Foundation Support to UW-Stout

In the last issue of the Outlook, the most recent faculty members honored with professorships were acknowledged. What we didn’t share with you in that article was how a faculty member becomes a professor or named chair.

Donors have long been very generous in providing endowments which provide a specific amount of money each year above one’s salary to fund special research projects, curriculum development and/or other activities related to their respective field of study. A donor may endow a professorship at the $500,000 level, while the endowment required for a named chair is $1.5 million. The corpus remains and only the earnings from each endowment are used by the named faculty member; therefore, the individual or family recognizes the fact that the chair and/or professorship will be awarded in perpetuity.

One year after the endowment is in place, earnings are available for the awards. Faculty members apply for the Dahlinger professorships or the Ranney Price professorship through the Faculty Senate. The other professorships and named chair awards are made by the dean in concert with the provost and chancellor. Most professorships are two years in length. The named chairs are usually awarded for a three-year period.

UW-Stout is very proud of the fact there are seven endowed professorships and two endowed chairs available to the faculty. With the selection and recognition of the professors and named chairs this past semester, the Stout University Foundation has awarded a total of $694,708 dollars to 68 faculty members. The first professorships were awarded in 1987. It is exciting to realize that the dollars provided by the foundation usually are the impetus for additional funding (challenge grants) from business, industry and corporations for research or other program initiatives.

At the fall opening session, the current professors were acknowledged. This past January, Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen awarded medallions and plaques to the former professors and named chairs. Last but not least, the retired faculty who were awarded professorships during their tenure will be presented with their medallions and plaques at the May faculty retirement dinner.

We talk a lot about our scholarship program and the award ceremony which takes place on campus the first day of classes in the fall. For the current academic year, the foundation awarded 532 scholarships totaling more than $500,000. We talk about these numbers frequently. Here are some of the other facts about the scholarship awards.

On average, the foundation receives about 1,000 applications per year, and the scholarship coordinator is anticipating even more applications for the 2001—2002 year. Of those, 631 are from females, 380 from males and almost half of the total from incoming freshmen. About two-thirds of the scholarships have restrictions. For instance, many are restricted to a specific major, class year or grade point average. The coordinator reports that three-quarters of the applications are submitted in the last two days before the deadline of March 1.

The students are requested to provide three copies of their application. The copies are distributed to members of the foundation’s scholarship committee who read and evaluate all the applications. Each application is ranked by three readers, and committee members then evaluate the applications on a numerical scale. These numbers are plugged into a computer program that ranks and sorts the applications. Many of the committee members are Stout graduates who also benefited from scholarship support when they were students.

The scholarship application is currently available online in a printable format and at various locations throughout campus. Next year applicants will be able to fill in the application online. Each year the deadline is March 1.

This year’s scholarship awards ceremony will be held Tuesday, September 4. The foundation’s Board of Directors hosts a dinner prior to the ceremony to thank the generous donors who support student scholarships on the UW-Stout campus.

Questions about establishing a scholarship or applications may be directed to the Stout University Foundation.

Many thanks to our donors who graciously support student scholarships, professorships and chairs. None of these opportunities would be possible for our students and faculty without their support.

Wesley Sommers Campus Beautification Fund

While serving as assistant chancellor for administrative services at UW-Stout, Wes Sommers was instrumental in upgrading the quality of campus groundskeeping. He started the Wesley Sommers Campus Beautification Fund to ensure that Stout continues to maintain campus grounds. His fund made possible a new prairie restoration in front of the Library Learning Center.

At the left (l-r): Wes Sommers, retired associate chancellor; Jo Barich, grounds, maintenance gardener; Jo (r-l): Director of the Learning Center, Chuck Bomar, associate professor of biology.

Joel P. Wagner Scholarship Established

Joel Wagner passed away January 15 at his home. He was a senior at UW-Stout majoring in marketing education with a concentration in business education and minors in history education and coaching. Joel was currently basketball coach for the sixth grade Menomonie All-Stars and ninth grade basketball for Eau Claire Memorial.

Joel would have graduated Magna Cum Laude from Stout in May.

Family and friends have established a scholarship in his memory. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to an individual in the marketing education program. The first award will be presented this coming fall. Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund may mail checks payable to the Stout University Foundation and indicate the gift is to be restricted to Joel’s scholarship fund.

Stout Foundation Report

President’s Message

Dale Granthalek

David R. Fesler, 72, Former President of the Stout University Foundation Board of Directors

David R. Fesler, former owner of the Liberty State Bank in St. Paul, Minn. and active member of the Stout University Foundation, died of pancreatic cancer January 18. He served as a board member and president of the Stout University Foundation during its formative years. He supported the Frykholm Campaign, the Fesler/Lampert Scholarship for Women, and donated the Caprice Glaser wooden quilt art piece located in the Memorial Student Center, which serves as the centerpiece for the donor hall of fame.

Fesler and his wife, BJ, supported about 200 organizations. “We’ve always been truly interested in every institution to which we gave,” BJ said.

“We derived much pleasure from talking with our scholarship recipients, attending their award ceremonies and witnessing their progress.”

The Stout University Foundation is thankful for the years David served on the board.

Sandra J. Gill Memorial Scholarship Established

Sandra Jean Gill, 59 died Monday, January 29, 2001 after a courageous battle against breast cancer. She earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics education from UW-Stout in 1961 and her master’s degree in 1967. In 1983, she went on to earn her doctorate in vocational technical education from Washington State University. Gill accepted a position at UW-Stout in 1969 as a professor of vocational home economics teacher education and supervisor of home economics student teachers and interns.

Gill served on a variety of university-level committees including the Faculty Senate, Personnel Policies Committee, and the University Alumni Gill Relations Committee. She directed extensive research projects and was published in professional organizations. Gill was chair for the Student Member in Advisory Committee of the American Home Economics Association and adviser for the state officers of the Student Member Section. She retired December 30, 1998 and was granted professor emeritus status.

Gill considered her work with students as most important and enjoyable. She worked tirelessly with her advisees and those students involved in the American Home Economics student professional organization. A scholarship in Gill’s honor and memory has been established by her family and friends. Memorials may be sent to the Stout University Foundation for the Sandra Gill Scholarship Fund.

Dewey and Garrott Barich Scholarships Established

Dewey Barich passed away February 9, 2001 at his home in Green Valley, Ariz.

He graduated from the Stout Institute in 1934. In 1958 he was named president of the Detroit Institute of Technology. As DIT’s president, he guided the institute to college status. After retiring from DIT, the Bariches moved to Arizona where Dewey was active in Rotary and the Episcopal Church. The family has established the scholarship in memory of Dewey and his brother, Garrott ‘37, who passed away in 1993. Memorials may be made to the Stout University Foundation, directed to the Dewey and Garrott Barich Scholarship.

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Stout Foundation Report
New foundation board members

At the September annual meeting of the Stout University Foundation board, Dale Grancekale ’69, president of the board, welcomed three new board members: Tom Kornegor ’68, director of package engineering, 3M-St. Paul; John Meyer ’70, senior instructional technologist, Johnson Controls Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.; and Shirley Simmons, retired co-owner of a graphic management business in Minneapolis. Kornegor and Meyer will serve on the grants and public relations committees while Simmons will serve on the scholarship committee.

Board members continuing include Donna Albrecht BS ’68, MS ’69; David P. Barnard BS ’46, MS ’47; James A. Bolm BS ’58, MS ’63; Linda Funk ’76; Dan Hampton ’71; Deanna House ’61; Gloria Kelly ’68; Walter Kirchhoff ’85; Kyle Martens BS ’57, MS ’62; Karen Martinson ’82; Dennis Moline ’84; Ralph Myhman BS ’50, MS ’54; Gus Myray; Dan Ostermann BS ’91, MS ’92; Kathy Sandstrom Kronforst ’84; Kathleen Skarvan; Donna Skidmore ’76; Claudia Smith; Chancellor Emeritus Robert S. Swanson BS ’49, MS ’50; Donald Tietz ’51, Lou Tiffany ’78; Dorothy Traisman ’52; and Steve Vande Berg MS ’75.

Barnards establish Library Learning Center Outstanding Service Award

The university is indebted to the David and Kay Barnard family, who have established the Library Learning Center Outstanding Service Award with an endowed gift to the Stout University Foundation. The purpose of the award is to recognize staff members who have achieved above and beyond what is required in their position description, and who have made outstanding contributions in serving the information needs of students, faculty and staff. The first award winner will be announced this spring.

Joe xaver, director of the Library Learning Center, noted, “This is a very significant and unusual gift which will reward library staff in a way that would not otherwise be possible. We are very grateful to the David P. Barnard family for their beneficence.”

Former roommates agree that bequests benefit many

Forty years ago, Ralph Troeller ’62 and Bob Wernsman ’62 shared a room in the Delta Kappa fraternity house at Stout State College. Stout had about 680 students, and Lynnwood Hall was the only dorm for men.

“I remember taking road trips to N.Y., to attend national fraternity meetings,” Troeller said, “and having Bob and other fraternity brothers help paint my first house.” He also recalls having a great time in school, and staying connected to Stout throughout his life.

Although the former roommates haven’t seen each other in decades and their lives have been quite different during that time, they have at least one wonderful thing in common. Troeller and his wife, Carol, and Wernsman and his wife, Darlene Brehem Wernsman ’62, have included a bequest to the Stout University Foundation in their wills.

“Stout has always been good to me,” Troeller said. That is one of the reasons he decided to include a bequest to the Stout University Foundation in his will. He earned his bachelor’s and two master’s degrees at Stout, and also worked on a specialist in education degree here.

“I wasn’t planning to attend college,” Troeller said. “I worked as a welder after high school but quickly decided I didn’t want to do that for life. My high school industrial arts teacher suggested that I go to Stout, and he helped me get in at the last minute.” He credits Harold Halfin with helping him make it through Stout.

When Troeller retired to Las Cruces, N.M., three years ago, he was serving as vice president of academic affairs at Gateway Technical College in Racine, Wis. Throughout his years at Gateway, he was able to stay connected to Stout through teaching, serving on an advisory committee and the state’s technical education system.

“I needed to give something back,” said Troeller of the decision he and his wife, Carol, made to include Stout in their will. Ralph and Carol plan to leave all of their estate to charities — including UW-Stout. In their original will, the couple, who have no children of their own, made bequests to their nieces, nephews and children of friends. Now that those children are grown and doing well on their own, the Troellers have chosen to distribute their assets in other ways.

Everybody else’s kids were ours, and we planned to provide for them. By giving our estate to charities, we’re providing for even more children,” Troeller said.

Ralph and Carol are demonstrating that focus on youth through their giving. In selecting charities, they divided their estate in half with each of them choosing their favorite charities. Carol is directing her half to her alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa. Ralph is directing half of his half to UW-Stout, and the remainder to hospice, a Kowins camp for disabled youth, and the White Buffalos — a program for children with cancer.

Meanwhile, across the country in King George, Va., Bob and Darlene Wernsman were making similar plans.

Bob Wernsman and Darlene Brehem Wernsman met at Stout, and during those years they were involved with various activities. At that time Stout was growing and still a state college.

Following graduation, Darlene worked as an extension agent in Shawano County for two and a half years. Bob joined the Navy before graduation in June 1962, finished Officer Candidate School in October and started to see the world. They were married at the Charleston Naval Chapel in December 1964 and spent the next 30 years moving and working with the Navy and its families. Today, their three grown children have successful careers in three different fields.

The Wernsmans felt strongly about the importance of their children receiving a college education, and the importance of children taking financial responsibility for their educations. “We appreciated the scholarships that our children received and the people who made those scholarships possible,” they said. “We want to help make those opportunities available for others.”

“We believe that by making a bequest to Stout, the university will be able to continue to provide students with the knowledge for today’s world,” they said. “The areas of education at Stout today are expanded beyond the belief of anyone graduating from Stout State College in 1962. It is an institution on the cutting edge with high standards and ever-increasing foresight.”

Because the Troellers and Wernsman have included the Stout University Foundation in their estate plans, they are all members of the Bowman Society. The Bowman Society recognizes individuals who have included UW-Stout in their will or a trust, who have established charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts with the foundation, or who have named Stout as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. Plans are now being made for the first Bowman Society recognition event.

“Everyone has the ability to make a major gift when they plan to give through their estate,” said Patti Bender, planned giving officer for the foundation. “A planned gift to the Stout University Foundation benefits your family, as well as the university. Your giving demonstrates to your family and friends that you believe in the importance of higher education. Plus, there can be significant tax benefits to an estate gift.”

For more information, please call Patti Bender at 715/232-1151.

Stout University Foundation

Annual Fund
Statistics for 1999—2000

$5,165 donors
$638,425 from alumni and parents
$20,213 from corporate matching gift programs
$49.90 average gift for annual fund campaign
$22 student phoner calls
$18 faculty and staff callers

Thank you for your generous annual support!
The Stout University Foundation awarded more than 400 scholarships this past year, thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends, business and industry. Adding to that number, the following scholarships have been established to provide financial support to students fulfilling their goal of an undergraduate degree.

Mueller/Orfield Endowed Applied Science Scholarship

A scholarship in honor of Bill Mueller and Mary Orfield has been established to recognize their outstanding research record. The endowed scholarship will be awarded for the first time this fall to a student majoring in applied science, one of UW-Stout’s newest majors.

Mary and Bernard Orfield Annual Scholarship

Bernard and Mary Orfield, professor of chemistry, have established an Applied Science Annual Scholarship. Mary was instrumental in designing the new applied science degree program. She and Bernard wanted to promote the program with this scholarship. “Scholarships attract talented students to each program, and this scholarship will help promote the applied science degree and offer significant financial assistance,” said John Murphy, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We are most appreciative of the Orfield’s commitment to UW-Stout and specifically to the applied science program.”

Karl A. Kolb and Ernie Weller “Fathership is Heroism” Scholarship

This general endowed scholarship was established as a Christmas gift for his parents by Karl G. Kolb, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.), and assistant professor of industrial management at UW-Stout. Kolb established the scholarship in honor of his father and grandfather “so that their ideals can live on indefinitely through a perpetual gift to a deserving student.”

“General scholarships are especially appreciated,” said Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen, “because they give us the flexibility to direct the funds to where the need is greatest.”

Ruth Kunz Conone Child and Family Studies Endowed Scholarship

Ruth Kunz Conone ’69, has always enjoyed the field of education. In 1985, after completing her doctorate at UW-Madison and serving as a professor of education at several institutions, she became associate dean of Extension for Ohio State University and was assistant director for extension family living. She retired from OSU in 1998. Currently she has a consulting firm, offers educational tours and creates hand-knitted designer sweaters.

Conone has established an endowed scholarship in the College of Human Development to be awarded to a junior or senior majoring in child and family studies. She explains, “I had a great education at UW-Stout and want to do my part to ensure that future students have the same opportunity.”

The first scholarship will be awarded this fall.

Chris Huston Endowed Construction Scholarship Fund

In 1991, Chris Huston was the very first student to graduate with a major in construction. His family was so pleased with the education and experiences Chris received at UW-Stout, that Richard Huston and Glenda Taylor Huston established the Chris Huston Endowed Construction Scholarship Fund to honor both Chris and the construction faculty at UW-Stout. The first $1,250 scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2001. Chris and his family worked with Hans Timper, construction program director, to develop criteria for the scholarship. “The Huston’s generosity will be a great benefit for construction students at UW-Stout,” Timper said.

Lynn Quadracci and Dennis Blum Endowed Scholarship

Lynn ’75 and Dennis ’77 have established an endowed scholarship to a student majoring in retail merchandising and management. Lynn received her bachelor’s degree in home economics in business, and Dennis received his bachelor’s degree in industrial technology. “We have worked in retail sales for the past several years and see a real need for qualified professionals. This is a wonderful way we can help support a student and enhance our profession as well,” said the Blums. “We are looking forward to being part of the Stout University Foundation Scholarship program.”

Ruth E Westfall Scholarship

After many years of supporting UW-Stout as a loyal alumna, Judy Rommel BS ’71, MS ’76, professor in UW-Stout’s College of Human Development, established this annual scholarship in honor of her mother, Ruth E. Westfall. A high school graduate, Ruth managed her home and family as a true family and consumer science professional, and served as Judy’s inspiration. The scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in early childhood, human development and family studies or family and consumer educational services, who has demonstrated financial need and has a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers Indianhead Chapter 335 Scholarship

Indianhead Chapter 335, a local chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, established a $500 annual scholarship for an outstanding student pursuing a career in manufacturing engineering in the Chippewa Valley. “We want to recognize the efforts of students in these fields,” said Judy King Gehler ’00, co-chair of the chapter. The first scholarship will be awarded this fall to a student majoring in manufacturing engineering or industrial technology, who is a member of the UW-Stout SME Student Chapter, and has a grade point average of 2.5 or better.

SAM Scholarship established

The Society for Advancement of Management, a Stout Student Association recognized organization, is the first such organization to have a scholarship in their name. While still a senior at Stout, David “Noah” Seis came to the Alumni Association with a request to provide financial assistance so that members of SAM might have some resources to attend professional conferences.

Seis stated, “I have been extremely fortunate in having financial support from my family and I would like to give back to the organization I believe had a positive impact on my educational experiences.” With an initial gift of $1,000 Seis is the first student to start an endowed scholarship.

Upon hearing his commitment to this scholarship and his great appreciation for their love and support, his parents also contributed to the fund.

After graduation, Seis began his professional career with Qwest Network Construction Services. He attributed his ability to obtain such a wonderful job to his education from UW-Stout.

“The education I received was second to none,” he said. “This is my way of giving some return to a great college.”

Anna Marie Sorensen Endowed Travelship

This scholarship fund is in honor of Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen’s mother, Anna Marie (Madson) Sorensen. Born in Audubon, Iowa, on March 10, 1906, she passed away on August 20, 1994, at the age of 88. She married Peter Sorensen in 1929 on the eve of the great depression and raised six children. Anna achieved an eighth grade education, common in rural America at the time, and insisted that each of her children go beyond that. She realized early that a strong education meant a better life, and she wanted each of her children to achieve success.

Remembered by family and friends alike as a strong, compassionate, caring individual, this scholarship symbolized the deep and abiding faith Anna had in the role education plays in achieving the American dream.

The first Sorensen Travelship will be awarded this fall to a student pursuing a semester studying abroad.

Jerry Balistreri Technology Teacher Education Faculty Travel Fund

The Jerry Balistreri Technology Teacher Education Faculty Travel Fund has been established by the Technical Foundation of America (TFA). TFA established the award to recognize the significant contributions that Jerry Balistreri BS ’74, MS ’77, has made in seeking to effect change in trade and industrial technical education and technology education. The fund will provide travel funds for technology teacher education faculty members with preference for those traveling to attend the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) conference. “As a faculty member, I have reflected back on any contributions I have made to the profession, it would have been impossible without the excellent training, advice, guidance and wisdom I had received from many fine professors at Stout,” Jerry said of his decision to direct the funds to UW-Stout.