

Giving to the Department of Physics

BY ERIN MCGRATH



Alyn Hertz

Juan Carlos Torres

(JUAN CARLOS TORRES,
S.M. '79 MIT SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Juan Carlos Torres has had a long interest in physics, which started in his last two years of high school. He had a wonderful physics teacher who sparked his interest in finding out how things work.

He earned a master's degree in physics from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where he specialized in geophysics. After working for several years in the petroleum industry, he found himself drawn increasingly to management, and in 1979 he obtained an S.M. in Management from the MIT Sloan School. Following consulting work with McKinsey and corporate leadership positions in the pharmaceutical industry, he joined the private equity firm Advent International in 1988. Since 1995, he has been the

Managing Director and Senior Partner in charge of Advent's investment activities in Latin America. Juan Carlos has led or co-led Advent's investments in 30 companies in several countries, including Mexico, Brazil,

Argentina, Spain, France and the U. S. He has also sponsored six other investments in the information technology services, pharmaceutical and retail sectors.

Juan Carlos Torres's interest in physics was rekindled when he and his wife Ann Kreis, who also has a degree from Sloan, attended the 2006 MIT Alumni Travel Program trip to Chile led by MIT Physics Department Head Ed Bertschinger. Lectures on dark matter and dark energy, gravitational waves and black holes, and planets around other stars, brought back Juan Carlos's fascination with the frontiers of physics. A glimpse through a 15-inch telescope of the globular star cluster 47 Tucanae—with its hundreds of

thousands of stars blazing in a tiny corner of the Milky Way—was enough to whet his appetite for more.

Since Juan Carlos's first trip with Ed Bertschinger, he has gotten even more involved with the Department. He and Ed have shared several trips since 2006, including a visit to the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva in 2008 and a night-time visit to the Magellan Telescopes in Chile in 2009.

“I cannot think of anybody
that visits the place that
would not be interested in the
Magellan Telescopes. It's a
rare privilege to have a small
window into the universe.”

His appreciation for the Physics Department is what led him to offer his assistance. He has generously supported operations costs for MIT's partnership in the Magellan Telescopes consortium and has also provided two graduate fellowships. Juan Carlos was in a position to be able to give back and knew what an impact his gift could have. Juan Carlos has become further involved with the Department and is a member of the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for the Physics Department. Juan Carlos's most recent adventure with the Physics Department was in July 2009 for the Japan Total Solar Eclipse trip, also led by Ed Bertschinger. Juan Carlos brought along his three daughters; his hope was that seeing the solar eclipse would spark their interest in the subject. Juan Carlos says, "for me, it was a once in a lifetime experience that I will always treasure."

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The MIT Department of Physics strives to be at the forefront in every field where new physics can be found. By constantly pushing the limits, we have a chance to observe new general principles and to test theories of the structure and behavior of matter and energy.

We invite you to join us on this journey with your financial support. Please consider a gift on behalf of the MIT Department of Physics. As important as outright gifts are to the Department, deferred gifts and other tax planning approaches can often make a more substantial gift possible. Gifts in any amount to the Physics Department unrestricted fund provide the discretionary funds necessary to start new experiments and new science.

Attracting the best graduate students to work with our faculty continues to be our highest priority. We have established the **Patrons of Physics Fellows** to recognize friends of the Department who have made it possible for us to recruit the very best graduate students. To make a gift, or for more information on making a gift, please contact:

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