

## Sands Professorship Will Foster Leaders in Engineering and Entrepreneurship

As vice chairman of investment banking and chairman of the Healthcare Group at financial advisory and asset management firm Lazard in New York, Stephen Sands, BS '79, MS '79, helps boards of directors make merger and acquisition decisions that transform their companies. However, the School of Engineering & Applied Science alumnus's passion is helping young entrepreneurs flourish.

"If we want to advance innovation in the U.S., create jobs, and grow the economy, entrepreneurship is key," Mr. Sands says. "That's why it's so important to foster the development of outstanding young engineers."

Toward that goal, Mr. Sands and his wife, Maxine, recently pledged \$2 million through their estate to establish the Stephen and Maxine Sands Professorship in Engineering at Washington University. "I benefited tremendously from great professors like Bob Sparks and Curt Thies," Mr. Sands says. "We hope this professorship will help the engineering school continue to attract excellent faculty members who will train the next generation of leaders."

The gift enhances the couple's commitment to the School of Engineering & Applied Science. They established an endowed scholarship in 2010, and they also provide ongoing support for annual scholarships and entrepreneurship programs. They were founding supporters of the school's annual Discovery Competition for student entrepreneurs.

"The engineering school is a great place to be," Mr. Sands says. "Collaboration with the medical school and the evolution of bio-

medical engineering have increased the university's ability to develop new drugs and devices that support human health."

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering through the school's rigorous 3-2 dual-degree program, Mr. Sands' early jobs were with Amoco Chemicals Corporation and CPC International. "Those were the early days of bioengineering," he says. "I've seen biotech grow from the very beginning."

Mr. Sands went on to earn an MBA in finance from New York University. Before joining Lazard, he was a partner with management consulting firm McKinsey & Company and co-founded Enzytech Inc., a biopharmaceutical startup that was purchased by Alkermes in 1992.

"At one point, Enzytech had almost a hundred employees," he says. "It was gratifying to see our ideas creating jobs."

Mr. Sands is a strong advocate of STEM education. He is a trustee for the New York Hall of Science, a hands-on science museum in Queens. He also works with The Rockefeller University's science outreach program, which provides opportunities for high school students to engage with research conducted at the university.

At Washington University, he serves as a member of the School of Engineering & Applied Science National Council, the New York Regional Cabinet, and the Greater New York Regional Campaign Executive



The Sands family at the peak of the Haleakalā volcano crater in Hawaii in December, from left: Stephen, Joshua, Casey, Adam, and Maxine

Committee. His daughter, Casey, is a senior at the engineering school, and his oldest son, Joshua, is a post-baccalaureate student at the university who plans to pursue graduate studies in the biomedical field.

When Mr. Sands visits St. Louis, he is struck by the city's entrepreneurial spirit. "I toured the Cortex Innovation Community with the engineering national council and was very impressed by the people and facilities there," he says. "I'm excited to see how Dean Aaron Bobick will take the engineering school to the next level. It offers such tremendous opportunities. I wish I could go back." — *By senior writer Tim Fox* ■