A Cultural Legacy

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A Cultural Legacy

Although the Mah family is known for their strong background in business and science, they are proud of their recent contribution to The Theatre School and the Lee and Mah Family Overlook Balcony that stands as acknowledgment of their gift.

“We contributed to technical fields of study, with my dad being a professor in the engineering school at Northwestern, and I’m an adjunct at the Kellstadt Graduate School of Business,” says Christopher Mah (MBA ’96). “The opportunity to donate to this other side of academia was very appealing.”

Christopher’s parents, Stella Lee and Richard Mah, are both originally from China, but met while studying in Europe. It was there that they cultivated their love of theatre. When they moved to the U.S., they continued to attend performances and instilled that passion in their son.

“Exposure to and awareness of the world and other cultures, to us, is part of a good education,” Christopher says. “Theatre gives you a peek into other worlds that enables you to have a fuller appreciation for what people experience globally.”

The Mahs made their generous gift in memory of Richard, who passed away in 2004. They know he would be proud to support the school his son loves and its theatre students. But the Mahs also hope the gift will inspire alumni well into the future. Stella says, “I hope they see the balcony and think, ‘Oh, they contributed to this. When I’m able, I’ll do the same.’ And so it goes down the generations.”