Ronald Frank (ChemE, 1969) who is a partner in the law firm Reed Smith, orchestrates complex transactions for domestic and international clients in areas such as technology, energy and capital formation. While law may not be the vocation that engineering graduates typically pursue, Frank credits CIT for helping him to attain a fulfilling career.

“It’s been a good mix,” he says, “I’ve always been a science-oriented person.” Yet, Frank found himself drawn towards the “business side of engineering,” and he went on to pursue a law degree at Duke University in North Carolina, “where the weather is warm,” laughs Frank. Granted, North Carolina may be sunnier than Pittsburgh, but Frank flat out states “I loved my days at Carnegie Mellon.”

“I enjoyed my engineering studies,” he says. Frank fondly recollects the evenings he spent in the computer lab that used to be in Scaife Hall. His girlfriend at the time, who is now his wife, would accompany him to the lab on what Frank calls their “computer dates.” Today the couple shares a fondness for the school that brought them together and laid the foundation for their future. Frank’s college days were great, however, they weren’t totally carefree. “I was helped by scholarships when I came to Carnegie Mellon,” he says, “Now I want to do the same.” In that vein, Frank and his wife have endowed the Ronald W. and Marsha K. Frank Scholarship in Engineering.

In November, the first recipient of the annual scholarship was named. Harry An, a sophomore in Chemical Engineering was excited to learn (as were his parents) that he received the award. An had an opportunity to meet the Franks, and he was impressed with how “easy they were to talk to” and the interest they expressed in his education. “The Franks are really nice people,” says An.

At present, An is considering graduate school, followed by a career in academia or pharmaceuticals.
Francis Bricmont was renowned in the steel industry for revolutionizing the design and construction of reheat steel mill furnaces. Holding more than 40 patents, he invented tunnel furnace technology, which enables molten steel to remain at an optimal temperature throughout the multi-step process that converts it into coils. This technology saves time and money because the steel doesn’t need to be reheated during the production cycle.

When Bricmont graduated from CIT, he worked as a field engineer and eventually became Chief Engineer for Rust Furnace Company, a company that designed steel furnaces. In 1966, after a brief time at Bloom Engineering, Bricmont, who was keen to improve steel furnaces, struck out on his own, and founded a company that eventually became Bricmont, Inc. The Pittsburgh-based firm employed more than 100 people when it was sold in 1996 to New Jersey-based Inductotherm Industries.

Jumilla Bricmont says that her husband “believed Carnegie Tech provided the foundation for his success,” and in his memory, she wants to help students who have the talent but not the financial resources to attend CIT.

Reflecting on their lives together, she explains that her husband was an “older” student, who attended Carnegie Tech on the G.I. Bill in 1954. Bricmont worked while pursuing a demanding course load at CIT. “He would be up most of the night studying,” says Mrs. Bricmont. At one point her husband went to the dean because he wanted to drop out, but the dean persuaded him to finish his program in mechanical engineering, which proved to be a move that altered the course of his life.

In 1995 the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania presented Bricmont with the prestigious William Metcalf Award for Outstanding Engineering Achievement. Mrs. Bricmont says that when her husband accepted the award, he said, “I’m truly honored to be recognized for doing work that I love.”

“I offer this scholarship so that others who share the same excitement may obtain the knowledge that one day may enable them to leave their mark,” says Mrs. Bricmont.