ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2007–2008
Community and Commitment

The closing year of the Chicago Initiative, July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, set the bar high for future fund-raising at the University of Chicago.

In September 2007 a $25 million gift from Joseph and Jeanette Neubauer to support young faculty propelled the Chicago Initiative past its $2 billion goal. By the end of the year and the campaign, the global community of Chicago alumni and friends had made FY08 the most successful year of fund-raising in the University’s history, contributing more than $376 million to bring the total amount raised during the Initiative to $2.38 billion. Among the more than 43,000 individuals and organizations who gave in FY08, more than 11,000 were new donors to the Chicago Initiative.

Alumni and friends dedicated not only financial resources but their time, experience, and enthusiasm to help the University community flourish on campus and off. Record attendance at Alumni Weekend and record participation by the Class of 2008 in their senior class gift showed that this community and its members are more engaged with the University than ever before.

The value of giving to the University, both financial and personal, is ultimately measured in its impact on research and education. Last year the tremendous impact of alumni and friends’ generosity was evident in five key areas:

» recruiting and underwriting top faculty across the disciplines
» improving financial aid for College and graduate students
» opening new and renovated classrooms, laboratories, and cocurricular spaces
» strengthening cocurricular programs for College students
» increasing investments in the city and South Side communities of which the University is a part

By making the institution a vibrant, invigorating learning environment today, these investments seed the contributions to knowledge that will be made by the Hubbles, Stiglers, Sontags, and Nambus of tomorrow.

PROGRESS OF THE CHICAGO INITIATIVE

- $2.38 Billion
- $2 Billion Campaign Goal
- $1.58 Billion
- $1.07 Billion
- $0.74 Billion

"Because of the experience they’ve had and because they know how important this is to transforming people’s lives, an enormous number of people give back to the University," says President Robert J. Zimmer, shown here with winners of the Howell Murray Award. The award recognizes graduating seniors whose contributions to cocurricular activities help shape the life of the University.
The Power of Community

More than a collection of buildings and campuses, the University of Chicago is a worldwide community of 300,000 alumni, faculty, students, staff, parents, and other friends. Our community is united by a commitment to the enrichment of human life through the creation of knowledge, defined by a passion for the most rigorous inquiry, and distinguished by discipline-defining, agenda-setting work. We know that our potential for impact on society is extraordinary, we recognize the enormous responsibility that comes with this potential, and we are proud of the contributions our community makes throughout the world each and every day.

In challenging economic times, our University community, like our families and professional communities, must make difficult choices. We are grateful that more than 117,000 individuals and families devoted a portion of their financial resources to the success of the Chicago Initiative. Through the Chicago Initiative, we strengthened our collective ability to advance knowledge and address important challenges facing our world today. We also significantly expanded the ability of members of our worldwide community to engage with each other and with the campus, through increased investments in career and professional networking services, regional networks, class activities including reunion, and communication. In the year ahead we will launch an exciting new online support tool allowing yet greater interaction among members of the University’s global community.

As you make choices about your gifts of time and financial resources in the weeks and months ahead, we hope that you will continue to make your University of Chicago community a priority. We recognize this will not be easy for some, especially this year, and we are grateful for whatever investments you will be able to make. At the same time, we hope you will take advantage of the increasing opportunities for realizing the continuing value and relevance of membership in the University of Chicago community, and we hope you will let us know how we can further improve our support.

Thank you for everything you do for the University of Chicago.

Ronald J. Schiller
Vice President for Alumni Relations and Development

The University graduated 4,455 new alumni in 2007-08. Meanwhile, the College received 12,368 applications, a new record.
The Year In Giving: Fund-raising progress in FY08

The Chicago Initiative was a momentous campaign, and its final year was its strongest.

In FY08, the University of Chicago received $376,462,827 from more than 43,000 individuals and organizations, setting a new University record for annual fund-raising. More than 11,000 of these donors were giving to the Chicago Initiative for the first time, increasing the campaign’s total number of participants by 10 percent, from 106,000 to 117,743. The Chicago Society grew by 11 percent and accounted for 95 percent of individual cash giving to the University in FY08. In June 2008, the final month of the campaign, alumni and friends gave $122 million, a record for the University and more than any other higher-education institution raised that month.

The University’s fund-raising performance in FY08 carried it well above the Chicago Initiative’s $2 billion goal. When the final numbers were in, the Chicago Initiative had improved on the University’s previous campaign, the 1991–96 Campaign for the Next Century, by dramatic margins:

- The total $2.38 billion raised during the Chicago Initiative more than tripled the $676 million raised during the Campaign for the Next Century.
- The 117,743 individuals and organizations who gave to the Initiative constituted 28 percent more donors than the 92,000 who gave to the Campaign for the Next Century.
- Trustees’ philanthropic commitments to the University totaled $369.4 million, compared to $85.3 million in the past campaign—a fourfold increase.

The Chicago Initiative and FY08 in particular represent a bold leap forward for the University’s fund-raising operation—underscoring the common commitment of Chicago’s community of alumni and friends to the power of ideas that can change the world.

Several reunion classes set new records for class giving, and the Class of 1978 led all of them with a gift of $26.5 million.
Giving Highlights

Each of the 51,946 cash gifts made to the University in FY08 signified a commitment to its values and was a meaningful investment in sustaining those values to benefit future generations of faculty and students. The University is grateful for every gift. Here are seven milestone gifts.

Investing in Tomorrow’s Top Scholars

Longtime philanthropic partners Joseph, MBA’65, and Jeanette Neubauer and the Neubauer Family Foundation gave $25 million to create the Neubauer Family Assistant Professorships. Their gift pushed the Chicago Initiative beyond its goal with nine months left in the campaign. The professorships invest extraordinary early support in junior faculty who show particular promise to advance knowledge and transform their fields. In establishing the innovative program, the Neubauers acknowledged the University’s record of identifying academic talent early and provided it with new means of encouraging and retaining such talent. In autumn 2008 the first Neubauer Family Assistant Professors began teaching at Chicago.

Growing Philanthropy: Senior Class Gift

The Class of 2008 presented the College with a Senior Class Gift of $63,974. That was impressive enough, but their proudest achievement was rallying the participation of 77 percent of the class. In this as in each of the previous four years, the young philanthropists of the senior class set a new record for participation in the Class Gift. Their gift included $25,000 in challenge funds awarded by John Fyfe, AB’68, MBA’76, when the seniors reached 55 percent participation, and $24,000 they received from chairman of the board of trustees James S. Crown, who gave $5,000 for every percentage point by which they exceeded the previous senior class’s participation rate.

Perennial Generosity

Julie and Parker Hall III, X’54, continued their legacy of making the University fertile ground for ideas and flora alike with gifts to the Julie and Parker Hall Botanic Garden Fund, which they established during the Chicago Initiative, and to programs across campus. In May, at Chicago Convenes, the Halls were honored with the University Medal for their perennial generosity and dedication to Chicago.
Primary Sources
Joe, AB’78, MBA’80, and Rika, AB’91, Mansueto helped ensure that the Library’s print collection will remain at the fingertips of Chicago scholars when other research universities are moving many resources off-campus. A new library named in recognition of the Mansuetos’ $25 million gift will provide underground storage for 3.5 million volumes, accommodating the growth of the Library’s collection for the next 22 years. The new building’s dramatic Helmut Jahn-designed glass dome will add a striking landmark to the Hyde Park campus. Its advanced book-retrieval technology will give students and faculty nearly immediate access to research materials.

Landmark Gift for Laboratory Schools
The family of Earl Shapiro, U-High’56, honored their father and set a new record for giving to the Laboratory Schools with a $10 million gift. The gift, the largest ever to the Schools, anchors a $40 million campaign in support of Lab’s master plan to upgrade facilities, enhance student aid and professional development, and create a new early education center. Mr. Shapiro died May 26, 2008, a few weeks after the gift was announced.

Rising to the Odyssey Challenge
Donors to the Odyssey Scholarship Challenge responded to the call from Homer, the anonymous College alumnus who launched Odyssey in May 2007 with a $100 million gift, to help permanently endow the program. Odyssey scholarships reduce or eliminate loans for qualifying students, allowing them to focus on their education while in school and to pursue the careers of their choice after they graduate. In FY08, alumni and friends teamed with University trustees, who are offering matching funds through June 2010, to establish 40 new named, endowed Odyssey scholarship funds. This fall, the first 1,200 Odyssey students began benefiting from the scholarships.

Renewed Research Institutes
Entrepreneur and trader William Eckhardt, SM’70, gave $20 million to benefit the Physical Sciences Division, where he earned his master’s in mathematics. In recognition the University will renovate its historic Research Institutes building and name it the William Eckhardt Research Institutes building. In the renewed facility, scientists and students will carry out innovative research in the fields of applied mathematics and computation, astronomy and astrophysics, cosmological physics, and computer science.
An Engaged Community: Chicago Around the World

The Chicago community extends around the globe. In FY08, the University took steps to better unite that community everywhere its members live and work.

Abroad and in the United States, Alumni Relations and Development is expanding its reach so that alumni and friends in every location can more easily take part in the University of Chicago community. The University invited alumni and friends to events in more cities across the United States, and the addition of a regional club in Omaha brought the total to 44 alumni clubs in 30 states.

The University, which has 34 international alumni contacts in 28 countries, also held more international events in FY08. In September 2007 the University held its first International Forum for alumni and friends. The event, which included presentations by President Zimmer, deans, and members of the faculty, drew more than 450 guests from 20 countries to London for two stimulating days of panel discussions of current events and scholarly topics, tours of cultural and historic sites, and social gatherings.

This was only one of a growing number of opportunities for members of the University’s international community to come together with other alumni and friends who share their values and Chicago-honed approach to the world. These included an increased number of conferences, lectures, and receptions at the Center in Paris. The Center is an increasingly important destination for international alumni and friends to interact with Chicago students and faculty working abroad, as well as European scholars.

ALUMNI REGIONAL CLUBS AND INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Guests traveled from throughout the United States and from locations around the globe to join in the celebration at Alumni Weekend 2008.
An Engaged Community: Alumni Get Involved

An important trend continued in FY08: the increasing engagement of more alumni and friends in the life of the University on campus and around the world. Just as the members of our community have a nearly limitless variety of interests, affinities, and experiences, the ways they engage with the University and the rest of the community are many.

One telling measure of alumni engagement is attendance at the University’s annual Alumni Weekend. Classmates celebrating milestone reunions return to campus in greater numbers each year, joined by other alumni and friends. June 2008 saw Alumni Weekend continue to grow, drawing more than 4,300 guests.

Participation has quadrupled since 2000, when attendance was less than 1,000.

Volunteering is another vital way in which alumni and friends contribute to the livelihood of the University and its worldwide community. At the end of FY08, the University counted 20,075 individuals among its active volunteers. This army of volunteers includes alumni and friends who serve on boards, visiting committees, and reunion committees, class correspondents, admissions volunteers, and event hosts.

Other volunteers work directly with students. Without them, the University could not offer students opportunities such as the Jeff Metcalf Fellows Program, which relies on volunteers to create and sponsor summer internships, interview student applicants, and often provide on-the-job mentorship to student interns.

Getting more alumni involved is a primary goal of the University's alumni leadership. “We’d like alumni to leave campus and continue whatever multidimensional experience they’ve had,” says Alumni Board of Governors president Atreyee Rupa Datta, AB’90, PhD’01, “so they’ll feel like a full member of the alumni community. That’s a great group to be part of.”

Mildred Dresselhaus, PhD’58, received the Alumni Medal during Alumni Weekend. She was one of the 14 Alumni Award winners in 2008. Dresselhaus, an internationally known physicist who has done groundbreaking research in condensed-matter physics, has also worked tirelessly to draw more women to science and engineering.
It completed a six-year effort that was transformative for the University and the campus, adding 105 new endowed professorships, 177 undergraduate scholarships, and 207 graduate fellowships; funding the creation of new interdisciplinary scholarly centers and institutes; and altering the physical landscape of the University in ways that have changed the everyday lives of students and faculty.

At the close of FY08, before the international financial crisis, the University’s endowment had grown from $6.204 billion to $6.48 billion. The climate since then has underlined the importance of sustaining and fortifying this permanent resource that secures the institution’s future. The University expects its careful management of the endowment and conservative use of its returns to protect this most essential resource from the worst effects of the recession. But the effects of such a pervasive economic downturn will inevitably be felt. The University’s leaders will face difficult choices.

In making these choices, the University is bolstered by the achievements of FY08 and the entire campaign—not only by the financial investments in its future but by the financial investments in its future but by the growth and increased vibrancy of its worldwide community of alumni and friends. In the words of President Robert J. Zimmer, “Chicago’s ability to remain steadfastly committed to sustaining its distinctive culture and its extraordinary contributions to the enrichment of human life are a tribute to all those who have been part of and contributed to the University community over the years.”

**Additional Reading**

Read the University of Chicago Magazine story on the impact of the campaign.
http://magazine.uchicago.edu/0878/features/momentum.shtml

View an interactive map showing how the Initiative transformed campus.
http://magazine.uchicago.edu/0878/features/on_the_map.shtml

Gifts from alumni and friends meant tangible benefits to communities beyond the campus, such as the charter schools the University operates on the South Side of Chicago through its Urban Education Institute.