

# Rensselaer

*Inaugural  
Scholarship Gala*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

EVENT  
&  
HONORARY  
PROGRAM

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# Rensselaer

## *Inaugural* Scholarship Gala

THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 17, 2016

MANDARIN  
ORIENTAL  
NEW YORK CITY

### Welcome

Graig R. Eastin  
*Vice President, Institute Advancement*

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### Rensselaer Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree Video

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### Presentation of Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.  
*President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

- Howard N. Blitman '50
  - IBM | Ginny Rometty '14H
  - Curtis R. Priem '82
- 

### Keynote Address

Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.

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### “Bridging the Gap” Student Scholarship Video

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### Closing Remarks

Curtis R. Priem '82 and Graig R. Eastin



## Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural Rensselaer Scholarship Gala. Tonight we celebrate our rich history, nearly 200 years in the making, and reaffirm our commitment to Bridging the Gap, ensuring that new generations of outstanding students have the opportunity to achieve their dreams of a Rensselaer education.

Alumni, alumnae, partners, and friends who support this vital initiative make it possible for Rensselaer to bridge the gap between the actual cost of our world-class education and the amount of financial aid we are able to provide our students. Moreover, your support helps Rensselaer pay it forward, as it were, by helping to bridge another critical gap—one that holds serious consequences for the future of our nation. Over the past several decades, the national need for scientists, engineers, and other technically skilled workers has far outpaced the talent we are producing. To help stem this quiet crisis, as I have called it, Rensselaer must be able to attract and enroll the brightest young minds—from the broadest population of our citizenry. We must prepare them to not just become the best science, engineering, and technology professionals, but to also serve as the well-rounded leaders our changing world needs. Your support helps us do just that.

Tonight we also celebrate the recipients of the 2016 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award: alumni Howard N. Blitman '50 and Curtis R. Priem '82, and longtime corporate partner IBM. Our exceptional honorees exemplify the best in science, engineering, and technology talent. Together, they tell a powerful story of Rensselaer's excellence and our enduring quest to change the world.

I know you will enjoy this very special evening. Thank you for being here and supporting Rensselaer.

Sincerely,

**Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.**

*President*

*Professor of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy*

*Professor of Engineering Sciences*

## Bridging the Gap

Since joining Rensselaer in 1999, President Shirley Ann Jackson has led a transformation of the university's pedagogical and research approach under the construct of The New Polytechnic, an emerging paradigm for teaching, learning, and research at Rensselaer. The New Polytechnic emphasizes and supports collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and regions to address the great global challenges of our day, using the most advanced tools and technologies, many of which are developed at Rensselaer.

To achieve this, Rensselaer must better meet the financial needs of our students—especially those underrepresented in STEM fields—in order to advance the diversification of our student body. This bold initiative will make the Institute a magnet for talent, regardless of background or personal resources.

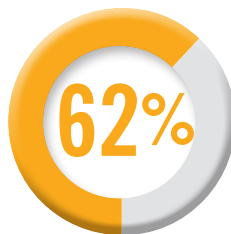
For 47 percent of the undergraduate population at Rensselaer, there is a gap between the amount of financial aid Rensselaer can provide, and the amount of financial aid they need. Therefore, we are counting on Rensselaer alumni, alumnae, partners, and friends to invest in scholarships that bridge the existing financial aid gap.



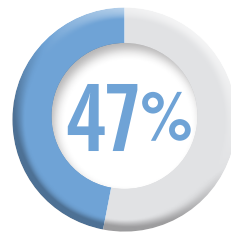
Undergraduate students  
whose need exceeds  
financial aid



UNDERREPRESENTED  
MINORITIES



AFRICAN-AMERICANS



WOMEN

TOTAL NEED PER YEAR EXCEEDS AID BY

**\$32,447,936**



# positive impact

Bank of America Merrill Lynch proudly supports Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's efforts to close the scientific and technical talent gap.

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## Generous Donors 2016

As the first and oldest technological university in the English-speaking world, Rensselaer is dedicated to educating the leaders of tomorrow to address global challenges, within the

construct of The New Polytechnic. To continue doing so, we must strengthen our ethnic, gender, intellectual, and geographic diversity, as outlined in *The Rensselaer Plan 2024* in order to provide all accepted students, regardless of socioeconomic background, the opportunity to attain a world-class STEM education.

We are pleased to recognize generous donors who have recently made leadership commitments in support of scholarship at Rensselaer:

### GIFTS OF \$5,000,000 OR MORE

#### The Priem Family Foundation— Curtis R. Priem '82\*

##### CURTIS R. PRIEM '82 SCHOLARS FUND

The Curtis R. Priem '82 Scholars Fund was established to provide undergraduate student scholarships, up to full tuition, for worthy and needy students, with first preference to women and underrepresented minorities who have illustrated academic excellence.

#### Kathleen M. *and* Paul J. Severino '69\*

##### SEVERINO SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Severino Scholars Program was established to provide undergraduate student scholarships, up to full tuition, for worthy and needy students and transfer students from underrepresented groups, including but not limited to, women, African-American, and Hispanic students, with first preference to those who have illustrated academic excellence by achieving class rank in the top 1 percent of their class.

### GIFTS OF \$1,000,000 OR MORE

#### Wanda Denson-Low '78 *and* Ronald Low\*\*

##### LOW FAMILY ENDOWED FUND

The Low Family Endowed Fund was established to provide support at the discretion of the President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, with first preference for undergraduate financial aid for underrepresented groups, including but not limited to, African-American or Asian Pacific American students, and women, followed by the unrestricted support of pertinent diversity initiatives.

#### Jeanne Page Fischer *and* Frank M. Fischer '64\*\*

##### JEANNE AND FRANK M. FISCHER '64 SCHOLARSHIP

The Jeanne and Frank M. Fischer '64 Scholarship was established for students who demonstrate academic excellence, financial need, and other criteria that the Institute deems of value.

#### Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson *and* Dr. Morris A. Washington\*\*

##### HONORABLE SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON, PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. Scholarship was established in honor of Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson for students who demonstrate financial need, academic excellence, and other criteria that the Institute deems of value.

\* 1824 Society

\*\* Stephen Van Rensselaer Society



**applauds  
Rensselaer Polytechnic  
Institute's  
efforts to close the  
scientific and  
technical talent gap.**

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THE  
Presidential  
Lifetime  
Achievement  
Award

The Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates those whose unique contributions ensure that the fire ignited by Stephen Van Rensselaer nearly 200 years ago continues to burn brightly at Rensselaer today.

Tonight we proudly honor three exceptional recipients: Howard N. Blitman P.E. '50, Curtis R. Priem '82, and IBM.

While each of tonight's honorees provides a distinct example of excellence, they share a profound confidence in Rensselaer's mission to change the world.



# CHANGE

THE WORLD **FOR GOOD.**

SI Group is a company of innovators, inventors, and implementers. We're committed to student success and proud to support the future leaders at RPI.

# Board of Trustees

2016

The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees serves as an inspiration for the greater Rensselaer community and is working to position the university for continued success under *The Rensselaer Plan 2024*. Their respected counsel and exceptional generosity are setting the standard of excellence that is allowing Rensselaer to expand its global reach and global impact. We thank them for their commitment and guidance as we move into our third century of educating the leaders of tomorrow.



Paul J. Severino '69  
 Paula Loring Simon '68  
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 Jackson P. Tai '72  
 Edward J. Zander '68  
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 USN (Ret.) '63  
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## HONORARY TRUSTEES

Howard N. Blitman '50  
 John J. Nigro  
 Robert O. Swanson '58



## John Abad '17

STAMFORD, CT  
AERONAUTICAL  
ENGINEERING

LOIS J. AND HARLAN  
E. ANDERSON  
SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship support took the strain off of my family and me, to be able to finish what I started. It gave us hope, especially after working so hard for so long.



## Perri Adams '17

SEATTLE, WA  
COMPUTER SCIENCE

LINDA SZABAT  
SANFORD '75  
SCHOLARSHIP

I hope to "pay it forward" by studying policy and going into a career of public service.



## Zoe Anderson '17

SEATTLE, WA  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING

GARY T. DICAMILLO '73  
PATROON SCHOLARSHIP

I chose Rensselaer for the opportunities it gives me in engineering. Rensselaer supports me as a woman, an innovator, as well as an engineer.



## Steven Baena '18

MIDDLETOWN, NY  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING

SEVERINO  
SCHOLARS FUND

I chose Rensselaer because it's a wonderful school that is close to home and offers the best education for me.



## Lauren Brady '16, '18

BALLSTON SPA, NY  
ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING

ARCHIBALD LONGWORTH  
LOVE III '42  
SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship allowed me to attend Rensselaer. Without it, I would not have been the first one in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree and attend graduate school.



## Naila Brown '19

SCHENECTADY, NY  
BUSINESS AND  
MANAGEMENT

FRANK M. FISCHER '64  
PATROON SCHOLARSHIP

After graduation, I hope to start consulting. Eventually I would like to start my own consulting firm that helps companies find environmentally friendly solutions.



## Tyler Brown '17

EMMAUS, PA  
COMPUTER & SYSTEMS  
ENGINEERING

PAUL J. SEVERINO '69  
PATROON SCHOLARSHIP

I plan to work for a top-notch engineering corporation, solving different problems to help others. I hope to find a career that allows me to volunteer in the community and give back in any way possible.



## Jessica Cabrera '19

BRONX, NY  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING

NICHOLAS M.  
DONOFRIO '67 IBM  
SCHOLARSHIP

I want to build more homes and structures in third world countries so people believe they can also achieve goals and know that there are others willing to help.



**Thomas Fajardo '17**

GREENWICH, CT  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

LOIS J. AND HARLAN E. ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship support has allowed me to focus on my studies without having to work while going to school full-time, and not having to take out loans or worry about money.



**Tanner Hart '17**

FULLERTON, CA  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

RENSSELAER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Rensselaer has given me multiple opportunities to meet great students, work on cutting edge research, network with alumni, and pursue academics at the highest level.



**Paul Ilori '17**

DOHA, QATAR  
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

THE CARR SCHOLARSHIP FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS

I enjoy the unique community we have on campus, made up of people with diverse interests and stories, and how we come together for things.



**Terrence Lawrence '18**

HIGHLAND, NY  
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

SEVERINO SCHOLARS FUND

I came to Rensselaer because I want to be a part of one of the best engineering schools. I heard Rensselaer has great research opportunities and a reputation for good job placement.



**Sunny Le '19**

WINTERVILLE, NC  
INDUSTRIAL & MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING

JEANNE AND FRANK M. FISCHER '64 SCHOLARSHIP

I want to inspire a globally safe culture as a working adult, and facilitate positive and safe activities and mentalities, not only in the workplace but in everyday life.



**Claire Lukasiewicz '17**

HAMBURG, NY  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

RENSSELAER MEDAL

Rensselaer felt like a place I belonged. I saw myself fitting in with charismatic, quirky, and sharp students. I was drawn to the campus and prestige of the academic programs, particularly engineering.



**Alyssa Marsan '17**

BROOKLINE, NH  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

JOHN E. KELLY III '78 PATROON SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship support has allowed me and my sister to both be able to attend excellent universities like Rensselaer. Without this gracious support, I would not be obtaining such a great education.



**Chandler Maskal '17**

ROCK HILL, SC  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND WEB SCIENCE

PAULA LORING SIMON '68 SCHOLARSHIP

I love being surrounded by such bright individuals and learning from the professors. At such a rigorous school, it's nice to feel a sense of community.



## Justin Matthews '20

PEARLAND, TX  
BUSINESS AND  
MANAGEMENT

SEVERINO  
SCHOLARS FUND

The biggest goal in my career will be to provide a solution to one of the biggest problems our world faces today.



## Emilie Mausser '17

FLEMINGTON, NJ  
BIOCHEMISTRY &  
BIOPHYSICS

GLENN M. MUELLER '64  
ENDOWED MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP

I enjoy the opportunities that come with being a student at Rensselaer: from snowball fights in the quad to lectures by National Medal Laureates.



## Eva Mungai '17

PALO ALTO, CA  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING

LOW FAMILY  
ENDOWED FUND

I plan on "paying it forward" by excelling in my undergraduate studies and pursuing graduate school. I hope to be a role model to children in impoverished areas. I would like to prove to them that STEM careers are attainable.



## Patricia Myer '18

WATERBURY, CT  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE

JOHN F. AND LEWIS R.C.  
MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship has made it possible to attend Rensselaer without worrying whether my family can afford it. I am able to focus on my studies and research instead of figuring out how to pay for my education.



## Mary Votto '17

PEABODY, MA  
CIVIL ENGINEERING

PAULA AND  
JEFFREY R. GURAL '64  
SCHOLARSHIP

My hope is to travel before starting in industry. I want to bring that global perspective into my personal and professional life. I plan on being a leader in whatever it is I am doing and making the impact I can on the world.



## Clare Wolfe '18

SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY  
CIVIL ENGINEERING

SEVERINO SCHOLARS  
FUND

The Severino Scholarship allows me to focus on school without worrying about how I will eat or afford necessities. I am fully self-supporting, so this generosity makes a world of difference.



## Letian Zhang '18

ALBANY, NY  
MATHEMATICS

CHARLES H.  
BLITMAN '14  
SCHOLARSHIP

I chose Rensselaer because I believe that it is the school that would challenge me and provide an environment that I could grow and succeed in.

# Mary Votto '17

PAULA AND JEFFREY R. GURAL '64 SCHOLARSHIP

James Maheras was the smartest man in his small Greek village, but his family was too poor to send him to school past 8th grade. Throughout his life, he never lost his passion for knowledge and learning, and he instilled that same passion for education in his entire family. For James, however, the price of the education he dreamed of and truly deserved was out of reach.



“Rensselaer has helped me define the early part of my adulthood and it is shaping me into a woman that will continue to define me long after my graduation.”

I know that James Maheras—my grandfather—would be very proud that I am studying civil engineering at Rensselaer; that I am pursuing the type of education he deeply desired but could not attain because of his financial standing.

I am lucky to be the recipient of two scholarships at Rensselaer; scholarships that have made my dream of a higher education at Rensselaer come true. This May, I will graduate with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and may even pursue a graduate degree at Rensselaer. Thank you!



**The Rensselaer  
Alumni Association  
is proud to support  
student scholarships  
for our future alumni  
at Rensselaer.**



**Rensselaer**  
Alumni Association  
**ALUMNI.RPI.EDU**





“I remember holding my dad’s hand in the streets of New York City, looking up at the tall buildings and being fascinated by how they were built. I never would have thought I’d have the opportunity to actually build the buildings that I once dreamed about as a child. To my donor: Thank you for making my dreams come true.”  
– *Elijah Coley '18, School of Architecture*

# Making Dreams Come True

Scholarship support enables students like Elijah to dream big, work hard, and tackle some of the world’s most pressing challenges. Your scholarship gifts help bridge the gap between the cost of a Rensselaer education and the scholarship support we need in our third century. Because you give, students are empow-

ered to engage in studies that inspire a national commitment to global transformation, while propelling the nation forward through innovation, technology, and ingenuity.

Please consider a gift in support of scholarship by making a donation at [giving.rpi.edu](https://giving.rpi.edu).



**Rensselaer**  
why not change the world?®

# Gala Honorees

## Howard N. Blitman '50



Howard N. Blitman '50 has served Rensselaer for more than 65 years, as a

Rensselaer trustee, adviser, and volunteer. He has supported scholarships and fellowships, the Rensselaer Annual Fund, athletics, and the upgrade of numerous campus facilities, and has earned all four honors of the Rensselaer Alumni Association, including its highest award, the Distinguished Service Award.

We are proud to honor the Blitman Family legacy at Rensselaer.

**1910:** Mr. Blitman's father, Charles Blitman '14, sets foot on the Rensselaer campus and began a long-standing family tradition of accomplishment and involvement. Over a century later, Charles Blitman's great-grandson, Jacob, becomes a member of the Rensselaer Class of 2017.

**1954:** Charles Blitman '14 facilitates the completion of the Commons Dining Facility and four modern residence halls on Freshman Hill, in time for the incoming freshman class.

**1969:** The Charles H. Blitman '14 Scholarship is established by Bernice M. Blitman, in honor of her husband Charles.

**1996:** Howard Blitman '50 establishes the Civil Engineering Fellowship Sponsored by Alumni in Construction.

**2003:** Howard Blitman '50 establishes the Howard N. Blitman P.E. '50 Career Development Professor in Engineering.

**2009:** The Howard N. Blitman P.E. '50 Residence Commons opens and is named in recognition of Mr. Blitman's generous gift to the unrestricted endowment.

Mr. Blitman is a consulting engineer and the president of The Blitman Building Corporation, one of the nation's most successful and influential commercial building enterprises, located in White Plains, New York. Mr. Blitman received a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Rensselaer in 1950, and a Master of Arts in Political Science and Government from the Graduate Faculty of the New School of Social Research, New York, in 1976.

## Curtis R. Priem '82



Through his longstanding service to Rensselaer on the Board of Trustees, and his

extraordinary philanthropy, personally and through the Priem Family Foundation, Curtis R. Priem '82 has forever impacted not only the Rensselaer experience for our faculty and students, but also the literal landscape of the campus.

In recognition of his historic \$40 million unrestricted gift, Rensselaer named the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in his honor. EMPAC is a key platform for the Rensselaer campus, its academic partners, and visiting artists

and researchers from around the globe to experiment in fields such as investigation of fluid dynamics, artificial intelligence, molecular design, financial modeling, nanotechnology, and gaming and simulation.

In addition to this transformative gift, Mr. Priem has demonstrated his deep respect for Rensselaer's research with funds to support our faculty, and cast his ultimate vote of confidence in the mission of Rensselaer through his unrestricted giving.

We are pleased to celebrate Mr. Priem's decision to help us "Bridge the Gap" by providing much-needed undergraduate scholarship support.

Mr. Priem is an inventor who has authored almost 200 U.S. and international patents, all of which

relate to graphics and I/O. He designed the first graphics processor for the PC, the IBM Professional Graphics Adapter. Priem co-founded NVIDIA, Corp., a manufacturer of graphics and multimedia integrated circuits in 1993, and served as the chief technical officer from 1993 to 2003. Mr. Priem is also President of the Priem Family Foundation, which he established in 1999.

Mr. Priem holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer. Rensselaer honored Mr. Priem with the Rensselaer Alumni Association's Albert Fox Demers Award in 2005 and the William F. Glaser '53 Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2000.

## Ginni Rometty '14H IBM Chairman, President and CEO



Ginni Rometty is chairman, president and chief executive officer of IBM. Mrs.

Rometty was appointed president and CEO effective January 1, 2012. She became chairman of the Board of Directors on October 1, 2012.

Mrs. Rometty began her career with IBM in 1981 in Detroit, Michigan. Since then she has held a series of leadership positions in

IBM, most recently as senior vice president and group executive, IBM Sales, Marketing and Strategy. In this role, she was responsible for business results in the 170 global markets in which IBM operates and pioneered IBM's rapid expansion in the emerging economies of the world.

Prior to this, Mrs. Rometty served as senior vice president, IBM Global Business Services, where she led the successful integration of PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting. This acquisition was the largest in professional services history, creating a global team of more than 100,000 business consultants and services experts. In recognition of her leadership in the professional services industry, Mrs. Rometty was

honored with the Carl Sloane Award 2006, given by the Association of Management Consulting Firms.

In prior leadership roles, Mrs. Rometty served as general manager of IBM Global Services, Americas, as well as general manager of IBM's Global Insurance and Financial Services Sector.

Mrs. Rometty serves on the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University, and the Board of Overseers and Board of Managers of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with high honors in computer science and electrical engineering from Northwestern University.

## The Rensselaer/IBM Partnership



The Rensselaer/IBM partnership dates

back decades to the revolutionary IBM System/360, first announced in 1964. Today, IBM is engaging with Rensselaer in joint investigations of unimaginable potential. This extraordinary model for partnership empowers Rensselaer to be transformative, through our innovative teaching and the global impact of our research.

The platforms flowing from this partnership encompass our IBM Blue Gene/Q supercomputer, the Advanced Multiprocessing Optimized System, or AMOS—after Rensselaer co-founder Amos Eaton—the most powerful super-

computer at an American private university. We are very proud that Rensselaer alumni were key to the development of the pioneering IBM cognitive computing system Watson—and delighted that we were the first university to receive the Watson system for exploration.

Rensselaer has partnered with IBM and the FUND for Lake George on The Jefferson Project at the Margaret and David M. Darrin '40 Fresh Water Institute, which is investigating the stressors on the water quality of Lake George, New York, using advanced sensors and advanced data analytics, integration, and visualization tools that are yielding a panoramic picture of the lake and the life within it—establishing an entirely new model

for environmental stewardship that will be applicable to fresh water resources around the globe.

To give experts in many different domains the tools to meet such challenges, IBM and Rensselaer now are embarking upon another world-changing program, the Cognitive and Immersive Systems Laboratory, or CISL@EMPAC. The goal of CISL@EMPAC is to merge human cognition and artificially intelligent cognitive systems so we can push into new domains of knowledge.

We are honored to celebrate the many inventive enterprises IBM and Rensselaer have undertaken—collaborations that have truly established the benchmark to which other corporations aspire.

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*Congratulations to the 2016  
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# Honorary Committee

2016

The generosity, vision, and support of the Rensselaer Scholarship Gala *Honorary Committee* helps us to Bridge the Gap for talented and deserving young women and men with dreams of a world-class Rensselaer education.

- Mr. Dwaine Alleyne '04  
David A. Bailey '83 & Family,  
Co-Chair, AGLC  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Begley\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard N.  
Blitman '50\*\*  
Dr. Curtis Breneman\* &  
Ms. Miriam Pye  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Broadbent  
Jr. '59‡  
Drs. George & Mary Campbell ‡  
Mr. John W. Carr '77 ‡  
Gunther O. Carrle '76 &  
Caroline E. Boyce  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig A. Cook\*  
Ms. Patricia DeLauri '85  
Ms. Wanda Denson-Low '78‡  
& Mr. Ronald Low  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary T. DiCamillo '73‡  
Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Dordick\*  
Mr. Evan Douglas\*  
Dr. Stanley M. Dunn\* &  
Dr. Margie Dunn  
Mr. Graig R. Eastin\* &  
Mrs. Giovanna Ladisa-Eastin  
Mr. Steven D. Ehrlich '68 &  
Ms. Nancy Griffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Fischer '64‡  
The Honorable &  
Mrs. Arthur J. Gajarsa '62‡  
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Herman '62‡  
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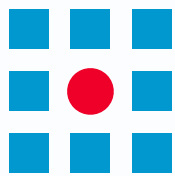
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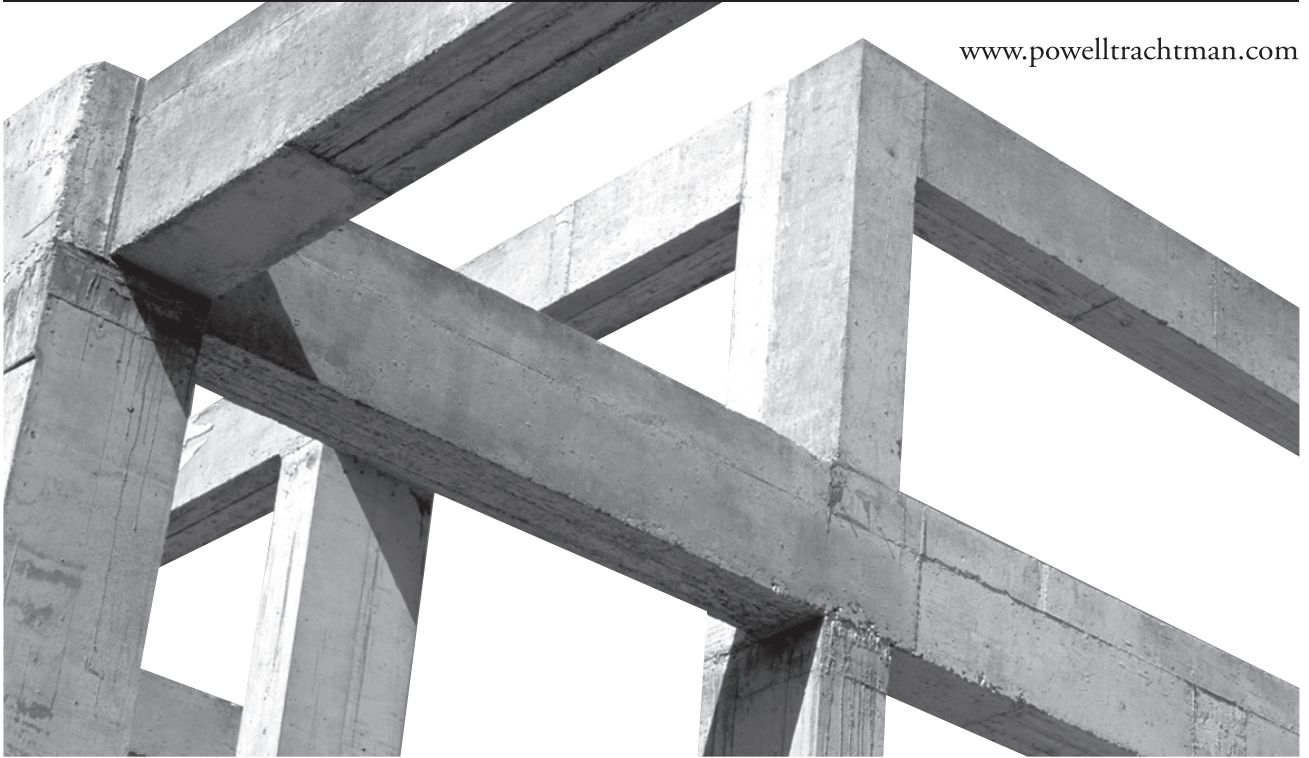


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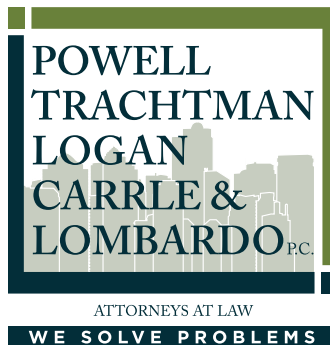
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## Parting Thoughts

### Dear Alumni & Friends,

Thank you for joining us at Rensselaer's inaugural Scholarship Gala. Your investment in Bridging the Gap will open up exciting new possibilities in the lives of Rensselaer students and buoys everything we do here at the university.



As the word inaugural suggests, this Gala marks the beginning of a set of transformational endeavors designed to advance our financial aid program for the next century. In many ways, it also heralds a new era in Rensselaer history, one in which we intentionally position the university—through the exceptional quality of our education and the diverse talents, backgrounds, and aspirations of our community—for even more effective leadership in tomorrow's global arena. It will also provide inspiring momentum as we welcome our forthcoming bicentennial. Preparing for our next 100 years will call on the passion and participation of everyone who cares deeply about Rensselaer.

Looking ahead, we are already in the planning stages for the 2017 Scholarship Gala, which will be held in New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. I hope you will continue to remain closely engaged with Rensselaer and I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

**Graig R. Eastin**  
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