A FUTURE WITH PROMISE

PASSING ON THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

PIONEERING COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNUS CREATES DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP TO ‘REGIFT’ TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

Trailblazing Dr. Carl Watson, the first African American graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and wife, Nanine, explain the driving force behind their gift: To create a diverse medical field.

So many things in life inspire philanthropy. For Dr. Watson ’64 and his wife, Nanine, it is the recognition that they have stood on the shoulders of giants and benefited from their gifts.

Nearly 60 years since his graduation from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Dr. Watson speaks fondly of the mentors—giants—to whom he attributes two of his most cherished gifts: An affordable education and a conviction in the importance of diversity in the medical field.

Believing “to whom much is given, much is expected,” Dr. and Mrs. Watson are giving back, or “regifting” these cherished gifts through the Dr. & Mrs. Carl and Nanine Watson Diversity Scholarship in the College of Medicine.

THE GIFT OF AFFORDABILITY

Dr. Watson’s 1964 graduation from the College of Medicine was a meaningful day of firsts. He was a member of the

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first graduating class, the college’s first African American graduate, and the first doctor in his family. Dr. Watson’s graduation is also noteworthy for what it was not the first day of—debt repayment.

Dr. Watson graduated from medical school debt-free, a feat he attributes, in part, to mentors who connected him to scholarships and fellowship opportunities, including the Sloan Foundation Fellowship. Unfortunately, in the decades since his graduation, debt persists as a significant concern for medical students. Medical schools and individuals, like the Watsons, are working to change this reality by creating scholarship opportunities.

“Scholarship opportunities were crucial to my success,” said Dr. Watson. “They gave me so much more freedom to focus on becoming a physician. Continuing with that same principle in mind will give future students a chance to thrive.”

THE GIFT OF CONVICTION
Following his graduation, Dr. Watson completed his residency and internship in gynecology and obstetrics under Dr. John Greene, UK College of Medicine’s first gynecology and obstetrics chair. Dr. Watson remembers Dr. Greene as a kind man and excellent physician who understood the importance of African Americans in the medical field.

The conviction that animated Dr. Greene’s work still rings as a clarion call for Dr. and Mrs. Watson and the University of Kentucky.

“Diversifying our health care workforce is paramount to ensure equity continues to be part of the conversation for how we take care of our patients and one another.”

—Dr. Stephanie White
Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

‘REGINGIFTING’ WHAT THEY RECEIVED
Dr. Watson practiced in Oakland, California, as an OB-GYN. Throughout his career, Dr. Watson’s work was illustrative of the high quality of medical care patients can expect from College of Medicine graduates.

Now a retired OB-GYN, Dr. Watson and his wife believe that it is the time for them to give back. “We hope we can help others by regifting. We’re in the winter of our years, knowing that this is a time we can give something. We have benefited from the gifts of others and know that this is a time we can give something back.”

Giving to their conviction, the couple has decided to include the University of Kentucky in their estate plan and endow the Dr. & Mrs. Carl and Nanine Watson Diversity Scholarship in the College of Medicine.

The Watsons’ scholarship pays forward the gifts of affordability and conviction they received years ago. The couple hopes their gift will break down barriers to the creation of a richly diverse medical field.

BELIEVING IN THEIR FUTURE
Dr. and Mrs. Watson feel it is crucial to “re gift” to students the support they received nearly 60 years ago. To accomplish their gift, the Watsons worked with the qualified team of philanthropy professionals at the University of Kentucky.

You can give to your convictions, too. Creating a future gift shows upcoming students that you believe in their abilities. Consider contributing to the Watsons’ scholarship or making your own gift that benefits the college or unit of your choice. To learn more about how you can transform your passions into philanthropy, contact the UK Gift and Estate Planning Team at 859-257-7886 or giftandestate@uky.edu.
Scholarships: More Important Than Ever

College has a cost. Like Dr. Watson and Nanine, you can help get money off our students’ minds, allowing them to focus on their future and find success at the University of Kentucky. How? By establishing or contributing to a scholarship fund.

There are many ways you can fund a scholarship to support a college or program of your choosing. Also, many donors choose to provide a scholarship for students from their home community to come to UK. Options include:

- Specifying a gift in your will or living trust as a percentage of your residuary estate.
- Giving UK an existing paid up life insurance policy that is no longer needed or creating a new policy to leverage impact.
- Naming UK beneficiary of a retirement account, such as an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b)
- Giving appreciated securities
- Recommending grants from your donor advised fund

The impact of a scholarship is immeasurable. This gift can:

1. Help students avoid loans that will follow them. Graduating with loans means debt for someone with a new degree. Being awarded a scholarship benefits recipients for years.
2. Allow students to focus on their studies. Many students work while getting their education, often making choices about class load or study time accordingly. For some, the work/life balance is unsustainable.
3. Teach philanthropy. By being the recipient of a scholarship, a student sees firsthand how philanthropy can shape a person’s life. It may ignite a lifetime commitment to giving back.

There are many supporters encouraging a student through their UK career: parents, relatives, teachers, counselors and mentors. While the full college experience is collaborative, even one supporter can make a life-changing impact. Contact us to learn more about ways you can help UK students achieve their dreams.

“We have benefited from the gifts of others. We hope we can help others.”

—Dr. Carl Watson

GET YOUR FREE RESOURCES

Ready to start planning for your future? We can help. Our new guides, The Best Present for Anyone on Your List and Creative Ways to Stretch Your Charitable Dollar, can help you make a lasting impact on UK and our Wildcats. Return the enclosed form to request your copies.

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“Throughout my career at UK, which spans over 50 years, I have been privileged to work in every county of the state. I have observed and understand the importance of our University’s research, academics and service programs, which strive to make life better for all Kentuckians and students.

UK is part of my soul and I have great confidence that, in the future, UK will play an even greater role in student success, health care challenges, economic development and strengthening communities.

This love for and belief in our University’s future is a compelling reason why my wife and I have included UK in our estate plans. And it’s a decision I believe many others should consider if they want to make a lasting difference.”

— Mike Richey
Vice President for Philanthropy

Thank you to all who have already included UK in your estate plans. Your philanthropic vision will embolden UK’s dedication to improving people’s lives through excellence in teaching, research, health care, cultural enrichment and economic development. We are especially grateful for your support of the Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign. Your generosity is showing the world what Kentucky can do.