An anonymous gift of $10 million from the family of a University of Maine engineering graduate has been committed to help construct UMaine's Engineering Education and Design Center, according to UMaine President Susan J. Hunter and University of Maine Foundation President Jeffery N. Mills.

“This investment builds on the remarkable growth and success of UMaine engineering, one of our seven Signature Areas of Excellence,” Hunter says. “We’ve seen a 70 percent growth in undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering since 2001. The Engineering Education and Design Center will help the College of Engineering expand its capacity to help meet student demand and Maine’s need for engineers.”

In December 2017, the team of WBRC Architects Engineers, based in Bangor, and Ellenzweig of Boston was selected to design the new Engineering Education and Design Center (EEDC) at the University of Maine, anticipated cost of up to $80 million.

President Hunter has made the planned Engineering Education and Design Center her highest capital priority for UMaine's Vision for Tomorrow Campaign. Members of the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Board, alumni, friends and corporate donors have collectively contributed an additional $2 million in gifts and pledges toward the construction of this facility to date. That total includes a $1 million corporate gift from the Packaging Corporation of America. The State Legislature and Governor LePage led the effort for a state investment of $50 million toward the construction of this facility.
Tax Reform and Charitable Giving

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act went into effect on January 1, 2018. While many taxpayers may not be itemizing deductions under the new law, many opportunities for charitable giving remain.

- New income tax brackets: The new law lowers most individual tax rates. Because donors may be paying less in taxes, they may have an opportunity to give more to the organizations they care about, like the University of Maine Foundation.
- Appreciated stock: Give appreciated securities to the University of Maine Foundation and avoid capital gains tax.
- IRA gifts: If you are 70 ½ or older, the new tax legislation leaves the IRA Charitable Rollover provision unchanged. A gift directly from your IRA to the University of Maine Foundation helps to fulfill your required minimum distribution and is not considered taxable income.
- Accumulate/Bundle Gifts: With the standard deduction increased to $24,000 for joint filers and $12,000 for individual filers, some may benefit from lumping two or more years' worth of donations in a single year to in order to exceed the standard deduction and itemize deductions.
- Cash Gifts: For those that continue to itemize, the law increased the 50 percent of adjusted gross income limit for cash contributions to 60 percent and retained the 5 year carryover for unused deductions. Donors who itemize deductions may consider increasing their cash gifts.

Here are some ideas for the best gift types for charitable giving in 2018 in light of the new tax law:

- Name the University of Maine Foundation as a beneficiary of retirement plan assets: These assets remain taxable when distributed to a loved one but are distributed tax-free when given to the University of Maine Foundation. The Foundation’s tax identification number is 01-6015051.
- Establish a charitable gift annuity: Make a gift to the University of Maine Foundation and receive a life income, receiving some of the annual payments free of income tax.
- Establish a donor advised fund: Pool several years' donations in a University of Maine Foundation donor advised fund, deduct the entire contribution in the year of the gift and then make grants to the University and the organizations you care about in the future.
- Gifting life insurance: It may be possible to give an existing life insurance policy or to make the University of Maine Foundation a beneficiary of all or a part of a life insurance policy.
- Real estate: We have a number of donors who struggle with what to do with their home or other real estate, particularly when there is no family to pass the property to or the family has no interest in the property. Gifting the real estate to the University of Maine Foundation can make sense for some individuals. The Foundation may retain the property for research and teaching purposes or sell it and endow the proceeds to support UMaine students.

We encourage you to talk with your tax, legal and financial advisors to determine the best charitable giving strategies for you.

An Alumnus Honors His Daughter

Retired Major General Earl Adams ’57 began his military career as a UMaine student enrolled in the advanced ROTC program. Earl’s career included a long history of public service. He was commissioned into the Army in 1957 followed by service in the Maine Army National Guard, where he remained for many years and was eventually promoted to the rank of General.

Earl’s daughter, Kathy M. Adams, received a BA in journalism in 1965 from UMaine. Kathy was a very bright, intelligent young woman who qualified for MENSA as a teenager. She was a voracious reader, and loved to write. She worked both in the private sector and for the State of Maine. After Kathy passed in 2016, Earl, his wife Sheila, and Kathy’s sister, Susan Adams, from the class of 1986, established the Kathy M. Adams’ 85 Memorial Scholarship to honor her legacy.

“Kathy would be proud to know that her scholarship will allow other Maine students to have the same opportunity that she had to study at the University of Maine.” — Earl Adams ’57

Funded in part through the Foundation’s Vision for Tomorrow matching gift program, the scholarship will help students from Maine with financial need to attend the University of Maine. UMaine Foundation President Jeff Mills remarked that the matching gift came to the Foundation anonymously through a recent bequest from an alumnus who also had a military background. It is a fitting tribute that the match helped Earl to honor his daughter.

Though both families suffered a loss, many future UMaine students will benefit from the generosity of these two philanthropic alumni families and a legacy that was created in their honor.
Donors who make a gift in the form of an annuity or a trust arrangement or provide for the University of Maine Foundation in their will or estate plan can become members of the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society. This includes donors who name the University of Maine Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy.

Reviewing your intentions now with the Foundation’s gift planning team will allow them to maximize the impact of the gift for the University and will ensure that the eventual gift will be directed exactly according to your wishes. A bequest or estate gift may be designated for unrestricted purposes or to establish an endowed fund, or it may be directed to a fund that has already been established.

The value of a future bequest may be an estimated projection of a gift that is years away from coming to the Foundation. Allowing the Foundation to count the full value or net present value of your planned gift as part of the current Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign, depending on the terms of the gift, helps the Foundation to show other donors the value of an investment in the University.

In order for the University of Maine Foundation to steward your gifts, the documents must list the University of Maine Foundation as the beneficiary and include a description of the gift and how it will benefit the University of Maine.

Current Charles F. Allen members are asked to review their will, trust, estate plan or beneficiary designation forms to double check that the documents list the University of Maine Foundation as the beneficiary, and not just the University of Maine. This will avoid confusion in the administration process and allow the Foundation staff to be sure that your intentions will be honored at the University of Maine, Orono campus.

The Foundation’s gift planning team is available to discuss a planned gift, your existing language, a fund description that sets forth your intentions or inclusion of your planned gift in the Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign.

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**Creating a Legacy Through Estate Giving**

Donors who make a gift in the form of an annuity or a trust arrangement or provide for the University of Maine Foundation in their will or estate plan can become members of the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society. This includes donors who name the University of Maine Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy.

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The Foundation’s gift planning team is available to discuss a planned gift, your existing language, a fund description that sets forth your intentions or inclusion of your planned gift in the Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign.

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**Legacy Society**

Charles F. Allen

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**Here is the sample language for making a bequest to the University of Maine Foundation:**

“I give and bequeath to the UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FOUNDATION for the benefit of the University of Maine:

the sum of $ ___________________; 
or 
_______ percent of my estate; 
or 
the property described herein 
to establish/add to the 
____________________________ Fund.

The principal is to be endowed and the distributions, as established by the University of Maine Foundation Board of Directors, shall be used for __________________________.”