Manhattanville Donor Bios

Dawn M. Greene '08HON, Jerome L. Greene '26CC, '28LAW, '83HON and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

The late Dawn M. Greene '08HON and Jerome L. Greene '26CC, '28LAW, '83HON left a powerful legacy across Columbia University—from Columbia College to Columbia Law School to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health to the neurosciences. A respected lawyer, real estate investor, philanthropist and humanitarian, Jerome Greene founded the Jerome L. Greene Foundation in 1978 and gave back to his alma mater in countless ways.

The Foundation identifies and invests in opportunities to enrich people's lives in New York City and across the nation, supporting organizations and projects devoted to the arts, education, health and social justice. Born and raised in New York, Dawn Greene had an enduring interest in social health issues, which stemmed from her degree in sociology and master's in social work from Fordham University, as well as her clinical counseling work at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. She became the president as well as chief executive officer of the Foundation in 1999, after her husband's death.

When Dawn Greene and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation made their gift to the University in 2006, it was the largest ever given to Columbia (or to any U.S. university) for a single facility—the Jerome L. Greene Science Center. This gift was an act of partnership and confidence integral to launching construction of the Manhattanville campus. Due to the foresight and generosity of Dawn Greene and the Foundation, the Jerome L. Greene Science Center will be the preeminent home for neuroscience research and education, housing the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Dawn and Jerome Greene, as well as the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, continue to have an enormous impact not only on the University but also the world.

Harold F. “Gerry” Lenfest ’58LAW, ’09HON


Lenfest's gift to Columbia in 2011 supported the construction of the Lenfest Center for the Arts, an innovative and multidisciplinary arts venue in Manhattanville that will foster generations of artists challenging conventions. The six-floor facility designed by Renzo Piano will include an art gallery, a film screening room and a performance space; it will serve as a hub for creating new work and refining works in progress, featuring exhibitions, theatrical performances and lectures presenting artistic voices from around the globe.

Lenfest has been a member of the Columbia University Board of Trustees since 2001 and is a trustee emeritus.
He has been active in Columbia Law School affairs since his graduation and received the School's Distinguished Achievement Award in 1997. Lenfest is also permanent president of his Law School class, and he served on the Columbia Law School Board of Visitors as well as the Law School Association Board. Lenfest is a member of the Dean's Council of the Law School. Committed to Columbia's mission of inquiry, Lenfest and his wife, Marguerite, have endowed several professorships in the Core Curriculum and at the Law School, supported the Earth Institute and the Medical Center and created the Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards.

Katharina Otto-Bernstein ’86CC, ’92SOA

Katharina Otto-Bernstein is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and writer (Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures, Absolute Wilson, Beautopia). She is the author of a monograph published in 2006 on theater director Robert Wilson. Otto-Bernstein has worked as dramaturge in theater and dance (Karole Armitage's Fables on Global Warming). Currently she serves as the president of Film Manufacturers Inc., based in New York, where she develops and produces independent films, documentaries, and television series.

A graduate of Columbia University School of the Arts's Film Program, Katharina Otto-Bernstein received the 2009 Columbia University Alumni Medal of Achievement and is the chair of the Dean's Council of the School of the Arts. Her professional memberships include Writers Guild of America, Women in Film and Television, and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In addition, she is an assembly member of the Columbia Alumni Association and has been actively involved in the Columbia University Film Program's thesis mentor program, working with students from script to screen, for the past three years.

Ira D. Wallach ’29CC, ’31LAW, ’83HON and Miriam G. Wallach

The late Ira D. Wallach ’29CC, ’31LAW, ’83HON was the chief executive officer of Central National-Gottesman Inc., which distributes paper products worldwide, and was a New York City philanthropist with his late wife, Miriam Gottesman Wallach. The Wallachs created the Miriam G. and Ira D. Wallach Foundation, and their contributions to the University have been varied and integral.

Through their generosity, Columbia's Department of Art History and Archaeology established the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, advancing the University's critical and creative engagement with the visual arts. For more than 30 years, the Wallach Art Gallery has held scores of critically acclaimed exhibitions organized by Columbia graduate students and faculty, focusing on contemporary artists on campus and in the community and offering new scholarship on the University's collections. The Wallach Art Gallery welcomes the public and admission is free. It will be among the first spaces relocating to the Manhattanville campus, in the Lenfest Center for the Arts. In its new home, the Wallach Art Gallery will have greater visibility, doubled space and enhanced programming to be a more active partner in the arts community.

The Wallachs' generosity has helped realize Columbia's vision for arts education and scholarship. They supported a named professorship, the Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies, as well as the renovation of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. A residential hall at Columbia College is named after the Wallachs as well. In 1983, Mr. Wallach received an honorary LLD from the University in gratitude for his outstanding Columbia commitment. He served on the College’s Board of Visitors from 1984 to 1990 and as an emeritus member.

manhattanville.columbia.edu
Mortimer B. Zuckerman ’14HON

Mortimer B. Zuckerman ’14HON, journalist and philanthropist, is the publisher and chairman of the New York Daily News and editor-in-chief and chairman of U.S. News & World Report. He is co-founder and chairman of Boston Properties, a real estate investment trust, and served as its chief executive officer.

In 2012, Zuckerman made a transformational gift to Columbia University, creating the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. He shares with the University the belief that understanding how the brain works—and gives rise to mind and behavior—is the most urgent and exciting challenge of our time. A more intricate knowledge of the brain will allow us to gain critical insights into human health and to benefit people and societies everywhere.

Zuckerman’s range of intellectual and civic engagement includes serving as a trustee of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the vice chair and treasurer of the International Peace Institute. He is a former trustee of New York University and the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Zuckerman holds degrees from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and from McGill and Harvard Universities. In 2014, he received an honorary LLD from Columbia for his significant contributions to the University’s intellectual life.