A Tradition of Innovation: Transforming the Learning Experience

With the much-anticipated launch of the redesigned MBA curriculum this past fall, the Stanford Graduate School of Business set out to transform the learning experience through innovation at every level. With the hard work and commitment of faculty, alumni, staff, and students, the school is taking full advantage of our scale and strength as a deeply collaborative community.

We are integrating an emphasis on critical thinking, leadership skills, the global context of business, and a multidisciplinary approach to all we do. In the new course Critical Analytical Thinking, students were challenged each week to research a topic in depth, outline their position in a concise paper and rigorously defend it during small-group sessions. As another example, leadership skills of all first-year students were developed in weekly labs and then put to the test during the intense, daylong Executive Challenge in December, which brought some 160 alumni back to campus to serve as judges while students faced simulated business situations. I speak for both students and alumni when I say it was a rewarding experience all around.

Then, over the winter break, many students’ eyes were opened and minds expanded by the Service Learning Program and study trips to destinations such as Guatemala, India, and Ghana, where they learned about social entrepreneurship and the challenges of doing business in different cultures.

As hubs for teaching, research, student programs, and alumni and community engagement, our academic centers serve as catalysts for many of these innovative opportunities. They dramatically shape the student experience by instilling the four components of a managerial mindset that are critical to their development as future leaders: leadership, entrepreneurship, global awareness, and social innovation. The school’s programs and activities apply these same concepts to multidisciplinary partnerships that are part of the university’s broader focus on the environment, international affairs, human health, K-12 education, and arts and creativity.

An example of one of these collaborations is the upcoming April 22 conference, Socially and Environmentally Responsible Supply Chains, sponsored by the GSB’s Center for Social Innovation and the Global Supply Chain Management Forum, in collaboration with the school of engineering and business. The event will explore how responsible supply chain practices can fundamentally change business models, lead to overall improved business performance, and strengthen organizations.

Another recent sold-out event was the Lifelong Learning program Reduce Your Ecological Footprint, hosted by the GSB and open to all Stanford alumni. The featured professors from across the university explored ecological issues and ideas that ranged from green buildings and water scarcity to efforts undertaken by China and India to reduce their environmental impact.

At the Leading Matters Stanford alumni event in Seattle held in January, I had the opportunity to discuss how we are developing leaders to tackle key social issues through our partnership with the School of Education. Our two schools sponsored the MA Education/MBA program, the longest-standing joint degree program of its kind in the country, and the most popular of the school’s joint degree opportunities. The program emphasizes leadership in an education context and is supported by tremendous entrepreneurial energy aimed at the nonprofit and public education arena.

These transformational programs, courses, and events are made possible by the generosity of donors. This newsletter gives you a snapshot of alumni and friends who have invested in a range of GSB priorities. As part of the university-wide campaign, our priorities include a focus on annual giving, our centers, student financial aid, faculty support, and our new campus.

We are grateful for the many alumni and friends who share our vision of providing the best possible management education to prepare future leaders to address society’s biggest challenges. Every gift to the GSB matters, and every gift counts toward The Stanford Challenge. Thank you for being a part of the tradition of innovation that has always been our hallmark.
Investors in Social Innovation
Leverage Matching Fund

Investors in Social Innovation leveraged others’ gifts to advance the center’s important work for positive social change,” say Mansui and Beckman.

So far, the list of alumni and friends who have taken advantage of the match includes Steve and Shelley Brown, BA ’74; Ivette and Chuck Eserman, MBA ’82; Catherine Kennedy, BA ’76 and Dan Grossman, MBA ’76; Kevin Hall, MBA ’88; Christine and Lenny Mendonca, MBA ’87; Louise and Claude Rosenberg, BA ’50; MBA ’52; and the Barrett Foundation.

The Morgridges' gift and the commitments it has fueled ensure that the center can continue to prepare and inspire future leaders to look for innovative and collaborative solutions to the world’s most pressing issues.

“Finding a reason to give to the center was never difficult, given the groundbreaking and critically important nature of its work,” says Lenny Mendonca. “But it was even easier to make a new investment knowing that it doubled its power thanks to the matching funds.”

Longtime Champion of Center
Expands Support with Endowed Faculty Position

The power of collective giving got a whole lot greater when John Morgridge, MBA ’57, and his wife, Tasha, made a $5 million gift to the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. It is the gift that will keep on giving by encouraging others to literally double their money.

Thanks to the generosity of the Morgridges, the center is able to match, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, gifts to selected expendable and endowed center funds. Nearly a dozen people have leveraged their gifts through the MORGRIDGE-CSI MATCHING FUND. Their donations are going to such programs as the Stanford Management Internship Fund, which supplements the salary that nonprofit, public, and social purpose for-profit companies pay GSB students during summer internships. Donors have also directed gifts to CSI’s flagship Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders, which generates powerful and practical insights about leadership and management and a richer understanding of how to integrate the organizational mission with economic strategy.

Others have given to the CSI INNOVATION FUND to provide important annual support for the growth of new curricular and co-curricular programs for students, new course development, faculty teaching and facilitation, research support, and coordination of alumni involvement.

Connie Mansui and Bill Beckman, both MBA ’77, appreciated the opportunity to increase their own contributions to the center, to which they have been consistent donors.

“We applaud the Morgridges’ investment, which further leverages others’ gifts to advance the center’s important work for positive social change,” say Mansui and Beckman.

So far, the list of alumni and friends who have taken advantage of the match includes Steve and Shelley Brown, BA ’74; Ivette and Chuck Eserman, MBA ’82; Catherine Kennedy, BA ’76 and Dan Grossman, MBA ’76; Kevin Hall, MBA ’88; Christine and Lenny Mendonca, MBA ’87; Louise and Claude Rosenberg, BA ’50; MBA ’52; and the Barrett Foundation.

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The impact of the GSB goes far beyond its students and alumni, beyond the Spanish-style arcades and red-tiled roofs of Stanford University. There is no better illustration of that than Susan Ford Dorsey. As the president of Sand Hill Foundation, she is involved in a wealth of community activities and a wide variety of philanthropic ventures. One of her top priorities at the business school is the Center for Social Innovation (CSI).

Her interests cut across many lines, just as the collaborative work of the center bridges traditional sector boundaries to help address pressing social problems. Ford Dorsey, one of the founders of the center, recently expanded her programmatic support and also endowed the SUSAN FORD DORSEY FACULTY FELLOW AWARD to honor faculty at the GSB who are involved with or have an interest or expertise in the work of the center. The first holder of the award is James M. Patell, the Herbert Hoover Professor of Public and Private Management.

“It’s the faculty who are the crux of the program,” Ford Dorsey says. “They’re the ones who do the research and teaching and inspire their students to be innovative and to go out and change the world.” Her fund will provide critical financial support to underwrite faculty salary, research time and expenses, course and case development, and related activities.

Ford Dorsey’s involvement with the center goes back to its roots. In the late 1990s she, along with her friend—GSB alumna and lecturer Laura Armillaga, MBA ’97—lobbied for the school to start executive programs for nonprofit and philanthropic leaders.

“The area of nonprofit management, while it doesn’t sound very sexy, is critical to the success of this whole domain,” says Ford Dorsey. “People who are leaders have to have the skills to envision ideas and put together an organization that can execute them.”

Social entrepreneurship is another area that resonates with Ford Dorsey and her family: Her stepson, Stanford undergraduate Jonathan Dorsey, took the course Social Entrepreneurship from CSI lecturer Rick Aubry, a CSI fellow regarded as one of the leading social entrepreneurs in the country. Jonathan Dorsey’s interest in the field stemmed from a trip he made to Zambia in 2005 to work with a nonprofit organization conducting AIDS education. The experience inspired him to co-found a nonprofit organization working on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Africa.

The center represents a cornerstone of the GSB’s multidisciplinary approach to management and leadership education—in particular for those who are working to create social and environmental value. Through the establishment of the SUSAN FORD DORSEY FACULTY FELLOW AWARD, she is fueling an area of personal passion—social innovation—as well as enabling the school to honor outstanding senior faculty and to encourage rising stars among junior faculty members.

Susan Ford Dorsey demonstrates her commitment to nonprofit management and social entrepreneurship at the Center for Social Innovation.
Alumni and Friends Help Build a Better GSB:
The Knight Management Center

Stanford Graduate School of Business offers a wealth of experiential learning opportunities that inspire men and women to put their leadership skills into action. Richard Rainwater, MBA ’68, embraced that spirit when he issued a challenge to the school in fall 2007. Rainwater will make a $50 million commitment to the school’s new campus if the GSB can raise an additional $50 million by June 2008.

“By motivating others to invest in this once-in-a-lifetime effort, we will transform the business school and keep it at the forefront of management education,” says Rainwater.

Rainwater realizes time is of the essence. The GSB needs to demonstrate significant fundraising progress to the university’s Board of Trustees before the anticipated construction approval this summer. His magnanimous gesture will be recognized by naming the central Serra Street classroom building the Class of 1968 Hall.

Rainwater is not the first GSB graduate to lead by example with a generous campus gift. The new campus will be named the Knight Management Center in honor of a $100 million gift from Phil Knight, MBA ’62, the founder and chairman of Nike.

The $50 million will be used to support the front-end costs of achieving LEED® Platinum level certification—the Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Design (LEED®) Platinum level awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. Meeting this ambitious goal requires significant investment, and several leaders have stepped up to put their money where their ideals are.

Along with a lead gift of $5 million from C. Angus Wurtele, MBA ’61, and his wife, Margaret von Blon, the GSB CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FUND was initially established by Larry Orr, MBA ’82, and his wife, Nicole Lederer. It is a dedicated fund to support the front-end costs of achieving LEED® Platinum for the new campus. The goal is to raise $15 million, and so far donors have given or pledged about $7 million.

“We are delighted to be among the first supporters of the GSB’s commitment to create a flagship for the economic and environmental principles that will define our future,” say Orr and Lederer.

Jane Woodward, MBA ’87, inspired her company, Mineral Acquisition Partners, to make a gift, and also rallied her classmates to contribute nearly $1.7 million to the CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FUND.

“Our class is continuing a strong tradition of signaling the importance of environmental responsibility in business,” Woodward says. “Just as the GSB taught us to be leaders, we are helping the school set an example in this critical area.”

LEED® promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Additional credit is given for design innovation.

Planners are looking closely at a host of green features. Those include using rainwater or recirculated gray water for the building’s sewage system, and choosing materials that emit little or no volatile organic compounds that cause poor indoor air quality. Designers are exploring a system that monitors indoor and outdoor temperatures and lets people know when it is acceptable to open the windows, helping to reduce air conditioning.

“The Knight Management Center will demonstrate how smart building design can dramatically reduce environmental impacts and decrease lifetime cost. This effort represents a tremendous opportunity for the school to promote environmental leadership by demonstrating its environmental commitment to academia, business, and the world.

Going Green: Environmental Sustainability for the New Business School Campus

When the Stanford Graduate School of Business set out to build an entirely new campus, its faculty, staff, and students knew they wanted it to be environmentally friendly. True to form, the school decided to reach for the top and follow the advice of its Environmental Sustainability Taskforce to aim for the highest level of environmental certification—the Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Design (LEED®) Platinum level awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Meeting this ambitious goal requires significant investment, and several leaders have stepped up to put their money where their ideas are.

A view of the new GSB campus, to be named the Knight Management Center, looks out from the Dining Pavilion to the Town Square, faculty office building, and library.

Going Green: Environmental Sustainability for the New Business School Campus
FaLL Reunions

1 Fifth Reunion fundraising committee members Sarah Stein and Cheryl Frank celebrate with classmates. (Left to right) Sarah Stein, MBA ’02; Charles Hulme Cleveland; L. Frank Salisbury, MBA ’02; Claire Ellis, MBA ’02; and Cheryl Frank, MBA ’02.

JOHN W. GARDNER VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARDS

2 The John W. Gardner Volunteer Leadership Award honors alumni who have demonstrated a history of strong leadership commitment in many different areas. (Left to right) Linda Segre, MBA ’87; Tom Arnett, MBA ’57; Jim King, MBA ’77; and Dean Joss. Award recipient Kurt Hauser, MBA ’02, is not pictured.

SLOAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

3 In celebration of 50 years of the Stanford Sloan Masters Program, more than 750 alumni and guests gathered on campus September 13–15 to mark the occasion. Forty-seven out of fifty Sloan classes were represented—including representation from the very first Sloan class. The weekend blended thought-provoking panels with festive social occasions and opportunities to reconnect with classmates and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Attendees especially enjoyed the mixing of the different generations of the Sloan alumni. (Left to right) Charlie Smith and his wife, Jean, and Scott Bushey. Both Charlie and Scott are from the class of ’58, the very first Sloan class at the GSB.

ASpen institute Awards in New York

4 Dean Robert L. Joss (right) speaks on a panel at the Aspen Institute award ceremony in New York on November 16. The GSB once again was ranked first in the Institute’s “Beyond Grey Pinstripes” survey of business schools. The biennial survey examines the integration of social and environmental issues in MBA programs and faculty research. The school also received the award in 2005.

Arbuckle Award Dinner

5 Barbara, BA ’43 (second from left) and George Jedenoff, BA ’40, MBA ’42 (far right) enjoy the 2008 Arbuckle Award Dinner on February 27 with fellowship recipients Ana Garza Munoz Castillo, MBA Class of ’09 (far left), and doctoral candidate Marius Niculescu (second from right). The couple was inspired to create the GEORGE A. AND BARBARA CUEL JEDENOFF FELLOWSHIP at the GSB after George’s experience for many years as the class secretary and contact for the MBA CLASS OF 1942 FELLOWSHIP. The annual event brings together current student recipients with alumni and friends who have endowed GSB fellowships.
Stanford GSB-Tsinghua Exchange Program

As part of the Stanford GSB-Tsinghua School of Economics and Management Exchange Program (STEP), students visit Facebook corporate headquarters on January 28. STEP provides experiential learning opportunities that allow students from both schools to develop personal relationships as well as to explore issues relevant to management, business, and society in each other’s cultures. (Left to right) Min-Soo Kim; Logan Gaskill, MBA Class of '08; Helen Meng; Patrick Devaney; and Aimei Dong.

Executive Challenge

The Executive Challenge engages alumni judges with first-year MBA students in a series of experiential leadership challenges. The December 5 event simulated difficult issues that CEOs and senior leaders face in a typical day. The GSB brought together alumni and executives from around the world to participate in this one-of-a-kind learning experience that is part of the school’s new curriculum. Special thanks to corporate sponsors Abbott, Infosys, Lehman Brothers, and PepsiCo. (Left to right) Steven Aldrich, MBA ’95; Scott H. Richland, MBA ’87; and Sacha Lainovic, MBA ’81; along with several first-year MBA students in a board room simulation.

Middle East Study Trip

Students visit with the president and CEO of Dubai Sports City, one of many company visits during the school’s first global study trip to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. This trip in December 2007 offered a powerful combination of old versus new that showcased the region’s rich history and future growth opportunities.

View from the Top with Richard Fairbank

Richard Fairbank, MBA ’81, CEO of Capital One, addresses a standing-room-only crowd on November 8 as part of the View from the Top speaker series sponsored by the Center for Leadership Development and Research.

Leading Matters in Seattle

The kick-off Leading Matters Stanford alumni event held in Seattle on January 26 featured a thought-provoking day. More than 800 alumni, parents, and friends came out for an inside look at Stanford’s major initiatives in conversation with deans, faculty, and students. President John Hennessy (left) led a panel discussion with students including David King, MBA Class of ‘08 (far right).
The Sloan 50th Reunion was a special anniversary year. In total, Sloans contributed $446,239 to the Sloan Endowment Fund, which provides resources to underwrite program innovations and curricular enhancements in perpetuity to maintain the quality and diversity of its student body. The engagement and leadership of the Moghadams is testament to Stanford’s community of generous friends. The Moghadams are involved with a number of community organizations and social structures in which they work. The author of numerous articles on the psychology of power and on group behavior, she teaches popular courses on these and related topics to GSB students, alumni, and executives at Stanford. The Moghadams are also involved in the Stanford Management Company, a San Francisco-based global property company. “As business leaders, we directly benefit from the knowledge and insight they provide, and I’m proud to give back to the school in this way.”

The GSB is grateful to the many Sloan alumni who made contributions in the Sloan 50th anniversary year. More than 275 Sloan alumni made gifts, representing 17% participation and a 47% increase over the number of Sloan alumni donations the prior year. In total, Sloans contributed $446,239 to the GSB in the anniversary year.

Pekka T. Hietala, MA ’85, PhD ’87, a well-known finance scholar who charted a pivotal period in his academic career path from his native Finland to Stanford, was inspired to give back in support of The Sloan Challenge and its focus on educating future leaders. With gratitude for the opportunities he had as a beneficiary of fellowship support during his doctoral studies, Hietala endowed the EISA and HELENA HIETALA PHD FELLOWSHIP in honor of his parents. “The purpose of this fellowship is not to ‘repay’ the GSB for the educational experience I had. That wonderful experience cannot be measured in monetary terms,” he notes. “The purpose of this fellowship is to pay at least the financial support the GSB gave me. Without that support, I simply could not have come to Stanford. I now want to create a similar opportunity for as many other students as possible.”

A professor of finance and former dean of the MBA program at INSEAD in France, Hietala is no stranger to the increasing competition among business schools to recruit the best students. He understands that fellowships are central to the GSB’s ability to attract the most talented PhD candidates, and that to maintain the quality and diversity of its student body, the school provides full fellowships—typically in excess of $43,000 per year—for all its doctoral students throughout their four to six years of study at Stanford. “It is important for me to help future generations of scholars without placing financial constraints on them. For those of us who pursue academic careers, it truly is a gift to have been able to study among such outstanding fellow PhD students and faculty at the GSB,” says Hietala.

Through the generosity of donors like Hietala who understand the value of fellowship support, the school can continue to expand its intellectual reach and impact as exemplified by the research and work of its distinguished PhD alumni.

Student Financial Aid: Inspiring the Next Generation

With a highly selective and dynamic doctoral program, it is no surprise that the Stanford GSB attracts promising scholars from all corners of the globe. The mission of the Graduate School of Business is to be a Stanford Sloan alumnus.”

Scott Brady
Sloan 2000

Investing in Faculty: The Moghadam Family Professorship

A endowed chair is a living memorial to intellectual and philanthropic values. With the recent establishment of the MOGHADAM FAMILY PROFESSORSHIP in the Graduate School of Business, Christina, BA ’78, and Hamid Moghadam, MBA ’80, add their names to an honor roll of donors who treasure academic excellence and independence. “Our superior faculty drives the success of the GSB as the best business school in the world,” says Hamid Moghadam, co-founder, chairman, and CEO of AMB Property Corporation, a San Francisco-based global property company. “As business leaders, we directly benefit from the knowledge and insight they provide, and I’m proud to give back to the school in this way.”

The couple is involved with a number of community organizations and at Stanford. Hamid’s activities include his service on the Board of Trustees of the university, the Advisory Council and the Campaign Steering Committee at the GSB, and as chairman of the Stanford Management Company. Tina served for many years on the board of the Stanford Women’s Club of San Francisco. As the inaugural chairholder of the MOGHADAM FAMILY PROFESSORSHIP, Deborah H Greenfeld joins a roster of distinguished faculty members, scholars with the drive to reach the summit in their disciplines. Greenfeld is a social psychologist whose research and teaching examine how people are transformed by the organizations and social structures in which they work. The author of numerous articles on the psychology of power and on group behavior, she teaches popular courses on these and related topics to GSB students, alumni, and executives at Stanford.

In the MBA program, Greenfeld teaches required courses on teams and organizational behavior and offers the elective Acting with Power. She also works with students in many of Stanford’s Executive Education programs as co-director of the Stanford Executive Program for Women; the Stanford Faculty Women’s Forum Workshop on Leadership, Management, and Influence; and the Women Lead program for GSB alumni as part of the school’s Lifelong Learning offerings. “It is a great honor to receive this recognition for my work and for my contributions to Stanford and the Graduate School of Business,” Greenfeld reflects. “I am inspired by and indebted to my colleagues, my mentors and advisors, and my many, many incredible students. I am surrounded by people who throw themselves, heart-first, at what matters to them, and they personally change everything that they touch.”

The MOGHADAM FAMILY PROFESSORSHIP in the Graduate School of Business will benefit generations of students and faculty, and the world at large. The engagement and leadership of the Moghadams is testament to Stanford’s community of generous friends.
Inspired by the faculty's vision for a redesigned MBA curriculum that features an integrated global approach and experiential real-world learning opportunities for students, Roger Deromedi, MBA '77, and his family recently established endowed and expendable funds to support the Center for Global Business and the Economy (CGBE).

As chairman of Pinnacle Foods Corporation and a former CEO of Kraft Foods Inc., Deromedi is keenly aware of the impact of globalization on today's increasingly complex business environment in which companies of all sizes and types now routinely contend with operations and employees dispersed around the world. He understands that a rigorous academic environment for management education must incorporate global perspectives into both the classroom and the research undertaken by faculty.

“I wanted to invest in the future of the Center for Global Business and the Economy because of the strong need for more global-minded business leaders,” Deromedi explains. “During my 30 years in the global food industry, I was continually confronted with managers caught in the paradigm of their own local view.”

The center is a natural hub for a wide range of activities, encompassing research, teaching, and community engagement that help instill global awareness as a key component of the managerial mindset in all GSB students. Faculty affiliated with the CGBE collaborate with colleagues on campus, including engaging in multidisciplinary programs and research with the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

The center supports student programs, faculty research, and the development of new courses and cases that tackle issues such as solutions for alleviating global poverty, strategies for multinational firms, and the economic impact of globalization. The center also provides a forum for debate and creates experiential programs that offer students and faculty firsthand opportunities to translate theory into practice. The center's Global Management Program coordinates the Global Experience Requirement in the newly redesigned curriculum, the Global Management certificate option within the MBA degree, and the Global Management Immersion Experience summer internships. It also provides students with international career resources.

Gifts that support centers—like this one from the Deromedi family—are critical in helping achieve the school's goals to foster collaborative opportunities on international issues that affect society at large.

Environmental and Business Innovation Go Hand In Hand

According to the prestigious Aspen Institute survey, the Stanford Graduate School of Business is the top business school for students interested in sustainability. With courses such as Environmental Science for Managers and Policy Makers, real-world projects such as greening the school's cafeteria, and service learning trips to countries such as Guatemala, where students studied sustainable agriculture, the GSB is fostering a strong environmental conscience in future business leaders. Alumni are committed to ensuring that the GSB continues to be a leader in this field, and a group of alumni has established the ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION FUND.

Gene Sykes, MBA '84; Bill Patterson, MBA '89; and Joe Gleberman, MBA '82; pooled their resources to establish a seed fund for the school's various environmental activities that contribute to the university's broader initiative on the environment and sustainability.

“We are impressed by many of the environmental initiatives that are already underway at the GSB, but recognize that by committing capital to support these activities and encourage their expansion, the GSB can play a more important role in Stanford’s environmental strategy,” says Sykes.

The fund broadly supports faculty teaching and research in environmental areas as they relate to course and case development, executive education programs such as Business Strategies for Environmental Sustainability, student programs and clubs, and multidisciplinary or collaborative initiatives involving other university schools and programs. The fund also provides an opportunity for GSB alumni and friends who share a passion for the environment to focus their giving on related efforts at the school.

One of the newest programs to benefit from the fund is the new joint MBA/MS degree offered by the GSB and the Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources that educates students in environmental problem solving. The new degree program enhances opportunities for students who want to combine professional business training with the knowledge and perspective needed to address global environmental challenges. The fund also enables the school to concentrate financial resources on the breadth of environment-related activities currently being pursued by students and faculty.

The generosity of the three alumni helps the school respond to this rapidly growing interest in the GSB community. It also shows that establishing a fund in an area of personal passion can be an ultimate win-win situation, benefiting all concerned—donors, the school, students, and the planet.

“The world’s environmental challenges are complex and will require new ideas, enlightened management, and market-based solutions. Stanford’s GSB is ideally positioned to make a meaningful impact across all these dimensions,” says Patterson.

“The ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION FUND provides a compelling vehicle for our philanthropic capital to accelerate the pace of change.”

I have such an amazing wealth of resources at my disposal at Stanford. The list of unique opportunities available to me goes on and on and on.”

Emma Wendt
MBA/MS in Environment and Resources, Class of ’08
Connecting through Volunteerism

The spirit of volunteerism that animates Robin Reynolds, MBA ’01, is evident through the many forms of service she has taken within the GSB community. Since graduation, she has been a non-stop volunteer in a multitude of areas, including as a pro bono consultant with the Alumni Consulting Team (ACT), fundraising chair for her fifth reunion, and member of the Business School Fund Council. In these roles, her engagement in the life of the school continually brings new opportunities for intellectually stimulating projects, new and renewed friendships, and a shared appreciation for what it takes to drive the teaching and research innovations that are the hallmark of the GSB.

Reynolds recalls the impact of one of her projects as an ACT volunteer. “We were tasked with developing a strategic plan to help the Oakland Zoo prepare for a major expansion focusing on native California wildlife. By bringing together the combined business skills of fellow GSB alumni consultants, we had a direct impact on a wonderful nonprofit organization,” she reflects. Inspired by her experience, Reynolds became a trustee for the Oakland Zoo and serves as chair of its development committee.

Reynolds’ involvement has reinforced her convictions about the role that all alumni have in ensuring the success of the school through their collective commitment of both financial resources and time. “For me, it starts with the realization that my consistent annual gifts coupled with those of my classmates and fellow alumni are what make it possible for the school to undertake the incredible changes to the curriculum that were launched this year.”

“My time as a student at the GSB was just the beginning,” Reynolds notes. “I find great satisfaction in having an impact through the volunteer roles that I’ve taken on at the school, and volunteering keeps me connected to a place that continues to mean so much to me.”