We are Wichita State

Endowments set tone for Ann Walenta’s legacy

“Ann never asked for anything. She didn’t seek money or fame. She just wanted to help others.”

So began a family statement at a news conference announcing two endowed funds to memorialize alumna Ann Walenta.

Wichita State University’s College of Fine Arts’ first endowed professorship and an endowed scholarship fund were announced in December 2004 by Ann Walenta’s husband, Don, and their two children, Suzanne and Jeffrey.

The Ann Walenta Faculty of Distinction Endowed Music Professorship provides additional funding for the conductor of the WSU Symphony Orchestra. “The generous stipend will assist us in recruiting a nationally recognized talent for this important position,” said Fine Arts Dean Rodney Miller. The professorship qualifies for the state board of regents Faculty of Distinction program, which will supplement the payout of the fund, extending the impact of the gift.

The second endowed fund establishes the Ann Walenta String Quartet, whose members will receive support from the Ann Walenta Endowed Scholarship in Music. The quartet will consist of a cello, a viola and two violins.

Ann Walenta received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from WSU. She taught music in public schools in Texas and Oklahoma before returning to Wichita. She was a cello instructor at Friends University and gave private cello lessons. A cellist with the Wichita Symphony for decades, she served as that group’s librarian. She also played for Music Theatre of Wichita on occasion and was a member of the Whittier Piano Trio.

She was shot in December 2000 by the Carr brothers and died from her injuries the following month. “The two endowed funds at Wichita State

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WSU Foundation policies and procedures reflect good practices

The Wichita State University Foundation continues to take action to ensure that the procedures and practices of its board and employees inspire donor confidence. This puts the foundation ahead of many of its peers in the nonprofit sector.

“We have had committees, policies and procedures in place for many years to maximize our efficiency,” said Elizabeth King, WSU vice president for university advancement and executive director for the foundation. “We want our processes to be as transparent as possible to inspire confidence from our donors.”

Personnel policies include approval of outside employment and commitments to ensure that other positions or activities won’t interfere with foundation duties. The recent most policy for board and staff members addresses commitment of time and conflict of interest issues concerning gifts, business opportunities and competing interests.

Members of the foundation’s National Advisory Council play a major role in maintaining these safeguards by lending their expertise through active participation. For example, the NAC Investment Committee’s duties include portfolio management, hiring and evaluating investment consultants and money managers, and annual reviews of asset allocation. The Operations Committee oversees the foundation’s budget, financial reporting and policies, among other duties.

Another example is the Audit Committee, which oversees the annual audit conducted by an independent firm. As a part of its duties, this committee meets with the auditors after the examination to review financial statements, the adequacy of internal controls and other findings — with no foundation personnel present.

The Audit Committee recently recommended the foundation adopt a whistle-blower policy, which was put in place last fall. Such a policy was recommended by the National Association of College and University Business Officers in response to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. While the act doesn’t apply to non-profit entities, the NACUBO recommendations reflect emerging best practices for accountability.

“At a time when many foundations across the country are just beginning to address policies and procedures, the WSU Foundation is well ahead of the curve, with solid safeguards already in place,” said Patsy Selby, associate vice president for finance.

“We inform NAC nominees that the council truly is ‘advisory,’” King said. “We rely on their expertise to ensure that our practices are the best they can be.”


More than 100 attended the annual Society of 1895 celebration in March. Representing the 22 new members are Norma and Robert Mercer, center, congratulated by WSU President Donald Beggs, left, and Vice President for University Advancement and WSU Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth King, right. The Society of 1895 recognizes donors who have included WSU in their estate plans.
Graduate School seeks to increase fellowships, support

Wichita State’s Graduate School — 11 doctoral programs and more than 50 master’s programs — often surprises those unfamiliar with its scope. About one-third of the degrees WSU awards are graduate degrees.

“Graduate programs are important because they provide benefits to the students, the university and the community,” said Dean Susan Kovar.

The students benefit from WSU’s location in the largest city in Kansas. “Full-time graduate students have access to promising internships and meaningful business contacts,” explained Kovar, “while part-time graduate students benefit from our flexible class scheduling.”

The graduate school enhances the university by providing skilled assistants and other budding experts to further university professors’ research.

The broader community benefits from graduate studies, as well. “People with advanced degrees usually earn more money than undergraduates, and they are more likely to vote, volunteer and be involved in the civic life of their communities.”

About 65 percent of WSU’s graduate students attend school and work, Kovar said. However, only 30 percent of degree-bound graduate students receive financial support, while about half of undergraduates obtain financial aid.

Attracting the brightest

Additional funding is needed to recruit the finest graduate students, Kovar said. “Our peer institutions have found financial support for more than 50 percent of their graduate students. In order to attract top candidates, we need to not only increase the number of funds available, but the amount of each award, as well,” she said.

There are several avenues for helping students pursuing advanced degrees, said Karen Veronica, development director for the Graduate School, Research and NIAR. Graduate fellowships are the counterpart of undergraduate scholarships and may be given year to year (called a current fund) or established as an endowed fund with a minimum investment of $25,000.

Graduate assistantships are stipends earned through a departmental position, such as teaching an entry-level class or performing research activities. These, too, may be current or endowed.

In addition, donors may provide funding for graduate student awards and competitions.

“The quality of our graduate students can significantly impact the faculty to the point of swaying their decision to come to or remain at Wichita State,” Kovar said. “So it behooves the university to court top graduate students with quality programs and financial incentives.”

Boosting Shocker spirit

Bob and Darlene Anderson greeted the Shocker Spirit Squad after endowing a scholarship for squad members. The squad took second place in cheering among the nation’s Division I universities in this year’s competition.
Craig Barton honors father with faculty fellowship in finance

“When you have a good professor, you want to go to class, you want to learn, and you walk away with more than just three credit hours,” said Craig Barton on the importance of having a dedicated college professor. The W. Frank Barton Faculty Fellow in Finance will provide for such a top-notch instructor while it honors the memory of the WSU business school’s namesake and Craig Barton’s most influential teacher – his father.

“I was very fortunate to have been educated by my dad,” Barton said. “This award will help bridge the financial knowledge gap with students by recognizing and rewarding a professor who understands and passes on the importance of finance to the classroom.”

John Beehler, dean of the business school, said the faculty fellow in finance will be named by the fall semester. “Business schools are facing a very competitive market for faculty talent,” Beehler said. “Faculty fellowships are necessary in this market to reward high quality instructors and to supplement their salaries to make them competitive with the amounts paid at other universities.”

Frank Barton’s most well-known business venture began in 1973 when he and partner Tom Devlin founded Rent-A-Center. The elder Barton did not attend college, but his wife, Patsy, was a WSU alumna. This tie and the desire to support the community led the couple to endow a fund to create the W. Frank Barton School of Business in May 1987.

In addition to the business school endowment, the Barton family has supported several scholarship funds through the years, including the Clay Barton Scholarship, WSU’s largest business scholarship.

“There is a need for faculty support, particularly in the college of business,” Craig Barton said. “You want someone who loves to teach instructing your students, but the college must be able to offer these special individuals a salary that will keep them on campus rather than losing them to a corporate office.”

Craig Barton received a business degree from WSU in 1983. “Finance has always resonated with me, and my father was a natural,” Barton said. “During my college days, he would ask for my opinion on various business matters. After I made my presentation and explained my decision, he would give me the ‘real’ answer, which usually involved his vast knowledge of finance. It was always a fascinating experience.”

Barton said those times with his father were invaluable, and the faculty fellowship in finance will help fan the flames of enthusiasm for that segment of the business field.

Barton is an officer of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council and serves on the Investment Committee. He has served on various foundation committees since 1998. He also serves on the College of Business Advisory Board and is a former WSU Alumni Association board member.

Legacy: Continued from page 1

ensure that her legacy will be her love of music and music education,” Miller said.

Don Walenta said Ann had spoken several times about her desire to assist the university. “She felt a scholarship fund at Wichita State would be the best choice for advancing music in the community because year after year more students would learn to share the joy she received from music,” he said.

In addition to her active musical career, Ann Walenta was also the head buyer and manager for three Ginger’s Boutique locations in Wichita during the 1970s and 1980s. “That job never brought her as much pleasure as her cello,” Walenta said. “Even after being paralyzed from the shooting, she was looking forward to playing again.”

We are Wichita State
Targeting scholarships and faculty fellowships
The “We Are Wichita State” campaign is the WSU Foundation’s effort to develop scholarships, fellowships, professorships, and other funding for students, faculty and staff.

Because people are the university’s most valuable asset, the campaign’s goal “is to ensure that the atmosphere of individual achievements and community contributions remains at the core of Wichita State, as it has for more than a century,” said Campaign Chair True Knowles, ‘60, chairman of NutraSweet.

Visit the campaign Web site at www.wichita.edu/wearewsu for more campaign information.

To speak to a development officer, call the foundation at (316) 978-3040.

**New Bloomfield Foundation fund honors Paul and Joy Mahan**

WSU alumnus Paul Mahan was a financial advisor for Rie and Sam Bloomfield for years, and administered their foundation when it was created. In his memory, the Bloomfield Foundation has contributed $500,000 to establish the Paul and Joy Mahan Endowed Scholarship in Accounting.

Verlon McKay, ’61, trustee for the Bloomfield Foundation, said Mahan’s leadership was invaluable. “Paul retired in 1980, but he remained active in the field and successful in his oversight of the Bloomfield Foundation. We wanted to ensure his legacy with this endowment,” said McKay.

Mahan received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from WSU in 1958. He was named a Certified Public Accountant in 1961 and joined accounting firm Fox and Co’s Wichita office. Mahan earned a master’s degree in business from WSU in 1963 and was named partner-in-charge of the San Francisco, Calif. office, where he began his association with the Bloomfields.

The Bloomfield Foundation is one of WSU’s strongest supporters, with more than $2 million in gifts to date. Sam Bloomfield was one of Wichita’s aviation pioneers with the Swallow Airplane Co. Although he and Rie moved to California in the 1950s, they maintained strong ties to Wichita and

WSU. The foundation’s WSU gifts include the Rie Bloomfield Organ Series and the Sam Bloomfield Chair in Aerospace Engineering.

Paul Mahan served on the WSU Alumni Association’s board of directors and was a member of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council and Barton School Advisory Board at the time of his death in 2003.

Both full- and part-time students will be eligible for the Mahan Scholarship, and working or married students will be encouraged to apply. Awards will be need-based.

“Paul had been involved with the university since he served as the president of the student Accounting Club,” said Elizabeth King, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the WSU Foundation. “We are very pleased that the Bloomfield Foundation chose to honor his dedication by assisting new generations of accounting students.”

**Sisters’ estates give $1.1 million to WSU**

Two Wichita sisters have given more than $1.1 million through their estates to Wichita State University. In part, their gifts have created the Katherine and Edith Erker Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship. These gifts are particularly unique, as neither of the Erkers graduated from the university and their known connections with Wichita State were limited.

Edith Erker (1902-2000) attended Fairmount College, now Wichita State University, for a portion of the fall semester in 1920. She went on to work for several law firms and an oil and gas drilling company.

Katherine Erker (1907-2002) worked as a secretary for a local construction company and is not believed to have ever attended the university.

Edith and Katherine had five siblings, one of whom attended summer classes at the University of Wichita for nine summers between 1930 and 1953.

“We are honored by the Erkers’ gifts and are committed to preserving their legacy through this endowed professorship,” said Elizabeth King, vice president for university advancement.

The fund will provide supplemental support for the salary of a university professor, related materials and research. The fund qualifies for the Faculty of Distinction program created by the Kansas Board of Regents through which matching funds will be provided, extending the impact of the gift. “Endowed professorships allow us to attract and retain top faculty members in their fields,” King said.
Dental hygiene clinic renovations boosted by major gifts

Construction is set to begin next month for upgrades to Wichita State University’s dental hygiene clinic. The College of Health Professions’ campaign for remodeling and endowment funds recently received a total of $150,000 from two Kansas entities: the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testamentary Trust and the Sunflower Foundation. The clinic refurbishing is to be complete by the beginning of the fall 2005 semester.

Walter S. and Evan C. Jones, sons of Welsh parents, grew up on a farm near Lebo in eastern Kansas. They inherited 200 acres of land around the turn of the century, on which they farmed and raised cattle. They died in 1953, their wills establishing the trust.

While the trust originally limited grants to Coffey, Lyon and Osage counties, the trustees had begun to broaden their scope. This caught the attention of an Emporia dentist, who shared that news with the chair of WSU’s department of dental hygiene, Denise Maseman. She, in turn, told Lynette Murphy, development director for the College of Health Professions. “We had researched possible funding from the Jones foundation and trust, but at that time they were limited to the tri-county area,” said Murphy. “When we learned of the expanded focus, we let them know that 10 percent of our applicants were from that area. That fact and a site visit convinced the trust’s board to contribute to the new clinic.”

A part of the renovated clinic will be named the W.S. and E.C. Jones Radiology Wing in honor of the $100,000 gift. The Sunflower Foundation is contributing $50,000, which is the cost for four “operatories” or patient treatment stations in the remodeled clinic. The Sunflower Foundation was created in 2000. Its purpose is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans.

“We responded to a request for proposals with the Sunflower Foundation last spring, but the clinic renovation didn’t fit their criteria at the time,” Murphy said. “However, they later said they we qualified as a special project.”

Wichita State Foundation reorganizes

The WSU Foundation recently announced a reorganization. Michael Lamb, ’80, the former senior director of planned giving, has been named associate vice president for planned giving and development services. In addition to planned giving, his expanded responsibilities include overseeing annual giving, prospect research, communications and consulting. He joined the foundation in 1999.

Sharon Miles, ’89, who had been development director for the College of Fine Arts, the College of Education and the Ulrich Museum, has the additional responsibility of associate director for planned giving. Miles has been with the foundation since 2000. Her previous assignment of the College of Education was transferred to Joni Brainerd, who recently joined the foundation.

Brainerd, who also serves as development director for the College of Engineering, comes to the WSU Foundation from Illinois, where she was a development officer for the Junior Achievement program in Moline. Previously, she served as a buyer for Case Corp. located there. She received a bachelor’s of business administration degree in marketing from the University of Iowa.

A search is underway to fill the position of associate vice president for development, replacing Lisa Baronio, who moved to become associate vice president for the University of Connecticut Foundation.
Two long-time supporters of Wichita State University, Roberta Watkins Adams and Orestes “Rusty” Eck, have passed away, leaving legacies at the university.

Roberta Brown met Leon Watkins in a Wichita University botany lab, and their relationship blossomed. Leon went on to head the family steel manufacturing firm, Watkins Inc. Roberta assumed leadership of the Watkins Foundation after Leon’s death in 1971. She announced three years later that the primary purpose of the foundation would be to support the Watkins Visiting Professorship Series at WSU — one of the most prestigious university science lecture series in the country.

The Watkins Foundation again reached out in 1990 to create the Watkins Summer Research Participation Fellowships, which allow high school science teachers to pursue a line of study, then take their enthusiasm back to the classroom. The foundation assets were given to WSU in October 2002.

Adams received the Fairmount Founders Award in May 2002 and was a charter member of the Fairmount Lifetime Achievers, WSU’s most prestigious giving group. She passed away Nov. 24, 2004.

“Longtime baseball supporter” was a frequent description of Rusty Eck, and for good reason. When WSU baseball coach Gene Stephenson took the reins here, the Shockers opened the 1978 season playing at McAdams Field, a city ballpark. They ended that season at Shocker Field, but it took Eck’s backing to build a stadium for the team. The facility has grown since it first opened in the mid-1980s to become one of the finest venues in college baseball.

The founder of Rusty Eck Ford, Eck also contributed to Wichita State scholarship funds. He was named a charter member of the Fairmount Lifetime Achievers in 2004. He passed away Dec. 10, 2004.

Memorials

New memorials were established in honor of these deceased friends of Wichita State through the WSU Foundation between Nov. 29, 2004, and Feb. 16, 2005. To contribute, please call the Planned Giving Office, (316) 978-3809, toll-free (888) 316-2586, or e-mail mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

Elizabeth “Betty” Van Arsdaile Burns
Almetta M. Glenn ’70, ’77
Leslie Paul “Pete” Hodge
Richard G. “Dick” King
Kathleen Park ’61
Mary Hege Smith ’42
James A. Tashoff
Lura Maye Wagnon

Society of 1895

These individuals were named to the Society of 1895 between Oct. 1, 2004, and Feb. 25, 2005, by establishing a deferred gift through the WSU Foundation. To do the same, please call Michael Lamb, (316) 978-3804, toll-free (888) 316-2586, or e-mail mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

Allen D. Boge
Charles L. Brungardt ’83
John M. Hyde
Kenneth D. Isely
H. JoAnn McKinley ’50
Norma & Robert Mercer
Janice Chambers Ramsey ’35 Trust
Richard “Dick” Smith
Gloria Bailey Tuttle ’48

Major Gift Highlights

Harry Pollak — Unrestricted Fund, Ulrich Museum Operating Fund
Preferred Health Systems — Athletics, Health Professions, Roundhouse Renaissance
Rand Graphics — Welcome Center
Raytheon Charitable Gift Fund — Raytheon Engineering Assistantship
Geney ’70 & Cramer ’37 Reed — Alumni, Unrestricted Fund, Roundhouse Renaissance, M.J. Larry PA Fellowship, Geney & Cramer Reed Endowed Scholarship (Health Professions), Reed Faculty Development Fund (Health Professions), KMUW, Annual Fund (Liberal Arts), Music Associates, Athletics
Ann & Dennis Ross — Ross Faculty of Distinction in Organ
Rudd Foundation — Rudd Foundation Fellowship (Business), Roundhouse Renaissance
Deborah & Bob ’68 Shields — Unrestricted Fund, Welcome Center
Rebecca & Dean ’67 Smith — Roundhouse Renaissance
Neal Stong ’80 — Chet Stong Endowed Scholarship
Betty Ann ’70, ’83 & Leonard Sullivan — Sullivan Distinguished Professorship (Health Professions)
Sullivan Higdon & Sink — SH&S Minority Scholarship (Liberal Arts)
Daniel Taylor ’67 Family Charitable Foundation — Roundhouse Renaissance, Athletics
William Tinchener ’53 Estate — Unrestricted Reserves
John Tjaden Estate — Unrestricted Reserves
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund — United Methodist Health Fund (Health Professions)
Don Walenta — Ann Walenta Professorship in Music, Ann Walenta Scholarship in Music
Velma Lunt Wallace — Welcome Center
Wesley Medical Center — Wesley Nursing Enrollment
Wichita Scottish Rite Charitable Trust — Rite Care Clinic (Education)
Stauffer-Allison archeological collection enriches Wichita State

Richard Stauffer earned his living working with his hands as an artist and art educator. Those same hands spent countless hours sifting through archeological sites, and the resulting collection is what will be remembered on the Wichita State University campus. Stauffer and his daughter, Brendy Allison, collected and donated a significant collection of Plains artifacts to the university, along with an endowed fund.

“Stauffer had collected archeological materials since he was a boy,” said WSU professor Don Blakeslee. He accumulated items from 425 sites in seven counties. “The collection is outstanding because it includes materials from all time periods in Kansas, as far back as 13,000 years. It includes one nearly complete Clovis point, the earliest style of spear point found in North America,” Blakeslee said.

The father and daughter team kept excellent records for the collection, Blakeslee said, including site maps and field notes. The collection will be further cataloged and researched by a WSU student, supported by the Stauffer-Allison Traineeship in Kansas Archeology endowment. A portion of the collection is already on display, and other pieces will be used for study by professional and amateur archeologists. Blakeslee and other professors are using pieces for classroom instruction.

“Of particular interest in the collection are portions of tools found near Council Grove that were produced 5,500 to 8,000 years ago. Most sites from this time have eroded away,” Blakeslee said. “Other sites yielded the Hopewellian style of pottery, which had been thought to be rare west of Kansas City but is relatively common in the Stauffer-Allison collection. Those pieces date back to about the time of Christ,” he said.

An Emporia State University art professor for more than 30 years, Stauffer also sculpted eight public art pieces. He was named Kansas Art Educator of the Year and was selected Kansas Governor’s Artist in 1984. Stauffer passed away Feb. 8 at age 72. A memorial has been established with the WSU Anthropology Department. To donate, call the WSU Foundation at (316) 978-3040.