

ROCKEFELLER CENTER

Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza

June 2, 1955

Dear Dr. Wriston:

The years during which you have been the President of Brown University have marked one of the most significant eras of its long and distinguished history. Under your leadership the University has made phenomenal growth on the physical side and, at the same time, has been as signally stimulated and refreshed in its intellectual life. Your broad outlook, your progressive spirit, your courage and your ability to command the confidence and the respect of the students, the faculty and the alumni, as well as your brilliant powers of head and heart, have all combined to enhance still further the stature which Brown has long enjoyed among the educational institutions of the country.

As an alumnus, in recognition of these achievements, also as an expression of my high regard, admiration and esteem for you, it is my pleasure at this time to make a gift to Brown of securities having a market value of \$1,000,000 more or less. This gift may be used, both income and principal, in the discretion of the trustees, for any of the corporate purposes of the University.

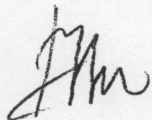
Wishing for you in the years that lie ahead health and happiness in fullest measure, I am,

Very sincerely,

Your friend,

/s/ John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Dr. Henry M. Wriston, President  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island



*Gifts - Mr. Rockefeller*

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Your gift was the most beautifully timed contribution which the University has ever received, as it was also most generous. It arrived at the beginning of our Commencement season, was the principal announcement at our alumni dinner, and the subject of happy conversation over the whole Commencement weekend.

I cannot express my own sense of gratitude, not only for the gift which means so much to the University, but also for the kind and generous comments about me which accompanied it. I assure you they were and they are profoundly moving, and I shall always treasure the remembrance of them.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Wriston

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.  
Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

June the eighth  
1955

cc Mr. Price  
Mr. Appleget

JUN 14 1955

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June 8, 1955

Dear Miss Warfield:

Ordinarily I am a rather articulate person and as I grow older I find that tendency is increasing. Knowing that, as I am sure you do, you will understand how much it means when I tell you it is only with great difficulty that I now try to write you about Mr. Rockefeller's gift. Mr. Rockefeller has always been one of the great figures in my life. My mind is filled with memories of my associations with him. Now he has given me something to remember happily for the rest of my life. His gift was so generous, so right and so timely that I am still a little shaken.

My active Commencement season began last Thursday and ended yesterday. Every day, and nearly every hour, I have been attending exercises of every kind and description. Yesterday, I represented Brown University at the Commencement exercises of Providence College and returned to find a telephone call from Wilkins. He asked me gleefully how I felt about Mr. Rockefeller's gift. I tried to tell him but I think I had better try to tell you too, and in writing.

On Friday morning last, President Wriston called me in his office. He was deeply moved and I could not imagine what had happened. Finally he succeeded in communicating his news to me and finally I comprehended. Mr. Wriston and I have been through many things together but I think this will stand, for both of us, as the greatest moment of our lives, - at least as far as Brown is concerned.

We knew that it had to be announced at the Alumni Dinner that evening. The combination of Mr. Rockefeller's beautiful letter and his magnificent gift was just too much for Mr. Wriston to handle personally. He decided, instead, to ask Mr. Tanner, our Chancellor, to make the announcement. I wish Mr. Rockefeller could have been present to hear the ovation from the more than 800 Brown alumni attending the dinner, including eight members of his own class. Subsequently, I talked with no one who did not mention the gift and comment happily about it, - and many talked to me about it.

It seems to us here that there has never been a finer gift. It was beautifully timed and beautifully done. In a recent speech to our Providence alumni, Mr. Wriston, confessing how much his accomplishments had fallen short of his hopes, said, "when, therefore, I close my door and move out, I shall leave the plow in the furrow and the field only half-plowed." Now, before he leaves, he can be sure that more furrows will be ploughed.

By vote of the Corporation, Mr. Rockefeller's gift will be devoted to new dormitories at the men's college. His action will, I am sure, stimulate other gifts for the same purpose both at the men's college and at Pembroke. These new dormitories do not indicate an expansion in our enrollment. They recognize only

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*Miss Warfield*

Miss Warfield  
Page Two

the increase in the proportion of students now requiring residence and will firmly establish our residential principle. We know, on the basis of recent experience, that when we provide on-campus housing for our students, we greatly increase their chances of graduation.

I am particularly proud that Mr. Rockefeller's gift came to an institution whose budget was already balanced and also to one which is charging an increasing proportion of the cost of education to those who receive it. Our tuition next year will be \$950 annually. A substantial part of this increase provided a long deserved adjustment in our faculty salaries; the balance was used to raise scholarship aid proportionately. In spite of this increase of \$150 in tuition, applications for admission have substantially increased at both the men's college and at Pembroke, giving us the opportunity at both colleges for better selection, not for expansion.

I have written directly to Mr. Rockefeller. I did, however, want to share with you also some of the happiness which Mr. Rockefeller's gift has given us.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Appleget  
Vice President

Miss Janet M. Warfield  
Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York.

cc - Mr. Wriston ✓

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June 8, 1955

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

During the last few days you have been very much in my mind. From the time, many years ago, when I sat with you at a dinner of the New York alumni, through my long association with you, in your office and later in the Foundation, I have treasured a relationship which has meant more to me than you can ever know.

You can understand, therefore, how deeply moved I was when Mr. Wriston told me of your gift and your letter. You have done many generous things and all of them graciously. In this instance, however, there was an amazing combination of timing, selflessness, and kindness. The funds you have given us will be of great and permanent use to the University; the way you gave those funds will also be of enduring value, not in bricks and mortar but in our hearts and minds. You have given Mr. Wriston a tribute which will light all his days. Indeed there is not one of us here who is not happier and more confident today because of your generous and cheering words. It was the perfect gift.

God bless you as you have blessed us.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Appleget  
Vice President

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

WJ

cc

Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, N.Y.

June 8, 1955

June 10, 1955

Dear Mr. Appleget:

Thank you for your letter about my recent gift to Brown. Miss Warfield has also shared with me your letter to her in regard thereto.

It gave me great pleasure and deep satisfaction to make this gift and I am very happy that those of you closest to the situation feel it was so timely.

With warm remembrances, I am,

Very sincerely,

/s/ JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

Mr. Thomas B. Appleget, Vice President  
Brown University  
Providence 12, Rhode Island

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Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York

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C O P Y

ROCKEFELLER CENTER  
New York 20, N.Y.

Room 5600  
30 Rockefeller Plaza

July 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Wriston:

On June 2nd I wrote you making a gift to Brown of securities having a market value of approximately \$1,000,000. To that gift I want now to add, for the same general purposes, securities having a market value of substantially \$4,000,000., to be used, both income and principal, for any of the corporate purposes of the University.

Very sincerely,

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (signed)

Dr. Henry M. Wriston, President  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island

Original filed in Controller's Office.

Copy sent to Mr. Appleget

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

I have found this letter unexpectedly difficult -- almost impossible -- to write. My heart is too full. Ever since going to Brown and seeing what was there, I have lived in the hope, and the faith, that somehow the load would be eased enough so that finances would not absorb so much of the time and energy needed in its educational mission. To see that abiding faith come toward fulfilment in the last weeks of my tenure fills me with profound joy.

I am glad that this comes just when a new president is to take over. It thus becomes an expression of belief in the inner integrity of the institution itself rather than in the leadership of any individual.

Now that I am leaving, and no self-interest remains to be served, I can say that in all my years at Brown no staff member has ever come to me to propose any relaxation of standards, any shoddy or unworthy promotional scheme, any truckling to "athletic pressures."

A sounder and livelier intellectual life, moral and spiritual growth, varied and interesting social and extracurricular program have been the objectives. I do not know of any institution anywhere -- whatever its assets -- which has sought those goals with more fidelity or more assiduity. And I am deeply confident that the change in administration will mean no change in those emphases; it will mean only that more youthful energy and a fresh intelligence will be put at their service.

Your wonderful gift will enhearten all who believe in those goals. Mere thanks do not cover my feelings.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

cc Mr. Appleget  
Mr. Price

*J. H. M.*

*J. H. M.*

*copy*

cc - Mr. Wriston

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July 14, 1955

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Mr. Wriston shared with me the letter which acknowledged your magnificent additional gift to the University. He has stated, more eloquently than I can ever do, just what this did for all of us and for the future of the University.

In trying to tell you what your Commencement gift meant to me personally, I said that it was the perfect gift. Nothing that you have subsequently done or may do in the future can alter that conviction. Its exquisite timing and the gracious words which accompanied it still move me deeply. Had you done nothing else, I would have remembered you all my life with gratitude and affection.

Your second gift represents a degree of support to the University beyond any hope which I had dared to entertain. Over the years, Brown has learned to develop its support from many sources (over eight thousand alumni gave to the Brown University Fund in the year just ended) and also has learned to plan and live within the means, not always adequate, which it had available. I am glad that this has been the case. Those plants which have little water usually grow the deepest roots. I believe we have learned to use money wisely and to avoid extravagance or ostentation.

This new gift, by far the largest benefaction we have ever received, has enabled us to think and plan on an entirely new plane. Long standing injustices can be corrected; needs long deferred can be met. What you have given us is not only new space in which to live and breathe but a new security and confidence. But because we have learned to do with relatively modest funds we will, I assure you, use this very substantial addition to our resources only for those purposes which promise the greatest return in educational values.

You will, I think, be glad to know that as a sign of their appreciation of your first gift, members of our Corporation are now raising, among themselves, additional funds for the same purpose. This response has only begun; it will be greatly accelerated by the announcement of your second gift. This announcement is being deferred until we have had the opportunity of full discussion at a joint meeting of the Advisory and Executive Committee and the Investment Committee, scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. What you have done will be a challenge to all alumni and friends of the University. I confidently believe that we are entering a new era of support.

I have thought many times of the influence which, consciously or unconsciously, you have had on my life. At the same time I realize that I

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*Wriston - Rockefeller*

Mr. Rockefeller, Jr.  
Page Two

am only one of many who have been helped and encouraged by the way in which you have carried out the almost crushing responsibilities which your Father entrusted to you. Because I knew them as children, I have been happy to see the important parts which your sons are now playing in that same great task. I wish for you many more years of health and happiness, - years in which you can enjoy a world you have done so much to make better.

With deep respect and affection, I am

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Appleget  
Vice President

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, New York