

# \$10 million donated to Hopkins Stock and cash gift to endow the position of medical school dean

## Donor couple met at school

## President Brody says fund will help attract top candidates to post

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A couple who met as Johns Hopkins University undergraduates and went on to earn their medical degrees there have given \$10 million in stock and cash to endow the position of medical school dean.

Dr. Lenox D. Baker Jr. and **Dr. Frances Watt Baker**, physicians in Norfolk, Va., announced the gift yesterday at a Baltimore dinner celebrating the second anniversary of the Johns Hopkins Initiative -- a six-year campaign to raise \$900 million for the university.

"It is an extraordinary gift because of its size and because it sends the message that leadership is important," said Dr. William R. Brody, president of the university. He noted that most endowed chairs in the United States support the work of senior faculty members, making this one of the few designated for medical school deans.

The gift comes as the university is recruiting a chief executive officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Under a new governance structure, that person will lead the medical school and hospital and will likely hold the title of academic dean.

Brody said the gift will make it easier to attract top candidates for a post that already holds tremendous prestige in academic medicine.

Lenox Baker, 54, is a cardiac surgeon and senior partner in Mid-Atlantic Cardiothoracic Surgeons Ltd. in Norfolk. He is also co-chairman of the Johns Hopkins Initiative and a trustee of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Frances Baker, 55, a pediatrician, serves on the university's national alumni council.

The two met after their first day of classes as college juniors in 1961. That year, they had transferred from other [schools](#) to Hopkins, where they enrolled in a five-year program that led to undergraduate and medical degrees. They earned their bachelor's degrees and were married in 1963, and received their medical degrees in 1966.

"It is and was for us a wonderful education," said Frances Baker. "I feel that they gave us a wonderful education, and we are aware that they need more money than they get from the [students](#) who go there. We are fortunate that we have the money to give to a place like Hopkins."

The Bakers come from families steeped in Hopkins tradition.

Frances Baker's father, James Watt, graduated from the School of Medicine in 1935 and the School of Hygiene and Public Health a year later. As a Hopkins [student](#), he received financial support from a wealthy benefactor.

"As soon as he was able, he set up a [fund](#) at Hopkins to help other students," his daughter said.

Lenox Baker's father, Lenox D. Baker Sr., was chief resident in orthopedic surgery at Hopkins in the 1930s.

And Sarah Baker, the oldest of Lenox and Frances Baker's four daughters, completed her master's degree at the school of public health in 1995. She is conducting research in neonatal health at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Much of the gift was in shares of IMPRA, a manufacturer of surgical [devices](#). Lenox Baker Jr. co-founded the company in the 1970s; one of its products is an artificial artery he developed.

Endowed deanships do more than help pay salaries of deans and their staffs or defray the cost of running an office.

"It also provides a dean with discretionary funds to help build the institution," said Dr. Harry Jonas, assistant vice president of the American Medical Association for medical education. "It's a fund that he can use if he's trying to attract a future Nobel laureate and if that person comes with demands for staffing and assistance."

In a separate gift, the PepsiCo Foundation has committed \$1 million for a student recreation center to be built on the university's Homewood campus. Construction is scheduled to begin within two years.

The center will include facilities for exercise, weight training, aerobics and cardiovascular fitness. The gift is being made in recognition of the volunteer leadership of Hopkins alumnus Allan Huston, [chief executive](#) officer of the PepsiCo Restaurant Services Group.

Major gifts to Hopkins

\$55 million ..... Michael R. Bloomberg ..... 1995  
million ..... Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund ..... 1992  
\$20 million ..... Champlin and Debbie Sheridan .....1992  
million ..... Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation 1995  
\$17.7 million ... Estate of Glenn Stewart ..... 1982  
\$14.6 million\* .. Elizabeth Banks and family ..... 1989  
\$10 million ..... Lenox D. Baker Jr. and Frances Watt Baker 1996  
\$10 million ..... Anonymous family gift for cancer center 1995  
\$9.8 million .... Anonymous faculty member ..... 1986  
million ..... Estate of Kate Macy Ladd ..... 1984  
\$5.1 million .... Estate of Carlos E. Twichell ..... 1994  
\$3.8 million .... Estate of Johns Hopkins ..... 1874

\* Real estate

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