

Carol S. Perkins & Steve Zilmer \*  
 Dwight A. & Janis Peterson  
 Colleen P. Peterson \*  
 Roger J. Peterson  
 Tamara Peterson \*  
 Ronald Peterson  
 Charlene L. Peterson  
 Kathleen M. Peterson \*  
 Heidi J. Peterson  
 George Petroff  
 Monte J. & Gerald S. Pettersen \*  
 Ralph R. Pettyjohn #  
 Jeffrey D. Pflaum  
 Bruce Pflaum  
 Marc S. Phibbs  
 Robert M. Phillips  
 Mark R. & Patricia J. Phillips  
 Rebecca L. Picatoste  
 Cecilia F. & Le Roy F. Piche  
 Beth M. Pickering #  
 Gregory R. Pickert  
 Jeremy E. Pierotti & Kathryn Klibanoff

David A. Pierson  
 Linda P. & Elliott P. Pinck #  
 Rawlins A. Piper  
 Gregory M. Pizzano  
 William W. Plante \*  
 Katherine W. & John A. Pluhar \*

James M. Plutt  
 Brad J. Poeschl & Stacia B. Pesavento-Poeschl  
 Thomas W. Poeschl #  
 Aaron R. Pointek  
 Susan G. Pollonais  
 Timothy S. Pomaville  
 Kathryn J. Pope  
 William B. Porter  
 Robert L. & Colleen Q. Porter  
 Thomas J. Powers  
 Joan E. Prairie & Thomas Geisen

Richard A. Proulx  
 Christopher A. Prystalski \*  
 Debora A. Pung \*  
 Prakash V. & Kamala V. Puram  
 Rajaish & Shakuntla Puri \*  
 Charles F. Pursley  
 Brandy L. & Nicolas A. Pyle  
 Barbara J. Qualey \*  
 Jodine M. & Scott L. Qualle  
 Jess A. & Bethany C. Quam  
 Mickey & Ronald Radakovich +  
 Bruce J. & Susan R. Rader  
 Donna J. Radford  
 Charles F. Ramsbacher  
 Eric S. & Eric S. Rangen  
 Yvonne & Earl F. Rasmussen  
 Francesco Redivo  
 Matthew F. Redlon  
 Michael J. & Linda S. Redmond  
 Robert M. Redmond  
 Donna B. Reed  
 Christopher T. Reichert  
 Melvin A. Reichstadt #  
 Jack N. Reif  
 James C. & Cynthia M. Reilly



PHOTOGRAPH BY SARA JORDE

Brian and Megan Slipka

# The Power of Now

**For Brian Slipka, '00 BSB, there's no time like the present to give back to the Carlson School.**

Many people in their 30s feel stretched by time and financial commitments as they move up in their careers, buy new homes, or start families. Often, giving to philanthropy simply isn't a huge priority. But Brian Slipka, a 2000 Carlson School graduate, believes that now is actually the best time to give back.

He and his wife recently endowed the Brian and Megan Slipka Leadership Scholarship to demonstrate that giving back can and should happen at any age. The couple also wanted to endow the scholarship now so they could have more time watching the funds make a difference. The Slipkas designed their scholarship to help incoming freshmen from the Upper Midwest who overcame hardships to achieve at a high level. "We all face adversity in our lives, and it's the ones who get knocked down and pick themselves back up who succeed," he notes.

Slipka recalls that when he was growing up in Burnsville, Minn., his parents repeatedly demonstrated the benefit of helping others, spending countless hours volunteering in church, civic, and community organizations. And while he doesn't have much free time these days to volunteer personally for causes, giving back financially has been equally rewarding. "I have been blessed with some fortunate circumstances in my career through hard work, and everything came together," says Slipka, 30. "I was in a

position where I could do it—so why wait?"

Slipka works as a territory manager responsible for sales and support in the southeastern United States at Winthrop Resources, a Twin Cities-area firm that specializes in financing and leasing large and sophisticated technology projects and assets. His decision to create the scholarship was sealed after discovering that Winthrop matches donations dollar for dollar.

Slipka spent his college years racking up work and leadership experience. He held full-time positions at both Ernst & Young and Southwestern Co., and served as president of the Society for Advancement of Management and Students in Free Enterprise. He and a friend also started a real estate company, Paradygm Properties, which at one time owned 11 rental properties.

The Carlson School was a natural place for the Slipkas to make a difference; both graduated from the University—Brian with a bachelor's in marketing and management and Megan with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. "I learned at Carlson that if you want to get anywhere, nobody is going to do it for you," he says. "You've got to step up and demonstrate leadership and initiative. I want to reward other people who are willing to overachieve."

— *Suzy Frisch*