

Giving to the Department of Physics

BY ELIZABETH CHADIS, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

GEORGE ELBAUM (AA '59) AND THE WHITEMAN FELLOWSHIPS)

"Physics is beautiful," according to George Elbaum, who holds an

undergraduate and two masters degrees, as well as a Ph.D., all from MIT. Although "freshman physics was my nemesis, I had an epiphany while reviewing undergrad physics for the doctoral exam. I said to myself in awe, 'Physics is beautiful.'"



George Elbaum with his wife Mimi Jansen (left) and mother Pauline Whiteman (center).

George Elbaum had no intention of going on to graduate school upon completing his SB. Instead, he went to Los Angeles to work in aerospace. But when his employer, TRW, offered him a doctoral fellowship specifically for MIT, "I jumped at the chance."

"The doctoral fellowship allowed me to select a thesis that was not funded but that interested me and resulted in three very exciting years of my life, so now I want to give this opportunity to some talented graduate students."

George had been totally inactive as an alumnus — no contacts, clubs, or reunions since leaving the Institute. Then in 1998, an article on a philanthropic project in the local newspaper "awoke me to giving back."

Because he places such a high value on his MIT education, which "taught me to think analytically; it seemed natural to start giving back through MIT." Since 1998, George has supported three graduate fellowships and two post-doctoral fellowships in the MIT School of Science. The Whiteman Fellowships, named after George's mother, Pauline Whiteman, are highly prized by the recipients.

KRISTIN BURGESS (PHD '03), WHITEMAN FELLOW)

Kristin Burgess (PhD expected in 2003), has held a Whiteman Fellowship in cosmology since 1999. "My

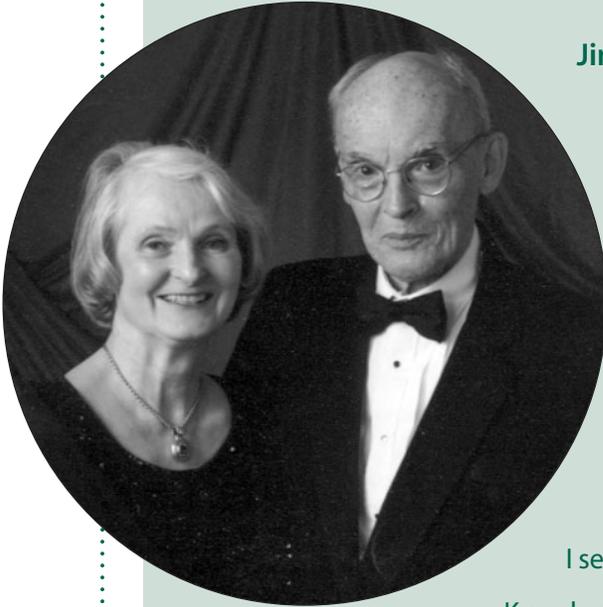
first year at MIT is a bit of a blur. I know I didn't sleep much; I was taking a lot of classes and teaching a recitation for 8.01 [classical mechanics]. I loved teaching and it was a great experience, although it tended to consume my life."

Kristin received the Department's Buechner Teaching Prize in 1999 and the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award of the American Association of Physics Teachers in 2002. "Being awarded the Whiteman Fellowship made a huge difference in my life. It enabled me to start doing physics rather than just teaching physics." Kristin spent a week in April at the Magellan telescopes in Chile, measuring the high resolution spectra of distant quasars for her thesis, *Early Stages in Cosmic Structure Formation*.



*Whiteman Fellow
Kristin Burgess*

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GENEROUS SUPPORTERS
OF THE GREEN CENTER FOR PHYSICS
Jim (SB '53, PhD '57) and Sylvia Earl



Jim and Sylvia Earl think it's perfectly natural to support their alma maters.

"We get a lot of satisfaction by doing so," says Jim.

Jim and Sylvia have contributed the funds necessary to create a new Junior Lab space in the renovated Green Center for Physics. "I took Junior Lab while it was being updated by David Frisch.

I served as a teaching assistant while Bill Kraushaar was teaching it, and I was present in [Bruno] Rossi's group when George Clark began to develop experiments by creating one that allowed students to measure the speed of light with a clock and a meter stick. Later, I taught modern physics labs at Minnesota and Maryland, and developed many experiments of my own."

Jim notes, "I have always loved working in labs, even the very conventional ones based on manufactured equipment that we took as MIT freshman. Consequently, it seemed very natural for us to support the renovation of the Junior Lab at MIT."



Imai Keller Moore Architects

Architect's rendering of the Green Center for Physics.

THE GREEN CENTER FOR PHYSICS)

MIT's Physics Department currently stretches across 13 buildings on campus. Headquarters is located on the first floor of Building 6, while the education office is on the third floor of Building 4. The students in particle and nuclear theory have offices on the fourth floor of Building 6, while the condensed matter theorists are in Building 12. Without a central focus or community meeting space, it's no wonder people are often confused and ask, "Where is physics at MIT?"

Plans are underway to correct this situation. An agreement has been made to renovate the infrastructure and make major improvements in Buildings 4, 6, 8, and 12. The Physics Department will trade space with the Department of Materials Science and Engineering to create a contiguous space that will provide a recognizable identity and primary focus for our Department's activities. The new Center, named for **Cecil** (EE '23) and **Ida Green**, who

"The Green Center will allow students, postdocs, and faculty to come together in a central place. Now, with the physics department spread all over the campus, it is much harder to share ideas and discover areas for potential collaborations. Physics is about interactions, not only between particles, but also between scientists."

— Wolfgang Ketterle, John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics and 2001 Nobel Laureate

Giving to the Department of Physics

made a leadership gift for this purpose, will be a dynamic environment where faculty and students will meet informally in the course of their research and educational activities. In addition to fostering better collaboration, the Green Center will be instrumental in recruiting the best students and faculty in an increasingly competitive market.

Neil Pappalardo, lifetime member of the MIT Corporation, has generously offered to match dollar for dollar up to \$5 million from other donors to complete the Green Center. This challenge gift from Neil creates a unique opportunity to invest in the continued greatness of physics at MIT.

Please consider designating your gift to the Green Center for Physics.

“A remarkable aspect of modern theoretical physics is its unity. Again and again, methods developed to understand one area of physics have been fruitfully applied in others. At MIT, much of our work spans across traditional boundaries between high-energy physics, condensed matter physics, and cosmology. I expect that the exchange of ideas made possible by the Green Center will greatly facilitate this sort of work, and inspire students through immersion in its rich culture. It could provide the foundation for great advances.”

— Frank Wilczek, Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics

GIVING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

ALL GIFTS, IN ALL FORMS, ARE INVALUABLE
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS.

For information on naming opportunities in the Green Center, or other questions about making a gift to the Department, please contact:

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Alternatively, you may make a gift to the Green Center, or for any other purpose, by going directly to <http://web.mit.edu/giving/givenow/index.html>, and selecting one of the Physics Department funds, listed below.

Green Center Renovation Fund	3712902
Friedman Fellowship Fund	3874300
Department of Physics Unrestricted	2657500