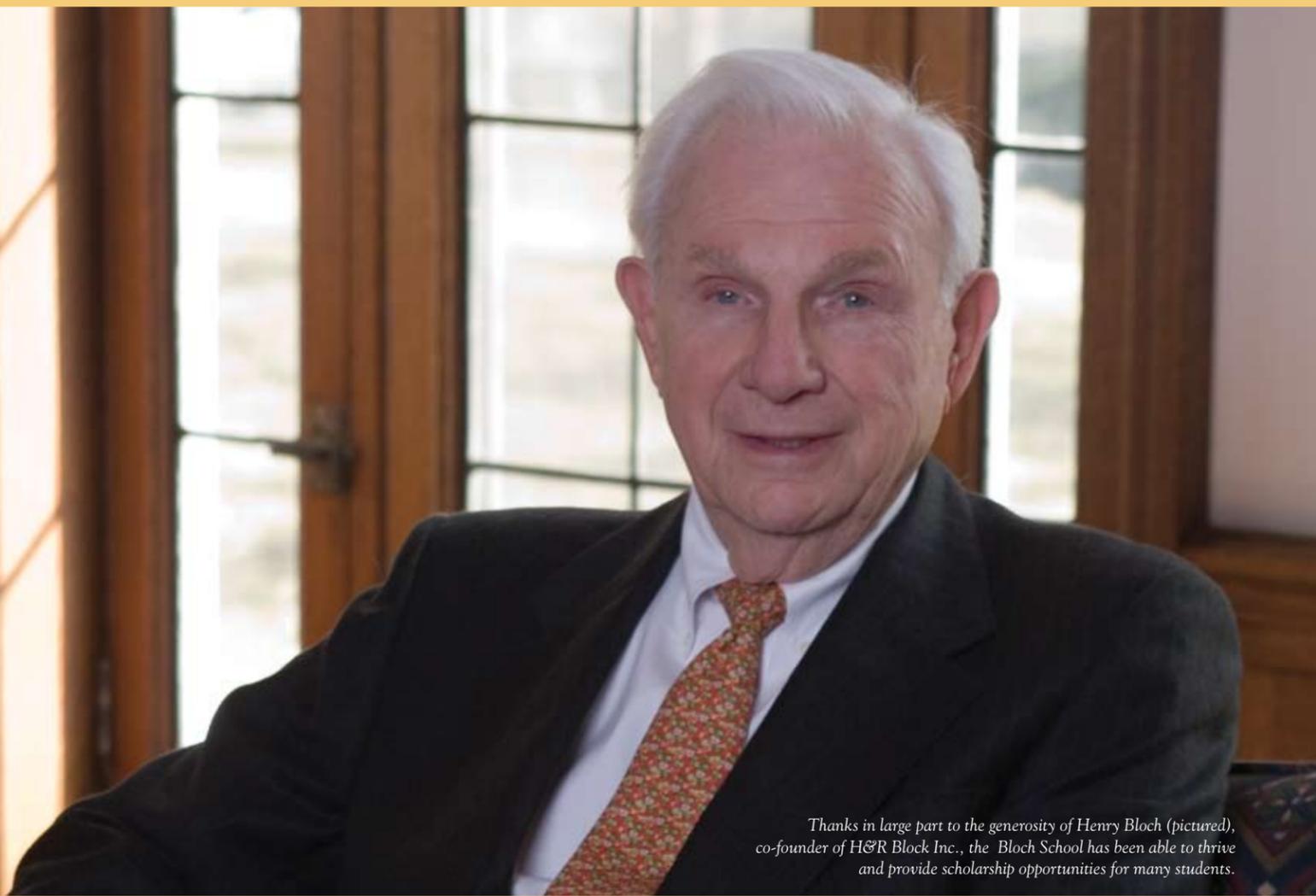


Henry Bloch

Shares the Gift of Opportunity



Thanks in large part to the generosity of Henry Bloch (pictured), co-founder of H&R Block Inc., the Bloch School has been able to thrive and provide scholarship opportunities for many students.

Marla Howard worked at McDonald's and attended a two-year college in Kansas City, Kan. She dreamed of earning her associate's degree in accounting and someday landing a solid office job. But she wasn't sure how she was going to fund her dreams.

"My family hasn't had a lot of opportunities and isn't as financially stable as most others," she says. "So I was determined to take advantage of any opportunities that crossed my path."

Then she won a Henry W. Bloch Scholarship that

allowed her to finish her degree at Donnelly College and pursue her bachelor's in business from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Before she even completed her degree in the fall of 2005, the Social Security Administration had already hired her as a service representative.

"I look forward to putting that piece of paper on my wall," she says. "I worked hard for that. My life is amazing. I've been blessed beyond belief. I'm grateful and thankful."

The Henry W. Bloch Scholars Program, launched in 2000, offers students with high potential the opportunity to complete their college degrees. For Howard, tuition and fees were covered by the H&R Block Foundation and Donnelly College while she completed her associate's. Then, through the program, she had the opportunity to transfer to UMKC to complete her bachelor's when the University matched the Bloch Foundation's contribution. Community colleges citywide also participate in the program. To date, the program has fully funded the education of 82 students at UMKC.

"Mr. Bloch is the sweetest man you'll ever meet," says Howard who had the chance to thank him in person at last year's annual Bloch Party. "I will always be grateful to him."

Tradition of Philanthropy

Howard isn't alone. Because of Henry Bloch's ongoing support to the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, more students will have doors opened to them that may not have been opened otherwise.

For the past 17 years, and with an endowment that lent his name to the school, Henry Bloch, co-founder and honorary chair of H&R Block, has been a steadfast supporter of education.

"I wanted to do all I could to help it grow and improve, to be a standout school," he says.

Over the course of this past year alone, Bloch again came forward with a significant gift, which supported scholarships and the creation of two new chairs, the Henry W. Bloch Chair in Financial Services and the Henry W. Bloch Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The chairs are pivotal to the Bloch School's plans to achieve top-tier national ranking in the areas of financial services and entrepreneurship, as well as undergraduate business, Executive MBA and leadership. Along with the recruitment of Michael Song, the Charles N. Kimball, MRI/Missouri Endowed Chair in Management of Technology and Innovation, and Mark Parry, the Ewing Marion Kauffman/Missouri Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership, the endowed chairs strengthen the school's capacity to attract outstanding faculty.

"Building a great program requires significant resources," says O. Homer Erekson, dean of the Bloch School.

"Henry's generosity has enabled us to recruit the very best national faculty in these two areas and adds rich dimensions to Kansas City that wouldn't be here otherwise."

His private donation was further amplified by the University of Missouri System Endowed Chairs Matching Program. As a result, each \$1.5 million endowment is matched annually from a state-funded University of Missouri System commitment and by a UMKC contribution resulting in a 2:1 match or the equivalent of a \$4.5 million endowment. The annual income from the endowment supports the salary of the distinguished scholar who holds the chair and may be applied to salary for support staff and graduate students, equipment, dues and travel expenses.

With the scholarships, endowed chairs and what he has encouraged others to provide, Bloch has truly given many the gift of opportunity.

"His gift will help fuel what people can do even as it attracts new talent to our school," says Erekson. "I think the gift really comes down to that—helping find people who will make a difference in our school, our university and our community."

No Stranger to Opportunity

Bloch is no stranger to the gifts of opportunity—either giving or receiving them. A series of unlucky breaks that turned lucky helped him and his brother Richard grow a modest tax preparation business into the world's largest tax services company.

In 1946, he and his brother Leon saw an entrepreneurial opportunity to help small businesses. They started a bookkeeping business, the United Business Company, with a \$5,000 loan from his aunt. Lucky break. When the first year didn't meet their expectations, Leon left the business. Unlucky break. But that was only the first of many opportunities in disguise. Henry ran a help wanted advertisement in the *Kansas City Star*. His mother answered and recommended he hire Richard. Together, they formed a propitious partnership that over the next 50 years would evolve into a business that has helped more than 22 million people worldwide build better financial futures.

"The best team doesn't always win," Bloch recently told the Bloch School's Executive MBA class of 2007. "So often it's those breaks that determine how things will turn out."

H&R Block's history repeatedly proves him right. Over the years, taxes got more complicated and more people turned to H&R Block for help. In 1955, they decided to expand and opened seven offices in New York City. But neither Henry nor Richard, each with families, wanted to live there. They decided to sell their New York operation. Two CPAs took the bait, but they didn't have enough money to buy the business in New York. Henry and Richard, eager to get back to Kansas City, sold them the rights to sell tax preparation services under the Block name for \$10,000 and royalties. The H&R Block franchise was born.

Lucky breaks in disguise continued to chase them. When they met difficulties taking their company public in 1961, they decided to sell part of their company. When IRS Commissioner Johnnie Walters suggested that tax preparers should be required to demonstrate credentials and sign the returns they prepared, H&R Block saw much of their competition wither as their business grew stronger.

So when asked how he views his success, Bloch quickly answers, "I think in my case it's 90 percent luck."

"We were born and raised in Kansas City," he continues. "We have a debt to the community because we've been successful."

"But I think I'm no different than a lot of business leaders in Kansas City. We want to help the community. It's a big part of our lives. If you 'can't take it with you,' you might as well do things that can help other people."

And perhaps that's the motivation behind his gifts to the Bloch School and the Kansas City community—the chance to open doors and opportunities and pay a little of that luck forward.