



Darden Celebrates Largest-Ever Class of Principal Donors

The University of Virginia Darden School of Business welcomed a record total of 12 new Principal Donors in the fiscal year ending 30 June 2011. Their generosity will preserve Darden's legacy and position the School to thrive in the future. The School's highest designation for lifetime giving, Principal Donors are alumni and friends who have reached cumulative lifetime giving to Darden of \$1 million or more.

"We are incredibly grateful to our Principal Donors for their vision, generosity and steadfast commitment," says Trip Davis (MBA '94), president of the Darden School Foundation and senior associate dean for external relations. "The record number of new Principal Donors this year is an important milestone for the School. We are starting a new era in giving."

The Principal Donors' gifts support each of Darden's four philanthropic priorities: student fellowship and financial aid; faculty support and curriculum development; infrastructure, experience and technology; and unrestricted giving. "Philanthropy will enable us not only to keep up with the world's best business schools, but to outpace them," says Darden's Dean Bob Bruner.

Annual Fund Giving & Unrestricted Funds

Each of the 12 new Principal Donors recognized the importance of unrestricted giving — one of Darden's four philanthropic priorities — through a gift to the Darden Annual Fund or the Dean's Innovation Fund. In addition, the donors made a leadership gift to one or more of Darden's three other philanthropic priorities based on their personal interests.

Darden is a financially self-sufficient institution that no longer receives funds from the University of Virginia or the Commonwealth of Virginia. Building a pool of flexible funds that enables Dean Bruner to respond quickly and strategically to changing needs is vital to securing Darden's position as a Top Ten global business school.

Student Fellowship & Financial Aid

At the core of the Darden experience are outstanding students, whose caliber and character are particularly important because of the School's commitment to the interactive and engaging case method.

Recognizing the need for student support, a number of the new Principal Donors funded fellowships. W. L. Lyons Brown III (MBA '87) and his wife Susanna; Peter Kiernan (MBA '79), chairman of the Darden School Foundation Board of Trustees, and his wife Eaddo; and an anonymous donor endowed Darden Jefferson Fellowships, which are awarded on the basis of merit with a focus on leadership, citizenship and scholarship.

James Cooper (MBA '84) and his wife Stacy and

Philip Knisely (MBA '78) and his wife Patricia funded Colgate Darden Fellowships, which provide up to full tuition to MBA students who satisfy a fellowship's parameters, which may be stipulated by the donor. John Strangfeld Jr. (MBA '77) and his wife Mary Kay made the latest in a series of contributions to Darden's Military Initiative, which will bring exceptional current and former military officers to Darden.

Faculty Support & Curriculum Development

For Darden to realize its aspirations, leading-edge research is critical. Philanthropic gifts to Darden will establish new Centers of Excellence that enable Darden's top-ranked faculty to expand the boundaries of business knowledge. For example, in recent years, Darden alumni have rallied around a proposal to create a Center for Asset Management (CAM) to balance Darden's current strength in corporate finance with a strong program in the rapidly evolving field of asset management.

In fiscal year 2011, the Coopers, Michael O'Neill (MBA '74) and his wife Patricia, and Frank Sands Sr. (MBA '63) and his wife Marjorie supported CAM, which will build an asset management infrastructure at Darden and foster innovative research.

Two new Principal Donors directed their philanthropy towards the launch of Darden's new Global MBA for Executives (GEMBA) program, through which experienced managers will receive on-the-ground training in five regions around the world while working full time. An anonymous donor, as well as Henry Skelsey (MBA '84), former chairman of the Darden School Foundation Board of Trustees, and his wife Susan, supported the GEMBA launch.

The Infrastructure for Success

Another priority for Darden is continually improving the School's infrastructure, both physical and technological, in order to deliver the highest quality educational experience. This year, the Skelseys upgraded Classroom 160 and named it for Darden Professor Jim Clawson. Said Henry Skelsey, "I came to Darden to expand my finance and accounting knowledge, with a casual interest in other areas. Jim pushed me well beyond my comfort zone into other areas of understanding. ... His passion in the classroom was something I have never forgotten."