Dear Alumni and Friends,

As graduates and longtime supporters of Kettering University, you know that Kettering has an unparalleled track record of educating the world’s finest engineers, scientists, innovators and business leaders. The life-changing education the University provides its students is made directly possible by the incredible support we receive from alumni and friends, like you. We are deeply grateful for all that you do for our students and for this amazing University.

In this report, you will find inspiring stories of generosity, ranging from an anonymous donor pledging a seven-figure gift to the University in support of the Learning Commons, to corporate and foundation partners helping to create new lab spaces and pre-college programs across our campus. The cumulative impact of your gifts large and small is transforming our University on a daily basis, creating new opportunities for students and ensuring that some of the most talented and creative people in the global workforce will be Kettering Built for years to come.

However, we and our campus must be prepared to change and improve constantly if we are to ensure that Kettering will continue to meet both the educational needs of future students as well as the voracious demand for talent as technology continues to rapidly change modern industry. In the last year alone, for example, we completed phase one of Kettering University’s GM Mobility Research Center – an autonomous vehicle proving ground and research facility that will be the only one of its kind on a college campus in the country. We began construction of phase two of the facility – a multi-surface and multi-elevation 1-mile road course – this summer. As you will read in this report, the facility would not have been possible without tremendous support from industry partners, organizations and alumni who believed in the project’s potential and have helped make it a reality. We have already had students from our SAE and Shell Eco-Marathon competition teams use the facility and have heard from industry partners all over the country interested in working at the MRC with our faculty.

Although Kettering continues to adapt to the needs of modern students and industry, it is important also to note that some things here do not change – like how we do what we do here. We celebrate the fact that we retain to this day the same rigorous academic model that has at been the core of our curriculum since our founding. Our model combines theory in the classroom with meaningful professional cooperative experience better than any institution in the country. Our programs continue to be among the most highly ranked in the country, including by prestigious publications like U.S. News & World Report and The Wall Street Journal. The U.S. Department of Education and PayScale.com both rank Kettering among the top universities in the United States in terms of earning potential and return on investment.

Kettering University is a jewel among American universities. It is also an important resource for this country given our proven ability to educate and prepare students who go on to be some of the nation’s most talented and professionally ready scientists, engineers and leaders. Your support directly make all of this possible.

Thank you for moving us boldly forward and for helping us build a bright future for Kettering University.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Robert K. McMahan, President
THE IMPACT OF ALUMNI AND DONORS

FACULTY & STAFF DONATIONS INCREASED 37% in 2017

ALUMNI DONATIONS INCREASED for a total of 59% in 2017

99% of Kettering University Students receive financial aid through scholarships, loans and/or work study

485 Students received nearly $1,878,772 Million through annual and endowed scholarships in 2017

344 New Donors in FY17

$3,514,970 in Facilities
$1,744,063 in Scholarships
$896,045 in Programs
$2,992,601 in Unrestricted

Since its establishment in 2015 the KEEP ME KETTERING SCHOLARSHIP FUND has supported 570 STUDENTS totaling $1,263,711.
Gary ‘70 and Kay Cowger reach giving milestone, lead charge for the Learning Commons

Gary ‘70 and Kay Cowger’s commitment to Kettering University reached a historic milestone as the proud supporters have given over $1.1 million back to the school over the last 27 years.

Gary Cowger’s contributions started with an initial gift of $10 which recognized the formative experiences he gained at Kettering.

“$10 was a lot of money for a guy raising two kids on a tight budget,” Cowger said. “It wasn’t a matter of the amount, it was a matter of starting to give back to a place where I got my undergraduate opportunity. It provided me with a great opportunity and a path to a wonderful career ahead. The gift was a recognition of that opportunity even though my financial means were limited.”

Cowger received his Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering at Kettering University (then General Motors Institute) in 1970, his Master’s Degree in Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978, and he holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lindenwood College (2002) and an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering from Kettering University (2007).

Cowger worked at General Motors for 45 years, most recently as group vice president of Global Manufacturing and Labor Relations. In this position he was responsible for directing all of GM’s manufacturing, manufacturing engineering and labor relations activities worldwide, and was a member of the Automotive Strategy Board and the Automotive Product Board. Prior to that he was President of GM North America.

“I’d encourage people to take a look at how Kettering has influenced their life and think about how your dollar can influence the lives of the young people just starting at Kettering now,” Cowger said.

GIVING TO KETTERING

Cowger’s giving has been spread across campus to support student experiences, campus infrastructure and to empower women to pursue a STEM education.

In 2014, Cowger gave $357,000 to renovate space for the Kettering University Board room on the second floor of the Campus Center. The board room renovation was completed in 2015 and has been renamed the “Gary and Kay Cowger Board Room.”

Additionally, both in industry and at Kettering, Cowger has made it a lifelong pursuit to encourage and empower women to pursue STEM disciplines and rise in the ranks of management throughout their careers. At GM, Cowger spoke at the internal women’s networking group which inspired him to mentor young women in the company and strive to identify female leaders earlier in their careers. Then, at Kettering, he, along with his wife, established the “Gary and Kay Cowger Endowed Scholarship Fund” which provides support for female science and engineering
students who demonstrate financial need and academic achievement.

“This has been very gratifying,” Cowger said. “I have met many of the women who have received the scholarship. It’s gratifying because one of the things I worked on at GM was getting women more into STEM and then mentoring women into management. The scholarship fit well with what I did throughout my career.”

Since the scholarship’s inception in 2000, a total of $67,700 has been awarded to 32 female engineers and scientists attending Kettering.

Now, Cowger, who has been a member of the Kettering University Board of Trustees since 1999 and is a past Chairman of the Board, is expanding the scale and scope of his giving as the campaign chair for Kettering’s capital campaign. To lead by example, Cowger rounded out his contributions to the campaign to over $1 million in 2017 with the most recent gift being directed towards the new Learning Commons.

“It’s a significant event for Kettering because it’s the first time that the institution has organized its own private capital campaign,” Cowger said.

THE LEARNING COMMONS

Kettering’s capital campaign began with multiple strategic planning sessions that identified significant needs of campus. Cowger, along with President Dr. Robert K. McMahan, toured other universities in the country to identify emerging needs on college campuses. One of the identified needs was more utilitarian common spaces on campus to facilitate student learning. This led to remodeling of BJ’s Lounge in the Campus Center and the introduction of three collaborative learning or dspaces on campus.

Then came the grandest idea of them all – the Learning Commons.

“We didn’t start out with ‘let’s go build a building,’” Cowger said. “While working on the strategic plan, the new vision for Kettering, it just kind of developed into the Learning Commons. This is going to be the visual symbol of the rejuvenated and reinvented Kettering.”

Cowger views the Learning Commons as both symbolic for the institution and a matter of practicality that meets the evolving demands of collegiate students. Based on numerous market studies and strategic planning sessions, Cowger has deemed the Learning Commons an essential component of attracting and retaining the future generation of engineers and scientists at Kettering.

The new building will be built across the “beach” from the Campus Center and will connect with the CC as well as with the adjacent Connie and Jim John Recreation Center, creating a “main quad” and central outdoor meeting point for the entire campus community. Some academic department functions will move into this building to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration. There students will have increased access to flexible, technology-enabled, collaborative spaces that will foster small group learning in addition to a new, modern electronic library and other resources. The building will also feature something that will likely be a part of every building on campus in the future – new food service venues and options. It will also have space to accommodate alumni and other campus guests, integrating them into the campus community for the entirety of their visit.

“Gary Cowger’s leadership and passion for Kettering University is an invaluable asset to our institution,” McMahan said. “Gary has worked diligently and relentlessly on our strategic planning efforts that have resulted in a definitive plan for the future of Kettering. This institution is where it is today because of Gary’s mentorship, creativity and vision for the future.”

Cowger believes the construction of the Learning Commons is vital to have a strong and vibrant Kettering which in turn will fortify and reinforce the revitalization of the entire Flint community.

“This is probably the single most important event that the university faces going forward,” Cowger said. “The Learning Commons will allow us to visibly show incoming students, the community and the alumni base that Kettering is here for the next century and is on the leading edge of taking the co-op education that has always been unique and recognized and making it relevant for the next 100 years.”

Anonymous Donor Makes $1 Million Gift to the Learning Commons

The Kettering University Learning Commons is one step closer to construction after a donor anonymously gifted $1 million designated for the new facility.

The anonymous donor was inspired by Kettering’s growth and contributions to the greater Flint community over the last several years which resulted in this transformational gift to spur the planned Learning Commons.

“This gift is a monumental boost to our capital campaign to construct the new Learning Commons on campus,” said Gary Cowger ’70, Chair of the Campaign Committee. “The generosity of this donor has significantly propelled our campaign forward and motivated our campaign volunteers. The Learning Commons will transform the Kettering experience for current and future generations of students.”

For more information, visit kettering.edu/ketteringbuilt.
Vincent Bandurski ’64 and his wife Marilyn Bandurski know the power and value of a Kettering University education. It’s because of the success they’ve experienced and witnessed that they choose to give back to the school in meaningful ways.

The General Motors Institute and Kettering experience is something that is longstanding in the Bandurski family, with two daughters (and their spouses), one son and two grandsons graduating from the University. It is for that reason and many others that they decided to create the Vincent ’64 and Marilyn Bandurski Scholarship in November 2016. On top of that, the Bandurskis gave a naming gift for a new d.space in Kettering University’s planned Learning Commons building.

It’s a belief that students graduating from Kettering have and will continue to make a major impact in the world that keeps both Vincent and Marilyn Bandurski focused on giving back and investing in students.

“There are leaders throughout the country and the whole world that are Kettering or General Motors Institute graduates. The more we can do to foster a greater STEM education the better. The world needs engineers, scientists, mathematicians and business leaders,” Vincent Bandurski said. “It’s just been my appreciation for what GMI and Kettering has done for myself as well as my family that fuels my desire to give back.”

Bandurski was born and raised in Flint. When it was time to go to college, Kettering (then General Motors Institute) was the best option for him, allowing him to work and go to school at the same time.

“My parents didn’t have the money to send me to school. GMI was right next door and I knew it would be beneficial for my future,” he said. “I was sponsored by Buick and that’s where everything started. I have been with General Motors ever since.”

“Appreciation For Kettering Education Fuels Graduate’s Support”

Dr. Lucy King, who retired from Kettering University in 2013 after 22 years as a faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, recently made a $20,000 gift in support of the Kettering University Learning Commons.

King believes that a Kettering education prepares students with the versatility and agility to learn new principles and concepts quickly, and the Learning Commons will enhance those immersive, hands-on and collaborative learning opportunities that are vital to students who will make up the future global workforce.

“We are grateful for Dr. King’s ongoing support,” said Susan Davies, Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations. “Her unwavering belief in Kettering University, our mission, and our students is an amazing example for all of our faculty and staff. Her support is an inspiration to everyone in the Kettering University community.”

King was born in Hong Kong and once gave up a prestigious seat in medical school in order to secure a visa to the U.S. to study physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Upon graduation in 1968, King went on to earn her Doctoral Degree in Biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1972. She completed post-doctoral studies in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1973, where she conducted DNA/RNA research. In 1978, she moved to Metro Detroit when her husband accepted a position with Ford Motor Company. She taught computer graphics, statistics and computer-aided design (CAD) at Lawrence Technological University, for 12 years before joining the faculty at Kettering University as a full professor in 1991.

In 2013, King established the Lucy S. King Scholarship Endowment by creating a charitable remainder trust and designating a portion of the trust to the Lucy S. King Scholarship. The scholarship will support students pursuing careers in manufacturing.

“Retired faculty member shows support for Learning Commons”

“But it’s just been my appreciation for what GMI and Kettering has done for myself as well as my family that fuels my desire to give back.” - Vincent Bandurski ’64
Bandurski studied Electrical Engineering as an undergraduate and also earned a Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. His successful 44 year GM career was launched as a co-op student in 1959 for the Buick Motor Division in Flint, Michigan. Throughout his career he worked in Reliability & Quality Control, Engineering, Product Development and Creative and Product Design at various management levels before retiring from General Motors in 2003 as the Executive Director of Engineering Design for GM North America Product Development.

While Bandurski was attending Kettering/GMI, he and Marilyn married and began their family. Any help they received while in school became important and appreciated. They made the decision to create a scholarship to help bridge the gap between what students could afford and the cost of the University.

"I just try and put myself in the students’ shoes," Bandurski said. "Scholarships always helped take some weight off our shoulders."

Bandurski, who lives in Grand Blanc, visits Kettering’s campus often, especially when he gets the opportunity to speak with prospective students during Discover Kettering or Prep for Success events. It’s a time for him to share what Kettering has done for his life, family and career.

The most important lessons and skills he took away from his time at Kettering/GMI outside of engineering knowledge were discipline, prioritization and report writing/presentation skills.

“Those three things carried me through my whole career. It all comes second hand to you after you’ve spent four and half or five years going to GMI,” Bandurski said. “When I go to campus and talk with students and parents I tell them if you don’t have discipline, you’re going to learn it and if you don’t know prioritization, you’re going to learn it. I tell them if you apply and are accepted by Kettering, you will always be forever grateful for making that decision.”

When the Bandurski family decided to give a naming donation for a d.space in the future Learning Commons building, they were once again thinking of students.

“The name applies to the whole family. It’s a payback for what GMI has done for this family,” said Marilyn Bandurski. “And it gives current students something that can help them succeed. That’s important to us. The Learning Commons will open up the door to make them overall better students. It will give them an opportunity to do more collaboration than they already do now.”

The future of Kettering’s campus, involvement in the community and education it offers is sure to be successful, the Bandurskis said. And they are proud to be a part of what the University is doing.

“I would throw out a challenge to all alumni to get on board. Whatever they can afford. I feel very strongly about the value I got out of GMI. I know that all the other alumni got the same value and their success depended on how they applied it,” Bandurski said. “I don’t think you could ever pay it back fully. The value that we derived from our educations is invaluable.”
The Chemical Engineering department at Kettering University has received enhanced lab space and equipment thanks to two generous donations.

The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation awarded $210,000 to remodel a former acoustics lab to be used as Chemical Engineering undergraduate research/lab space and The Dart Foundation awarded Kettering University $177,000 for materials characterization equipment. The donations provide Kettering students with in-demand skills in Materials Characterizations and other Chemical Engineering interests.

"Kettering University’s Chemical Engineering program continues to grow, and our ability to provide state-of-the-art laboratory and research space is vital," said Dr. Laura Vosejpka, Dean of the College of Sciences and Liberal Arts at Kettering University. "These gifts from the Strosacker Foundation and the Dart Foundation allow us to provide enhanced research, teaching and learning opportunities for our faculty and students."

The Strosacker Foundation grant made it possible to transform an unusable, non-functioning space at Kettering into a classroom/laboratory for Chemical Engineering faculty and students.

The space, named the Charles J. Strosacker Chemical Engineering Classroom and Laboratory, is located in the Academic Building in the Chemical Engineering program space. The lab space replaces what was previously a 90-year-old acoustic lab space that had sat vacant for more than two decades. The lab is outfitted with research equipment, moveable furniture and instructional technologies.

"The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation is pleased to help provide a new laboratory space to Kettering University. The unique education being offered to students takes them to the work place prepared for today's continually changing world," said Bobbie Arnold, President and CEO of the Strosacker Foundation (pictured above). "We like the way Kettering University is collaborating with the surrounding community and providing a space for students to live and work. We are proud to be among your many supporters and thrilled to have the Strosacker Foundation recognized for their commitment to higher education."

It was designed to support innovation, teamwork and project work, while having additional features such as whiteboard walls, a large screen and technological connectivity to allow users access to online resources to share information and ideas.

"The growing chemical engineering lab promotes the expansion of the program and provides students with more opportunities to learn and innovate. The students will have the space and resources to design projects and be exposed to a larger variety of testing
“The more students can see and do, the easier they can pinpoint their interests and drive their careers in that direction. I think it is great that Kettering is further investing in the department with these grants.”

- Alyssa Gilliland ’18

The Dart Foundation grant allowed Kettering faculty to purchase much needed state-of-the-art equipment to expand their plastics course offerings and enhance undergraduate research. Future plans involve development of a Master in Materials Science and Engineering Program and the possibility of offering a Plastics minor.

The grant allowed for the acquisition of a thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA), differential scanning calorimeter (DSC), dynamic mechanical analyzer (DMA) and a thermomechanical analyzer (TMA). This equipment will be used to develop new courses and student research experience that complement modern industry demands.

The new equipment will lead to the development of new undergraduate and graduate program offerings related to plastics and materials engineering. Kettering currently has 120 students in co-op placements related to plastics.

“We are pleased to support Kettering and their efforts to enhance their plastics program and related coursework,” said Emily Matthews, Dart Foundation Manager (pictured left). “Kettering’s academic focus on engineering, science and mathematics closely aligns with our mission. Students have a growing interest in the plastics field and it’s essential for educational institutions like Kettering to expand educational opportunities with facilities containing the latest in equipment and technology.”

Bruce Sing ’79 is a member of Kettering University’s Loyalty Society, giving to the University for 30 consecutive years. After completing his co-op at GMC Truck and Coach, Sing built his career up through the executive ranks at GM and Delphi.

Sing retired from Delphi in 2010 and went on to become an engineering director at United Technologies, Stanley, Black and Decker and finally Remy International. He joined his current company, PTC, in 2016.

We asked Sing about his annual giving.

**Why do you give to Kettering every year?** “I got in the habit early in my career of contributing every year; it really was in recognition from a ‘pay it forward perspective’ of the great experiences I had as a cooperative student both at school and at my sponsor. It really prepared me well for a great career as I understood how organizations worked and what role each function played.”

**What did you learn at Kettering that has served you throughout your career?** “Beyond the engineering fundamentals, Kettering taught me how to work collaboratively with my team and instilled in me the importance of networking with colleagues to learn from them and to be able to influence them when necessary to help move the business forward no matter what the topic.”

**What do you designate your gift to annually?** “There are so many great initiatives and programs underway at Kettering today; I can’t really pinpoint just one that I want to support vs. the others. I’m really amazed at how the school has broadened its offerings and capabilities positioning itself well for the future.”
In 2016, Kettering University became the first FIRST Robotics district site in the country to host competitions on back-to-back weekends. In 2017, the University once again hosted districts on consecutive weekends thanks to support from the Ford Motor Company that sponsored both competitions.

“Ford has the vision of working with key partners to deliver innovative STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming to our future leaders,” said Prashant Javkar, Manager of STEAM Strategy & Programs at Ford. “We at Ford really believe that the project-based method of learning combines the best of both worlds, and Kettering University’s integrated cooperative education program recognizes that there is as much to learn in a workplace as in a lecture hall. Knowing Kettering’s history of delivering high quality pre-college programs and support for programs like FIRST Robotics, we are happy to support those efforts and ensure they continue to grow and be successful.”

FIRST Robotics is an international organization aimed at inspiring young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build STEM skills, inspire innovation and foster teamwork, self-confidence, collaboration and leadership.

The FIRST Robotics Community Center at Kettering University is the only facility of its kind on a college campus in the country. It provides residential space for eight high school teams, hosts visiting teams throughout the year and hosts a range of summer camps that attract participants from all over the U.S. The facility gives students access to state-of-the-art equipment and mentors and provides them with an immersive experience on the campus of one of the country’s top STEM and Business universities.

This is the second recent Ford and Kettering partnership aimed at engaging young people in STEM – a grant provided by Ford in January allowed Kettering to create a summer day camp about electric vehicles for Flint Community Schools students. The $32,000 grant spurred the creation of the Flint Schools Summer Day Camp in July 2017. The summer camp focused on creating and learning about model electric vehicles with 20 Flint students. The funds helped with registration fees, supplies and transportation for the students. The camp was open to high school students, grades 9-12.

Kettering University received $1.9 million for completion of phase two of the Kettering University GM Mobility Research Center from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) in October of 2016.

“Ensuring that our nation’s communities have the vital, infrastructure and tools needed to support economic growth is a top priority for the Economic Development Administration,” said U.S. Assistant Secretary Jay Williams. “Today’s investments support Flint’s initiatives to grow the local economy and provide employment opportunities for the local workforce which helps strengthen the country’s global competitiveness.”

The Kettering University GM Mobility Research Center is being constructed on a 19-acre property at the corner of Chevrolet Avenue and Bluff Street. Phase one of the project, which included construction of a 3-acre test pad, was completed in the fall of 2016.

Phase two of construction, with support from the EDA grant, began in the summer of 2017. Components of phase two include a low-speed road course with elevation and surface changes, optional routes and other features aimed at creating diverse testing environments. A garage facility will be constructed to include automotive bays, conference and office space and indoor lab space.
Another distinctive aspect of the facility is its connection to Kettering’s 4G LTE Advanced wireless cellular research network. Kettering is the only university in the country operating a private 4G LTE Advanced cellular network infrastructure. The network operates at 10X the data speed of current cellular networks, and provides researchers on the proving ground and surrounding areas with unique access to the next generation of cellular communications systems.

“This unique facility – the only one of its kind on a university campus in the country – puts Kettering and Flint at the forefront of research and development in mobility and autonomous vehicle systems, as well as associated safety and other related technologies,” said Dr. Robert K. McMahan, Kettering University President. “This facility will create learning opportunities for students that are unmatched anywhere while also enhancing opportunities for faculty research in collaboration with industry. As importantly, though, it will also allow the University – and the city of Flint – to attract and retain new industry partners that will develop and manufacture these new products and technologies. We are grateful for the support from the EDA to allow us to construct phase two of this incredible facility.”

**Kettering Selected For GM and SAE Backed Autonomous Vehicle Competition**

Kettering University is one of eight universities around the world selected to participate in the Society of Automotive Engineers’ (SAE) AutoDrive™ Challenge – an international autonomous vehicle competition.

This newly established, three-year competition will task faculty and students at some of the world’s top universities with developing and demonstrating a fully operational autonomous driving passenger vehicle. The technical goal of the competition is to navigate an urban driving course in an automated driving mode by year three.

Student teams will each receive a Chevrolet Bolt from General Motors to customize and turn into an autonomous vehicle. GM engineers and leadership will also provide mentoring to the teams throughout the competition.

Throughout the AutoDrive Challenge™ competition cycle, students and faculty will be invited to attend technology specific workshops to help them in their concept refinement and overall autonomous technical understanding.

“Our selection to participate in this competition is an affirmation that Kettering University produces some of the finest engineers, scientists and leaders of any university in the country,” said Kettering University President Dr. Robert K. McMahan. “We are so proud that our students will have the opportunity to showcase their abilities globally through this competition.”

Participation in the AutoDrive Challenge allows Kettering to fund two full-time graduate students and engage up to 30 additional students across multiple disciplines to meet the objectives of the autonomous vehicle challenge.

This challenge puts Kettering students at the forefront of technological innovation related to the development of autonomous vehicles, connects them with a network of scholars and peers from the nation’s elite schools who are attempting to solve similar challenges and provides access to national workshops hosted by SAE International.

Kettering faculty are also currently prospecting opportunities to develop new classes around autonomous vehicles and its associated technologies in order to broaden the impact of the challenge to the entire campus.

**GM Foundation Grant Helps Expand STEM Summer Camps in Flint**

Kettering University is taking their STEM summer camps in a new direction as it partners with a Flint elementary school to offer programs during the school year.

Thanks to a $40,000 grant from the General Motors Foundation, Kettering will offer robotics and STEM day camps to students at Durant Tuuri Mott (DTM) this fall. The programs will be offered to students in first through fifth grades, who will come to campus and participate in activities in Kettering’s FIRST Robotics Community Center for two to six hours depending on the grade level.

“It will be very exciting for the students to be able to see the practical application of STEM education. It’s appealing for kids to be able to see all the pieces come together. Hopefully it will spark some sort of interest in robotics or science,” said Shelly Umphrey, Durant Tuuri Mott Principal. “The partnership with Kettering is a great way for the students to get exposure into science and engineering career fields. This exposure generates interest into career fields they might not have known existed.”

Students will participate in Junior FIRST LEGO League (grades first through third) or FIRST LEGO League (grades fourth through fifth) activities, while adding other STEM activities into the mix.
Roger Lachele ’75 fell in love with cars at a very young age while growing up in San Antonio, Texas. He was fascinated by vehicle designs and the complexity of the systems.

“I just got hooked on cars at an early age,” Lachele said.

Lachele describes San Antonio as a primarily military town during his childhood. The city did not have many opportunities related to automotive engineering so Lachele knew he would likely end up out-of-state in order to pursue his passion. He randomly discovered Kettering University (then General Motors Institute) through an article on college programs in Popular Mechanics magazine.

Given Kettering’s connection to the automobile industry and the co-operative education program, Lachele chose to leave the familiarity of Texas to chase his dream to work in the automobile industry.

A KETTERING EDUCATION

Lachele graduated in 1975 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He completed his co-op at Fisher Body Central Engineering in Warren, Michigan.

“My experiences at Fisher Body were very diverse,” Lachele said. “I chose that sponsorship because it opened up several different avenues. I wasn’t just locked into a particular car line or product. I got to see a variety of things from the manufacturing and design point of view.”

In his senior co-op terms, Lachele had the opportunity to work in product safety and specifically on the design and production of the first-ever airbags. Upon completing his Kettering classes in 1975, Lachele transitioned into a one-year Master’s program in Industrial Administration at Purdue University. After completing graduate school, he wanted to go back and work for Fisher Body but unfortunately, he didn’t hear back from them until the last week of his program. By that time, he had already accepted a position at a refinery in Louisiana run by the oil company Conoco.

“It was quite different from my experience at Fisher Body,” Lachele said. “I was one of eight engineers in the refinery. At Fisher Body, I was one of thousands of engineers with almost 100 in my department alone. I had a lot more responsibility at Conoco.”
At Conoco, Lachele was able to apply his undergraduate elective work in polymer science to better understand the many hydrocarbon processes required to make finished oil products. He worked at Conoco in various locations for 13 years before joining Solomon Associates in Dallas to contribute to the oil industry’s benchmarking analysis.

Solomon’s international benchmarking studies collect data from almost every refinery and chemical plant from around the world. They tabulate each plant’s maintenance, operating costs, energy consumption and personnel levels, as well as relative profitability. They then aggregate this information globally so individual plants can identify their rank placement relative to others from the various perspectives. The studies are conducted every two years.

Contributing to the studies took Lachele to 35 countries around the world including a yearlong stint in Windsor, England, where the firm was opening a new office. Lachele contributed to the studies for 21 years before retiring in 2010.

GIVING BACK TO KETTERING
Lachele now lives in a small town west of Austin, Texas. He is a substitute teacher in a small school district where he prefers to teach classes related to STEM but occasionally fills in for English, Spanish and art classes as well.

After retiring in 2010, Lachele returned to Kettering while passing nearby on a vacation. In the neighborhoods surrounding Kettering, Lachele noticed a pattern of stagnation that he similarly experienced in San Antonio when the city transitioned after losing a few military bases. Since then, he’s been a regular contributor to Kettering’s community vitality efforts by assisting with funding supplies and programs related to increased student involvement in the greater Flint community.

“Roger has been a leader in our efforts to help revitalize the neighborhoods surrounding campus and the greater Flint community,” said Jack Stock, Director of External Relations. “He has equipped our students with the tools, supplies and inspiration necessary to engage with the community and pursue projects that will make a sustainable difference in Flint.”

Beyond the community level, Lachele also wants to help expand Kettering’s reputation nationally. He wants out-of-state students like himself to experience the benefits of a Kettering education with the assistance of the “Roger Lachele Student Endowment” established in 2014. The endowed scholarship provides assistance to students who come to Kettering from outside a 500-mile radius of Flint.

“My endowment was created so it would enable students who are a long way from home to take part in Kettering,” Lachele said. “Because of my experience of bringing a little bit of Texas around the world, I would like to encourage Kettering to focus on being a nationally-known top-quality school.”

In addition to his current contributions, Lachele is also attempting to determine opportunities and methodologies for current Kettering students to transition directly into graduate programs as he did in 1975. At the foundation of Lachele’s giving is his desire for future generations of students to have the same experiences and benefits that he did throughout his career.

“I realize now what I received in terms of experience and education and in general at Kettering. That experience is really why I’m continuing to give back,” Lachele said. “I would hope that other people could share that same experience.”

Robert DeHaven ‘57 knew he wanted to give back in a way that would benefit future generations. Knowing how much Kettering University, then General Motors Institute, impacted his future he knew how he wanted to contribute.

DeHaven and his wife, Barbara, recently designated a gift to Kettering in his and his wife’s estate plans. He also opted to establish a charitable gift annuity by donating stocks/securities.

“I went to GMI in 1951. Just out of high school a friend and I decided to attend. We had no other means of attending college. I started school with $400. I had an understanding of what GMI offered me,” DeHaven said. “I felt there are so many other students out there that were in a similar situation. The least I could do was give a little back to Kettering.”

The DeHavens plan to include more funding to Kettering in their charitable trust. The funds donated to Kettering will be for scholarships for Mechanical Engineering students.

Robert DeHaven, who retired from Buick in 1987 as an engineering manager, studied Mechanical Engineering while at Kettering and he wants to help students in the program that long ago shaped him.

“I wanted to do something to make an impact. I want to do something in my will, but I also wanted to do something now,” he said. “Kettering gives students such a great opportunity. The concept of working and going to school is so good and so solid, I believe it’s something that needs to be expanded. The quality of the school is worth it. That’s why I decided to give back.”
Fred G. Brighton II ‘88 and his wife, Marcella A. Brighton, decided to give back in a meaningful way that would not only impact Kettering University students, but also help supply talented engineers into the workforce.

The Brightons have included Kettering in their estate plans. The gift is designated for scholarship awards to students majoring in Electrical Engineering. Because of this decision they are now recognized as new members of The 1919 Society.

“We were talking about how my Kettering education and co-op experience have served me well over my career, and discussing how we could give back to students so they could have a similar experience,” said Fred Brighton manager of Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Storage Research at Ford Motor Company’s Research and Advanced Engineering. “We wanted to make it possible for talented students to continue their Kettering education and help relieve some of the financial burden on them.”

The hope for this future gift is to continue to attract outstanding students to Kettering and develop excellent engineering talent for industry.

The Kettering education is a great way to do that, Brighton said.

“The education combined with the co-op experience prepares you to apply what you learned in the classroom immediately in a professional setting,” Brighton said. “A planned gift is a good way to make a difference within your estate plans. It’s relatively easy to do and can have a huge impact for others. When you come to campus it’s encouraging and motivating to see how dedicated Kettering students are about their education.”

Graduate Makes Planned Gift to Help Attract Future Students

Peter ’68 and Lynda Clark have committed $50,000 to assist the next generation of Phi Gamma Delta students at Kettering University.

“My life has been good luck on top of good luck — both in family and career. None of it would’ve been possible without Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) and Kettering,” Clark said. “Every Kettering graduate and every Fiji stood on the shoulders of those who went before. It is now our duty to give a hand up to those who follow.”

Clark describes his own career as a series of fortunate events that allowed a poor kid from Indianapolis to become a real estate developer in San Francisco. At the foundation of both his professional and personal journey has been the experiences at Kettering (then General Motors Institute) and Phi Gamma Delta.

Clark wanted to go to college but didn’t have the means until he heard about GMI from a high school classmate. The ability to co-op solved the financial problem so he applied at Chevrolet-Indianapolis. He later learned no other student had applied so early in the year.

“How lucky I was to learn the early-bird lesson,” Clark said. “Lucky again, I was in B-section because I don’t know how I would’ve paid tuition and board otherwise,” Clark said.

Clark majored in Mechanical Engineering while becoming immersed with Fiji. He valued the problem-solving skills he gained during his collegiate education and his personal development as a leader with the fraternity.

Based on his co-op experiences, Clark began to shift his career path from the factory by pursuing an MBA part-time at Butler University while still working on his Kettering thesis. After graduating from Butler in 1971, Clark took a job in real estate and construction with Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana.

“Cummins sent me all over the world to buy land and build everything from truck shops to manufacturing plants,” Clark said. “How lucky was that? I loved the business.”

Clark’s love for real estate development took him to San Francisco in 1978 where he worked for three outstanding real estate firms before founding Touchstone Development Company in 1991. Other opportunities led to subsidiary companies in real estate investment and consulting.

“Kettering students carry an extraordinary load. They have to work hard — a great life lesson,” Clark said. “The successful ones just jump in the river and start swimming. They try new things, meet new people, because people are everything. My good fortune has been a result of relationships with quality people, starting with my fraternity brothers.”

Clark is now assisting the next generation of Kettering Fijis through the Clark Fiji Scholarship and he hopes other Fiji alums will join him in extending the scholarship through the next decade.

“It is our duty to share our good fortune,” Clark said.
Ezra Ramirez ’18 is the youngest of four siblings and the first one in his family to attend college. Raised in Montgomery, Texas, just outside of Houston, Ramirez wanted to leave his home state to pursue new experiences.

“I visited Kettering and saw the clubs and small campus atmosphere that I was looking for,” Ramirez said. “More importantly, it was the hands-on experience and the ability to just get to work that attracted me to Kettering. I wanted to be in the workforce as soon as possible. I know how important that is.”

Ramirez describes himself as a “hands dirty type of person” who prefers to balance classroom experience with real-world projects which makes him a perfect fit for Kettering.

His passion for Kettering was matched with opportunity through an award from the Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund. The Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students in time of need. Gifts of all amounts are put to immediate use and cumulatively make an important difference for families of incoming students as well as sophomores, juniors and seniors who struggle to complete their degrees because of financial constraints.

“I’m so grateful for the scholarship,” Ramirez said. “It was a big factor in me deciding to come here.”

The Keep Me Kettering Scholarship was started in 2015. Since its inception, the scholarship has given $1,263,711 in assistance to 570 students. The number of awards and the total support provided to each student has grown in each respective year of the fund. The Keep Me Kettering Scholarship is vital to allow students to get a truly unique cooperative education at Kettering.

“I like Kettering a lot,” Ramirez said. “Here you can stand out more and have better connections with professors. Professors want you to do great. They help you do great.”

Ramirez understands that his familial expectations are high given that he’s the first to go to college. The Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund has allowed him the flexibility to consistently meet those expectations while being engaged with projects both on and off campus.

Ramirez is majoring in Mechanical Engineering while completing his co-op at Stemco in Texas. On campus, he’s been an integral member of the Green Engineering Organization and Shell Eco-Marathon team.

“I want to use my degree to become the best engineer that I can become to help solve global problems,” Ramirez said.

You can support the Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund by visiting kettering.edu/give
Sincerely,

Susan Davies, Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations

Answering the Call

Thank you to all alumni, parents and friends who “answered the call” this past year by participating in the phonathon. Our team of student callers came from as close as Flint, Michigan, and as far as Madras, India, to raise more than $150,000 in commitments to support the Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund and the Kettering Gift Fund.

Thanks to a match from the Makulinski Family Foundation and alumni Henry Fracalossi ’56 and Tom Lockwood ’72, student callers helped raise $32,504 for the Keep Me Kettering Scholarship Fund on #GivingTuesday 2016, on November 29, 2016.

4 WEEKS
22 TEAM CAPTAINS
325 OF 425 FACULTY, STAFF AND RETIREES
77% PARTICIPATION
21 GIFTS/PLEDGES OF $1,000 FACULTY, STAFF AND RETIREES
$83,000 GIVEN/PLEDGED (Largest Amount Ever)
242 PAIRS OF BULLDOG SOCKS

COUNTLESS PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS IMPACTED
Wish to thank all of Kettering University alumni and friends who are helping to make a difference in the lives of our students. The goal of the Kettering University Philanthropy Report and Donor Honor Roll is to recognize your thoughtful and generous support over the past year. Together alumni, friends, corporations and foundations have made a significant impact in the life of the University. Your cumulative support continues to be transformational.

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