

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

## CMU receives \$80M in gifts as president is inaugurated



Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

Carnegie Mellon University President Farnam Jahanian and CMU Board of Trustees Chairman James E. Rohr listen to Ramayya Krishnan, Heinz College dean, speak during inauguration ceremonies on Friday Oct. 26, 2018 on the CMU campus. Dr. Jahanian is CMU's 10th president.

By Bill Schackner  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Carnegie Mellon University is receiving two major gifts totaling \$80 million - one for scholarships and student academic support, and the other toward a new and enlarged engineering hall on campus, CMU president Farnam Jahanian said Friday.

The donations of \$50 million and \$30 million were announced by Mr. Jahanian in a speech during his

inauguration as the school's 10th president.

The 57-year-old computer scientist, entrepreneur and former provost at Carnegie Mellon was elevated from interim to permanent president in March. Friday's ceremony was held inside the Jared L. Cohon University Center's Wiegand Gym on campus.

The \$50 million pledge toward student aid comes from alumni Cindy and Tod Johnson and is the largest single gift

toward scholarships in Carnegie Mellon's history. It will be added to an endowment that also will support persistence initiatives to keep students on track to graduate, officials said.

Mr. Johnson is executive chairman of The NPD Group Inc., a global market-research firm. He is a long-serving member and vice chair of CMU's board of trustees and he chaired the Centennial Campaign for Carnegie Mellon, university officials said.

The \$30 million construction grant made by the Allegheny Foundation is its largest ever and will enable the university to build a new Scaife Hall for its College of Engineering.

The existing hall will be demolished and a \$75 million facility will rise in its place, constructed on an expanded footprint along Frew Street, near Flagstaff Hill on the campus.

The grant toward Scaife Hall comes amid a building boom on and near Carnegie Mellon's campus, evidenced most recently by last month's formal opening of a \$201 million home for its Tepper business school, the David A. Tepper Quadrangle.

In prepared remarks, Mr. Jahanian discussed the importance of both gifts in fulfilling aspects of the university's mission.

"We are awestruck by Cindy and Tod's generosity and thrilled at how their support will greatly expand our ability to ensure a CMU education is within reach of all students," he said.

The university has upped student aid by 84 percent over the past decade. Nevertheless, cost to attend is cited as the single greatest obstacle by parents and students, said Michael Steidel, dean of admission.

SEE **CMU**, PAGE WA-2

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

CMU, FROM WA-1

The Johnsons' commitment is expected to aid low- and middle-income students.

Mr. Jahanian said the new Scaife Hall will better position the university to continue groundbreaking research and world-class teaching.

"We are grateful to the Allegheny Foundation for making the lead grant to jump-start this project, which will further strengthen our dynamic and growing mechanical engineering program," he said.

The building will be next to a planned engineering quad that includes recently renovated Hamerschlag Hall and the ANSYS hall, now under construction. The development will have a "focus on expanded, technology-rich labs; modern, flexible classrooms; and spaces that facilitate formal and informal collaborations," according to a university statement.

The largest gift in Carnegie Mellon's 118 years is \$265 million from William Dietrich II. Mr. Tepper and the Richard King Mellon Foundation are the second- and third-largest, both totaling more than \$100 million.

Friday's announced gifts will rank among the larger displays of philanthropy benefiting a university that competes for students and faculty with older institutions, including some in the Ivy League, that have endowments many times larger than Carnegie Mellon's.

Mr. Johnson is a managing director of the Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Johnson is co-chair of the board of directors for St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children in New York.



Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

Marlene Behrmann, a professor of cognitive neuroscience at Carnegie Mellon University, speaks during the inauguration of President Farnam Jahanian on Friday, Oct. 26, 2018.

The Johnsons met and married while studying at what was then known as Carnegie Institute of Technology, which became Carnegie Mellon while they were enrolled. Mr. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in graphic arts management in 1966 and a master's degree in industrial administration a year later. Ms. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in art in 1968.

"Carnegie Mellon has meant so much to Tod and me from our very first days as undergraduates," Ms. Johnson said. "Financial aid played a key role as we began our lives together, and we look forward to many generations of students seeing how their world opens up because of something so simple yet important as a scholarship."

During the ceremony, speeches were delivered by Cornell University president

Martha Pollack, a former colleague of Mr. Jahanian's at the University of Michigan, and by Salesforce co-CEO Keith Block, a CMU alumnus and trustee.

After a procession into the gym by individuals dressed in academic regalia - all serenaded by the sound of bagpipes - Mr. Jahanian and other speakers addressed the crowd of several hundred.

He called the event "a truly humbling experience" and spoke of the power of education to change lives.

The Iranian-born scholar recalled advice his mother gave him when he left home for a college education abroad. "Pack light. Whatever you need, you will find."

He also made light of himself, noting that he was losing his voice. "I didn't realize the speech was this long," he said to laughter.

Mr. Jahanian came to CMU in 2014 and served as vice president for research and later provost. He became interim president after Subra Suresh resigned effective June 30, 2017, after four years in the job.

Mr. Jahanian's career covers three-plus decades in academia, industry and the public realm, among them 21 years at the University of Michigan. He came to Carnegie Mellon from the National Science Foundation, where he led the Directorate for Computer Information Science and Engineering from 2011 to 2014.

*Bill Schackner: bschackner@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1977 and on Twitter: @Bschackner*