Brilliant Futures.

They’re two simple words that have deep meaning, especially for the multitude of University of Illinois students and faculty, and citizens from across the state of Illinois and beyond who will benefit — directly and indirectly — for years to come because of the remarkable success of the Brilliant Futures fundraising campaign.

Brilliant Futures, with a goal of $2.25 billion, began with a ripple 8 ½ years ago. Waves of generous donors, alumni and friends of the University of Illinois campuses at Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield, gave and gave some more. By the time Brilliant Futures drew to a close on Dec. 31, 2011, it had generated gifts totaling $2.43 billion. Each of the campuses exceeded their goals.

Not long after the University publicly announced the largest fundraising effort in the school’s history (at Chicago’s Navy Pier on June 1, 2007), the U.S. economy slipped into a deep economic downturn.
The University of Illinois went into an economic tailspin, and the repercussions were devastating. The University of Illinois absorbed rescissions as well as reduced and long-delayed appropriations.

Through it all, the Brilliant Futures Campaign continued its quest to provide University of Illinois students and faculty with more opportunity and more resources. Through it all, more than 242,000 alumni, faculty and staff, students, corporations and businesses, foundations and other associations continued to give generously because they rightly believed that their generous private support was important to this remarkable institution — this University that has served the citizens of the state of Illinois since 1867.

The success of the Brilliant Futures Campaign is a testament to the faith that you, the hundreds of thousands of donors (including 137,374 first-time donors) have in the University's excellence in teaching, research, public service and economic development. Those who have stepped up in these trying financial times understand that University of Illinois faculty, students and staff at all three campuses share their knowledge and expertise and the resources of the University with citizens across the state, country and globe.

We at the University of Illinois Foundation and, on behalf of students, faculty and staff of the University of Illinois, thank every one of you who contributed to Brilliant Futures. Your generosity is the clearest expression of your commitment to the mission of the University of Illinois. We value your trust and intend to ensure that Brilliant Futures are fulfilled.

U OF I, FOUNDATION RAISE RECORD $2.43 BILLION IN CAMPAIGN

The University of Illinois closed out its most ambitious fundraising campaign ever with gifts, commitments and pledges of nearly $2.43 billion for the Brilliant Futures Campaign. That is $179.6 million (8 percent) more than the announced goal of $2.25 billion for the campaign that ran from July 1, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2011.

Donors designated $1.671 billion for the Urbana-Champaign campus, $675.9 million for the University of Illinois at Chicago, $28.7 million for the University of Illinois Springfield and $54 million for the U of I Foundation and University Administration purposes. The funds are used to support many areas, including student scholarships and fellowships, faculty support, academic programs, facilities, and research.

The Urbana campus shattered its $1.5 billion goal by more than $171 million. The $1.671 billion total is $141 million more than what all three campuses combined to raise during the last campaign, completed in 2000. UIC raised more than $675.9 million toward its lofty $650 million goal; that is more than double what it raised ($336 million) in the last campaign. UIS was credited with raising more than $700,000 over its $28 million goal. During the last campaign, UIS’ total was $15 million.

“Completing the Brilliant Futures Campaign is a huge accomplishment for the University,” said Sidney S. Micek, president of the University of Illinois Foundation. “When we launched the campaign, we talked about the ripple effect: how each gift will impact others. I think we accomplished that. We intentionally established a stretch goal because we wanted to challenge not only alumni, donors, and friends of the University, but also the faculty, deans, University and campus leadership, and the fundraising staff of the Foundation and the University. It is an incredible accomplishment that each campus exceeded its target goal.

“Private giving has become much more important to public higher education and that is why this campaign has been so critical for the University of Illinois. One of the many things I am most proud of from this campaign is the accomplishment of our goal to engage more alumni and individuals in giving. More than 242,000 donors, including corporations and private foundations, made a gift during the campaign. More than 137,000 new donors, or 57 percent, had never given to the University prior to the campaign. That is impressive. Equally impressive is that nearly 400 donors made pledges and commitments of $1 million or more. That demonstrates how we successfully appealed to people from all spectrums that are passionate about the University of Illinois,” said Micek.

“COMPLETING THE BRILLIANT FUTURES CAMPAIGN IS A HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT. WHEN WE LAUNCHED THE CAMPAIGN, WE TALKED ABOUT THE RIPPLE EFFECT: HOW EACH GIFT WILL IMPACT OTHERS. I THINK WE ACCOMPLISHED THAT.”

— SID MICEK

“The Brilliant Futures Campaign that the University and the Foundation have partnered together on has been critical for us,” said James Benson, chair of the Brilliant Futures Campaign’s executive steering committee and a member of the UIF Board of Directors. “The University of Illinois Foundation Board is proud to have taken a leadership role with this strategic initiative. The bottom line is that Illinois students and faculty members from all three campuses are the beneficiaries of the campaign. Illinois has a tradition of excellence in higher education that must be a priority if the state and the country are to prosper in the future.
“The University of Illinois has always been a leader. That is part of our fabric and DNA. We grow and nurture the future entrepreneurs of technology. We develop tomorrow’s captains of industry. We train the future innovators in the health sciences fields. Our more than 600,000 living alumni are recognized all over the world for their expertise, their insatiable work ethic, and their commitment to make a difference,” Benson said.

To reach the final $2.43 billion raised, the University averaged $782,140 per day in pledges and commitments over the 3,106 days of the campaign. Of the final figure:

- $1.651 billion was in the form of outright commitments,
- $778.3 million was in deferred gift arrangements,
- $1.477 billion has been designated for current use,
- $952.8 million has been designated for endowments,
- $1.438 billion came from individuals, and
- $991.3 million came from corporations, foundations, and associations.

The Brilliant Futures Campaign is the largest in University history and one of the most ambitious in the history of higher education in the country. Currently there have only been approximately 20 capital campaigns with a goal of more than $2 billion.

This was the third comprehensive capital campaign for the University of Illinois. The initial fundraising endeavor, Campaign for Illinois, exceeded its $100 million goal by raising $132 million between 1979 and 1984. The second effort, Campaign Illinois, was launched in 1991 with a goal of $1 billion. When that campaign closed on Dec. 31, 2000, gifts totaled $1.53 billion, making it one of the largest fundraising efforts conducted by a public university at that time.

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**BRILLIANT FUTURES: CAMPAIGN PROGRESS**

Campaign Progress Report FY 2003 – FY 2012

Goal $2,250,000,000

![Graph showing campaign progress from FY 2003 to FY 2012 with a goal of $2,250,000,000.]

* Note FY 2003 includes selected leadership gifts included in the Campaign.

# as of Dec. 31, 2011

$2,429,329,784
BY THE NUMBERS

Here are several highlights of the Brilliant Futures Campaign. (Note: totals are for all three University campuses from July 1, 2003, to Dec. 31, 2011.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$351.4 million</td>
<td>raised for student support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$166.2 million</td>
<td>raised in faculty support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$482.7 million</td>
<td>for research support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$213.3 million</td>
<td>for facilities and equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158</td>
<td>chair and professorship funds established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,760</td>
<td>fellowship and scholarship funds established</td>
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<tr>
<td>397</td>
<td>donors made gift commitments of $1 million and above that totaled $1.44 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>donors made gift commitments of $10 million and above that totaled more than $585 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242,689</td>
<td>total donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137,374</td>
<td>first-time donors gave $704.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111,134</td>
<td>alumni donated $894.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,348</td>
<td>donors gave every year during the campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,936</td>
<td>corporations and foundations gave during the campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,873</td>
<td>current and former U of I faculty and staff contributed during the campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>148,992</td>
<td>current Illinois residents gave during the campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>117,000</td>
<td>online gifts made by 46,000 donors totaled $34 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178,000</td>
<td>plus donors made more than 999,600 annual gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$285,000</td>
<td>is a new one-day, private gift support record for student callers in the telemarketing department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$782,140</td>
<td>is the average raised per day in gifts and pledges during 3,106 days of the campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,192,212</td>
<td>total transactions were processed during the campaign</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOU HELPED US CREATE BRILLIANT FUTURES

There are still many opportunities to fortify our exceptional University for a bright future, and we need your continued advocacy, involvement, and philanthropy to capitalize on these opportunities. Your support — together with the passionate teachers, bold researchers, and gifted students of the University of Illinois — helps us create Brilliant Futures every day. We extend our deepest gratitude to you, for dedicating your hopes, your private gift support, and your confidence to the University of Illinois. Thank you!
On the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois, leaders were thinking big when they kicked around goals for Brilliant Futures, the recently concluded capital campaign.

They set a goal of $1.5 billion. Check. The Urbana-Champaign campus raised $1.67 billion in outright and deferred gifts, grants and pledges from the start of the campaign on July 1, 2003 to its official conclusion on Dec. 31, 2011.

They set the fundraising bar high to support students, faculty, and research. Check, check, check. They brought in more than $292 million, $125 million and $236 million for these respective areas.

Brilliant Futures was a monumental success across the board. Each of the three campuses established strategic goals for the campaign. At Urbana-Champaign, the overarching goals were to preserve and enhance the Illinois legacy and academic excellence; prepare Illinois students for leadership in the 21st century; ensure that talented students have access to an Illinois education; foster transformative learning environments; and pursue knowledge across boundaries and create breakthrough innovations.

Tens of thousands of private gifts from individuals and organizations addressed these goals, and will continue to benefit U of I students and faculty, as well as citizens of the state and beyond for years to come.

The Urbana-Champaign campus eclipsed its Brilliant Futures goal in April 2011. The $1.67 billion raised is 111 percent of the campus’ goal.

Private gifts fund an array of vital purposes — from scholarships, fellowships, and faculty support to academic programs, facilities, and research.

Specifically, Brilliant Futures raised $125 million for faculty support, including the creation of 33 academic chair and 70 professorship funds. Student support totaled $292 million, with 329 fellowship and 917 scholarship funds established during the campaign.

Contributing to the Urbana-Champaign campaign were 78,636 alumni, 13,742 corporations, and 846 foundations.

The campaign also connected with many new friends and solidified relationships with established friends. The number of first-time donors who gave during Brilliant Futures totaled 99,384 and 12,968 donors gave every year of the campaign. Additionally, 9,349 current and former employees of the Urbana-Champaign campus gave during Brilliant Futures.

“Even though I have been at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a short period of time, I am most grateful for the generosity of our alumni, donors, and friends of the University,” said Chancellor Phyllis Wise. “Everybody associated with this University has a tremendous amount of pride in and passion for Illinois.

“I’m a firm believer that education is the key to opening doors to have a better life in every possible way: a healthier outlook, a more responsible citizen, and a richer quality of life. Maintaining access for the broadest demographic of bright young minds and sustaining, retaining, and enhancing the excellence of our faculty are critical to our future success. Private support enables us to do all of these things,” said Wise.
### Sources of Gifts (in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$716.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$317.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Alumni</td>
<td>$251.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$115.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Foundations</td>
<td>$121.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Advised</td>
<td>$11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$136.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Designation by Purpose (in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$476.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$236.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Support</td>
<td>$292.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Support</td>
<td>$125.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>$93.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Programs</td>
<td>$47.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities/Other</td>
<td>$399.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BY THE NUMBERS

Taking a closer look at the $1.67 billion raised for the Urbana-Champaign (U-C) campus through the Brilliant Futures Campaign

- **265** donors made seven-figure gifts totaling $606.5 million
- **16** donors made eight-figure gifts totaling $257.9 million
- **1** donor made a nine-figure gift totaling $101.9 million
- **78,636** U-C alumni donated $716.5 million
- **99,384** first-time donors gave $237.9 million
- **13,742** corporations and businesses gave $317.3 million
- **846** foundations contributed $236.6 million
- **9,349** current and former campus employees gave $66.6 million
- **33** new chair funds totaled $39.6 million
- **70** new professorship funds totaled $31.4 million
- **329** new fellowship funds totaled $38.2 million
- **917** new scholarship funds totaled $138.6 million

Among the many gifts directed to the College of Business for its $60 million Business Instructional Facility were: $7.5 million from Michael T. and Nancy Tokarz and their family that created Tokarz Hall, which houses undergraduate programs and classes; $850,000 from Jeffrey and Deborah Margolis for the Margolis Market Information Laboratory; $500,000 from Jim and Lionelle Elsesser for the Jim Elsesser Jr. and Lionelle Elsesser Classroom; $2.5 million from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP that established the PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountancy Student Center; $2 million from Deloitte in support of the 300-seat Deloitte Auditorium; $2 million from Ernst & Young for the Ernst & Young Center for Career Advancement; and $1 million from KPMG LLP to establish the KPMG International Accounting Suite.
Mannie Jackson, a former captain of the Fighting Illini basketball team and a highly successful business executive, knows something about leadership.

And, thanks to a $2 million gift to his alma mater to fund an academic enrichment and leadership program, first-generation students and those from under-represented groups are gaining skills necessary for lifelong success.

The Mannie L. Jackson Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program in the College of Applied Health Sciences is providing students with mentorship, academic skill development, career leadership training, and one-on-one support in connection with their programs of study to help complete their degrees and be prepared for the future.

Specifically, freshmen work with academic coaches who provide expertise in critical skills, such as résumé writing, time management, business etiquette, and campus and community networking. Later, students participate in leadership and professional development workshops.

“It is our goal for the Mannie L. Jackson Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program to serve not only as a campus resource, but also as a state and national model for ensuring that all students who have an interest and the ability to earn a college degree can do so,” said Tanya Gallagher, dean of the College of AHS.

Since the program was established in 2006, more than 183 students have participated in and benefited from the Jackson program. The retention rate for program scholars for all years is a remarkable 98 percent and the retention rate for the current scholars (154 students) is 100 percent.

“With the help of the Leadership Program and the academic skill specialists, students do not feel like little fish in a big ocean anymore, but rather big fish making their way to the top,” said Christa Jalali, a speech and hearing science major.

“Through the help of my academic coach and now with renewed confidence in myself, I am a believer. I am grateful for the Leadership Program. It really does change a student’s mindset and outlook,” added Vernon Cail, a kinesiology major.

A 1960 Illinois graduate, Jackson has served on the boards of six Fortune 500 companies and is chairman of Boxcar Financial Holdings of Las Vegas. A former player for the Harlem Globetrotters, he was the owner and chairman of the team from 1993 to 2007. With fellow standout Govener Vaughn, Jackson was one of the first two African-Americans to earn a varsity letter for the Fighting Illini basketball team and served as the first African-American team captain.

An outright gift of $2 million from Jeane Erley and the family of Jeane and the late Richard Erley, both alumni of the U of I, created the Richard A. Erley Leadership Development Program in the College of Business. The Erley Program supports specialized training and distinctive educational experiences to help College of Business students prepare for and gain a competitive edge in the business world.

Many donors, including Frederic Nearing, Sanjay Srivastava and Brian Renwick, have contributed generously to the $95 million Electrical and Computer Engineering Building (architectural rendering shows southeast view). The state of Illinois will provide $47.5 million to build and furnish the new ECE facility, while private support (currently about $40 million) will fund the remainder.
In a world of flux, there is one constant — chemistry is world class at the University of Illinois.

That was the case in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when a young Robert C. Springborn, a four-year S.C. Johnson Foundation Scholarship recipient, studied chemistry at Illinois. Dubbed the “Roger Adams Era,” Springborn worked with Professor Carl S. “Speed” Marvel and was supervised by E.C. (Ted) Taylor on the synthesis of pteridine.

“The chemistry program was one of the best in the world. Sixty years later, it still is,” said Springborn. “They are producing great scientists, including CEOs, government officials, and Nobel laureates. That says it all.”

But Robert Springborn and his wife Carolyn have much more to say, and their $10 million gift to support undergraduate scholarships and graduate and postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Chemistry speaks volumes.

“I give for two reasons,” said Springborn, who earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Illinois in 1951 and a Ph.D. in chemistry at Cornell University. “I value the education I received and I want to ensure our country can compete scientifically in the future. Illinois is the best place to invest to achieve both goals. I owe my success to my education.”

That success included landing key positions at Monsanto, Borg-Warner Chemical, W.R. Grace, and founding his own worldwide company, Springborn Laboratories, Inc. He was involved in more than 20 start-up companies between 1966 and 2003.

Competitive and groundbreaking, the Springborn Graduate Fellowships have already made an impact. Since the Springborns made their gift commitment in 2007, 19 Springborn Fellowships have been awarded.

Patrick Knerr, a 2011 Springborn Fellow, said the fellowship “played a pivotal role both in my deciding to come to Illinois and during my time here.” While attracted to Illinois by the reputation of its faculty and the strength of chemical biology, Knerr said he was reluctant to be apart from his wife on the East Coast. “Thankfully, the Springborn Fellowship provided me the opportunity to travel home to see her several times during that year apart.”

Steve Zimmerman, head of the Department of Chemistry, notes the Springborns’ goal “was not just to bring outstanding students to Illinois, but to encourage the best students throughout the U.S. to consider chemistry as a career. They want our fellowship program to serve as a model for the country, and judging by the attention the Springborn Fellowship Program is getting from chemistry programs at other universities, that appears to be happening.”
Jorge Paulo Lemann and his family pledged $14 million to establish an interdisciplinary Brazilian studies institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The gift is the largest to the University from non-alumni. The Lemann Institute, based in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in International Programs and Studies, builds on Illinois’ existing programs and initiatives related to Brazil to create one of the leading Brazilian studies programs in the nation.

“Our gift stems from our appreciation of the University’s contribution in attracting an increasing number of talented Brazilians and in enhancing their education,” Jorge Paulo Lemann said. “They, in turn, positively affect Brazilian development and society, as evidenced by the number of Illinois graduates in important jobs throughout Brazil. The institute will build on these efforts.”

The institute complements other academic and research initiatives in key world regions by expanding upon the relationships the University has developed with Brazilian institutions. The institute is designed to increase opportunities for scholarly exchange, expand opportunities for students and faculty members to gain firsthand knowledge of Brazil through in-country study and research, and help prepare the next generation of Brazilian leaders through graduate and professional training opportunities.

“A 1961 Harvard graduate, Lemann co-founded Banco Garantia, a Brazilian investment banking firm. He is a partner of GP Investimentos, a private equity firm. He and his partners also bought control of a Brazilian brewery that became AmBev, the South American brewing giant that later merged with Interbrew of Belgium. Previous gifts to the U of I from the Lemanns include $1.5 million for the Lemann Chair in Economics, $500,000 for the Jorge Lemann Scholars Fund, and $350,000 for the Lemann-Illinois Brazil Collaborative research program.

U of I alumni and philanthropists Shahid and Ann Carlson Khan committed $10 million to fund the Khan Annex, a 24,000-square-foot addition to Huff Hall that includes laboratory, instructional and professional collaboration facilities. Also during the Brilliant Futures campaign, the Khans established five Khan Professorships in the College of Applied Health Sciences’ Center on Health, Aging and Disability. Shahid Khan, a 1971 U of I industrial engineering graduate, is the owner of Flex-N-Gate Corp., which employs more than 3,500 at manufacturing plants in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Canada and Mexico. Ann Khan received a bachelor’s degree in economics at the U of I in 1980. She is president of the Khan Foundation.

A $5 million gift from Robert E. and Juanita J. Simpson created and funded the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson University Library Deanship. Paula Kaufman, the university librarian and dean of libraries since 1999, is the inaugural holder of the endowed position. Active advocates of the University Library, the Simpsons previously established and endowed the Rare Book and Manuscript Library Chair via a $1.5 million gift. The late Robert Simpson, a 1949 Illinois graduate, was the founder and board chairman of MFM Building Products Corporation in Coshocton, Ohio.
Recognizing that a cornerstone of the University of Illinois’ commitment to excellence in education is the exceptional quality of the student body, Illinois made a promise to not let financial hardship stand in the way of talented students getting a U of I education.

The campus launched Illinois Promise, a scholarship program that enables U of I students with severe financial need to earn their degrees without incurring significant debt. Since its inception in 2005, Illinois Promise has provided 1,000 economically disadvantaged students with scholarships. This includes 640 Illinois Promise Scholars in the just-concluded spring 2012 semester.

Illinois Promise students receive financial aid in the form of federal and state grants and scholarships and work study opportunities. The scholarship provides the difference between a student’s financial aid package and the actual cost of education, including tuition, fees, books, and living expenses. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

The average amount of an Illinois Promise scholarship awarded in 2005 was $2,340. In 2011, the average increased to $6,556. Illinois Promise has attracted significant private support to achieve its goals.

Among the many private partners are individuals and organizations. For Ira and Debra Cohen, Illinois Promise deepened their engagement at the U of I. “There was definitely a need to fill the gap for students from certain economic levels to be able to come to the University. If you’re qualified and able to succeed, money shouldn’t be the thing that keeps you from coming,” said Ira, a 1980 engineering and computer science graduate.

Illinois Promise, added Debra Cohen, “is such an amazing program and the students should take full advantage of it. My hope would be that if an opportunity presented itself to the students who participated in the program, that they themselves would someday pay it forward.”

Among the corporate partners is State Farm, which came forward with a gift in the first year of Illinois Promise and has renewed its support each year. “The State Farm Companies Foundation is pleased to provide support for scholarships that help students excel. The hard work and dedication of these students, coupled with the university’s foundation for achievement, enable the success of this program. It’s always rewarding to see students able to achieve their dreams,” said State Farm CEO Ed Rust in an annual report.

April Moore, an Illinois Promise Scholar and 2011 communication graduate, said, “The tangible results from Illinois Promise are clear: A first-generation college student who had once thought college was the biggest and final struggle is now pursuing a master’s degree in Human Resources and Industrial Relations. I graduated with almost no debt. The intangible results are apparent as well: a sense of self-assurance I have never known.”

A $10 million deferred gift from Wayne A. Koonce and his wife Harriet Hentges will provide unrestricted support to increase educational opportunities and promote overall academic excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The endowment will give the dean flexibility to meet critical needs and fund high-priority programs in LAS. Koonce, who earned a bachelor’s degree in geography from the U of I in 1971, operates a privately-held real estate bank, Koonce and Co., LLC. A graduate of the College of St. Catherine in Minnesota, Hentges is vice president for corporate social responsibility and sustainability for Ahold USA, a subsidiary of Dutch food retailer Royal Ahold.

A $1 million gift from Steve and Sheila Miller has established the Sheila M. Miller College of Education Fund and the Steven L. Miller Chemical Engineering Fund. The funds will provide unrestricted support for the College of Education and the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Steve Miller, who earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering in 1967 at Illinois, retired in 2002 as Shell Oil Company’s chairman, president and CEO. He is currently chairman and president of SLM Discovery Ventures, Inc., in Houston. Sheila Miller received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at the U of I in 1967.
M.T. Geoffrey Yeh’s parents had plans for him when he left Hong Kong and enrolled at the University of Illinois more than 60 years ago.

“Although my parents wanted me to be a doctor, I was more enthused by constructing a building than the inner workings of a human being,” Yeh said recently on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

“Maybe it was because my father allowed me as a child to play on his construction sites during his site visits. Not the safest thing to do, but it certainly provided me hours of fun and helped generate the passion of a lifetime,” said Yeh.

That passion led Yeh, now 81, to transform Hsin Chong & Co., which was founded by his father, K.N. Godfrey Yeh, from a small family enterprise into a modern, publicly held company.

That passion also allowed Geoffrey Yeh, who earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Illinois in 1953, to generously support his alma mater, most notably through a $4 million gift for the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center, a 20,500-square-foot addition to Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory.

Dedicated on Sept. 23, 2011, the Yeh Center provides classrooms, meeting rooms, and gathering space for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s 1,300 students. The project was funded entirely through private gifts.

Yeh, chairman of Hsin Chong Construction Group Ltd., has pioneered various cost- and time-saving construction innovations in Hong Kong. A 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of CEE at Illinois, Yeh also established the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Graduate Research Fellowship in the department in 1994 and the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Endowed Chair Fund in 1998.

At the dedication of the Yeh Center, Yeh said, “When I was offered the chance to name the Center, I decided that the name must be one which enables future generations of the Yeh family to remember our modest beginnings and continue to contribute to society. My dream is for them to recognize and experience the joy of giving back — the same feeling I have now.”

Seven-figure support from Peter B. and Kim B. Fox funds four Fox Family professorships, one each in the College of Business, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and a fourth as designated by the Urbana-Champaign campus chancellor. The purpose of the Fox Family Professorship Fund is to stimulate entrepreneurship and economic development in Champaign County. A graduate of Stanford University, Peter Fox is founder and principal of Fox Development Corp., co-founder, president and CEO of Fox Ventures, and manager of Fox-Atkins Development, which is developing the U of I Research Park. Kim Fox, a graduate of Springfield Career College, is president of Fox Development.

Arlys Streitmatter Conrad, a 1944 U of I graduate, had a successful career in the corporate world, and, after a longtime and fulfilling relationship with her alma mater, honored Illinois with a $12 million endowed gift to be shared equally by the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Her estate gift — Mrs. Conrad died on Sept. 6, 2007 — allows the two colleges to address their most pressing priorities.
Thanks to the resounding success of the University of Illinois at Chicago’s $650 million campaign, which closed at $676 million, brilliant futures are well underway.

On a winter’s evening in early 2012, UIC medical student Farah Shareef found herself in some highly impressive company: an internationally renowned physicist, two leaders in the field of disability activism, a pharmacist working with genetics and a psychologist nationally recognized in the field of social and emotional learning. She was the lone student presenter in a distinguished panel brought together to talk about UIC’s breakthrough research.

The audience — comprised of top University administration and trustees, as well as civic, political and educational leaders — listened intently as Farah shared her story. She chose the University of Illinois at Chicago for her undergraduate studies because of its Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions initiative.

She received scholarship support made possible by College of Engineering alumnus Jose DeLeon; as an undergraduate...
she majored in bioengineering, minored in mathematics and chemistry, and served as president of the Society of Women Engineers. She spent three of her summers in an internship at Argonne National Laboratory.

Along the way, Farah worked with UIC’s Office of Special Scholarship Programs to earn additional need and merit-based awards, culminating in a Fulbright scholarship that took her to Imperial College London for her senior year.

Farah came home to UIC in 2009 to begin a dual M.D. and Ph.D. Medical Scientist Training Program, where she currently is developing an artificial iris with College of Medicine Dean Dimitri Azar and Bioengineering Professor Michael Cho.

“I’ve heard it said that UIC transforms lives,” she remarked that evening. “As a student for the last six years, I can attest to this fact. UIC transformed my life and continues to do so every day. It is the limitless opportunities offered here, not only for me but for all students, that make a UIC education such a valuable experience.”

The room erupted in enthusiastic applause. The award-winning psychologist who was concluding the presentation strolled to the lectern, grinned, and said, “How am I supposed to follow an extraordinary act like that?”

Truth is, thanks to the University’s ongoing commitment to excellence, coupled with the resounding success of its Brilliant Futures Campaign, extraordinary stories like Farah’s have become an increasingly common and encouraging outcome.

**EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS**

The astounding response of donors to the University’s recently completed fundraising campaign has set the standard for exceeding expectations. During the 2007 public launch, UIC announced a $650 million goal, noting that “Brilliant Futures are created when the supporters who share our vision come together with the passionate teachers, the bold researchers and the gifted students of our university to create something that’s larger and more powerful than all of us.”

By campaign’s end, more than 43,000 donors had done just that … and then some: Gifts totaling $676 million exceeded UIC’s initial goal and is double the amount raised during UIC’s last fundraising campaign.

The campaign outlined an ambitious vision that focused on five strategic priorities:

- Accelerating the discovery and dissemination of knowledge
- Offering even broader access to academic opportunity
- Enriching the student experience
- Promoting healthy societies in Chicago and around the world
- Strengthening and expanding UIC’s Great Cities Commitment

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and other donors, exciting transformations are well underway in each of these areas.

**ACCELERATING DISCOVERY**

Campaign gifts totaling more than $28.4 million enabled the creation of 49 endowed chair and professorship funds for colleges and disciplines across the campus. Alumni couple Peter and Deborah Wexler provided UIC’s College of Engineering with the Peter L. and Deborah K. Wexler Endowed Chair in Information Technology, a landmark for the College as noted by Dean Pete Nelson who called the chair’s investiture ceremony a celebration of firsts.

“The Wexlers’ generosity in establishing the largest endowed gift that the College has ever received has allowed us to recruit Philip Yu, a world-class scholar and innovator in the area of data mining, databases and multimedia systems, to hold the first-ever endowed chair in our College. Our students and faculty will benefit immensely from his presence,” said Nelson.

Attracting an international leader of Dr. Yu’s caliber was an objective for Peter Wexler, who received his M.S. in bioengineering from UIC in 1981 and became an entrepreneur...
in California’s Silicon Valley. Wexler had become impressed with what he saw at UIC’s College of Engineering as “a really well-articulated plan for building a first-class institution consistent with serving the needs of its community.”

He also wanted to give back to a program that had helped him in his career. “UIC offered me a unique opportunity,” Wexler said. “I could give money to MIT or Stanford, but I wanted to give to UIC, where I flourished and knew my contribution would make a difference.”

OFFERING ACCESS

Gifts totaling more than $105 million will be allocated as support for students. Donors bolstered existing scholarship and fellowship funds as well as created 345 new ones, guaranteeing that students who show significant need and promise have access to educational excellence.

Noteworthy among those new funds are scholarships created by Urbana-Champaign alumna Ruth Davee, whose generosity supports Liberal Arts and Sciences students. Because the award provides assistance with unmet need — including tuition remission and funds for other incidentals such as books and fees — Davee Scholars have more freedom to concentrate on what matters most during the college years.

“Scholarships can relieve financial pressure,” noted Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Astrida Orle Tantillo, “allowing students to follow their passions in our classrooms and in extra-curricular activities as well. Many of our Davee Scholars do volunteer work, so they are also giving back to the community.”

Adnan Cassim, who received his B.S. in 2010 and currently is working on his M.D., noted that the Davee Scholarship allowed him to volunteer with NBC Telemundo’s Homework Hotline program. “Studying abroad was also one of the biggest things that the scholarship allowed me to do,” he said. “It was probably the best decision I ever made in my life. For students like me these things mean a lot, and Mrs. Davee really opened up many opportunities. I’m very grateful for all the things that she’s done.”

Tantillo noted that the many scholarship opportunities resulting from the Brilliant Futures Campaign have a significant impact on the student body. “A top student is going to have a choice of what university he or she goes to. The fact that we are able to get top students to come here with these types of scholarships enables us to really support the best of access to excellence.”

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Evidence of the campaign’s impact is already apparent across campus in enhanced classrooms and learning areas, renovated labs and clinics, new equipment and technology, and dynamic new spaces dedicated to making the most of student learning and interaction.

These spaces reflect the understanding at UIC that innovation and academic excellence are best served by programs and places designed to initiate and nurture discovery. This is evident in the “re-invention” of UIC’s newly refurbished Douglas Hall, the new home for the UIC’s College of Business Administration.

Generous donations from alumni, friends of the college and corporations provided the funds necessary to “rethink” the building that now offers capacity for 21st-century technology, flexible learning spaces for collaborative learning, and the latest in classroom design and functionality — all in an environmentally sustainable structure that has qualified for LEED platinum status.

“Douglas Hall reflects the CBA’s dedication to be ahead of the curve in an ever-evolving business environment,” noted Michael Pagano, interim dean of the College. Flexible, small group settings characterize many business school curriculums, where students work through challenges and problem-solve together.
The striking, three-story-tall building’s classrooms, breakout rooms, and mini-conference rooms (called collaboration hubs) were conceived and designed to encourage and enhance student interaction. Throughout the day or evening, students can gather to study, socialize and network, while staying plugged in to their work.

The overall effect is an environment that invites collaboration similar to the workplaces they will one day occupy. “CBA students are surely the future of business, and this building reflects that,” Pagano said.

Dr. Sweeney’s gift has created an endowment that already is proving to be transformative; it provides funds that will enable the College to create 18 endowed professorships and add an additional professorship per year in perpetuity. Likewise, the amount of scholarship money the College awards will increase by 20 percent with the initial Sweeney Scholars awarded for the 2012–13 entering class.

College of Medicine Dean Dimitri Azar believes that this kind of support will provide significant impact for both the College and the community it serves. “It will enhance our ability to recruit high-achieving students, especially those from underrepresented minority groups, by allowing them to focus on their education and fulfill their potential to become leaders in medicine,” he said.

“We want to ease the burden of the rising costs of medical education, so we can continue to graduate capable, gifted, hard-working and compassionate students, particularly those who pursue work in underserved areas or careers in primary care medicine.”

Sweeney Scholarships ramp up an already strong commitment from the College to support scholars like Dean’s Scholarship recipient Nneka Madu, who was drawn to medicine by a desire to make a positive difference in patients’ lives. The eldest of five children of a pharmacist and a nurse who moved to the United States from their native Nigeria when she was two, Madu discovered her calling when, at age 13, she accompanied her mother on a trip back to Nigeria.

PROMOTING HEALTHY SOCIETIES

A significant philanthropic legacy was firmly established for UIC’s College of Medicine as the result of a $20 million estate gift from alumnus Raymond Nester Sweeney, a veteran of the Vietnam War who spent the majority of his career as a radiologist in Terre Haute, Ind.

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“When she goes back, she brings people medicine and goes to see people who are sick,” Madu explained. “I felt overwhelmed by the problems the country was facing, but watching my mom, I felt the one field in which you could actually make a difference, even one-on-one, was medicine.”

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UIC’s health science programs are an invaluable resource for the greater Chicago community. For instance, the College of Dentistry annually provides 90,000 patient treatment appointments in its teaching clinics with 27,000 patients in active treatment. That enterprise received significant support thanks to a generous gift of $8.2 million worth of KaVo Group dental equipment and technology made possible through the generous support of the Guy D. and Rebecca E. Brunetti Foundation.

College of Dentistry Dean Bruce S. Graham noted that the donation “will literally help us to transform our 39-year-old, outdated clinical facilities by creating a state-of-the-science integrated Clinical Technology Center.” The new center will consist of 300 clinical operatories and encompass all of our undergraduate and postgraduate clinics within the first three floors of the dental school building.

“The college is a great medical school. And the scholarship definitely swayed my decision,” Madu said. She specialized in anesthesiology — matching with a residency program at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle — and spent part of her fourth year in an externship at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System.

Nneka hopes to return to Nigeria once or twice a year to teach or otherwise contribute to the medical field, something she’ll be free to do because of the financial assistance she has received. “It means the world to me,” she said. “It opens up so many possibilities.”

STRENGTHENING GREAT CITIES

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““In today’s world, in which oral health care delivery is so technologically based, we need to provide the students with the latest technology to give them a leading-edge education,” said Graham. “The KaVo Group dental equipment provides us with a unique diversity of technological equipment — operatory delivery systems, hand-pieces, digital imaging equipment, and more. And, we are going to have an alliance with them far into the future, so our students will have access to every future technological innovation they create.”

Students, faculty and patients will benefit from the KaVo equipment. Dr. Susan Rowan, managing partner of the College’s Monet Clinic, said, “The College will gain the ability to educate students with state-of-the-science technologies. Its regard as a healthcare institution will rise, and recruitment of the most highly qualified applicants to the programs will be enhanced.”

Student Kelley Gyllenhaal agreed that the gift’s impact is substantial. “This gift will transform our daily clinical experiences on a grand scale. Students will no longer need to struggle with outdated equipment and will be able to focus more on what really matters — learning quality dentistry and gaining practical experience. Furthermore, I believe this gift will help propel UIC into top-tier dental school status.”
SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS AT UIS

The University of Illinois Springfield topped its $28 million goal for the Brilliant Futures Campaign, recording gifts, pledges and commitments totaling more than $28.7 million. That total is nearly 90 percent more than what the University raised through Campaign Illinois, which concluded in 2000.

The UIS Brilliant Futures Campaign was co-chaired by UIS alumni Julie Kellner, Bob Felker and by Howard Humphrey (now deceased). Honorary co-chairs included Polly Roesch, Sergio (Satch) Pecori and Chancellor Emeritus Naomi B. Lynn.

During Brilliant Futures, 15,640 donors gave to UIS, with 10,150 of those being first-time givers, 6,396 alumni, and 1,243 corporations and foundations. Local support has been generous: 6,454 donors from Sangamon County gave over $15.5 million. Faculty and staff at UIS have also been generous, with an average of 170 donors contributing each year, and participation rising from 111 in FY 2004 to 221 in FY 2011.

Scholarships

Since the beginning of the campaign, donors have given 27 new endowed scholarships, increasing the total from 56 in 2003 to 83 today. Including planned or deferred scholarships, as well as current-use scholarships, privately funded scholarships have climbed from 95 in 2003 to 183 today — a 92 percent increase. During the campaign, 484 additional students have received scholarships, many with multi-year awards, resulting in $172,914 more in awards (a 176 percent increase from $99,130 in 2003 to $274,104 in 2011).

Particularly important to this scholarship success has been support from the Ann Booth Estate, Elizabeth and Herbert Denniss, Kathryn Eisenhart, Imogene Meeks, Wendell Hahn, James L. Lundquist, the Leona Stanford Vollentine Estate Trust, Robert and Marilyn Uteg, Margaret Wepner, Evelyn Zimmerman, Bill and Mary Schnirring, and Jim and Mary Beaumont. Chancellor Susan Koch and her husband Dennis led off the Access Illinois Scholarship Initiative with a scholarship honoring their parents.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- The Brilliant Futures Campaign added four professorships to UIS: Judith E. Everson Professorship in English (deferred, given by Cheryl Peck), the Louise Hartman Schewe and Karl Schewe Professor in Liberal Arts and Sciences, the James J. Stukel Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership, and the Margaret L. Wepner Distinguished Professor

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT AND UIS CHANCELLOR SUSAN J. KOCH

At UIS, we are managing resources every day with our focus on providing the intellectually rich, collaborative learning environment for students that is the promise of a UIS education. Private giving takes us higher, allowing us to aspire toward greater excellence and achievement. Because of those higher aspirations, meeting our Brilliant Futures Campaign goal has been a priority for me from my first day on campus in July 2011. During the campaign, I have been repeatedly inspired by the alumni and community friends of UIS whose vision led to the founding of our university over 40 years ago and, today, who continue to invest in Springfield’s public university.

The Brilliant Futures Campaign has added to the quality of the educational experience our students receive at UIS and, through scholarships, has made a college education accessible to students who could not otherwise have pursued their educational dreams. The campaign has brought distinguished professors to our campus, increased global experiences for our students, and added 88 scholarships — to name just a few campaign achievements.

Brick by brick, step by step, UIS is becoming a premier public university that provides a truly outstanding education for students and that contributes to the advancement of our region, our state and our nation; a university in which our alums and friends can take great pride.

I am deeply grateful to all of the friends and alumni of UIS who have contributed so much to the Brilliant Futures Campaign. The fact that we achieved our $28 million goal is a true testament to their belief in and commitment to the brilliant future of the University of Illinois Springfield.
in Political Science. Hanson Professional Services also provided funds for a Faculty Scholar in the College of Business and Management.

- The Global Experience Program received a total of almost $200,000 in gifts from Fred and Eugenia Parsons, Howard and Lynda Humphrey, Nancy Hahn, and Jan Droegkamp.

- UIS now has a greatly expanded arts program. Music gifts from Polly Roesch, Dr. Robert F. Reisch, and Jack Dolan totaled over $800,000 while Robert and Ruth Vogele gifted a collection of museum-quality art valued at over $174,000.

- Brookens Library received $134,000 from the William Howarth family, Don Springer, Richard and Helen Adorjan, and $85,000 from an anonymous donor.

By the Numbers
Taking a closer look at the $28.7 million raised for the Springfield (UIS) campus through the Brilliant Futures Campaign

- 8 donors made seven-figure gifts totaling $11.2 million
- 6,396 UIS alumni donated $7.7 million
- 10,150 first-time donors gave $5.4 million
- 1,243 corporations and businesses gave $2.7 million
- 43 foundations contributed $3.7 million
- 863 current and former campus employees gave $2.1 million
- 3 new professorship funds totaled $2.2 million
- 116 new scholarship funds totaled $2.2 million
• Alfred O. Therkildsen gave $150,000 for student research related to UIS’ Alfred and Barbara Cordwell Therkildsen Field Station, with additional gifts from The Prairie Education and Research Cooperative and the American Museum of Natural History.

• Research received support from Nancy and Charles Chapin who provided support for history and for student research and from Christopher Z. Mooney for comparative state politics and policy research.

• Corporate giving enhanced the UIS Computer Science Department with $100,000 from State Farm and over $145,000 from Cisco’s Critical Infrastructure Assurance Group (CIAG).

• The Illinois Innocence Project received $158,000 in private giving, leading to $936,767 in federal funding.

**ONLINE EDUCATION**

During the campaign, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation gave $1,799,000 in support of online learning at UIS, which is now recognized as one of the premier online programs nationally. Burks Oakley II gave support for a Distinguished Online Teaching Award for faculty and a scholarship for online students.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Annual giving for Student Affairs has more than tripled over the course of the Campaign. The Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center received two grants: the Girl 2 Girl DreamSpeakers mentoring program for athletes and local students, funded by The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln; and the State Farm Safe Neighbors Grant for improving fire safety readiness on campus. The Office of Disability Services received over $152,000 for equipment, scholarships, an employability program, and adaptive software and technology from an anonymous trust.

**ATHLETICS**

UIS’ Prairie Stars Athletics program, now in NCAA Division II playing in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, received over $108,000 in scholarship and student support, including gifts from donors Tom Marantz, Howard and Lynda Humphrey, and Bill and Nancy Simpson. Other private support for athletics equaled $702,350, including generous support from Paul O’Shea.

**FACILITIES**

• The Hoogland Atrium: Charles and Kathleen Hoogland and the Hoogland Family Foundation gave $1 million in support of The Recreation and Athletic Center at UIS.

**COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

• Sangamon Auditorium’s Class Acts, providing performing arts programming for local area schoolchildren, received gifts totaling over $28,000, as well as $90,000 from the PNC Foundation for a three-year Arts Start program to bring preschool children to the Auditorium’s Class Acts programs. Robert and Elizabeth Staley gave to the Auditorium Special Projects Fund and to the Auditorium’s endowment.

• The Joyce Foundation gave over $230,000 to UIS’ Center for State Policy and Leadership in support of the Sunshine Project directed by renowned UIS professor Kent Redfield.
When Charles and Kathleen Hoogland donated funds for a new recreation center at UIS, they created more than just fun and relaxation for students. For students like John Tienken, they created countless learning and leadership opportunities that have benefited students and the UIS community.

Tienken, a senior Capital Scholars student majoring in Political Science and English, has worked as a columnist and reporter for the *UIS Journal*, was a member of UIS' Model UN delegation, has served on the Student Organization Funding Association and on the UIS Student Government Association, Governmental Affairs Committee, and today contributes to UIS’ efforts to build a UIS Student Center.

One of Tienken's “most significant experiences” at UIS occurred as a freshman, when he founded the UIS Squash Club, a club made possible because The Recreation and Athletic Center — which the Hooglands helped to fund — includes two squash courts.

“Almost no one had ever heard of squash at the school. I was able to get a bunch of guys to go, and we became a team and we competed,” he said. “We went to Yale. We drove 16 hours in the family van and we played at the College Squash National Championships. We played against teams like Tulane and Johns Hopkins University. It was the first time anyone from UIS went to Yale University to compete athletically. We did it; we put in so many hours of work and practice and we finally made it to the biggest stage in the country for squash.”

In addition to his many other activities, Tienken serves as UIS’ Student Trustee on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. And that’s the kind of opportunity the Hooglands helped to create through The Recreation and Athletic Center at UIS.

**PROFESSORSHIP PAVES WAY FOR NEW, GREATER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AT UIS**

A few years ago, UIS computer science professor Keith Miller found himself at a conference in Victoria, British Columbia, discussing ethical issues related to robotics and munitions with military and industrial experts in unmanned vehicle systems.

A specialist in computer ethics, Miller spoke on the ethics of design, development, and deployment of systems that include remote controlled tanks, the Mars rovers, and Predator missile launchers. The discussion at his well-attended session, he says, was “lively; spilling over long after my time was up.”

Without the support raised through the Brilliant Futures Campaign, Miller would have been home in Springfield. After being named UIS’ Louise Hartman Schewe and Karl Schewe Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2009 — a result of the Campaign — he had the resources to attend this and other dynamic and challenging gatherings of experts, all of which infuse his teaching with stimulating classroom discussions.

“I’m so happy I went,” Miller says. “Many people at this meeting are making life and death decisions about robotics and munitions, and they seemed open, even eager, to explore the ethical issues.”

UIS has long been known for its intimate learning environment, the close relationship students have with their professors, its interdisciplinary approaches and practical internships. The Brilliant Futures Campaign has elevated all of these, adding depth and value to UIS’ academic offerings.

Keith Miller can attest to that.

Thanks to the Schewe Professorship, Miller has had many experiences like the conference in Victoria, including meetings in Spain, Romania, Greece, and Japan. “I’m very grateful for these opportunities,” he says, “and want to honor the memory of Louise and Karl Schewe in a way they would appreciate.”

**HOOGLAND REC CENTER CREATES MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UIS STUDENTS**
Paying It Forward Means a Lot to Both Sides

Dennis Sedlak (B.A. ’75 PAA, M.A. ’83 PAA) came to UIS (then Sangamon State University) in the early 1970s with help from an Illinois law enforcement program which paid for tuition, books, and fees in return for future service in law enforcement.

Because of this program, Sedlak finished his undergraduate program with a minimum of debt.

Now, he is giving back to his university — and to Illinois communities — through the Dennis L. Sedlak Endowed Scholarship fund, designated for criminal justice students and fully endowed in 2010 during the Brilliant Futures Campaign.

Now retired, Sedlak said he is most proud of the work he did in law enforcement for the Lake Springfield Police Department, the Sangamon County Sheriff’s Department, and later, on a part-time basis, for the Leland Grove Police Department. In 1983, he completed his MBA at Sangamon State and took a job with the Springfield Marine Bank, and in later years, he worked for Merrill Lynch, from which he retired in 2007.

His interest in law enforcement remains, however, with a special concern for UIS students majoring in criminal justice because they are entering a career that has “more civic rewards than financial ones.” Through his scholarship, he wants to lessen the burden of debt they will face after graduation and make it easier for them to do their important work.

Scholarship donors find their philanthropy extremely satisfying, especially when they meet their student recipients, who express appreciation and gratitude.

Amelia Almazan, the 2011 recipient of the Dennis L. Sedlak Endowed Scholarship, is a first-generation student. Her parents never expected her to attend college and consequently never set aside any funds in preparation.

Almazan says Sedlak’s scholarship has helped enormously. “Each year, funds are tight. This scholarship means I can continue my education. It means a lot that someone is giving me a chance. Thank you very much!”
MESSAGE FROM JAMES BENSON

CHAIR
CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

We did it again!

For the third time in the storied history of the University of Illinois, a university-wide fundraising campaign was a rousing success. This time, the Brilliant Futures Campaign concluded on Dec. 31, 2011, with gifts, commitments and pledges of $2.43 billion, shattering the $2.25 billion goal. Brilliant Futures follows the previous goal-eclipsing campaigns: Campaign for Illinois (1979–1984) and Campaign Illinois (1991–2000).

As in those earlier campaigns, you, the alumni and loyal friends of the University of Illinois, again proved your confidence in the University by generously committing your resources — financial, intellectual, and otherwise — to ensure that the University’s campuses at Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield continue to attract the best students, extraordinary educators and groundbreaking researchers.

Thanks to you, the University of Illinois will continue to serve the citizens of the state of Illinois and well beyond through advancements in medicine, agriculture, engineering, law, business, and the arts. Thanks to you, more of our promising graduates will lead the way as educators, high-tech innovators, CEOs, social workers, veterinarians, athletes, and as countless other skilled professionals in virtually every field of human endeavor spanning the globe.

It has been said before, and will be said again because we cannot say this enough:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF BRILLIANT FUTURES.