Esposito, who led the effort for the WVU Foundation. "It was truly exciting to see the WVU family respond to our call to give and make a difference."

# Business school renamed for alumnus John Chambers

In a unique agreement that will provide WVU significant financial and intellectual resources, Silicon Valley visionary John Chambers announced a gift of time, talent and treasure to support a recently announced start-up engine at the College of Business and Economics.

“I’ve always believed in the power of education, but we need to reinvent our schools for a new, digital era. I’m betting on the Mountaineers and believe my home state can become a startup state if the university, business and public sectors come together to support transformative innovation,” said Chambers, former CEO and Chairman of Cisco Systems Inc., and founder and CEO of JC2 Ventures, a native of Charleston and a two-time WVU alumnus. The start-up engine will support business development, innovation and investment in West Virginia.

The college will be renamed the John Chambers College of Business and Economics.



**John Chambers talks about his vision for West Virginia as a “startup state.”**

“This is a momentous occasion for West Virginia University and for the state of West Virginia,” WVU President Gordon Gee said to several hundred people gathered at the Erickson Alumni Center including two U.S. Senators and numerous state and community leaders. “John is a proven leader who is comfortable dreaming big and taking risks. Those are the same attributes that define who we are as a university. We have the incredible opportunity to make effective change by becoming a start-up University. I am grateful to John for his commitment, his partnership and his friendship.”

Chambers’ gift will include financial support to:

- Build out and operate the start-up engine.
- Create a philanthropic venture capital fund in support of the project.
- Create a Center for Artificial Intelligence Management to explore AI’s opportunities and challenges.
- Establish a fund to support the creation of the Center for AI Management.

Chambers will also volunteer 5 percent of his time to provide expertise to WVU and its leadership, a similar arrangement to ones he has with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

“While recognized as a global leader for his business acumen for many years, John Chambers has never forgotten his West Virginia roots,” said B.J. Davisson, executive vice president and chief development officer for the WVU Foundation. “The impact of this transformational partnership will be felt not only across West Virginia, but in fact, the world as the College of Business and Economics works to support entrepreneurship and innovation in business learning on the global stage. Having John as an advisor will provide a huge boost to this effort. On behalf of the entire Foundation team, I extend my sincere thanks to John and his family for their continued generosity, leadership and support.”



# Alumnus gives \$1 million to WVU Department of Neurology for patient support



**Mike Escue**

Michael T. Escue, a native of Point Pleasant, W.Va., has committed \$1 million to WVU to establish the Ronald E. & Jo Ann Reynolds Escue Neurology Endowment named for his parents.

The gift will be used to assist the Department of Neurology in the WVU School of Medicine in meeting its mission of patient care, treatment, outreach and healthcare access. Specifically, the endowment will help patients and their families or caregivers with various needs associated with treatment including medication

costs, lodging and transportation to and from University healthcare facilities, and other supportive services. It may also be used for training of rural doctors/health professionals.

A New York attorney, Escue earned two degrees from WVU. In 2014, his father died after suffering from Lewy Body Dementia. Escue said that he decided to make the gift in hopes that it will help give West Virginians access to cutting edge research and promising treatment options underway at the WVU Department of Neurology and the WVU Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute.

“Patients, families and caregivers need fewer things to worry about,” Escue said. “Our hope is that this will help alleviate some of that while getting the best medical care possible.”

Escue received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from WVU in 1992, and his juris doctorate from the WVU College of Law in 1998. He is a partner in the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and is a member of the firm’s financial services group. Escue advises U.S. and foreign banks and other financial institutions regarding U.S. banking laws and regulations. He has been with the firm since 1998.

Escue currently serves on the WVU Foundation Board of Directors.

## Barnettes, Statlers honored on National Philanthropy Day

Two couples who have given tirelessly of their time, talent and resources to WVU were honored November 15 in the state of Pennsylvania on National Philanthropy Day.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized Hank and Joanne Barnette of Bethlehem, Pa., while Ben and Jo Statler of McMurray, Pa., were honored as outstanding philanthropists by the Western Pennsylvania Chapter in Pittsburgh.

“What a most deserving honor for these couples who mean so much to West Virginia University,” said Cindi Roth, WVU Foundation president and CEO. “Pennsylvania is a large state, and to have some of WVU’s most generous benefactors recognized on the same day in two separate areas of the Commonwealth is remarkable. It speaks volumes to the breadth and depth of their philanthropy.”



**Hank and Joanne Barnette**



**Jo and Ben Statler**



An artist's rendering of the STEM building at WVU Jackson's Mill.

## Extension Service launches campaign for upgrades at WVU Jackson's Mill

WVU Jackson's Mill has been an integral part of the history of West Virginia and has played host to hundreds of thousands of visitors throughout its nearly 100-year history.

Looking toward the future of the facility, WVU Extension Service is planning for the next century of camping and education to meet the evolving needs and interests of youths and other visitors in West Virginia and beyond.

The Centennial Campaign is a \$2.8 million fundraising initiative to preserve the treasured history of WVU Jackson's Mill while providing critical enhancements to ensure it continues to meet the camping, recreation and educational needs for future visitors.

Among the planned improvements are a 6,000 square foot Science Technology Engineering and Math building, designed by Vannstrand Architects PLLC, that will provide hands-on

learning in STEM fields; three yurts and a bathhouse to increase capacity by 36 beds; river access points; a high ropes course and zipline; and skeet, trap and rifle ranges to enhance the opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The addition of five log structures for heritage crafts and education highlights the commitment to honoring West Virginia's Appalachian culture. Renovations to Randolph and Monroe Cottages, along with the installation of air conditioning in all cabins, complete the preservation and maintenance efforts.

"Today's young people want hands-on learning experiences that provide them with unique experiences and skills to be successful," WVU Extension Dean and Director Steve Bonanno said. "Additionally, research shows the important role of outdoor education provides in helping young people gain valuable problem-solving skills and enhanced confidence.

"The new STEM facility and expanded outdoor recreation opportunities allow us to build upon our traditional camps and extend our reach by offering additional programming that our young people are interested in."

To date, approximately \$2 million has been secured through early leadership gifts and commitments from The Estate of Gladys Knapp, Howard E. Boggs, The Hayhurst Family, Margaret Blagg Irby and William J. Freyler. In addition to the early fundraising success, many of the projects are underway or complete.



# Former Interim President Peter Magrath remembers WVU in his estate plan

C. Peter Magrath, who served as interim president of WVU from 2008-2009, is leaving nearly \$1 million to WVU in his will.

“When one leaves the planet, you can’t take your money with you; so send it ahead to a great place like WVU,” Magrath said.

Magrath’s estate plan names the WVU Foundation as a beneficiary of his individual retirement account



**Peter Magrath**

in the amount of \$877,000. The gift agreement calls for the donation to be used for scholarships to support future graduate students at WVU.

“There is no one who understands the land-grant mission better than Peter Magrath, and for him to select West Virginia University for this gift –

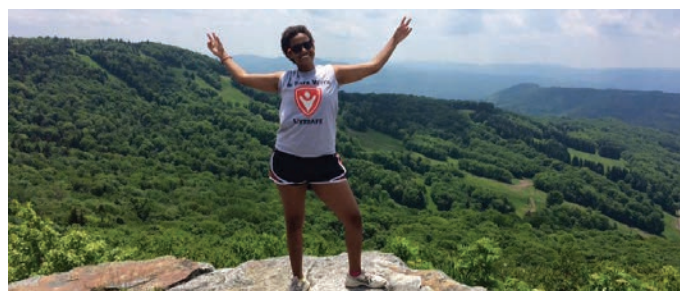
out of all the land-grants and institutions he has been associated with – is a sterling testament to the way this University is meeting that mission,” President Gordon Gee said. “Peter led this University during a challenging time and helped redirect toward our purpose. His vision is now reinforced with this gift. Our gratitude extends beyond words.”

## Berhanu family creates civil engineering endowment

Members of Leah Berhanu’s family were looking for a way to honor her legacy of lending a helping hand to those who needed it. They chose to create the Leah Berhanu Financial Rescue Scholarship at WVU, her alma mater.

“She appreciated people who tried to pave the way and be good role models and she wanted to be that for others, too,” said her parents, Samuel Berhanu and Seble Hailu. “Whether it was sharing her short life experiences with close friends or giving someone time and a friendly ear, Leah made it a point that she did something worthwhile for someone in need every day.”

The victim of a tragic pedestrian-vehicle accident, Leah passed away last February. The endowment will provide scholarships for undergraduate students in the Statler College of Engineering



**Leah Berhanu**

and Mineral Resources’ Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering who demonstrate severe financial need that would likely cause them to discontinue their education at WVU. First preference will be given to female students.

“Leah was strong, independent, focused and was destined for greatness,” her family said. “She always liked challenges and she came from a long line of strong women, starting with her great grandmothers. Engineering was not the easiest major to pick especially since Leah knew that women are severely underrepresented in the field, both in academia and as working professionals. Currently, only 14 percent of engineers are women, according to the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and we would like to put some effort into changing that.”

# Giving thanks for Don Wilcox

You may not know Don Wilcox, but you know his legacy. Every time the WVU Marching Band – The Pride of West Virginia – performs, traces of Wilcox’s teachings ring through. Every time you see a woman in The Pride uniform, Wilcox’s practices shine.

As the Director of Bands for 34 years before his retirement in 2005, Wilcox is perhaps the most transformational band director in Pride history.

It’s no surprise to anyone who knows Wilcox and the love his former students have for him, that an anonymous \$50,000 gift in his honor has been donated to The Pride of West Virginia to support its greatest needs.

“People saw Don Wilcox as a great director, but they also connected with him as a person, and that’s what made his impact so great,” said John Hendricks, associate dean of the College of Creative Arts. “His philosophical views on band, music and life made a difference in people’s lives.”

In 1972, Wilcox made the decision to admit women into The Pride, forever changing the lives of WVU’s women musicians who finally had a chance to partake in the state’s most beloved band.

“When Don came on as Director, the style of the band shifted – it’s Don’s style – and you still see it today,” Hendricks said.

# Reed College of Media receives Benedum grant

The Reed College of Media has received a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to help strengthen local journalism in West Virginia and preserve it for the future by creating a new ownership pipeline.

The \$125,000 grant will support a partnership between the College of Media and the West Virginia Press Association to recruit, develop and train the next generation of independent community newspaper owners.

The program anticipates that a number of West Virginia’s small-market newspaper owners and publishers will be ready to retire and sell their news operations over the next several years, creating potential news “deserts” in their local communities.

The grant will support the development of a three-year program designed to recruit and train new potential owners and to help current owners prepare their businesses for sale.

## Irvin Stewart Society New Members

The Irvin Stewart Society honors those who have included gift provisions in their wills, created income-producing gifts, provided for testamentary donations of retirement assets, donated life insurance, and transferred their real estate remainder interest to benefit WVU and its affiliated organizations.

Michael T. Amory ‘77, Fairmont, WV

Anita J. (Babe) Bisping Cashman ‘61, New Smyrna Beach, FL

F. Stuart (Stu) Cashman ‘61, New Smyrna Beach, FL

Tony Castillo III ‘90, Irving, TX

David Keith Cole, Charleston, WV

Alison H. Deem ‘70, Bridgeport, WV

Patrick D. Deem, Esq. ‘69, Bridgeport, WV

John Michael Fox ‘83, ‘85, Knoxville, TN

Suzanne Smith - Fox ‘81, Bel Air, MD

Timothy A. Fox ‘79, ‘80, Bel Air, MD

Joe W. Gollehon ‘73, Charleston, WV

Andrew S. Good, JD ‘76, ‘80, Plano, TX

Art Green ‘73, Matthews, NC

Joyce A. Green, Matthews, NC

Bonnie Grisell ‘63, ‘72, Glen Dale, WV

Sidney E. Grisell ‘61, Glen Dale, WV

Émer ÓBroin Gunter ‘80, Saint Charles, MO

Karen S. Hopper, Greensboro, NC

William F. “Hopp” Hopper III, MD ‘68, ‘72, Greensboro, NC

Ed Jacobs, Morgantown, WV

C. Peter Magrath, Glen Echo, MD

Susan Neal Meyers, San Mateo, CA

John Mowder ‘75, Pittsburgh, PA

Roberta Raymond, PhD ‘81, ‘85, Saint Clairsville, OH

Jennifer L. Starsick ‘83, Charleston, WV

Douglas A. Stephenson ‘69, ‘73, Isle of Palms, SC

Marthan Davis Stephenson ‘72, Isle of Palms, SC

Alfred S. Williams, Saint Albans, WV



A listing of all members can be found at [www.wvuf.org](http://www.wvuf.org), select Donor Recognition and Irvin Stewart Society.



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## DONORS CONTRIBUTE \$125K TO 2018 PRIDE TRAVEL FUND

Nearly 900 donors contributed \$125,000 to the Foundation's Pride Travel Fund in support of the Mountaineer Marching Band.

The annual campaign was established to help defray the costs of travel for the band, including transportation, hotels and food for the more than 350 members and staff.

"Thank you to all who contributed to this campaign," said Mountaineer Marching Band Director Stephen Lytle. "The costs to transport, house, and feed the band are significant. Just taking the band off campus for a short day trip can cost over \$10,000. We are committed to supporting our team and serving as ambassadors for the University and state of West Virginia. Your donations go a long way in helping meet that mission."

With the financial assistance of private donors, the University and the WVU Athletic Department, the Pride was able to travel to North Carolina in September for the football game against Tennessee. The band also made appearances in Princeton and Kingwood for in-state exhibition performances.

"Our alumni and friends have been extremely generous once again this year. On behalf of my colleagues at the WVU Foundation, we thank all of you for your support," said Mary Esposito, who headed up the campaign for the Foundation.



**The Pride performs in Princeton, W.Va.**