

giving matters

A publication for supporters of
health-related research and education
at the University of Minnesota

FALL 2007



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DON AND PAT GAROFALO

Tony Garofalo

"If our son Tony had had the benefit of a focus on prevention, simple heart surgery could have saved his life."

— DON GAROFALO

A kind heart

In memory of their son, couple funds endowed chair in preventive cardiology

It was a Monday morning in 1998 when Donald and Patricia Garofalo got the phone call that turned their lives upside down. □ Their son Tony had had a heart attack at work. They rushed to the hospital, only to return to their home less than two hours later. Tony — just 28 years old — had passed away.

"It was very traumatic for our family," Don says. "We were in a state of shock and disbelief. This was a kid who ran track, was a near-vegetarian, and was not overweight."

Doctors discovered that Tony had major blockage on one side of his heart. Though Tony had seen his doctor because he felt light-headed and generally not quite right, his electrocardiogram produced normal results, and the blockage went undetected.

In the midst of the Garofalos' devastation, other friends and family members were telling them to get checked out. "We were totally baffled," Don says. "We didn't know what that meant or what to do."

A friend referred the Garofalos to the University of Minnesota, where they found trust and comfort in cardiologist Leslie Miller, M.D. At the time, the University was in the early phases of establishing a center focused

on cardiovascular disease prevention — just what the Garofalos were looking for.

So with their doctor's guidance, the family underwent a series of screening tests. Because Don, Pat, and their two other children checked out fine and there was no history of heart trouble on either side of the family, doctors concluded that Tony's heart problem was an anomaly.

In the decade since, the Garofalos have continued their involvement with cardiology at the University. They've watched as the fledgling prevention program has grown into the Rasmussen Center for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, which now offers the nation's most comprehensive assessment to identify early cardiovascular abnormalities.

This year the Garofalos committed \$2 million to establish the Donald and Patricia Garofalo Chair in Preventive

continued on back page

giving matters



Keeping radiology at the forefront

Grateful for past ties to the radiology department, couple helps secure its future



When Don and Pat Garofalo lost their 28-year-old son, Tony, to a sudden heart

attack, they searched for ways to spare others the pain of losing a loved one. As you will read in our cover story, they found that opportunity here at the University by establishing a chair in preventive cardiology — a fast-growing specialty focused on finding ways to prevent cardiovascular disease.

The Garofalos are remarkable, and they are not alone. As several stories in this issue show, personal experience often inspires giving aimed at helping others.

Take Randy Shaver and Roseann Giovanatto-Shaver, for example. When cancer struck three family members in less than a year, their community responded with an outpouring of support. In gratitude, the Shavers — already longtime supporters of cancer research — chose to direct funds to cancer research at the University that will benefit their community.

Fond memories of the U and a positive medical school experience spurred alumni Dr. Harvey and Evelyn Stone to make a bequest from their retirement assets to the Department of Radiology. Dr. Stone offers a simple explanation: “The University gave me a great future.”

By supporting health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota, our benefactors, as well as the talented, dedicated volunteers and staff of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, help shape great futures. Our forward momentum can only accelerate with the recent arrival of two outstanding fund-raising leaders — Patricia Porter, MMF’s new vice president of development, and Mark Parsons, our new associate vice president and director of gift planning.

Patty and Mark bring a wealth of experience to their new roles (see story, page 4), and both are committed to building on MMF’s past successes as we move toward an even greater future.

Becky Malkerson

President and CEO
Minnesota Medical Foundation

The field of radiology looked a little different when Harvey Stone, M.D., studied at the University of Minnesota Medical School in the 1940s. No one taught ultrasound, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, or positron emission tomography — standard subjects for today’s students.

“We more or less just had X-ray studies,” says Stone.

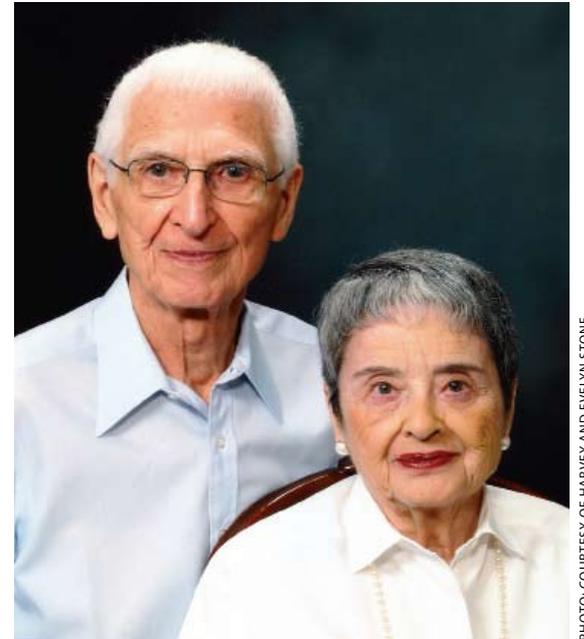
Still, his experience in the department deeply impressed him and set the stage for a successful career as a radiologist. Among his favorite professors were E. T. Bell, M.D., Leo Rigler, M.D., and Wilhelm Stenstrom, Ph.D. Following his residency, Stone spent two years training under Stenstrom, who started the University’s radiation therapy program — still in its infancy at the time.

“I felt I owed them something,” says Stone. “The University gave me a great future.” He and his wife, Evelyn, acted on that feeling of gratitude last December, when they made a \$1 million bequest from their retirement assets to the Department of Radiology. The Dr. Harvey W. and Evelyn L. Stone Endowed Professorship in Radiology will help the department attract and retain outstanding faculty in support of the University’s research mission.

The Stones’ generosity will help keep the department at the forefront of medicine, says department chair Charles Dietz, M.D., who is looking forward to the planned expansion of the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research and to “broadening imaging research to encompass many different axes, especially the neurosciences and cancer.”

Private philanthropy advances education and research, says Dietz. “The money might fund a continuing medical education course, a visiting professorship within a residency program, a research assistant, or a pilot project for an eventual NIH grant.”

The Stones, who met in junior high in North Minneapolis and started “going steady” as sophomores at the University, share fond memories of their time at the U. They spent many evenings together in Northrop Auditorium listening to Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra concerts conducted by Eugene Ormandy.



Dr. Harvey and Evelyn Stone felt compelled to give back to the Medical School for preparing Dr. Stone for “a great future” in radiology.

“We got married in 1943, when Harvey was in medical school,” Evelyn says. Medical School fees at the time were \$37.50 per quarter, she adds.

Harvey Stone recalls a lecture by an internist who had just returned from an infectious diseases meeting on the East Coast. “He wrote the word ‘penicillin’ across the blackboard. It was the first time we had seen the word. The professor said, ‘This is going to revolutionize the treatment of disease.’”

Although the Stones settled in Long Beach, California, they like to stay connected to the University and visited their alma mater in 2005.

“Mind-boggling,” says Stone of his tour of the Radiology Department, well-known for advancing high-field-strength magnetic resonance imaging, neuroradiology, interventional radiology, pediatric radiology, and mammography. “The advances are so great and so important.” — LEE ENGFER

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HARVEY AND EVELYN STONE

Motivated by experience

Shavers raise money for cancer research, benefiting the community that supported them

Many families have been affected by cancer in some way. But in 1997 and 1998, it hit the family of KARE 11 sports anchor Randy Shaver especially hard.

□ Within 11 months, Roseann Giovanatto-Shaver, Randy's wife, was diagnosed with melanoma, Roseann's mother was diagnosed with uterine cancer, and Randy was diagnosed with stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma.

But even before cancer and treatment became big parts of their own lives, the Shavers were raising money for cancer research through the MoneyGram International Randy Shaver Celebrity Golf Classic. They have supported cancer initiatives in the community since 1994, and in the last four years, the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund has directed more than \$350,000 to cancer-related projects at the University of Minnesota.

"When Randy had cancer, it was the community that supported him and us," Giovanatto-Shaver says. "We want to allocate

our funding to specific researchers or specific technology that will benefit this community."

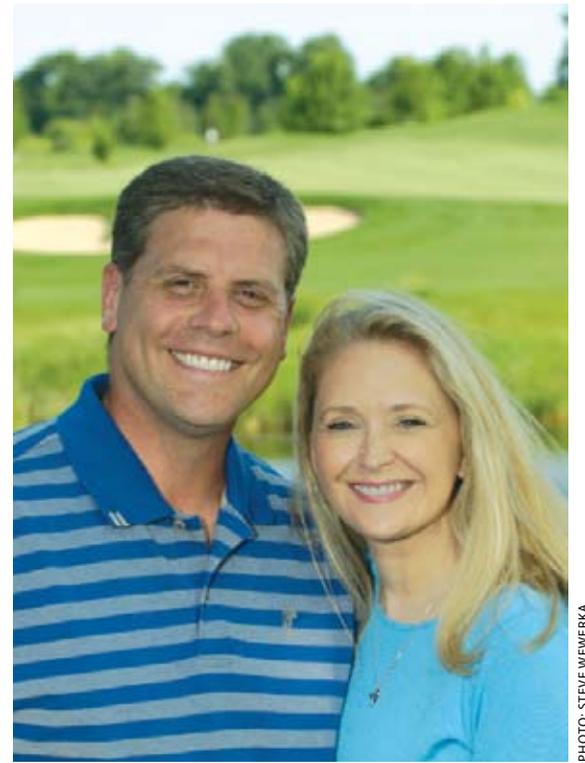
John Ohlfest, Ph.D., an assistant professor and director of the University's Translational Gene Therapy Program in the Department of Neurosurgery, received a \$40,000 grant from the Shaver fund this year to study a vaccine to treat a fatal type of brain tumor that is resistant to all conventional therapies.

The funding has allowed Ohlfest to evaluate the vaccine in a mouse model. He and his research team have found that the vaccine is killing tumors — with little or no evidence of toxic side effects. In the foreseeable future, Ohlfest hopes to try the vaccine in a clinical trial with human patients.

The Shaver grant also played a key role in helping Ohlfest secure additional funding from the National Institutes of Health to continue studying the vaccine.

"This has been an incredibly successful project — beyond my expectations," Ohlfest says.

Patricia Judson, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health, also received about \$40,000 from the Shaver fund this year to study whether complementary medicine would benefit women with ovarian cancer.



Randy Shaver and Roseann Giovanatto-Shaver have been raising money for cancer initiatives through a celebrity golf tournament for more than a decade.

PHOTO: STEVE WERKA

Judson hopes to determine whether therapies like clinical hypnosis, therapeutic massage, and healing touch improve quality of life and lessen side effects for these patients, as well as to collect preliminary data on any immunologic changes.

"Many funding agencies want research that cures cancer — they are less focused on improving quality of life and decreasing side effects of chemotherapy," Judson says. "Many of the individuals associated with the Shaver fund have personally experienced chemotherapy and understand how hard it can be on their quality of life."

Giovanatto-Shaver says she's impressed that University researchers are delving into research that others aren't. "It's not that we're trying to find the 'magic bullet,'" she says. "We're trying to help improve therapeutic methods and delivery and — through them — quality of care."



John Ohlfest, Ph.D., used a grant from the Shaver fund to test a vaccine on a currently untreatable type of brain tumor.

PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Sullivan scholarship surpasses goal

Former students and colleagues of W. Albert Sullivan Jr., M.D., heeded the call when they learned that an anonymous Medical School alumnus had agreed to match up to \$106,500 in contributions to the Albert Sullivan Scholarship Fund. Within a year, 535 supporters had made gifts and pledges totaling more than \$127,000 to the fund

honoring the popular associate dean of student affairs, who died in 1990.

Today's students face an average debt of more than \$130,000 by the time they complete medical school. To help reduce that burden, the Sullivan scholarship supports medical students at the University of Minnesota, with preference given to

undergraduates majoring in fields outside the sciences. The scholarship qualifies for the President's Scholarship Match, which doubles its impact for current medical students.

To make a gift or learn more about the President's Scholarship Match, please contact Cindy Adams Ellis at 612-625-5976 or cae@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu.

Two new development leaders join MMF

An experienced leader and successful fund-raiser in major Big-Ten development campaigns, Patricia Porter is eager to share her expertise as the Minnesota Medical Foundation's new vice president of development.

Porter comes to MMF after six years with the University of Wisconsin Foundation in Madison, which recently completed a \$1.8 billion campaign. As senior director of the UW foundation's health and life sciences development team, she managed fund-raising for the UW hospital and children's hospital, medical school, cancer center, and cardiovascular research center as well as its nursing and veterinary medicine programs.



Patricia Porter, vice president of development, and Mark Parsons, associate vice president and director of gift planning

Prior to that, Porter spent 10 years at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where she was assistant vice president for development and led a staff of 85 with responsibility for annual giving, corporate and foundation relations, major and campaign gifts, planned giving, the president's council, and development services. During her tenure, Purdue raised \$332 million, surpassing its \$250 million campaign goal.

"The Minnesota Medical Foundation's reputation and strong leadership attracted me to the position," says Porter, who will start in her new role October 22. "I am looking forward to working with MMF's development team to support advances in medicine and public health at the University of Minnesota."

Porter will be working closely with MMF's new associate vice president and director of gift planning, Mark Parsons, who joined the foundation in September.

Parsons, who holds a B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota as well as a master of divinity degree from the United Theological Seminary and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, brings a broad range of experience to the job. For the last five years, he was president and executive director of California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation in West Sacramento, Calif., which manages financial assets for churches and agencies of the United Methodist Church in northern Nevada and California.

Prior to that, he was director of planned giving for Utah State University, in Logan, Utah. He also directed gift planning at Hamline University in St. Paul for eight years and served as senior minister for Edgewater Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Minneapolis for nine years.

"I look forward to building on MMF's tradition of success in planned giving, which has been a hallmark of the foundation," says Parsons, adding that he's happy to be back in Minnesota.

Limited-time offer for IRA holders

For a limited time, special income tax incentives make charitable giving more appealing than ever for donors who are 70½ or older. They can now make charitable contributions from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) simply and without adverse tax complications — but only through 2007.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permits donors over age 70½ to make charitable contributions using funds from IRAs tax free. Previously, donors had to pay income tax on any amount taken from their IRAs, even on withdrawals used for charitable contributions.

Under this law, you may make a tax-free contribution of IRA funds to the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF) if:

- You are age 70½ or older
- The total IRA charitable contribution is no more than \$100,000 per person

- You make the contribution on or before December 31, 2007
- You transfer the funds directly from an IRA to MMF

Dr. C. Sherman Hoyt (Medical School Class of '53) and his wife, Helen, have taken advantage of this law to fund a scholarship in the Medical School.

"We know that medical students acquire huge debt before they graduate, so Helen and I have established the Helen K. and C. Sherman Hoyt, M.D., Endowed Scholarship," Sherman says.

"We've had a good life, and we want to help someone else," adds Helen.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Medical Foundation at 800-922-1663 or 612-625-1440, e-mail giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning.

HOW THE LAW WORKS

An example: Pat is age 71 and has \$450,000 in an IRA. She has decided to contribute \$75,000 to MMF this year. If Pat transfers \$75,000 from her IRA, she will avoid paying income tax on that amount. Although she cannot claim a charitable deduction for the amount, she completely avoids the income tax she would have paid on a regular withdrawal. And, she can count that amount toward her minimum required distribution.

Pat could give up to \$100,000 in 2007. And if her husband has an IRA and is 70½ or older, he can also give up to \$100,000 before the end of the year.

OCTOBER

22 MONDAY 6 p.m.
Minnesota Medical Foundation Annual Dinner*
 McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
 Contributions from generous donors make much of the University of Minnesota's work possible. This event honors those who support health-related research, education, and service at the University. By invitation only.
 ① Contact Christina Newcombe at 612-626-5720 or c.newcombe@mmf.umn.edu.

* Sponsored by the Minnesota Medical Foundation

NOVEMBER

4 SUNDAY 6 p.m.
Annual Meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges — Special Reception*
 Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.
 Join colleagues from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Medical Alumni Society, and Minnesota Medical Foundation for a special reception during the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges.
 ① Contact Kate Roth at 612-625-0336 or k.roth@mmf.umn.edu.

10 SATURDAY 11 a.m.
Scholarship Luncheon*
 McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
 This annual luncheon honors our medical student scholarship recipients and the generous donors who have contributed to the Minnesota Medical Foundation's scholarship program. By invitation only.
 ① Contact Cindy Adams Ellis at 612-625-5976 or cae@mmf.umn.edu.

JANUARY

24 THURSDAY 6 p.m.
Diamond Awards*
 The Depot, Minneapolis
 Join us for the third annual Diamond Awards, the Midwest's premier baseball charity event. Proceeds benefit University of Minnesota research and patient care focused on ataxia, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's, and ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) — devastating illnesses that affect thousands of families in Minnesota alone.
 ① Contact Sarah Curtis at 612-626-5470 or s.curtis@mmf.umn.edu.

NOTE
 Party in the Park will return next fall. The Park at MOA™ is currently undergoing a renovation. Nickelodeon Universe will be opening at the site in spring of 2008.



PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

DOING GOOD FOR DIABETES

For the last three years, Madeline Harris has helped to raise money for the University of Minnesota's Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT), volunteering with her mother, Marybeth Harris, at the DIIT Golf Classic "fore" Diabetes Research.

Eager to do more this year, 15-year-old Maddy designed and sold T-shirts, donating \$1,000 of the proceeds to diabetes research.

Then at the June 18 DIIT Golf Classic, emcee Jeff Passolt surprised Maddy by inviting her to the stage, where one of her T-shirts was auctioned off for \$600. "I was so nervous," Maddy says. "I didn't know any of that was going to happen."

This year's Golf Classic brought in nearly \$400,000 for groundbreaking diabetes research at the DIIT, bringing the 11-year event total to almost \$3.5 million.

go to : www.mmf.umn.edu

For event descriptions, updates, links, and contact information.

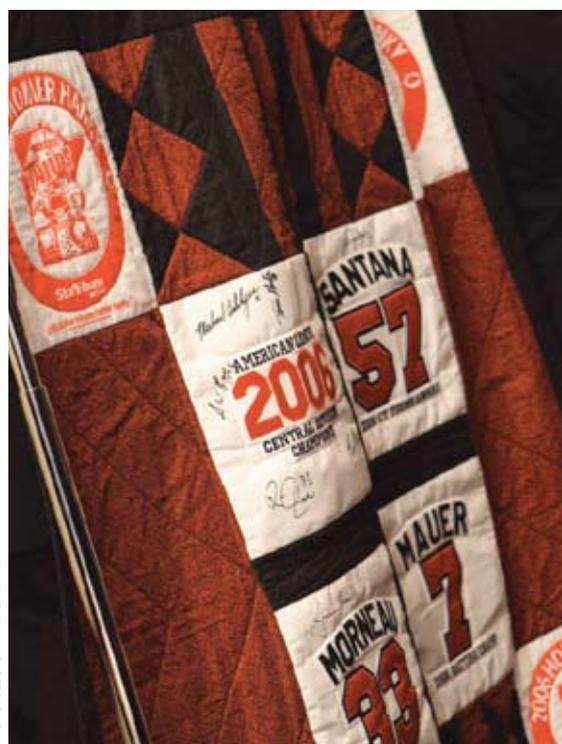


PHOTO: JESSICA HINNENKAMP

Diamond Awards attendees have the chance to bid on one-of-a-kind baseball memorabilia at the event's silent auction.

Covering the bases

Diamond Awards event to benefit research on progressive brain disorders

Don't miss the Diamond Awards, Minnesota's premier charity baseball event, on Thursday, January 24, 2008, at the historic Depot in downtown Minneapolis.

Attendees will have the opportunity to mingle with current members of the Minnesota Twins and other baseball greats, bid on rare baseball memorabilia and other unique items at a silent auction, and attend the televised awards ceremony.

Proceeds from the third annual Diamond Awards will benefit University of Minnesota research and care focused on ataxia, muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

(ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), and Parkinson's disease — devastating illnesses that affect thousands of families in Minnesota alone.

Since its inception, Diamond Awards has raised nearly \$1.2 million for medical research at the University.

You can help strike out ataxia, muscular dystrophy, ALS, and Parkinson's disease! For tickets or more information about the Diamond Awards, contact Sarah Curtis at the Minnesota Medical Foundation, 612-626-5470 or s.curtis@mmf.umn.edu.

A special thanks

We'd like to extend an extra thank-you to the following individuals and organizations who have made commitments totaling \$100,000 or more between May 15 and September 1, 2007, to health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

Boston Scientific Corporation, Natick, Massachusetts, made gifts totaling \$225,650, of which more than \$100,000 will support the Consensus Conference on Intracranial Atherosclerotic Disease. A developer of products for minimally invasive surgical procedures, Boston Scientific is one of the world's largest medical device companies.

The Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF), Minneapolis, contributed an additional \$2,281,000 to the Department of Pediatrics and its Division of Hematology-Oncology. These gifts continue CCRF's long-standing support for childhood cancer research at the University.

Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc., New Brunswick, New Jersey, made gifts totaling \$130,894 in support of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship Fund. A developer and marketer of advanced medical devices for minimally invasive and open surgical procedures, Ethicon Endo-Surgery established this fund five years ago to support educational opportunities for minimally invasive surgery fellows at the University.

Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis, made gifts totaling \$669,166, most of which was directed to the Medical School Dean's Discretionary Fund. Fairview has helped advance innovations in blood and marrow transplantation, stem cell research, urology, pediatric cardiology, and other areas in the Medical School.

Dusty and George A. Mairs, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, gave an additional \$400,000 to the Mairs Family Chair, which benefits the Bone and Soft Tumor Center in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. The Mairses established this chair in 2003 in appreciation of the care that George Mairs received as a patient of the center.

The Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., pledged an additional \$788,586 in support of the Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation in the Department of

Medicine. The Masonic Families of Minnesota have supported cancer research and care at the University for more than half a century.

The Medtronic Foundation pledged \$150,000 over two years in support of the University's Center of American Indian and Minority Health, which helps Native American medical students as they enter medical school, attain their degrees, and become physicians who integrate their Native American traditions into medical treatment. Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, gave an additional \$124,400 for research on cardiac arrhythmias and other cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, and cancer.

Thomas G. and Meredith D. Olson, Wayzata, Minnesota, contributed \$150,000 to the Carol Olson Memorial Diabetes Research Fund. Established in honor of Mr. Olson's late sister, this fund helps advance the work of the University's Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation.

Sidney K. Shapiro, M.D., Ph.D., Minneapolis, gave \$100,000 for the establishment of the Sidney K. Shapiro, M.D., Ph.D., Neurology Discretionary Endowment. Dr. Shapiro completed his neurology fellowship at the University of Minnesota. Subsequently, he became a professor of neurology and is currently a professor emeritus in the Department of Neurology. Dr. Shapiro has provided philanthropic support for the University of Minnesota's health-related work for nearly 30 years.

The estate of Edward E. Siegel, Minneapolis, has committed \$100,000 to benefit the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation. Mr. Siegel founded Eddie's Teddy Land at the Minnesota State Fair and Siegel Display Products.

Smith & Nephew, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, made gifts totaling \$112,500 to the Regions Trauma Fellowship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, which helps advance training opportunities in orthopaedic trauma. Founded in 1856, Smith & Nephew is a global medical device company that specializes in orthopaedic reconstruction, orthopaedic

trauma and clinical therapies, endoscopy, and advanced wound management.

The estate of Eleanor H. Spicola, Edina, Minnesota, contributed \$205,374 to the John H. Kersey Chair in Cancer Research at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. The Spicola family has supported cancer research at the University for many years and in many ways — from philanthropic contributions to service on the Minnesota Medical Foundation board of trustees. This estate gift honors Dr. Kersey's 15 years as the Cancer Center's visionary leader and will help continue exceptional research on behalf of cancer patients.

The Starkey Hearing Foundation, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, contributed \$100,000 to the Michael M. Paparella (MMP) Fund of the International Hearing Foundation to help strengthen programs for the hearing-impaired. Since 2000, the Starkey Hearing Foundation has distributed more than 200,000 hearing aids to people around the world, from South America to Asia. It has contributed more than \$500,000 to the University of Minnesota.

The St. Jude Medical Foundation, St. Paul, made gifts totaling \$101,355 — \$94,855 of which will advance research in the Cardiac Arrhythmia Center. The St. Jude Medical Foundation raises money for research, education, and outreach initiatives that benefit individuals with cardiovascular, neurological, and chronic pain conditions.

Yoshi Tani, St. Paul, contributed \$100,000 to establish the Tani Family Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmology. The professorship — which will be used to attract and retain topflight ophthalmology faculty members — honors Mrs. Tani's sons, Drs. Paul and Douglas Tani, both ophthalmologists. It also pays tribute to her late husband, Dr. George Tani, who was an ophthalmologist and a member of the University of Minnesota Medical School's clinical faculty.

The 3M Company, St. Paul, committed an additional \$115,000 in support of the innovative research and educational programs of the School of Public Health and Medical School. The 3M Company has partnered with the University for more than 20 years to promote a healthier future for Minnesotans and others beyond our borders.

Welcome new members!

Because of their generous support, the following donors became members or rose to a higher giving society of the University of Minnesota Presidents Club between May 16 and September 1, 2007. Their gifts have been designated (all or in part) to the Medical School, School of Public Health, Cancer Center, or other areas served by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

BUILDERS SOCIETY
(\$1 million or more)

+ Frederick B. Wells Jr. Trust

REGENTS SOCIETY
(\$500,000 to \$1 million)

Drs. N. L. Jr., '50, and + Sarah J. Gault, '50

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(Future gifts)

Dr. H. Spencer and Nancy D. Holmes

Peggie T. and Aldo G. Notarianni

Dr. Jean Covert Sauer, '56

+ Deceased



Building a better future

Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way to help others while helping yourself and a loved one.

Your charitable gift annuity to the Minnesota Medical Foundation helps advance world-class health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota while providing substantial tax benefits and a lifetime income for you and your spouse.

To learn more, contact Mark Parsons or Holly McDonough at 800-922-1663, 612-625-1440, or giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu.

Visit our Web site at: www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning

MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION
at the University of Minnesota

The Minnesota Medical Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

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International Hearing Foundation
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800-922-1663

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The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Cardiology to further advance knowledge in the field. They've also funded the Anthony Garofalo Fellowship in Preventive Cardiology as well as undergraduate scholarships in Tony's name.

"We always were a giving family, but our son's death accelerated our giving," Pat says. "Tony was a very giving, kind person."

"When you are going through a hideous time in your life, like losing a child, you need a focus," she adds. "You really want to make a difference for someone."

Intervening early

Professor of medicine Daniel Duprez, M.D., Ph.D. — the first holder of the Garofalo endowed chair — says the Garofalos' support inspires his work. "I am very grateful," says Duprez. "This is one of the biggest honors I could receive."

As director of research at the Rasmussen Center, Duprez works to identify the mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and to detect disease early — before symptoms appear and before the disease results in heart attack, stroke, heart failure, or kidney failure.

"I work in a hospital, but the major part of my research is trying to find ways to keep people out of the hospital," he says.

Duprez recently led a study, published in the August 28 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, showing that treating people who have early cardiovascular abnormalities — but no symptoms of disease — can slow disease progression and even reverse damage to the heart and blood vessels.

"Dr. Duprez is the consummate clinician-scientist. He is compassionate, delivers outstanding care, and has contributed significantly to preventive cardiovascular disease knowledge," says Daniel Garry, M.D., Ph.D., director of the cardiology division of the Department of Medicine. "He represents the future of cardiovascular medicine, and his contributions are recognized in the awarding of this endowed chair."



PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

Daniel Duprez, M.D., Ph.D. (right), holds the endowed chair in preventive cardiology that Don Garofalo (left) and his wife, Pat, established in their son's memory.

An important investment

Garry, who also directs the University's Lillehei Heart Institute and holds the St. Jude Medical Cardiovascular Chair in Biomedical Engineering, is revitalizing cardiology research in the Medical School. Researchers are attacking cardiovascular disease from several angles, using cell-based therapies, genomics, and the body's own signaling mechanisms to treat disease, to detect problems earlier, and ultimately to prevent heart damage from occurring in the first place.

"Preventive medicine and preventive cardiology are really at the forefront of medicine," Garry says.

That's why the Garofalos' support is so vital to the University. "Philanthropic leaders like the Garofalos are absolutely essential for us to grow and achieve excellence in preventive cardiology—and for us to have an impact on a large number of patients," Garry says.

The Garofalos want to do whatever they can to help. "If our son had had the benefit of a focus on prevention, simple heart surgery could have saved his life," Don says.

Ultimately, the Garofalos hope their gifts to heart research at the University will lead to new knowledge about ways to prevent cardiovascular disease — and keep others from having to go through the pain of losing a loved one, especially a child.

"If this can help save just one life, it is all worth it," Don says.

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