

Dr. Vilas Mujumdar's gift furthers multidisciplinary research at Iowa State

Insights

Engineer's Gift Helps Build Community Resilience Program at Iowa State

Vilas Mujumdar left India with \$8 in his pocket, the maximum allowed by the country in 1964. The 23-year-old had been promised a job in London, but getting there proved to be a challenge. Fog had diverted the plane to Switzerland. When he finally landed in England, he bought a sandwich and a train ticket to the city. By the time he arrived at his new apartment, he was all but broke. His landlady let him move in anyway based on his job offer.

Mujumdar was a newly minted civil engineer, filled with ambition and a love of adventure. He began his new job and applied for membership in the prestigious Institution of Structural Engineers. Having passed the

rigorous entrance exam, he discovered he was too young to be admitted. After just one year, he left London for Montreal.

Montreal was already in the throes of preparing for the 1967 World's Fair when Mujumdar arrived. He found work as a project engineer for the ambitious futuristic housing complex, Habitat 67. Designed and built for the fair – and still occupied and historically recognized today – Habitat 67 satisfied the young adventurer for a time. When completed, Mujumdar was ready for a new challenge. He traveled to Boston to serve as an engineering consultant.

It was there that his focus began to shift. Still a self-described "sucker for challenges," the type of challenge became

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A foundation of charity learned as a child inspires a gift to help communities bounce back from disasters. Plus, learn about a gift that helps support your passions and pays you back.

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more important to Vilas. He realized he wanted to help others. He relocated to California and began work for the State of California as chief of operations for the Division of the State Architect. He also earned his doctorate during that time. With a new professional focus on earthquakes, he began to see the importance of human resilience in the face of any natural disaster. The new focus led Mujumdar to join the National Science Foundation.

"I've seen a lot of suffering," Mujumdar says today. "Helping communities become more resilient helps everyone. Here in the Midwest, you have tornadoes, ice, floods. Farmers ask, 'How can I get my farm back? How can I grow crops again?' The answer is in education."

Now retired, Mujumdar has underscored his passion to bolster community resilience by helping establish Iowa State's multidisciplinary Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience Program through a multifaceted gift that included cash and a charitable remainder unitrust.

The program's educational goals harken back to lessons learned from his mother, who taught rural women and children free of charge after she earned her own high school degree. "My foundation of charity grew from my childhood," he said. "My mother's giving back was the example. She wanted to do something for her community. It rubbed off on me.

"My main focus is to help educate students in a multidisciplinary way, not only in engineering but in social sciences, economics, public policy and cultural differences," he said. "Giving money after a disaster helps, but building capacity in humans can make a lasting impact. You need to work together with several disciplines to do that."

Mujumdar said he chose Iowa State because of the university's commitment to multidisciplinary research.

"You need to learn to draw on different disciplines to be able to protect the whole community," he says. "Iowa State is an excellent fit."



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– VILAS MUJUMDAR

Looking to establish a new path to innovation at Iowa State, or support an area of study that's important to you?

You can make a difference through a combination of gifts made today and in the future. Contact the office of gift planning at 800.621.8515 or visit isugift.org to learn more about available gift options.

Preparing Refugees to Enter Stable Communities



Cristina Poleacovschi was moved by the rows and rows of metal shipping containers rising up out of an isolated parcel of government land. She realized as she approached that they were refugee homes holding displaced families. A few scrubby trees offered scant shade along the dusty gravel paths. The heat was intolerable.

Poleacovschi, an assistant professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering at Iowa State, visited the Greek refugee camp last summer as part of an interdisciplinary team of Iowa State University researchers from the Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience program. The program is designed to address disaster preparedness comprehensively, and other multidisciplinary HMCR program researchers had already begun to explore ways to bolster community resilience to weather-related disasters like tornadoes and floods.

Now, Poleacovschi's group – made up of experts in human development, political science and

engineering – would view the global refugee experience from all angles.

"We need to understand what it is to be a refugee experiencing trauma, unmet medical needs, isolation and fear," she said. "If we can promote well-being with better shelter and infrastructure, that's a step toward the ultimate goal of integration into a new community, socially, physically and psychologically."

The HMCR program lead Sri Sritharan, Wilkinson Chair in Interdisciplinary Engineering, says such multidisciplinary disaster research emphasizing the broader social issues has never been done before. "Thanks to Dr. Vilas Mujumdar's gift, we are able to bring a holistic approach to this research," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to facilitate development of plans and drive engineering research such that it allows whole communities to bounce back faster from disaster."



HMCR program lead Sri Sritharan (top) is grateful for Dr. Mujumdar's commitment to community resilience research at Iowa State. Professor Cristina Poleacovschi (bottom) traveled to Greek refugee camps as part of a team from the HMCR program.

Blended Giving: The Best of Both Worlds

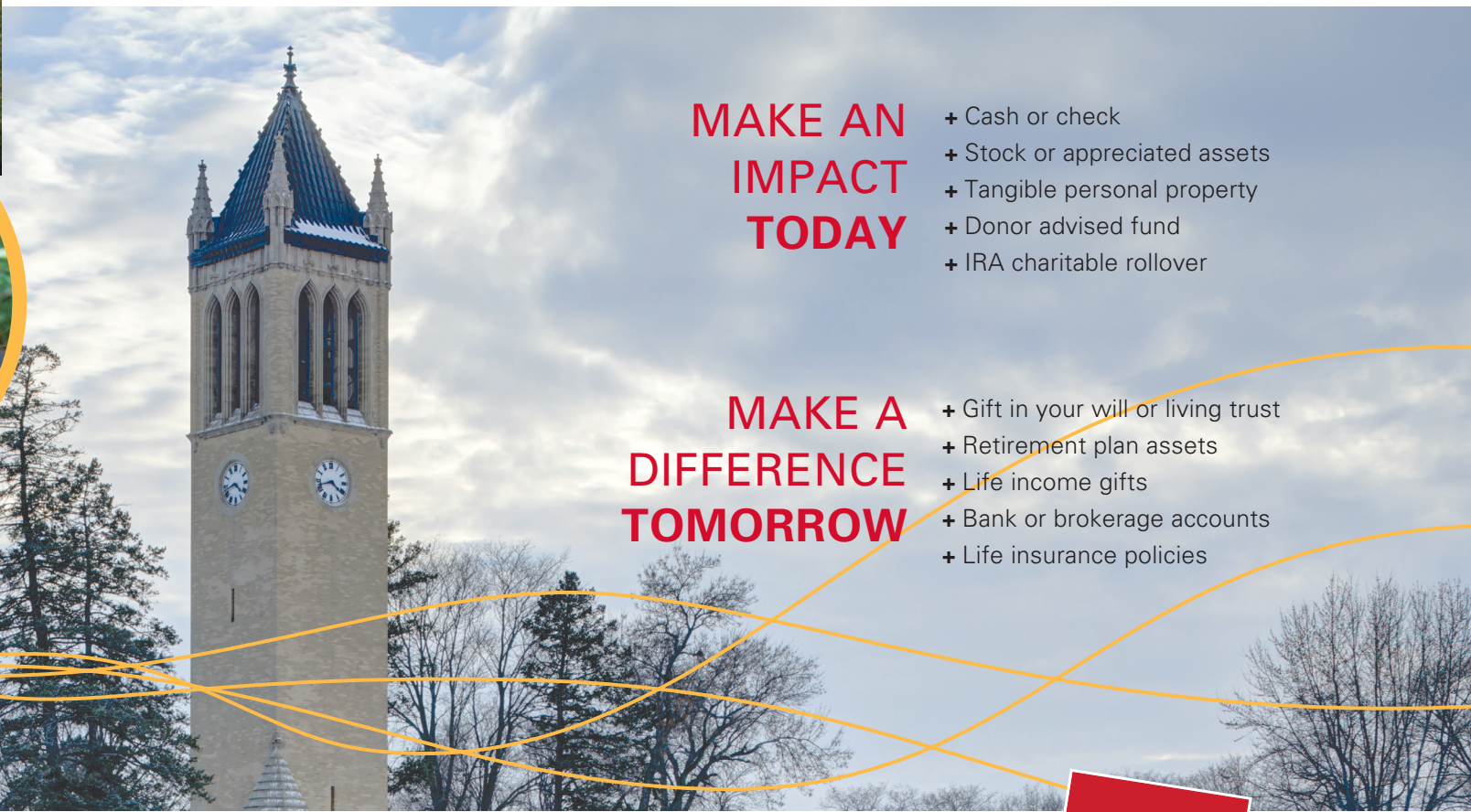
You can make a difference at Iowa State both today and tomorrow. How? By combining a current gift with one for the future. This type of giving, called blended giving, allows you to make an even bigger impact than you thought possible.

Making a blended gift is easier than you think. Simply choose a gift that works for you today and pair it with one for the future.

Why Blended Giving?

When you combine a gift today with a gift for the future, you:

- + Help us plan for the future with confidence, while meeting our needs today
- + Ensure we can continue our work while making a difference for students today
- + Inspire others to give, while creating a legacy at Iowa State



MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY

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- + Stock or appreciated assets
- + Tangible personal property
- + Donor advised fund
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW

- + Gift in your will or living trust
- + Retirement plan assets
- + Life income gifts
- + Bank or brokerage accounts
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Blend Your Support

If you've been wondering how to make more of an impact, consider combining your current contributions with one that you make in the future. Our complimentary guide ***Mix It Up: Combine Your Giving*** can give you some ideas. Request your copy using the enclosed reply card.





Trust in the Future of Iowa State University

If you're concerned about outliving your assets in retirement or supplementing your retirement income, you're not alone. Many Iowa State supporters who feel the same way find that a life income plan is an attractive alternative. One such plan, a charitable remainder trust, allows you to support programs and students at the university and receive an income stream in return.

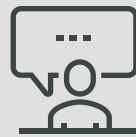
With this type of gift, you, or other beneficiaries if you choose, receive regular income for life (or for a period of up to 20 years). At the end of the trust term, the balance in the trust supports innovative research such as that being done by Cristina Poleacovschi and others like her on the Iowa State campus. Another benefit of a trust is that you may gain freedom from investment management.

You can fund a charitable trust with cash, but by funding your trust with long-term appreciated assets, you can receive additional benefits.

- + You eliminate up-front capital gains tax.
- + You may also increase your lifetime income as compared to the yield on the contributed assets.

See What a Trust Can Do

We can partner with you and your estate planning attorney as you take the next steps. Simply contact us at 800.621.8515 to get the conversation started.



INVOLVE THE EXPERTS

Set up a time to meet with your estate planning attorney. He or she can help you ensure that your charitable remainder trust is properly set up to achieve your personal financial and philanthropic goals.

Help Us Plan for Tomorrow

At the Iowa State University Foundation, we rely on donations from friends like you to help move Iowa State University forward – whether through scholarship support, funding leading-edge facilities, creating new opportunities or recruiting the best faculty. But what about the future? Though we've accomplished a lot, there's still much left for us to do. Planned gifts help us get there.

When you remember Iowa State University with your planned gift, you:

- + Provide us with solid financial footing
- + Help us plan for the future with confidence
- + Ensure we can adjust our offerings to meet changing needs

Find Your Gift

A planned gift is more than just another way to give. It's a way to help create the future you want to see by ensuring your support for our work continues even after your lifetime. Contact the office of gift planning at 800.621.8515 or visit isugift.org to learn more.



HOW TO REMEMBER IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

Share the following language with your estate planning attorney to add the Iowa State University Foundation to your will or living trust.

I give, devise and bequeath to the Iowa State University Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation existing under the laws of the State of Iowa and located at Ames, Iowa, _____ (percent of my estate, dollars, property, securities, etc.) to be used for _____ (however you wish for your gift to be used) at Iowa State University.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

The Iowa State Foundation is acknowledged by Iowa State University as the preferred channel for administering trust and estate gifts that benefit the university. This is accomplished by using the name Iowa State University Foundation in your legal documents. Please contact the Foundation for additional information.

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