

2009-10 Annual Report of Giving



20 years, 20 donors

MILLS



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On the pages that follow, you will read about 20 exemplary donors—alumnae, Trustees, parents, friends, foundations, a 50th Reunion class, and a regional club—whose contributions have helped shape Mills College over the past 20 years.

This two-decade era began with Mills' recommitment to women's education, personified in Janet L. Holmgren and her appointment as president in 1991. Under her leadership, Mills embraced its role as a nationally recognized model for women's higher education and achieved record-breaking enrollment. Today, as President Holmgren prepares to hand off leadership of the College to Alecia A. DeCoudreaux, we thank the donors who provided the foundation for the achievements of this era.

In each of these 20 years, Mills' success depended on thousands of donors who helped the College develop innovative academic and professional programs; expand the availability of scholarship support for students; build new academic, arts, and athletics facilities; and ensure the

College's fiscal sustainability through gifts to the endowment. Donors provided \$130 million in new funding during the Sesquicentennial Campaign of 1997 through 2004, exceeding the campaign's goal by more than 30 percent.

In this report, we have profiled just one donor from each year to illustrate the diversity of Mills' philanthropic community, their reasons for giving, the form their philanthropy takes, and the projects they nurture with their contributions.

We are grateful to President Holmgren for inspiring generous support of the College and to our donors for their commitment to changing the lives of generations of Mills students.

“I gained so much from my experience at Mills! [REDACTED] and I wanted to establish a scholarship to help students have an opportunity for a valuable education at an outstanding women’s college.” —BETTY [REDACTED] ’46



1991

Betty [REDACTED] ’46

Mills College has enjoyed a strong and enduring connection to Hawaii since Cyrus and Susan Mills bought the Young Ladies’ Seminary in Benicia, now Mills College, in 1863. For four years prior to the couple’s arrival in California, Cyrus Mills served as president of Honolulu’s Punahou School. Kapiolani Road is named after Hawaii’s Queen Kapiolani, who, in 1887, visited what had by then become Mills College to see Susan Mills and students from Hawaii.

Betty [REDACTED] is one of many students from Hawaii who chose to attend Mills. Her experience at the College made a lifelong impression, and [REDACTED] and her husband, [REDACTED], have been longtime supporters of Mills. Their philanthropic interests have included faculty chairs, building projects, the annual fund, and scholarships.

In 1991, the couple created the endowed [REDACTED] Scholarship for students from Hawaii.

[REDACTED] explains, “I had gained so much from my experience at Mills! [REDACTED] and I wanted to establish a scholarship to help students have an opportunity for a valuable education at an outstanding women’s college.”



1992

Jane [REDACTED] ’36

It could be argued that Mills Hall, the iconic center of the College’s campus, is in Jane [REDACTED] blood. Her great-grandfather, Henry M. Newhall, knew Cyrus Mills and contributed to the original construction of the hall. Completed in 1871, Mills Hall once housed the entire College. Many alumnae remember it as a dormitory, which was its function when Jane Newhall lived there as a first-year student in 1932.

Forty years later, in 1972, [REDACTED] was elected to the College’s Board of Trustees. She became a Lifetime Trustee in 1989, the same year the Loma Prieta earthquake seriously damaged Mills Hall. The building closed, its future uncertain. Soon thereafter, the Campaign to Save Mills Hall was launched. [REDACTED] served as honorary chair of the campaign committee and was instrumental in helping to raise \$8.5 million for the hall’s renovation. **She contributed to the campaign herself in 1992.** A beautifully restored Mills Hall reopened in 1994.

Today, Mills Hall is a California Historical Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



1993

Estrellita [REDACTED] '65, MA '75

“Estrellita [REDACTED] both literally and figuratively changed the face of the Alumnae Association of Mills College,” asserts AAMC President Linda Jaquez-Fissori. In the early 1990s, [REDACTED] (at right above) co-founded the association’s Alumnae of Color Committee. Under her leadership, the committee made the association’s Board of Governors, committees, and events more diverse and inclusive.

[REDACTED] has served on both the AAMC Board of Governors and the College Board of Trustees. She is currently the AAMC representative on the College-wide Diversity Committee, which promotes social justice in all facets of life and work at Mills.

[REDACTED] has made at least one gift every year between 1993 and 2010. She recently made a three-year pledge to name seats in the Littlefield Concert Hall in honor of her two sisters—Camellia [REDACTED] '73 and Mary [REDACTED] '60, MA '62 (at left and center above)—and herself. Three nieces and three cousins are also Bent Twigs.

At Reunion 2010, [REDACTED] was honored with the Outstanding Volunteer Award at the fourth annual AAMC Alumnae Awards Ceremony and Luncheon.



1994

Mills College Associate Council

The Mills College Associate Council was founded in 1932 by President Aurelia Henry Reinhardt. The Associate Council is a unique group of donors—its members enjoy a relationship to Mills similar to that of alumnae, despite the fact they attended other colleges. Members support women’s higher education by assisting Mills in strengthening its resources, and their connections to outside organizations help the College extend its influence. Associate Council members come to campus for opportunities to learn more about Mills, including tours, lectures, and performances.

The Associate Council funds a longstanding current-use scholarship through annual gifts from members, including several contributions in 1994. Students also receive financial support from an endowed scholarship created in 1956. Associate Council President Elaine [REDACTED] (pictured second from left with other council members) explains, “We support the College through scholarships because it’s a tangible way of contributing to the well-being of Mills and the deserving women who study at the College.”

“Most of our members support women’s education because they are the products of women’s colleges, or they strongly believe that women’s colleges offer an important option in higher education,” says [REDACTED].