Here is how great stories begin with an act of generosity.
Here is how private philanthropy makes a difference to the lives of UB students, to the fabric of our campus, to the quality of our intellectual output, even to the economic health of the wider community beyond UB. Here is how generous donors make UB what we are today.
Here is how endowed faculty positions draw top talent to UB.

With one action, Erich Bloch made UB’s Department of Materials Design and Innovation more of a destination.

Bloch, who earned a BS from UB in 1952, was a celebrated computer scientist at IBM and, later, director of the National Science Foundation.

He made sure the new department at UB could always compete for a world-class leader when he established the Erich Bloch Endowed Chair with a $1.5 million gift.

And the first holder of the chair is fulfilling just what Bloch’s gift promised. Last year, when UB recruited Krishna Rajan, a world leader in materials informatics, he was the Wilkinson Professor of Interdisciplinary Engineering at Iowa State University.

The Bloch Chair was a step up for a superstar.

Now Rajan is recruiting an interdisciplinary department faculty. UB’s superior computational tools are a draw—as is Rajan himself.

UB has invested heavily in scientific infrastructure over the past decade. Bloch’s endowment is a comparable philanthropic investment in human capital. Together, drawing on public and private investments, they will help shape the future.
KRISHNA RAJAN

“What I’m trying to do is to link fields that normally don’t talk to each other.”
Here is how your gift can change a student’s outlook on the world.

Before Chris Fancher went to Italy as part of UB’s Classics in the Mediterranean course, he didn’t know how he would cover the trip’s cost.

He considered a loan—something he had managed to avoid by living at home and working 30 hours a week. He applied for funding, but without much hope.

To his surprise, he received a President’s Circle scholarship designated for study abroad by Western New York students at UB. To his greater surprise, he came home with a new view of his future.

Chris discovered he was as interested in the ordinary people he met in Italy as in their distant ancestors. He was fascinated by a modern culture different from his own.

Now he’s added a major: business administration, with a concentration in international business.

The scholarship took him further than he’d planned. He says, “If I hadn’t gone on that trip, I don’t know how different things would be for me now.”

UB sponsors more than 80 study-abroad programs, from Australia to Brazil, Canada to China and beyond. There are eight programs in Japan alone. Donor-supported study-abroad programs provide students with life-changing experiences.
CHRIS FANCHER

“If I hadn’t gone on that trip, I don’t know how different things would be for me now.”
Here is how gifts that fund scholarships support real lives.

Eveeta Bajracharya came to UB from Kathmandu, Nepal, in the fall of 2014 to earn an MBA to advance her banking career.

Her family, which recently had started a successful distributorship of mobile phones, borrowed at a steep rate to fund her degree.

When a massive earthquake devastated Kathmandu in 2015, Eveeta’s family survived, but their business was devastated by the collapse of Nepal’s communication infrastructure.

Now their indebtedness on her behalf weighed doubly on Eveeta. She was working the maximum hours possible as a student assistant, but that paid only for her modest living expenses.

Help came from a Robert G. and Carol Gross Scholarship, which she used to reduce her tuition bill.

The scholarship relieved some pressure on her family as they rebuilt their business. And it helped Eveeta academically by relieving her stress—a gift worth more than dollars.
EVEETA BAJRACHARYA

“Getting the scholarship took away a lot of stress, and that helped my academics.”
Here is how one gift started a perpetual innovation machine.

One year, the business competition endowed by the late Henry A. Panasci Jr. launched a UB student startup called Campus Labs that later sold for $32 million.

This year’s competition winner, Buffalo Automation Group, aims to make shipping on the high seas more efficient with a new kind of navigation technology. And since oceangoing shipping is the backbone of the world economy, the latest Panasci champion might be the competition’s biggest hit yet.

The company’s founding partners—UB engineering students Emilie Reynolds, Thiru Vikram and Alexander Zhitelzyef—are expanding their business into the Great Lakes market this year.

They will be helped by the $25,000 they won in the Panasci competition and another $27,000 of in-kind services from local donors.

Funded by a $1 million gift made 20 years ago, the Panasci Technology Entrepreneurship Competition shows how a forward-thinking endowment can plant seeds—or in this case, seed capital—far into the future.
“Shipping is the backbone of the world economy. Creating a more efficient shipping infrastructure will benefit trade and increase globalization.”
Here is how philanthropy works with public investment to build a stronger UB.

With the support of generous philanthropic champions like the Jacobs family, UB can build sooner, larger and better.

As longtime chair of the UB Council, Jeremy Jacobs watched firsthand as plans to move UB’s medical school onto the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus became a $375 million reality.

He knew the new school, rising just north of downtown Buffalo, was essential to Buffalo’s growing medical and life sciences industry.

So when his family made a $30 million philanthropic investment in the medical school, they were helping to build not just the school, but the community as well.

“My family is honored to make this investment in the community,” Jacobs said when the gift was announced.

UB benefits from investment by the people of New York. Private philanthropy helps to focus that investment toward what is most beneficial to the university and to Buffalo.

The downtown medical complex will speed revitalization of the Western New York region. The Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences always will honor the private side of UB’s identity.

Over the past 10 years, philanthropic investment in UB totaling $49 million has extended public investment in new buildings, including Kapoor Hall (pharmacy), Davis Hall (engineering) and the new medical school.
THE JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

“My family is honored to make this investment in the community.”

JEREMY JACOBS
You can add your story to these.
You can ensure the enrichment of bright minds. You can help UB build. And you can add the push that brings a discovery to light, that turns a promising idea into a growing business, that opens a student’s eyes to an undreamed-of future.

This is the exciting, challenging truth: Major philanthropic investment will make the University at Buffalo what it becomes. With your help, we can build the future.

To learn more about supporting UB, please contact Nancy Wells, vice president for philanthropy and alumni engagement.

vppae@buffalo.edu
(716) 645-2925
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