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## Alumnus gives \$1M to Temple's Fox School for project

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If you don't think advertising can pay off, just ask Temple University.

Eight years ago, while driving on the Blue Route, Dr. Raza Bokhari heard a commercial for the executive MBA program offered by what is now Temple's Fox School of Business.

Bokhari enrolled in the program in 1999, graduated from it in 2001 and late last year gave the Fox School \$1 million toward construction of its new home, Alter Hall. The \$80 million building is named after Advanta Corp. Chairman and CEO Dennis Alter and his wife Gisela Alter, who pledged \$15 million of the \$30 million Temple needs to get from private sources to pay for it.

In recognition of Bokhari's gift, the school will name the suite that houses its Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute after him. That's fitting for several reasons, including that Bokhari was the entrepreneur in residence at the institute in the 2001-'02 academic year.

By virtue of its size alone, Bokhari's donation "is not an every day gift," said M. Moshe Porat, the Fox School's dean. But what's particularly unusual about it is Bokhari's age — he just turned 40 — and the fact that he only graduated from the Fox School five years ago.

"He's not somebody who has already stashed a huge amount of money," Porat said. "His entire career is still in front of him."

Bokhari said the time was right to make the gift because of "a liquidity event" involving Lakewood Pathology Associates, which he bought in 2001.

When Bokhari took over the Lakewood, N.J., company, it was a struggling provider of surgical pathology services, which in-



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**Raza Bokhari, who recently turned 40, is CEO of Lakewood Pathology Associates.**

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**M. Moshe Porat**  
dean

Temple University Fox School of Business

volve examining body tissues as a way to study disease at a cellular level.

It's still in the same business, but it's no longer struggling. Now based in West Conshohocken, it operates in 25 states. And in May, a Chicago venture capital firm called Water Street Capital Partners bought out much of Bokhari's stake in it and committed \$50 million toward its expansion.

Bokhari had remained involved with the

Fox School and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute since his graduation. As a result, he had heard Porat and others talk about raising money for Alter Hall from time to time. When Water Street invested in Lakewood Pathology, "it was just a natural thing to do to pick up the phone and reach out to Dean Porat and see if I could find a way to give something back," Bokhari said.

More giving might be in his future. Bokhari remains CEO of Lakewood Pathology. And he's the chairman and 90 percent owner of Parkway Clinical Laboratories in Bensalem.

"We have some high hopes for that organization," he said.

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