CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
Key alumni are playing a major role in guiding the GSB during The Stanford Challenge. The following people serve on the school’s campaign steering committee, giving generously of their time to help ensure a bright future for the GSB.

Chair
Robert L. Joss, Sloan ’66, MBA ’67, PhD ’70

Co-Chairs
Robert M. Bass, MBA ’74
Mayree C. Clark, MBA ’81
James G. Coulter, MBA ’86
Michael G. McCaffery, MBA ’82
Robert G. Scott, MBA ’70
Gene T. Sykes, MBA ’84

Members
Rocky Barber, AB ’73, MS ’73, MBA ’75
Jeffrey T. Chambers, MBA ’80
Carol F. Dressler, AM ’68, SEP ’75
Terry Eakin III, MBA ’68
Jerker M. Johansson, MBA ’86
Chia-Lee, BS ’75, MS ’75, MBA ’79
Hamid R. Moghadam, MBA ’80
George G. C. Parker, MBA ’62, PhD ’67
William J. Patterson, MBA ’89
Scott M. Stuart, MBA ’86
John A. Svoboda, MBA ’83
Sharon A. Marine
Associate Dean for Development

Building the Future: Launching Students on Lives of Meaning and Impact

With this school-specific issue of Stanford Benefactor as the first of my tenure as dean, I am deeply grateful for the dramatic impact that you continue to make at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. As dedicated alumni and friends, you are launching us toward new possibilities that align with our highest aspirations to change lives, change organizations, change the world. We are taking full advantage of the momentum and groundwork that has been laid so far within The Stanford Challenge, and we are focused on leveraging our curricular innovations, enhancing multidisciplinary partnerships, and preparing for our move to the Knight Management Center as our new home.

Your part in the success of the campaign to date is testament to both the transformative power of the GSB experience and the lasting impact of the ideas that we create here. As an institution, we are entrusted with the development of the next generation of principled leaders, and we are driven to launch students on lives of meaning and impact. What we have accomplished so far with your campaign commitments to faculty, student fellowships, programs, and our new facilities gives me great confidence. And what I experience in the classroom when I teach, on student study trips, in faculty seminars, and in my conversations with our alumni around the world brings home for me the transformational impact that we are having on so many.

Every day, I also am witnessing the rapid physical transformation that is taking place with the construction of the Knight Management Center. Given our vision for reinventing management education, we have designed our new home to support today’s GSB community and also to provide space that will be flexible enough to enable growth and change in the decades to come. With partial occupancy scheduled for late 2010, we will have the physical infrastructure we need to fully realize our vision. To view our construction via live webcam and find out more, see: www.gsb.stanford.edu/knightcenter.

Following the significant early commitment from Philip H. Knight, MBA ’62, many of you have stepped up to generously invest in our vision for our new home. We have been able to take advantage of the economic climate to negotiate favorable pricing on contracts for key materials and construction costs. The project also continues on schedule toward its goals with regard to financing, costs, and progress toward LEED Platinum certification. However, we are also actively seeking an additional $25 million toward our funding goals.

When our primary classroom and administration building, GSB South, was constructed some 40 years ago, we could not have envisioned the evolution our space would require today. Stanford also is unusual among its peers in having a locus of graduate and professional students on one contiguous campus. To leverage our existing partnerships, to create new ones, and to fully implement our curricular innovations, expansion of our physical facilities became imperative.

We are working hard to ensure that every facet of our new home is dynamic and serves our mission and culture. To that end, extensive planning has been underway to ensure that the Knight Management Center will:

• Create a rich intellectual environment and reflect our spirit of innovation;
• Encourage collaboration within and beyond the GSB;
• Demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability; and
• Serve as a magnet for the rest of the university as a premier destination on campus.

After 19 years as a faculty member and as a doctoral candidate here before that, one of my great joys now in my new role is that I am immersed even further in the creativity, ideas, and energy that permeate every aspect of the GSB community. Thank you for your generous investment in building our future and for bringing that spirit of innovation to all you have done and continue to do.

Garth Saloner
Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean
AM ’81, MS ’82, PhD ’92
When three friends from the MBA Class of 1989 made a gift to the Stanford Graduate School of Business on the occasion of their 20th reunion, they decided to recognize a classmate who has helped improve the lives of nearly two million people.

Mark Koulogeorge, Scott Macomber, and David Wong felt making a $300,000 investment in the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) in honor of Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, was a fitting way to give back to the school. Their investment will be matched by $300,000 from the Meorgridge CSI Matching Fund, which leverages gifts from alumni and friends, giving momentum to CSI as it seeks innovative and collaborative solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

“One reason I wanted to do this is to recognize Jonathan’s service and leadership of Habitat for Humanity’s nonprofit work around the world,” said Koulogeorge, managing partner of MK Capital in Northbrook, Illinois. “Secondly, I wanted to do this as a message to the Stanford community, holding up Jonathan’s choices as an example. New MBA graduates need to realize nonprofit work is a career path and an option—a critically important one.”

Koulogeorge encouraged classmates Macomber, of Los Altos Hills, California, and Wong, of Los Angeles, to join him in making the investment in the CSI.

“It’s fitting to recognize Jonathan’s work with a contribution to the center since the business school helped prepare him for the life-changing work he does with Habitat,” said Wong, president of DHW Capital in Los Angeles. “We’re proud of what Jonathan has accomplished and support the school’s efforts to educate the next generation of principled business leaders.”

With professional experience ranging from Wall Street to corporate suites to church ministry, Jonathan Reckford has, since 2005, led an organization that has built more than 350,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

Before being named CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, Reckford served for two years as executive pastor of the 4,300-member Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, Minnesota. Before that he was president of stores for the Musicland division of Best Buy, senior vice president of corporate planning and communications for Circuit City, and director of strategic planning for Disney Design and Development.

His classmates’ gift will help support programs like Service Learning Trips, where students work side by side with social entrepreneurs committed to improving their communities; events sponsored by student clubs that bring to campus the greatest minds in social innovation and environmental sustainability; and summer internships for students working in public, nonprofit, or social purpose for-profit organizations—all opportunities offered through the Public Management Program as part of CSI.

T en academic degrees. Nearly 20 volunteer roles. Gifts to 25 funds across the university. The Vidalakis family has a long history with Stanford University and, specifically, with the Graduate School of Business. The patriarch of the family, Nick Vidalakis, MBA ’55, Sloan ‘60, PhD ’61, is one of Stanford’s biggest champions. He recently rallied his family foundation to make one of its largest gifts, this time to the GSB’s new home, the Knight Management Center.

In recognition of the investment of $1 million, the Vidalakis Family Foundation will name a classroom dedicated to the Stanford Sloan Master’s Program. With the gift, “Dr. Nick,” as he is family known, wants to inspire other Sloan alumni to give back to the GSB by supporting the new center, which was designed to fully implement the school’s revamped curriculum.

Vidalakis felt it was important to support the GSB’s new home because Stanford has meant so much to him and his family during their association with the university.

“Dr. Nick wanted to give back to the university for another reason. In 1996 they made a gift that was recognized by the naming of the Vidalakis Dining Hall and Courtyard in the Schwab Residential Center. When the Knight Management Center was completed, the family’s name will be on both sides of Serra Street, linking both parts of the GSB. While Stanford instilled a sense of business savvy in Dr. Nick that paved the road for his future success, he is most thankful to the university for another reason.

“The greatest gift that Stanford gave me was my wife, Nancy. I applied to a number of places and got in, and it was the good Lord’s will that I went to Stanford and met Nancy,” he said. “She’s the greatest human being I’ve ever met.”

In addition to Nancy Vidalakis, who has supported the school both financially and in a volunteer capacity, the Vidalakis family includes son George, BS ’84, MS ’85, MBA ’90, son John, BS ’87, MS ’88, daughter Nicole, PhD ’03; and son Perry, AB ’85.

Vidalakis Family gives Back with Capital Gift

An aerial view of the Knight Management Center. With its eight buildings and open spaces in various construction phases, the 12.5-acre site is scheduled for completion in late 2010. PHOTO: Skyhawk Photography

As part of a Service Learning Trip, MBA students meet with representatives of AparGeEx, an organization that brings traditional Indian medicines to the poor in Mumbai.

PHOTO: courtesy of donor

Nancy, son George, daughter Nicole, and son John. Sloan ’60, PhD ’61, with his family: son Perry, wife Lord’s will that I went to Stanford and met Nancy,” he said. “We feel strongly that you have to give back, and there was no place we felt more strongly about giving back to.”

The Vidalakis Sloan classroom will be located in the southeastern part of the new GSB site at the intersection of Serra Street and Campus Drive. The tiered classroom will seat an entire Sloan class and more, and will be designed to encourage student interaction and allow the instructor or presenter to move around the room and engage the audience.

The Sloan classroom will mark the second time the Vidalakis family has left its mark on the school’s physical facilities. In 1996 they made a gift that was recognized by the naming of the Vidalakis Dining Hall and Courtyard in the Schwab Residential Center. When the Knight Management Center was completed, the family’s name will be on both sides of Serra Street, linking both parts of the GSB.

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Couple Honored for Extraordinary Volunteerism

Among the members of the MBA Class of 1982, one Bay Area couple stands out for volunteer service across an impressive array of activities. Julie Kaufman, the class secretary, sits on the board of the Stanford Business School Alumni Association, participates in the Women's Initiative Network, and conducts market research studies for the GSB alumni relations office. She also served as a co-chair for their 25th reunion planning committee. Her husband, Walter J. Niemasik Jr., gives his time as an alumni mentor, sharing insights from his experience as chairman and CEO of Snyder Capital Management in San Francisco, and also served as a class agent and as a co-chair for their 25th reunion fundraising campaign. Both have volunteered as admissions interviewers for the GSB and as Leading Matters steering committee members for the university.

For their resounding success in leading their 25th reunion, Niemasik and Kaufman, along with reunion committee co-chairs Julie Evard Silcock, Victoria Chang, and Lynn O'Leary Pieron, received the Stanford Associates Award of Merit last spring. Given by the Stanford Alumni Association, the honor crowns the couple's long history of service to the GSB. With the unspoken mantra “keep it fun,” the MBA Class of 1982 put on a 25th reunion that set a record for fundraising participation at 79% and another record for attendance with 141 attendees. They also raised $12.3 million in gifts for the GSB and as Leading Matters steering committee members for the university.

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With the unspoken mantra “keep it fun,” the MBA Class of 1982 put on a 25th reunion that set a record for fundraising participation at 79% and another record for attendance with 141 attendees. They also raised $12.3 million in gifts for the school. “The tremendous outcome showed the breadth of support for the GSB among our classmates,” said Niemasik. He and his co-chairs assembled an unusually large fundraising committee of 55 people. Each member was assigned to make only five or so outreach calls, allowing for a more personalized approach. When reunion weekend rolled around, the planning committee orchestrated a wonderful program of events at the Schwab Center. An unexpected windfall occurred at a Saturday night gathering when one classmate began playing his guitar and singing. After some time, and some wine, he “passed the hat,” saying he would keep playing if his classmates contributed to the ‘82 fund. “Some classmates who had seldom or never given made donations,” Niemasik noted.

Reunion giving makes up a large percentage of the unrestricted funds raised each year for the GSB. These funds help drive curricular innovations such as small-group seminars, new electives, in-depth international study trips, media-rich instructional tools, and co-curricular student club activities. Together and separately, Niemasik and Kaufman say they support the vision of the GSB, with the conviction that their impact extends well beyond the school by contributing to the education of future leaders. “We enable organizations to solve some of the most vexing problems we face as a world community,” said Niemasik in explaining why the pair gives so generously of their time, expertise, and support.

Encouraging Collaboration Through Multidisciplinary Fellowships

In transforming the model for business education for the decades ahead, the Graduate School of Business has undertaken a complex endeavor stemming from a simple truth: tomorrow’s leaders must tackle challenging issues across borders and disciplines. For the rising number of business students who choose to explore the intersection of business and the environment, the MBA/MS option allows them to pursue a joint degree in collaboration with the Emi...
R. Michael Shanahan, AB ’60, MBA ’65, was honored with the Arbuckle Award in 2009 in recognition of his exemplary leadership. PHOTO: Steve Castillo

**Gifts Help Transform Educational Experience at the GSB**

Transformational gifts create significant change by focusing on key priorities that have the power to shape the future for generations to come. At the Stanford Graduate School of Business, alumni who look to the future often are inspired by the impact the school has had on them, not just professionally but personally as well.

R. Michael Shanahan, AB ’60, MBA ’65, continues to define that tradition of transformation at the GSB. Renowned as a savvy investor, Shanahan, who is chairman emeritus of Capital Research and Management Co., recently chose to make another significant investment—in this case toward student financial aid and curricular innovation—two key areas of priority for the school.

Shanahan cites good reason to embrace his education and credits the efforts of the late Dean Ernest C. Arbuckle. As Shanahan sees it, the MBA Class of ’65 was one of the first to benefit from Arbuckle’s drive to recruit faculty and students, revise the curriculum, and provide intensive staff support. “It was a revelation—not overwhelmingly popular, but overwhelmingly successful.”

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Shanahan is enthusiastic about the potential of the GSB to shape the future for generations to come. At the Stanford Graduate School of Business, alumni who look to the future often are inspired by the impact the school has had on them, not just professionally but personally as well.

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