# Julia Uihlein '68

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Julia Uihlein '68, known to her friends, family, and colleagues as Julie, first came to Milwaukee Downer Seminary in the 7th grade. "I loved Downer. I had so many important teachers who took me under their wing. I just flourished there," she said.

The concept of giving back and philanthropy was very prevalent as she was growing up, and it continued during her time at MDS and University School of Milwaukee. "USM got us right into service. We experienced being part of a team to get something done creatively." She also learned how to face challenges head on and persevere.

Upon graduation, Julie attended an all-girls college in Boston and eventually transferred to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where she earned her bachelor's and came close to completing a master's in special education before taking a break to focus on her family.

As her children got older, she was able to devote more time to her career and passion—medical ethics. She approached the Medical College of Wisconsin with the idea of starting a master's program in bioethics, and was one of the first graduates to earn her Master of Arts degree in Bioethics from MCW in 1999. "While working on my master's, all three children and I would study together in front of the fire in the winter, and my son, Alexander '98, said it inspired him to go into medicine," she said. Alexander is now an endocrinologist.

Her work in ethics continued when she joined the ethics committee and the Board of Trustees for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and she also joined Froedtert Hospital's ethics committee. Additionally, she started the Medical Humanities Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin and became an adjunct professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities. This spring, Julie received an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

In addition to her passion for humanism in medicine, Julie has also been a tireless supporter of USM. "This school has meant a lot to me personally and to our family," she said of her husband, David '69; children Alexander '98, Liza '99, and Charles '02; and grandchildren Rowan '31, August '34, Henry '35, and Eleanor '36 Sadoff.

In 2002, the David and Julia Uihlein Charitable Foundation made a gift to the USM Endowment to support "Think Big" initiatives. Their generosity has helped USM faculty and staff pursue professional development opportunities around the world, welcome visiting scholars and guest speakers, enjoy occasional bonuses, and more. This investment in faculty and staff promotes best practices and aids in employee retention—all of which impact the student experience at USM. "The faculty here are incredible," she said. "Sometimes, to get the incredible people and to keep them, that's what it takes."

Additionally, Julie is heavily involved in supporting social causes and the arts in Milwaukee, a city she loves and has always called home. She invited City Year to Milwaukee, an AmeriCorps program, and was a former board chair. She's also a supporter of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and actively involved in the development of the new Bradley Symphony Center.

**"Julie exemplifies the qualities we seek in our graduates – exemplary character, curiosity, lifelong learning, a deep sense of stewardship for USM, and a healthy dose of mirth and laughter. She is indeed a distinguished USM alumna and an inspiration for students who aspire to use their talents for the betterment of their communities and nation."**

*– Harvey Sperling, former USM headmaster*

**"She was interested in not just creating doctors, but caregivers who were humanists as well as scientists. It was a crusade of hers, and she was on the forefront of that."**

*– Ward Ghory, former USM head of school*

**"Julie was very involved in the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching in the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities. Her passion for medicine is long-standing, as is her passion for University School of Milwaukee. Julie is a very caring, smart, and generous person in all of her community engagements."**

*– Kathy Housiaux '68, classmate and lifelong friend*



Janie Asmuth '68 *(left)* and Julie Uihlein '68



*From left* Deidre Martin, Julie Uihlein '68, Lori Gendelman, Kathryne Nelson '99, Liza Sadoff '99, Julie Caldwell '99, Julianna Goldberg '04, and Kathy Housiaux '68



Julie Uihlein '68 *(left)* and Suzy Boerke '68



*From left* Susan Miller, Lori Gendelman, Julie Uihlein '68, and Kathy Housiaux '68



Charlie Uihlein '02 *(left)* and Julie Uihlein '68