

corridor

Strategies from the
MIT Office of Gift Planning

Spring 2017



Planned giving donors
Don Shobrys '75 and
Carol Aronson at their
home in Concord,
Massachusetts.

Supporting Collaboration

Don Shobry's '75 and Carol Aronson



Don Shobry's '75 strongly believes that MIT is a place for “participants rather than spectators,” an impression he formed as a student that carries over today. The engineer says that the vast array of opportunities for exploration available to him while he was an undergraduate “helped broaden my horizons and allowed me to explore career paths I would never have thought possible.” Similarly, as an alumnus, Shobry's discovered that there are many ways to participate in the life of MIT—and give back.

Years after graduating, Shobry's, an engineer and consultant, found his way back to campus after being invited to be part of the MIT Annual Fund Board, and he says that after that experience, he “was hooked.” Since then, Shobry's has expanded his involvement to include the MIT Athletics Visiting Committee, MIT Corporation, Alumni Association, and Venture Mentoring Service, which he has found particularly rewarding. “You

get to work with really bright people, while you try to help move a quality institution forward,” says Shobry's.

In addition to donating his time, he and his wife, Carol Aronson, a process control expert, contribute financially to multiple areas of MIT, including the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Shobry's and Aronson say they thrived in environments of interdisciplinary

ABOVE: Don Shobry's and Carol Aronson with their dog Ginny

collaboration in both of their careers, and they see this trait in the Koch Institute. “It’s a microcosm of MIT in that you’ve got all kinds of disciplines working towards a common goal of cutting-edge cancer research. I think MIT does a better job than most institutions in being able to actually move forward on interdisciplinary initiatives,” says Aronson. She goes on to explain, “cancer research requires this type of approach—it’s the only way you can solve that problem.”



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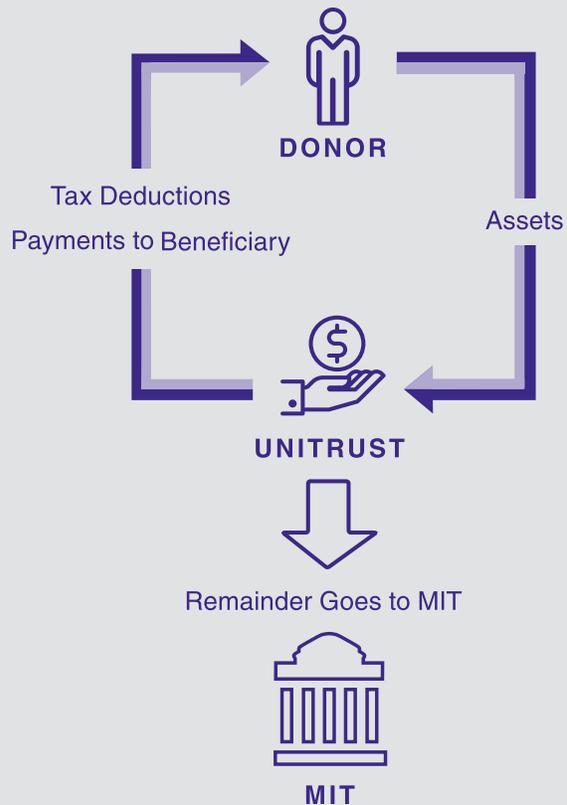
The couple set up a charitable remainder unitrust, which Shobrys calls “a useful philanthropic tool once you get to a certain age in your life. With a CRT you can try to do things that both benefit the Institute and also help you effectively manage your resources.” Shobrys and Aronson designated their trust for the unrestricted use of the Koch Institute, and chose to have their trust invested alongside the MIT endowment. “We wanted to help provide a predictable, sustainable future source of revenue that would make life easier for the people that are running the Koch Institute. That’s important if you’re going to innovate and evolve,” says Shobrys.

Shobrys and Aronson enjoy being engaged members of the MIT community and understand that giving back to MIT not only helps the Institute but could also have a larger impact. “One reason we and other alumni have a high regard for MIT is because we really do believe that MIT tries to attack the world’s most challenging problems,” says Shobrys. •



A SUSTAINING GIFT FOR MIT’S FUTURE

MIT alumni and friends use charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) to support MIT in a way that is close to their hearts while achieving their financial goals. A CRT is a simple gift arrangement in which you make an irrevocable gift of \$100,000 or more into a trust and receive income for yourself and/or other beneficiaries. The term of the trust can extend throughout the lives of the income beneficiaries, or it can be for up to a term of 20 years. At the end of the trust’s term, the remainder becomes available to MIT for the purpose you have selected.



A charitable remainder trust enables you to meet financial goals and charitable aspirations, all while providing for yourself and/or your loved ones.

A Lifetime of Giving Back

In Memoriam: D. Reid Weedon Jr. '41

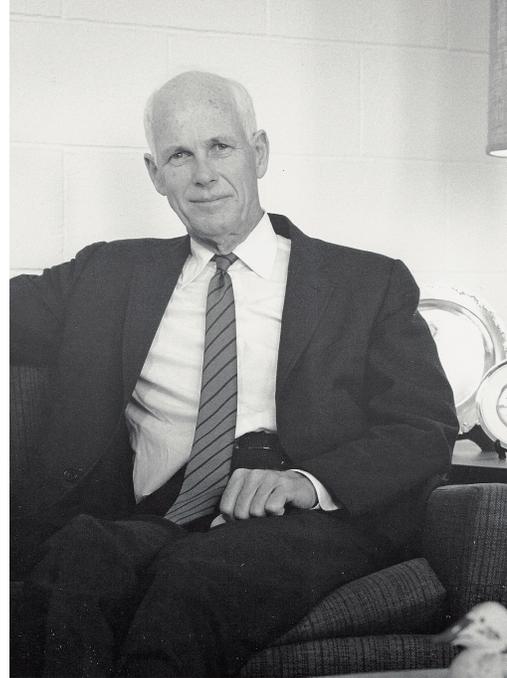
D. REID WEEDON JR. '41 was a dedicated member of the MIT community who served in many key volunteer leadership positions at the Institute. His passing in November 2016 was a tremendous loss felt across the campus. MIT President L. Rafael Reif said, "I doubt there has been anyone more instrumental than Reid in building a culture of giving at MIT, and the benefits of this are everywhere around me."

Weedon gave his time to encourage others to support the institution he loved. He also served as a role model with his own generous giving to MIT through both outright gifts and planned gifts. He was instrumental in establishing the Independent Residence Development Fund as a way to provide donations to MIT's fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. As a proud alumnus of Phi Beta Epsilon, Reid knew how much he had benefited from being a member of that fraternity, and he gave generously in his lifetime to provide valuable resources to aid Greek life and independent living groups at MIT.

Weedon made provisions for funds to come to MIT at a

future time through different charitable remainder unitrusts (CRUTs). The CRUTs will ultimately support various programs at MIT that were significant to Weedon: the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program; the

Independent Residence Development Fund; a fellowship for research on neurodegenerative diseases; and an engineering professorship. "Weedon was a man of vision, and did much to see that his vision was realized during his lifetime and also after his death," says Bonny Kellermann '72, MIT director of special constituencies and gift planning strategist, who worked with him for more than four decades. "He was a valued member of the MIT community whose impact will last far into the future."



An MIT Family

Vincent A. and Alma Fulmer

FOR VINCENT A. FULMER, MIT is part of his family. He and his wife, Alma, a registered nurse, married while Fulmer was a doctoral student in economics at MIT, shared their first home in married student housing and built their family of six children at the Institute. The family's connection to MIT is vast, with Fulmer having been a staff member for 35 years, serving as vice president for a decade, retiring in 1985 as secretary of the MIT Corporation, and with most of their children having volunteered and/or worked at MIT.

The Fulmers are in the process of establishing seven CRUTs, five of which will provide life income for their offspring. The remainder of each trust supports MIT's five schools through the Fulmer Family School Deans Fund. "Through this fund, we wish to call attention to opportunities to contribute to the MIT Campaign for a Better World through supporting MIT's five schools," says Fulmer. "We decided to establish this endowment fund so our family will have a lasting connection to MIT."

KDMS Explores Digital Learning

MIT'S ANNUAL KATHARINE DEXTER MCCORMICK SOCIETY (KDMS) appreciation brunch was held on September 25, 2016, at the Samberg Conference Center on the MIT campus. The highlight of the event was a presentation on "The Future of Learning, the University, and the Degree," given by Sanjay E. Sarma, vice president for open learning; head, Office of Digital Learning; and Fred Fort Flowers and Daniel Fort Flowers Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Sarma talked about the complex nature of individual learning and how the internet has enabled MIT to teach millions from around the world through digital technologies.

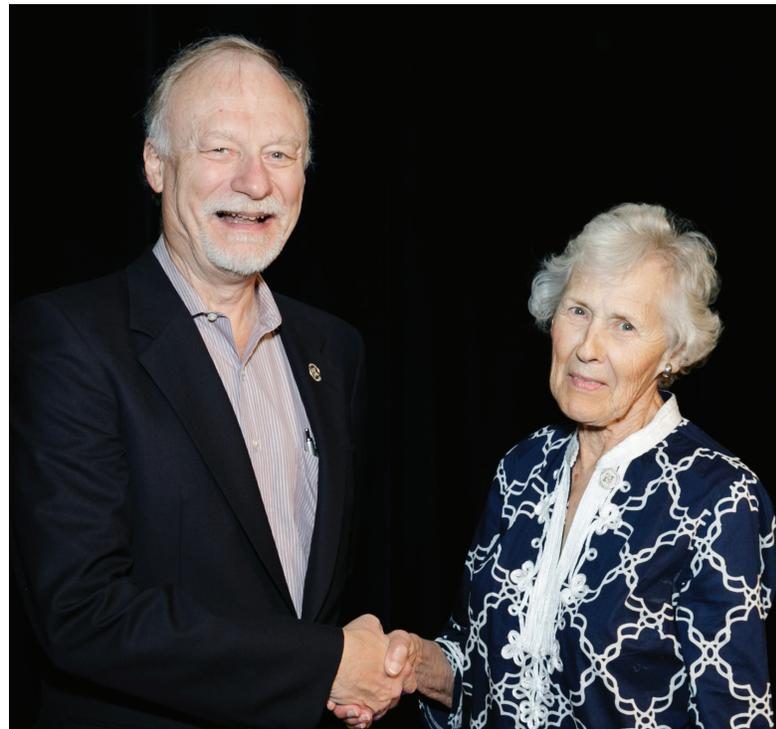
RIGHT: Sanjay E. Sarma speaks to attendees at the annual KDMS appreciation brunch.

Honoring a Memory, Looking Ahead

Vernie Grammer

REYNOLD “REY” GRAMMER JR. ’45, SM ’47 was always grateful for his years at MIT. After receiving his degrees in electrical engineering, he remained deeply involved with the Institute, including 15 continuous years as 1945 class agent until his passing in 2005. To honor her husband’s commitment to MIT, Vernie Grammer began creating annual gift annuities for the unrestricted use of the Institute. She hopes that her gifts not only honor the memory of her late husband but help MIT continue to attract talented students. “I support MIT, so it can offer competitive salaries and endowed positions to attract the most qualified faculty and administrators,” says Grammer. “Our future depends on striving for the best possible education for students. It is incumbent on the Institute to continue to enroll the most promising, deserving, and diverse student body.”

RIGHT: Vernie Grammer
with KDMS Chairman
Michael Dornbrook ’75 at
a KDMS event in Florida



BECOME A KDMS MEMBER

Have you already included MIT in your estate plan? Let us know! We would love to welcome you to the Katharine Dexter McCormick Society. Please contact the Office of Gift Planning or fill out and return the reply card included with this newsletter.

If you would like more information about joining KDMS or have questions about including MIT in your estate plan, please contact us. We would be happy to have a confidential discussion with you regarding your intentions.

Office of Gift Planning

617.253.4082 | giftplanning@mit.edu

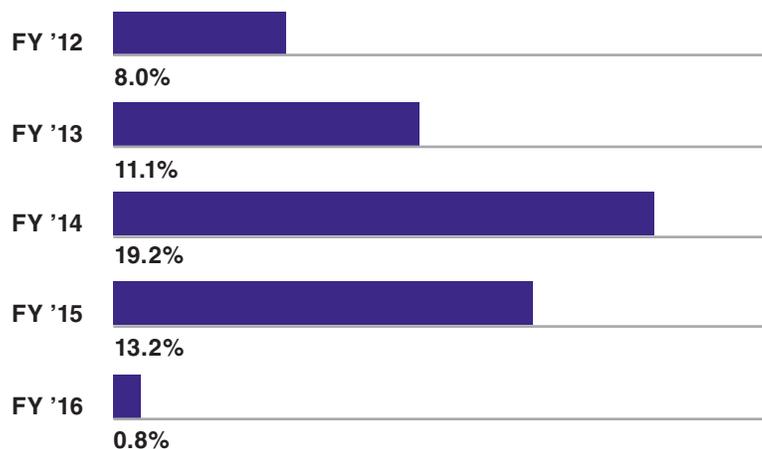
Our next KDMS appreciation brunch will be held on **September 17, 2017.**

Annual MIT Endowment Update

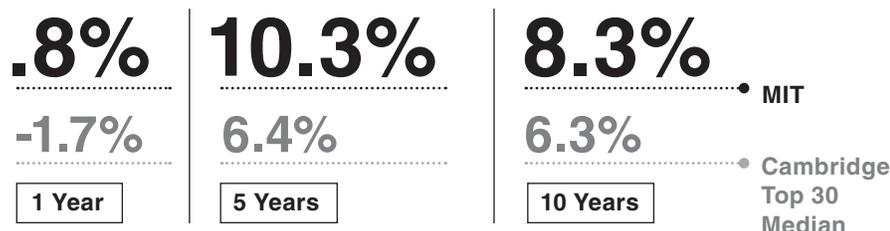
THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY (MITIMCo) announced that MIT's unitized pool of endowment and other MIT funds generated an investment return of 0.8% during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. At the end of the fiscal year, MIT's endowment funds totaled \$13.2 billion, excluding pledges. Despite a challenging fiscal year for higher education endowments across the board, MIT's FY16 returns were strong in comparison to peer institutions. *Bloomberg* reports: "Funds with more than \$500 million lost a median 0.73% in the year through June 30, according to the Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Service."

According to the FY16 MIT Report from the Treasurer, "During fiscal 2016, the Institute continued to push the boundaries of discovery and innovation, reinvent the educational experience, and reimagine the campus despite a challenging economic environment. The Institute maintains a sound financial position resulting from a number of years of sustained solid investment performance and managed expenses. This strength has enabled MIT to continue to invest in strategic initiatives while securing MIT's future and core mission."

INVESTMENT RETURNS, FY '12-'16



ANNUALIZED INVESTMENT RETURNS



The Cambridge Top 30 Median is the median return of the 30 largest college and university endowment pools tracked by Cambridge Associates, a generally recognized endowment benchmark.



REUNION GIFTS

Your planned gifts can count towards your Class Reunion gifts.

Life income gifts made in the 12-month period from July 1 through June 30 of your reunion year will be counted towards your Class Reunion gift at the full face value of your gift.

For bequests, if you are celebrating your 40th reunion or higher, and as long as you make a gift during your reunion year, the present value of a documented bequest intention will count for your Class Reunion gift.

Please contact **Bonny Kellermann '72**, bonnyk@mit.edu or 617.253.9722, for information on how to document your bequest intentions or with any questions about the Class Reunion Gift bequest pledge policy.



SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

Below is suggested language to share with your advisor if you would like to include MIT in your will or estate plan.

I give [all of the residue of my estate OR an amount equal to X percent of the residue of my estate / thereof OR \$ _____] to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, for its general educational and charitable purposes.

We can provide sample language if you prefer your bequest to be designated for a specific purpose. Contact us to learn more about bequests and how they could count towards the MIT Campaign for a Better World.

This information is provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered legal or financial advice. We encourage you to discuss these options with your advisor.

2017 Tax Law: Impact on Philanthropic Decision Making

Tax law changes under consideration could affect some of the current legislation around charitable giving. As you consider supporting MIT, here are few things to keep in mind:

- **Review your current plans** with your advisor as change becomes imminent.
- **Weigh your current options for charitable giving:** while there is much discussion about changes on the horizon, no changes have been put into effect.
- **The IRA Charitable Rollover remains in effect:** for those 70½ and older, you can continue to make qualified charitable distributions of up to \$100K per year, per person.
- **Outright and life income gifts help MIT** and could provide you with additional tax benefits.
- **If you have a donor advised/charitable gift fund,** you may name MIT as an ultimate beneficiary for all or part of what may be left in that account once the advising period is over (usually one or two generations).



MIT is deeply grateful for the ongoing support of alumni and friends who share the desire to take on some of society's most pressing problems. This generosity helps to amplify MIT's distinctive strengths in education, research, and innovation, and it enables students and faculty to pursue their passions. With your help, we are building the future.

betterworld.mit.edu



MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Bonny Kellermann '72 has worked at MIT since 1974, and has served in numerous leadership roles as an alumnae volunteer. She brings her vast knowledge of the MIT community to her newest role as gift planning strategist in the Office of Gift Planning, where she serves as a liaison to the Alumni Association, and is available to discuss bequest intentions and planned gifts.

Michelle Rhodes joined the gift planning team as gift operations associate in September 2016. She assists with life income gift operations and donor correspondence. Previously, Michelle served as an associate client advisor and compliance manager for a financial advisory firm in downtown Boston.

Contact Us

For more information about planned giving, or to speak with someone in our office:

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Inside This Newsletter

- Profiles of generosity
- Annual MIT endowment update
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