Allergan Scholar Louis Ehwerhemuepha, a native of Nigeria, draws inspiration from the many quotes on Chapman’s campus, such as the one engraved near the statue of Charles C. Chapman. A profile of Ehwerhemuepha is on the back cover of Pillars.
For Joe Kiani, the inspiration to help others was as abundant as sunshine in his childhood home, thanks to the example set by his mother, a nurse, and his father, an electrical engineer.

“I grew up in a world where we were always encouraged to think about people and find solutions to make their lives better,” said Kiani, founder and CEO of Masimo Corp. as well as a member of the Chapman University Board of Trustees.

Ultimately, however, the source of Kiani’s commitment to philanthropy lies within.

“I have a bleeding heart,” he said with a wry smile. “I really don’t feel you can be happy just by having perfect things in your home. To be truly happy takes a concern for all of society. That’s why we look forward to helping others achieve a happy life.”

These days, that help comes via the good works of the Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation, and Competition in Healthcare, which Kiani set up to formalize the giving made possible by the success of Masimo Corp. The foundation recently made a generous gift of $1 million to support the construction of laboratory space in Chapman’s new Science Center, which is still in the planning stages.

The gift reflects the Masimo Foundation’s mission “to improve patient safety and outcomes, promote efficient and cost-effective healthcare delivery, and provide advanced healthcare to people worldwide who may not otherwise have access to lifesaving technologies.”

As a category of its giving, the foundation supports projects “fostering innovation and discovery, which makes the Science Center building and the work of researchers in Chapman’s Schmid College of Science and Technology a great fit,” Kiani said.

“In promoting innovation, we also want to bring efficiencies to education – to inspire students to think and to acquire the skills they need to solve real problems,” he added.

It was such a spirit of inquiry that motivated Kiani, an engineer and entrepreneur, to pioneer innovations that have helped revolutionize the way hospitals monitor the condition of patients. Perhaps his greatest successes have come in the realm of pulse oximetry, in which a noninvasive medical device monitors the oxygen saturation of a patient’s blood.

In 1995, the Irvine-based company debuted a breakthrough system known as Masimo SET®, which virtually eliminated false alarms and increased pulse oximetry’s ability...
Support for the new pool and student recreation space reflects the Masson family’s belief in an active, balanced approach to life.
Chapman athletic programs, especially the men’s water polo team, for which Pierre Masson is a four-year standout, earning All-America honors every season. Maurice not only sees Chapman athletes reaping the rewards of “representing the Greek ideal of the scholar athlete,” he also sees athletics creating generosity among parents, a rallying point for students and a continuum for alumni.

“All that can be done to morally and financially support these students and their sport must be done,” he said.

Both Maurice and Melinda seek a balanced approach to life, with a drive to succeed professionally leavened by commitments to family and community. They launched the Masson Family Foundation in the late 1990s “to create a vehicle by which the children would always work together on behalf of others,” Melinda said.

By being involved in decision-making, the children have learned skills such as how to run meetings and how to read financial statements, she noted. “I want them to have skills that translate to collaboration, leadership and making a difference.”

Those are hallmarks of Melinda Masson’s remarkably successful career as an entrepreneur. She founded Merit Property Management in 1980 and built it into one of the largest and most influential property-management companies in the nation. Along the way, she has earned a host of honors, including awards from the Small Business Administration, Inc. Magazine and the Orange County Business Journal, which has named her one of the county’s 50 most influential business people.

She has counted Chapman among her many philanthropic causes since even before Ben and Pierre became Panthers. Speaking five or six times to leadership students of Professor Mark Meier “really connected the dots for me,” she said.

Then through the family’s support of American Celebration and by meeting President Jim Doti and other trustees, “I learned about a leadership that was walking the talk,” she said. “Now when I go to Board of Governors meetings, it’s like a reunion of best friends.”

Melinda helped champion the improvements to Argyros Forum that include the new Student Union, and now with the Masson Family Beach Club, she and her family have given students a new place to connect with one another.

“We’re continuing to explore how students come together,” she said. “As a family, we fell in love with the spirit of Chapman, and we want to help the university take the next step.”

Jim Doti asked the question, but he already knew the answer.

The Chapman University president was passing the residence halls one day when he spotted several students relaxing in the sunshine on a narrow patch of grass between a basketball court and a parking lot. “Wouldn’t you rather be next to a pool?” he asked them.

“As you might expect, they told him, ‘We would love that,’” said Jerry Price, Ph.D., vice chancellor and dean of students at Chapman. “It became clear to us that a recreation and leisure pool would make a great addition to this area.”

The Masson Family Beach Club was made possible by a generous gift from the Masson Family Foundation. It was dedicated March 2, and it’s already hard to remember how the Chapman student community got along without it.

“We don’t need a thermometer to know how warm it is these days,” Dean Price said. “We can tell by how many students are in or around the pool. They’re ecstatic to have this resource to enjoy.”

Coupled with the addition of the Student Union in the renovated Argyros Forum, the Masson Family Beach Club gives students a new space to relax or study between classes, to meet friends or make new ones, and to generally enjoy the social component of the Chapman experience.

“The popularity of the beach club underscores the value students place on recreation, fitness and an active lifestyle,” Dean Price said.
to detect life-threatening events. Since then, the company has introduced many more innovations, galvanizing its reputation for developing products that set the gold standard in the industry.

But more than that, Masimo has been recognized for its commitment to sound and ethical business practices. While others were struggling to survive in a challenging economy, Masimo was thriving, adding products and payroll.

In 2011, Forbes magazine hailed Masimo as one of America’s best small public companies, citing its growth and its focus on real-world advances.

“Over time, I’ve adopted the idea that if a problem doesn’t have a solution, then it isn’t a problem,” Kiani said. “Whether you’re searching for a cure for cancer or a better way to measure a patient’s condition noninvasively, you need more than a creative person. You need a creative environment in which everyone can flourish.”

As a member of the Chapman Board of Trustees, Kiani enjoys contributing to another thriving organization, he said.

“When I met (President) Jim Doti and (Chancellor) Daniele Struppa, I immediately knew Chapman was a school I wanted to be involved with,” he noted. “They listen, and they’re able to implement good ideas.”

Kiani particularly likes how Schmid College is set up, and he looks forward to helping the new Science Center take shape as a hub of Chapman’s continued ascension.

“Anything I can do to make Chapman the Stanford of Southern California, I will do,” he said. “I really think that is the future of Chapman.”

### New Labs Will Help Drive Scientific Discovery

The new Science Center to be built on the Chapman campus will help the university rise to the forefront of scientific learning and discovery. A major component will be expanded wet labs, putting the best research tools and facilities in the hands of faculty and students.

A $1 million gift from the Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation, and Competition in Healthcare will make the new lab space possible.

Wet labs are those in which biological matter, chemicals or other material are handled in liquid solutions, requiring a specialized setup of the space.

William Wright, Ph.D., is a marine biologist at Chapman, and his research into invertebrates such as sea hares will benefit from the upgraded labs. He and others in Chapman’s Schmid College of Science and Technology are excited about the possibilities offered by the new center, which is moving through the planning and design phase.

Wright and molecular biology colleague Melissa Rowland-Goldsmith, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Crean School of Health & Life Sciences, believe the new facility will promote more valuable research by making it easier to collaborate across disciplines.

“For us, getting close to people who have molecular biology experience is very important,” Dr. Wright said.

Dr. Rowland-Goldsmith says that data from wet labs help propel molecular biology experiments that drive learning for students.

“Ultimately, the new Science Center will provide a better learning environment for our students to do independent research,” she said.

Professor Christopher Kim works with students in Chapman’s current lab space.
Scholarship Spotlight:
Louis Ehwerhemuepha (MS ‘13)

BACKGROUND
A native of Delta State, Nigeria, Ehwerhemuepha is a graduate student at Chapman, studying computational sciences on the biology and bioinformatics track.

COMING TO AMERICA
As a college senior, he longed for an opportunity to continue his studies in computational sciences, but there were no such graduate degree programs in Nigeria. Searching the Internet, he found Chapman and fell in love. He liked the emphasis on ethics, small classes and a personalized education.

CHERISHED SUPPORT
With help from the Chapman Office of Admissions, he applied for and eventually landed an Allergan Scholarship. Without the assistance, his dream likely still would be unrealized. “The news that I qualified was the greatest relief I’ve ever felt,” he said. “The path was clear to me. My dream became real.”

LIFE AT CHAPMAN
His classes are “very challenging,” Ehwerhemuepha said, “but I see kindness and support everywhere I go. We’re always laughing.” He has made friends among students, faculty and those he tutors. However, his daily inspiration comes from the quotes he finds on campus – from Fahmy Attallah in Attallah Piazza, Albert Schweitzer outside Leatherby Libraries and Charles C. Chapman next to the founder’s statue just inside Schmid Gate. The last of these quotes Ehwerhemuepha can recite from memory.

GOALS
Ehwerhemuepha is planning a career in teaching and research. Ultimately, he hopes to create a center of computational science in Nigeria.

Two Recent Gifts to Have Profound Impact

The Kay Family Foundation has made a $4 million gift to Chapman University’s planned 1,050-seat Center for the Arts. The support is designed to transform the proposed $64 million center into a technology-enabled and globalized-program arts center, the first of its kind in the nation. An additional $1 million will go to other purposes on campus.

A $3.6 million gift from the Dhont Family Foundation will establish the Dhont Family Foundation Documentary Film Center in the planned Millennial Studios expansion of Chapman’s Marion Knott Studios. It will also support an innovative Chapman documentary film project, assisting local community organizations and augmenting the already robust documentary program at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

For more information on philanthropic opportunities at Chapman University, please contact Sheryl Bourgeois, executive vice president for University Advancement, at 714-997-6955 or sbourgeo@chapman.edu