Dear friends,

As you probably know, I am a big fan of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. Over its entire history, the Baker Institute has successfully pursued its mission of bridging the worlds of ideas and action with an eye to the future. In doing so, the institute has greatly enhanced not only Rice University’s external reputation but also, through its policy prowess, has made every part of Rice stronger. We are indebted to the visionary leadership and stature of The Honorable James A. Baker, III, and to the creativity, skill and commitment of the institute’s founding director, Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian.

In more recent times, the Baker Institute has selectively engaged with groups of Rice students, providing unique educational opportunities in the broad field of policy. One such initiative is public policy internships, which pair talented Rice students with top-notch scholars on campus and as far away as Paris and Moscow. These opportunities provide students with real-world experience and prepare them to make meaningful contributions to policymaking.

Molly and I believe so strongly in the importance of these internship programs that we have made a lead gift of $100,000 in support of the Baker Institute’s internship program at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). We are confident our gift will incentivize academic achievement by supporting programming that serves as a magnet for tomorrow’s leaders — those already at Rice, as well as students considering attending Rice.

The Baker Institute Student Leadership Fund seeks to raise $500,000 this year to support the on-campus and overseas programs. Donors will have the opportunity to meet with the students they support and to learn more about the internship programs. Your gift will sustain Rice University’s momentum as it moves into a second century, and ensure the Baker Institute can offer internships to these aspiring young leaders.

Molly and I hope you join us in making a contribution to the Baker Institute Student Leadership Fund using this pledge form. Please contact Baker Institute Director of Development Christene Kimmel at ckimmel@rice.edu or 713-348-2136 with any questions. Thank you very much for your consideration and support of these important programs.

Sincerely,

James W. Crownover '66
Chair, Rice University Board of Trustees
Member, Baker Institute Board of Advisers