Class of 1961 Establishes Scholarship Fund for 50th Reunion Gift

Pete Giers, DDS ’61, admits that it’s not unusual for a class to make a significant contribution to a school when it reaches its 50th anniversary year as his class did in 2011. As graduates of UC Berkeley, Giers and his wife, Caroline, had personally experienced this tradition a few years earlier. What is unusual, however, is for a class to start planning its gift as far in advance as did the UCSF School of Dentistry Class of 1961.

“‘They needed to start early,’” explains Chris Ruetz, Senior Director of Development, UCSF Foundation. “The magnitude of their financial goal was larger than had ever been attempted before!” Hence, the Campaign for the Class of 1961 50th Anniversary Gift began in 2007, four years prior to the actual anniversary year. This allowed plenty of time for Giers to engage his former classmates, a task he took on willingly and with great enthusiasm. Giers admits that once in a while he had to twist an arm, but never too hard!

“Through the generosity of Dean Featherstone and the logistical support of Chris Ruetz and the development office, we were able to achieve our goal,” says Giers. “The class is extremely grateful.”

In order to establish an endowed scholarship at the UCSF School of Dentistry, the Class of 1961 had to raise a minimum of $50,000. It took the full four years to get there!

“The great thing about our class gift being an endowed scholarship is that we can continue to contribute to it,” adds Giers. “This gift will never go away, nor will it be used for any other purpose than to support the education of UCSF dental students. Something it will do for years to come.”

The Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund will assist eligible dental students with the cost of tuition, fees, books, living expenses and more. Class reunions are a fun way for classmates to get together and reminisce about their time at UCSF. They are also an opportunity for classmates to show gratitude to the School for the education and training received.

“Efforts such as Pete Giers’ and the other members of the Class of 1961 advance the mission of the School which is to educate talented students,” says John Featherstone, MSC, PhD, professor and dean of the UCSF School of Dentistry. “Many students would not be able to attend UCSF without the benefit of scholarship funds like the Class of 1961 Fund.”

Gifts to an endowed fund can be made at any time, including by means of a bequest in a will or trust or through a charitable life income plan. Please contact Chris Ruetz at 415/476-3645 in the UCSF School of Dentistry to learn about ways to contribute to a class reunion gift. For information on leaving a bequest or establishing a charitable life income plan, please call the Office of Gift & Endowment Planning at 415/476-1475.

We’d like to hear from you – If you would like more information about making a planned gift, please complete and return this tear-off reply card or call the UCSF Office of Gift & Endowment Planning at 415/476-1475.

Please contact me about making the following type of gift:

☐ Bequest
☐ Retirement Assets
☐ Real Estate
☐ Life Insurance
☐ Personal Property (antiques, artwork, jewelry, etc.)
☐ Stock/Mutual Fund
☐ Life Income Plan (i.e., Charitable Trust, Gift Annuity, Pooled Fund), please specify:

The Heritage Circle is an honorary society for those who have included a gift to UCSF as part of their estate plan.
☐ I have included a gift to UCSF in my estate plan.
☐ Please send me information about becoming a member of the Heritage Circle.
Gifts to the UCSF endowment provide a steady source of funding for a wide variety of purposes. Such gifts can be made during life or by means of a bequest. The following are some examples of the different types of endowed funds at UCSF:

Distinguished Professorships are UCSF’s highest academic honor. They enable the University to make permanent, substantial commitments to researchers or clinicians in their area of intellectual pursuit. These endowments are often used to create new positions or to attract world-renowned scientists to UCSF.

Endowed Chairs honor their holders by recognizing past achievements and future potential. They can be used to help support a current faculty member or to assist in recruiting a new faculty member. Additional gifts to endowed chair funds can increase their value to the minimum needed to create a distinguished professorship.

Endowments for Excellence allow one to support an area of deep personal interest. They typically strengthen already outstanding programs that could greatly benefit from more permanent sources of funding. Such programs can include innovative educational initiatives, promising clinical research, or pioneering basic science investigations.

Faculty Fellowships provide ongoing support for faculty, often as they establish their research careers, gain teaching experience, or pursue special projects. These endowments enable junior faculty members to pursue novel research theories and allow more seasoned faculty members to continue their pursuit of promising research projects.

Graduate Fellowships allow aspiring researchers to pursue their best ideas by helping to cover research expenses as well as the high cost associated with living in the Bay Area. Awarded to students pursuing graduate work in specialty areas, fellowships provide a key source of funding and enable UCSF’s top-ranked graduate programs to continue to attract the best and the brightest from around the country.

Visiting Lectureships are critical to the intellectual enrichment of UCSF and to the scientific community at large. These endowments bring scholars from around the country to lecture and share their work with UCSF faculty and students. They allow for the free exchange of ideas and provide an environment where research findings and best practices can be shared.

Endowed Research Funds give a department chair or division chief the ability to direct support to promising areas of scientific inquiry being conducted by a faculty member or student. Research funds can provide a steady stream of revenue for otherwise unfunded work.

Endowed Scholarships ensure that UCSF will continue to attract and educate a diverse and exceptionally talented group of students pursuing degrees in dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. Whether awarded based on academic achievement or financial need, endowed scholarships provide crucial assistance in covering the increasing costs of achieving a professional degree in the health sciences during a time of dwindling state funding.

General Endowment Funds may be restricted to a particular purpose or directed to the University’s most pressing needs. Nearly any area of education, research, or clinical care can benefit from this type of fund.

Endowments at UCSF can bear a person’s name and thus provide not only a stable source of funding, but also a lasting tribute. Annual reports are provided to interested family members and friends and serve as a means for UCSF to continue to express its appreciation for the critical support of its very generous donors.

Endowment gifts made through a bequest often require special language. The UCSF Office of Gift & Endowment Planning can assist you with this and answer any questions you might have regarding minimum gift amounts for each type of endowed fund. Please call 415/476-1475 or email giftplanning@support.ucsf.edu.

www.ucsf.edu/support/trustsandbequests/