Positioning Chicago Booth to Thrive.

The following is an excerpt from Chicago Booth Magazine’s fall 2017 story highlighting Sean Kurachi, ’85, and his family’s company, Japan Corn Starch Co. To view this story in its entirety, visit: www.chicagobooth.edu/magazine/fall-2017/features/kernels-of-wisdom.

Soichiro “Sean” Kurachi, ’85, has been instrumental in ensuring Chicago Booth will thrive in the decades leading up to its own sesquicentennial celebrations and beyond. In appreciation of his Booth education, he made a generous contribution of $1 million to help support the University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Center in Hong Kong, which will become home to the Executive MBA Program Asia in 2018.

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—Douglas J. Skinner, deputy dean for faculty and Eric J. Gleacher Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting

This past spring, Kurachi joined fellow alumni Brian P. Baker, ’97, Ray Iwanowski, ’97, and John Watson, ’80, to fund the Chicago Booth Impact Challenge: Multiply Your Impact, offering matching funds for gifts to Booth. After the Booth alumni community rose to the challenge, exhausting the $500,000 in matching funds, Kurachi and his fellow challengers agreed to meet the overflow and match every gift. More than $1.1 million was raised for the school, including a donation from Kurachi to honor Japan Corn Starch’s [Kurachi’s family business] 150th anniversary.

“Sean is extraordinarily generous with giving his time and making contributions to the school,” Douglas J. Skinner, deputy dean for faculty and Eric J. Gleacher Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting, said. “I’m looking forward to him having a very important role with the school in the future.”