Jajodias Make Significant Donation to Volgenau School

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By Jennifer Edgerly

University Professor Sushil Jajodia has made many charitable donations during his academic career. He has established an Indian Student Scholarship Fund at his alma mater and regularly contributes to the Center for the Arts at Mason.

He also contributes to the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, where he directs the Center for Secure Information Systems.

However, his most recent contributions to Mason may have the longest lasting effects. Late last year, the Volgenau School announced that Jajodia and his wife, Kamal, who is a psychiatrist, were making a significant financial contribution that will support construction currently under way on the Academic VI/Research II building – the new home for the school.

In honor of his contribution, the auditorium in the new building will be known as the Sushil and Kamal Jajodia Auditorium. The 250-seat auditorium will be equipped with the latest audiovisual technology to provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility.

"Kamal and I both strongly support giving to institutions of higher education and feel that the benefits of giving in this way can be multiplied many times, as it not only touches the recipient but all members of their family," says Jajodia. "With the 2010 Campaign Building Fund currently under way, now seemed like the right time to contribute."

Along with their contribution to the 2010 Campaign Building Fund, the Jajodias have also donated funds to the school to establish an undergraduate scholarship endowment, bringing their total contribution to more than $600,000. The endowment will assist the Volgenau School in offering financially competitive four-year scholarships to attract academically gifted high school students, such as National Merit Scholars, to its programs. The school currently has three other endowments of this sort for attracting top high school students.

"The contributions made by Sushil and Kamal Jajodia are very important to the continued success of the Volgenau School," says Dean Lloyd Griffiths, who suggested naming the auditorium for the Jajodias. "We are a fairly young school, but by attracting high quality students to our program through these scholarships and then providing them with a state-of-the-art educational environment, we can continue to compete with the top tier of engineering schools."

Jajodia, who joined Mason in 1988, has directed the Center for Secure Information Systems since 1990. Named a University Professor in 2007, he is also the BDM International Professor of Information Technology.

If you are interested in donating to the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering’s 2010 Campaign Building Fund or a scholarship fund, please contact Jennifer Lamb, director of development for the Volgenau School.