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CITY NEWS

DONOR OF THE DAY | By Melanie Grayce West

Big Boost for Modern Einsteins

Charles Simonyi and James H. Simons are making a significant investment in sciences and humanities research and, at the same time, ensuring the future of the Princeton, N.J.-based Institute for Advanced Study.

Drs. Simonyi and Simons, through their personal foundations, are giving a combined \$100 million to the Institute for Advanced Study.

The unrestricted gift is a challenge grant to launch a \$200 million campaign to bolster the institution's endowment. The challenge concludes in four years and \$9 million has already been matched.

The contribution is among the most significant gifts received by the private, independent academic institution founded in 1930.

Over the years, 26 Nobel laureates have been a part of the institute, with Albert Einstein among its most notable scholars. The institute supports 28 full-time faculty members and annually hosts about 200 scholars that come to the institute to conduct

postdoctoral research in historical studies, mathematics, natural sciences and social science.

Dr. Simonyi, 62 years old, is chairman and chief technology officer of Bellevue, Wash.-based Intentional Software Corp. He serves as chairman of the Institute for Advanced Study board of trustees and this gift is among many significant contributions he has made to the institute.

He says that the recent economic downturn has made a campaign "necessary to increase the endowment to where the Institute can continue in a very stable way and at the very, very high standards that have historically been established."

Dr. Simonyi says his recent trips to space to visit the International Space Station and his wife and young daughter have influenced his philanthropic giving.

He says his foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, is broadening its mission: It recently



Charles Simonyi and James H. Simons

gave a gift to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, for example.

Still, science is at the core of Dr. Simonyi's philanthropy. "Sciences are among the highest aspirations of a community," he says. "We all understand universities as being the bastions of this endeavor, but not many people realize that the Institute is a university of universities. It's almost like a capstone to higher learning."

Dr. Simons, 73, is nonexecutive chairman of the board of Renaissance Technologies, an investment management firm, and president of Euclidean Capital, both in New York. He

serves as a vice chairman of the Institute for Advanced Study board of trustees and was also a visiting scholar in mathematics at the Institute in 1972. "It's a wonderful place to work if you're a researcher," he says.

The Simons Foundation, founded by Dr. Simons and his wife, Marilyn, focuses on basic research in mathematics and the physical and life sciences.

"We're admirers of the Institute and it fits into our mission very nicely," says Dr. Simons. The foundation also supports autism research.

Dr. Simons parlayed a successful career in mathematics (he also founded the math education nonprofit Math for America) into a career in finance leading one of the country's largest quantitative investment firms.

"We were very successful over the years and became able to give some back," he says. When asked whether it was more fun to earn the money or to give it away, Dr. Simons laughs and says, "Both have been fun."

A New Way to Meet at the Crossroads of the World



Bryan Derballa for The Wall Street Journal

STIRRING IT UP: Jillian Stevens, foreground right, on Wednesday checks out one of the three 'Meeting Bowls' that have been set up in Times Square by a Spanish art collective named mmmm... The purpose of the art installation is to encourage dialogue. The installation is up until Sept. 16.

A Softer Approach

Continued from the prior page more demanding of women candidates because we expect more from them," Ms. McMahon said in the interview. "But I've found that when women have misperceptions about me. If I have a chance to meet with them one on one or in small groups, they feel much more confident in me."

At a May luncheon at the Town and County Club for the West Hartford Republican Women's club, Ms. McMahon circulated among the attendees, shaking hands, taking photos and embracing supporters.

"She was upbeat, honest about what she did wrong and what she did right in her campaign," said Kim Perna, a real estate agent in Glastonbury who attended the event. "I'd vote for her this time around, but I'm not sure other women will because many women have a hard time relating to her."

On the oyster boat in Norwalk, "She turned out to be this informed, regular person: She laughed at my jokes, she wasn't pretentious and then ended up giving the nonprofit a \$20,000 donation," said Terry Backer, a state senator and founder of Soundkeeper, a Norfolk-based nonprofit that monitors Long Island Sound.

State Democratic Party Chair Nancy DiNardo said Ms. McMahon will not shed her image so easily.

"While tea-party conservatives might like her politics and Republican insiders might like her bank account, she—like conservative Republican candidates

across the state—did not connect with the people of this state," Ms. DiNardo said in a statement.

"Fifty million wasn't enough to convince voters last year, and it won't be enough in 2012," she said.

Even if she is successful in re-making her image, Ms. McMahon, like any GOP candidate, would have to contend as a Republican in a blue-leaning state amid a national re-election effort for President Barack Obama.

"The political calculus is different [than in 2010], and the environment will be harder all around for Republicans in Connecticut just because the state tends to vote for Democrats," said Jennifer Duffy, senior editor for the Cook Political Report.

Former staffers and some political observers say that while Ms. McMahon still brings her deep pockets to a potential campaign, she won't have to spend nearly as much money just to achieve name recognition.

"That buys her time and potentially overcomes an issue she had last time around with oversaturation of voter attention," said Doug Schwartz, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

As the economy continues to wobble and Congress fights over how to fix it, her Washington outsider status and business experience could now be seen as a plus, he said.

Notice to Readers
Ralph Gardner Jr. is on vacation.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Farrell Sklerov is a spokesman for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. An article Tuesday about rains overloading city sewers misspelled his surname as Skelrov.

Waiters served champagne to guests at Sunday's rooftop pool party at the Gansevoort Park Hotel. A Heard & Scene article on Tuesday said publicists were the servers.

Readers can alert The Wall Street Journal to any errors in news articles by emailing wjcontact@wsj.com or by calling 888-410-2667.

HAPPY HOUR | 508 Restaurant & Bar
Beer Here, Only Here

There are many reasons to go to 508 Restaurant & Bar in SoHo's west end: It boasts a lively happy hour with a selection of original cocktails and it's the type of cozy neighborhood restaurant well suited for a casual weekday or weekend dining. But what makes the place unique is its beer—because it's available only there.

The beers, such as the light, fruity Citra Common (\$7) and the crisp, balanced Cream Ale (\$7), have all the freshness and originality of basement-made homebrew. If you try the Coffee Porter (\$7), take a deep sniff of the coffee and maple notes before tasting.

The citrusy crab cakes (\$13) pair nicely with the Common or the Cream Ale. The short rib meatballs with fettuccini (\$19) work well with darker beers. The fried artichokes (\$12) go with anything.

—Brett Taylor

508 Restaurant & Bar, 508 Greenwich St. at Spring Street, is open 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday and Friday, and 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturday; 212-219-2444

Above, housemade Cream Ale beer and flatbread pizza with figs, Serrano ham, blue cheese, olive oil and sage at 508.



Agaton Stamm for The Wall Street Journal (2)