WSU Foundation receives $1.6 million for the Janice M. Riordan Distinguished
Professorship in Maternal Child Health

Contribution funds the first endowed professorship in the College of Health Professions

The WSU Foundation has received $1.6 million to fund the Janice M. Riordan Distinguished Professorship in Maternal Child Health in the College of Health Professions. The professorship, which will have an emphasis on breastfeeding and human lactation, is believed to be the first of its kind in a school of nursing. The donation was announced at a news conference June 29 in Ahlberg Hall on the WSU campus.

The gift qualifies for the Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of Distinction program, which will supplement the payout of the fund, extending the impact of the contribution.

“We are thrilled to have this substantial gift and want to thank the anonymous donor for making this professorship possible,” said Jan Riordan, professor in the WSU School of Nursing and namesake of the professorship. “We will be able to advance graduate online education on lactation to health professionals in parts of the world where it is badly needed, especially where infant mortality is high.

“Another program enhancement will be clinical research,” Riordan said. “There is a lot of knowledge on the health benefits, but not how we can help mothers clinically. For example, we need to know more about breastfeeding premature babies.”

Riordan is a noted author, lecturer, researcher and consultant on breastfeeding and lactation management. She teaches in the graduate nursing program including the three-credit-hour online course on lactation taken by health professionals all over the world. Riordan is the author of “Breastfeeding and Human Lactation,” now in its third edition and winner of a 2004 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award. The book is the premier textbook in the field of lactation and is used by health professionals worldwide.

Riordan has served on the International Board of Lactation.

See Professorship, page 7
Benny Knoblauch—a match with the WSU College of Engineering

The seeds planted during the past three years of the “We are Wichita State” campaign will continue to impact lives for years to come.

One such life is that of Benjamin “Benny” Knoblauch, who begins at WSU this fall and is the inaugural recipient of the Robert and Sharon Bailey Presidential Scholarship.

Knoblauch, son of Bobbie and Matt Knoblauch of WSU’s Barton School of Business and Foulston Siefkin LLP respectively, is excited about starting his WSU career and thankful for the opportunities afforded him by this scholarship. An incoming computer engineering major, Knoblauch will live in the dorms and participate in various college and community activities, as well as such unique experiences as working for the Cisco Systems Technical Assistance Center on campus.

“I can’t stress enough how helpful this scholarship is going to be,” said Knoblauch. “It is going to allow me to focus on college itself rather than how I’m going to fund it.”

Both WSU alums, Knoblauch’s parents said they feel fortunate and honored that their son was selected for the Bailey scholarship.

“We both benefited throughout our careers from the experiences as students at WSU and we’re confident that Benny will receive a world-class education from WSU to begin his engineering career,” said Bobbie Knoblauch.

Bob Bailey ’71, was thrilled with WSU’s selection of Knoblauch, saying, “This was exactly what I had in mind, and I’m glad that the first selection was such a match!”

Bailey, an electrical engineering graduate, works for Apple Computer, where he is a distinguished engineer with numerous patents under his belt and is presently involved in an exciting new “chip” project.

Knoblauch participated in Wichita East High School’s International Baccalaureate program in which he was one of its valedictorians. He was selected for the KWCH TV 12 “Top of the Class” and the Visioneering Wichita Steering Committee. Knoblauch also was chosen as one of the Governor’s Scholars.

“Benny is exactly the sort of student prepared to excel in our College of Engineering,” said Zulma Toro-Ramos, dean of the college.

To further the positive impact this campaign has had, please contact Terre Johnson, WSU Foundation vice president for development at (316) 978-3808 or terre.johnson@wichita.edu.
Kathleen Walsh: A living legacy

Kathleen Walsh’s relationship with WSU goes back to the time before it was a municipal university. As a freshman in the fall of 1924, Walsh joined the campaign to change Fairmount College from a private college to a public university.

“We would go around ringing doorbells, asking people to vote to make Fairmount a municipal university,” recalled Walsh.

The proposal failed in a citywide vote in 1925, however, this did not deter Walsh or her peers. The following year their campaign was successful in establishing the ninth municipal university in the nation and the first one west of the Mississippi. Walsh proudly graduated from the Municipal University of Wichita in 1928 with a major in English and a minor in history, returning to earn her master’s degree in liberal studies in 1939. She is a member of Mortar Board and was a member of the Women’s Honor Five, now called Senior Honor Women.

After graduation, Walsh enjoyed a 44-year teaching career—34 in the same classroom at Allison Junior High School in Wichita. She retired in 1972 and was elected to the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in 1978.

When McCormick-Mathers publishing company asked her father to write a grammar book for junior high students, Walsh helped him create “The Plain English Handbook.” It was used in every state, several foreign countries and was printed in Braille.

“For a number of years, it was the most widely used English book in the United States,” said Walsh.

Former WSU president Eugene Hughes and current WSU first lady Shirley Beggs Praetorius are among the many people who used the handbook.

Walsh and her father also wrote “Language Etiquette.”

In 1994, Walsh established three endowed undergraduate scholarship funds, two of which honor her parents, who were both educators. They are the J. Martyn Walsh English Education Scholarship, the Anna Elizabeth Walsh Humanities Scholarship and the Anna Kathleen Walsh English Scholarship.

“I wanted the funds to generate enough to pay tuition and buy their books,” Walsh says of her scholarships.

Walsh is an Alumni Association Life Member, former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, life member of the Fairmount Society and member of the Society of 1895. In 1996, she was an honoree of the Newcomen Society and received the Fairmount Founders’ Award in 1999.

Walsh is leaving a truly outstanding legacy at WSU. As a student, she was not content to let the university be less than it could be, and her efforts to help WSU and its students succeed continue to this day.
Gift in honor of James Rhatigan will help researchers

What would it be like to make a few clicks with your computer mouse and be able to read contemporary accounts of the death of Abraham Lincoln in the New York Times, the Cleveland Plain Dealer or hundreds of other American newspapers in their original newsprint?

The Dr. James J. Rhatigan Electronic Resources Fund, created by an anonymous donor, has allowed WSU Libraries to purchase three digital historical collections making the above scenario possible. The new resources—more than 16 million documents—are available to WSU faculty, staff and students with on-campus and off-campus Internet access, and to community users who visit Ablah Library.

The new fund, totaling $150,000, honors Rhatigan, who was the university’s former vice president for student affairs and dean emeritus of students, and is a consultant for the WSU Foundation.

“People who use the library may assume it gets the resources it needs to grow in size and sophistication,” said Rhatigan. “This definitely is not the case. The library competes for funds with every other campus unit. On many campuses there is not enough advocacy for the library.”

To help counter this problem, the “Preserve Our Resources” campaign has been designed to preserve and expand the libraries’ collections. The anonymous gift supports this campaign and the collections purchased have greatly enhanced the research resources available to our campus and community.

“These databases provide desktop access to a vast collection of primary materials,” said Kathy Downes, senior associate dean for University Libraries. “Before these databases, students and researchers would have needed to travel to several states across this country to gain access to the same materials.”

The databases have already been useful, and more than 5,000 documents have been accessed in the three months since their arrival. Responding to a survey question about the value of the resources, a history graduate student made the following observation:

“I have found enough primary source material through this database to write a 30-page paper, and this material is not in any books on the subject, but entirely original research.”

The three historical archives are:

- The U.S. Congressional Serial Set (1817-1980) contains journals, documents and reports of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The American State Papers (1789-1838) also are included, as well as maps, illustrations and statistical data.
- America’s Historical Newspapers: Early American Newspapers (1690-1976) I, II and III offers fully searchable reproductions of more than 500,000 issues from more than 1,000 historical American newspapers.
- Century U.S. Newspapers Digital Archive provides access to approximately 1.5 million pages of primary source newspaper content from the 19th century.

Memorials

New memorials were established in honor of the following deceased friends of Wichita State through the WSU Foundation between May 1 and June 30, 2007. To contribute, please call the Planned Giving Office, (316) 978-3809, toll-free (888) 316-2586, or e-mail mike. lamb@wichita.edu.

Vicki Pettit Foss
Pat Lewis
Irma W. Lindquist
Ken McGrew ’57
Harold D. Reynolds ’50

Major Gift Highlights

Oral Health Kansas Inc.—
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Recruitment Fund

Connie & Bruce ’55, ’61
Peterman—
Bruce & Connie Peterman Endowed Scholarship in Engineering

Preferred Health Systems Inc.—
Men’s Basketball

Science Olympiad—
National Science Olympiad
2007 Current Fund

Spirit AeroSystems Inc.—
Eck Stadium Skyboxes

Nadine Stannard—
David Stannard Baseball Endowed Scholarship

Daniel Taylor Family Charitable Foundation—
ICAA, SASO

Lee Underhill ’51, ’53 Trust—
Anne Marie Underhill Endowed Scholarship in Social Work, W. Mack Barlow Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry

Barbara Vedder Estate—
Current Unrestricted Fund

Velma Lunt Wallace—
SASO, D. Cramer Reed Memorial Fund (College of Health Professions)

Flossie E. West Memorial Trust—
Flossie E. West Memorial Trust Research

John White ’70—
Men’s Basketball, All American Club

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for his or her efforts? Just as this donor honored James Rhatigan, you, too, can honor an outstanding individual in your life while creating a brighter future for students, faculty, staff and your community. To find out how, contact Terre Johnson, WSU Foundation vice president for development, at (316) 978-3808 or terre. johnson@wichita.edu.

James Rhatigan, namesake of the Dr. James J. Rhatigan Electronic Resources Fund and consultant for the WSU Foundation, is a strong advocate for University Libraries.

John White ’70—
Men’s Basketball, All American Club
Wichita State University Foundation hosts 2007 Fairmount Society Dinner

Nearly 200 members of the WSU Foundation’s Fairmount Society, the university’s most distinguished support group, gathered May 3 at the annual Fairmount Society Dinner—“Harmony in Bloom”—at the Wichita Marriott.

University president Donald Beggs and John Morse, chair-elect of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council and Board of Directors, presented the Fairmount Founders’ Award to Dorothy and Bill Cohen. Beggs and WSU Board of Trustees chair Joan Beren presented the Board of Trustees’ Award to Stephen L. Clark. Beggs and Morse also presented Dr. Sammy H. and Jacqueline Kouri the WSU Fairmount Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recognized for their contributions as new life members of the Fairmount Society included Denise and John Combs representing BG Products; Kelly and Jon Callen; Karen and Duane Finstad representing Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation; DeeAnne and George Fahnestock representing Fahnestock Plumbing, HV/AC and Electric; Cindy and Bryan Hoover representing LSI Logic Corporation; Shelly and Bill Moore; Pegi Oatman representing the Oatman Family Charitable Fund; Mary Lynn and William Oliver; and Nadine Stannard.

Underwriters for this event were Mastholm Asset Management LLC, FISCO Investment Management lp, Payden & Rygel Investment Management, Speece Thorson Capital Group Inc., Commerce Bank, Dodge & Cox, First Pacific Advisors, Fund Evaluation Group, Roxbury Capital and Times Square Capital Management Inc.

Don’t forget to take advantage of new law to make IRA gifts

WSU alumni and friends have until Dec. 31, 2007, to take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which allows charitable distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) without any adverse tax impact.

If you already are planning to direct IRA assets to WSU upon your death, the law may allow you to see the gift assist the university now. You also may benefit from this law if you take the required minimum distribution each year, but do not need the income for living expenses. In this case, you may be able to use a charitable gift distribution to meet the required minimum distribution, avoid the income tax and help the WSU program of your choice.

If you would like additional information, please contact Michael Lamb, WSU Foundation vice president for planned giving and development services (316) 978-3804 or mike.lamb@wichita.edu. Please consult your advisers for legal and tax counsel.

Society of 1895

These individuals were named to the Society of 1895 between May 1 and June 30, 2007, by establishing a deferred gift through the WSU Foundation. There were two anonymous gifts. To do the same, please call Michael Lamb, WSU Foundation vice president for planned giving and development services (316) 978-3804, toll-free (888) 316-2586, or e-mail mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

Fred and Sue Berry
Rudann Clark ’70
Gloria Deines ’80
Ed ’72 and Kathryn Field
Jill Frasco ’75
Mark D. ’89 and Karen Gelvin
Martha Hadley
Terre L. Johnson
Frank ’56 and Marni Stevens
William and Judith Wynne
On May 2, the inaugural Spirit Scholars event was held at Spirit AeroSystems. Providing insight about their company and an overview of career opportunities to the 26 attending scholarship recipients were Wheeler; Marci Johnson ’82, ’90, executive director of sales and marketing; Don Roswurm, finance cost analyst; Anne Whiting, manager of leadership and organization development; and Dave Fanning ’00, senior manager of manufacturing research and development. "We are thrilled to host the event and gratified at the great show of support from the WSU leaders.”

Wesley Smith, a College of Engineering senior, said, “Not only did they (Spirit) provide scholarship funding for me to attend school, they also hosted this event to get to know them better.”

In addition to students and Spirit administrators, the event was attended by more than 10 WSU faculty and staff. After the reception, a tour of Spirit’s 787 composite fuselage plant was given.

“We were pleased to show off our facilities,” said Fanning. “We find that enthusiasm and excitement grow from the challenges of the workplace, and I hope we were able to spark some of that in the students.”
For Sherry Phillips, finding ways to support WSU has never been hard. Her ties to the university go back to the early 1970s when she and her late husband, Roy, who was a WSU student at the time, started attending athletic events. After football players, administrators and supporters were killed in a plane crash in 1970, the Phillipses went to the first home game following the tragedy. Subsequently, they attended every game they could and, when the season was over, they decided to start attending basketball and baseball games as well.

“There never was a question if we would go to the games,” said Phillips. “I always called Roy ‘the fan.’ I came along because it was something for us to do together.”

The Phillipses became basketball season ticket holders and continued to attend the games after their sons migrated to the student section. When Roy made a pledge to the Roundhouse Renaissance campaign, unbeknownst to Phillips, he asked that one of the study rooms bear their names. Their names also are on the Wall of Honor in Charles Koch Arena. Sadly, Roy passed away in 2002 before the project was completed. After his death, Phillips decided to create a baseball scholarship in memory of him, the Roy R. Phillips Memorial Baseball Scholarship.

“Establishing a scholarship in Roy’s honor seemed like a fitting way to carry on his memory,” she said.

At a luncheon last spring, she had the opportunity to meet Ryan Jones, this year’s scholarship recipient.

“I always am impressed with WSU students when I meet them,” Phillips said.

“Our experience with the athletic program has been good.”

Phillips also has endowed a scholarship in engineering in both Roy’s and her names and has included WSU in her estate plans.

“The scholarships leave a legacy for him because he was passionate about education being affordable for students. He worked for what he had and was rewarded for it,” Phillips said. “He always had the desire to give back.”

Even though it has been difficult without Roy, Phillips continues to attend basketball and baseball games as often as possible, and enjoys traveling with the baseball team.

Everybody needs to have hope. So if endowing a couple of scholarships will help a few students finish college, I can’t think of a better legacy to leave for Roy.”

Consultant Examiners, the Health Advisory Council of La Leche League International and is the founder of Kansas La Leche League. She is an elected member of the American Academy of Nursing and chaired the Research Committee for the International Lactation Consultant Association. With more than 100 presentations and workshops, Riordan has authored six books, more than 30 articles and several book chapters on lactation.

“This distinguished professorship highlights our vision of ‘innovation and excellence in education to promote a healthy society’ by focusing in an area not being heavily researched,” said Peter Cohen, WSU professor and dean of the College of Health Professions.

The funds also can be used for a graduate research assistant and will fully fund salary and benefits of the professor.

“For more than 25 years, Jan has been a tireless and passionate advocate for maternal child health through her education and research in breastfeeding and lactation,” said Juanita Tate, WSU associate dean of the College of Health Professions and chair of the School of Nursing. “This professorship is precedent setting. I am unaware of any such professorship with this focus in a school of nursing in the United States.”

An international search will be conducted to fill the position by fall 2008.
This past semester, three WSU trumpet students and their professor had the opportunity of a lifetime, thanks in part to members of Music Associates. Trumpet professor Donald Duncan, graduate assistant Gabriel DiMartino, graduate student John Cummings and undergraduate Todd Shults traveled to Kalavrita, Greece, to attend a music conference for university faculty and students from across the United States. The conference was hosted by the Millennium Brass Quintet, a group of current and former faculty members of American universities.

“The things I got out of the trip were great musical experiences, great sightseeing and, best of all, the opportunity to meet other brass players,” said Cummings.

The weeklong conference consisted of performances by ensembles, quintets and chamber groups. Also, there were three faculty performance master classes every day.

“Everyone who went was enthused, and I received positive feedback from our three students,” said Duncan. “It was an incredible experience that brought together many people from different cultures.”

The purpose of Music Associates members is to support the School of Music by inviting alumni and patrons to participate in a wide variety of musical events and to support special projects not financed through state or municipal funds. Music Associates members also provide funding for students and faculty to attend or perform at national and international conferences and workshops. Additional support helps bring master classes and leading concert artists and teachers to campus. All these facets enhance the tradition of musical excellence at WSU.

To find out how you can support the music program at WSU or become a member of Music Associates, contact Diana Gordon, WSU Foundation development director for the College of Fine Arts and the Ulrich Museum, at (316) 978-7307 or diana.gordon@wichita.edu.