Two significant estate gifts to Wichita State provide nearly $7.5 million for scholarship support

Recently, the WSU Foundation received two significant estate gifts to benefit students and faculty of WSU. The Foundation, working closely with Bank of America and John Buck, ’47, before he died on Sept. 16, 2004, is the beneficiary of a legacy gift from Buck in the amount of $3,990,000. Dorothy C. Evans, ’35, who died Dec. 9, 2003, gifted $3.5 million.

John Buck—a gentleman and a scholar

John Buck led a full life. He was co-owner of Buck’s Department Store in Wichita, an oil industry investor, a member of various clubs and St. John’s Episcopal Church, and a member of a group of friends—The Yard Birds, businessmen like himself who met for coffee at the Petroleum Club.

Buck graduated from Wichita University in 1947 with a degree in economics, but it was an unfulfilled dream that led him to Wichita State a second time. He returned in the 1980s to learn French, something he had always wanted to do.

During this time he was privately tutored, took classes and attended special guest lectures and plays in French. He would make donations to help bring in some of the lecturers and plays, but did so in a quiet, unassuming way. The French department staff nicknamed him “Maecenas” (pronounced my-see-ness), who was a generous patron of the arts in ancient Rome.

Gifts from the estates of John Buck and Dorothy Evans bring the “We are Wichita State” campaign total to nearly $31 million

“John liked that connotation very much,” said Wilson Baldridge, WSU associate professor of modern and classical languages and literatures.

Buck met Baldridge through his educational journey. He even asked “Willy” to accompany him and his brother, Jim Buck, on a trip to France. Buck supported the Sister City exchange program between Orléans, France and Wichita.

The James and Catherine Buck Charitable Trust, named in memory of John’s parents, will fund undergraduate scholarships in education, aerospace engineering, fine arts and business. A portion also will be used to support and enrich the French department. To illustrate the impact of this gift, the College of Education will increase its scholarship dollars nearly 42 percent from fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2007.

“Dr. Baldridge was key to this gift,” said Elizabeth King, president and CEO of the WSU Foundation, “which shows the impact our faculty have on students of all ages.”

Buck did not have a family of his own, but adopted other families including Baldridge’s mother and, later, her husband. “He had a good heart,” said Baldridge.

King reiterated that sentiment and added that, “He was very caring and that ‘good heart’ was made of gold.”

Dorothy C. Evans—a true woman pioneer

Dorothy Evans graduated from the University of Wichita in 1935.

A P U B L I C A T I O N  O F  T H E  W S U  F O U N D A T I O N
The WSU Foundation received $10,000 or more from these individuals, corporations, foundations and estates between March 1 and May 31, 2006. The projects funded are listed with their names. We appreciate their contributions.

Airtechnics Inc.—Karen Countryman-Roswurm Endowed Scholarship in Social Work

Darlene ’72 & Bob Anderson—Kevin M. Anderson Fellowship (Liberal Arts & Sciences), Naomi Anderson Endowed Social Work Fellowship (Liberal Arts & Sciences), Robert & Darlene Anderson Lifeguard Scholarship (Student Association)

Mickey ’45 & Pete ’42 Armstrong—Mildred (Mickey) & E.W. Pete Armstrong Music Theatre Scholarship

Sharon & Bob ’71 Bailey—Robert & Sharon Bailey Endowed Presidential Scholarship (Engineering)

Don ’88 & Lora Barry—Barry Faculty Support Fund for the Center for Research in Art, Technology, Education & Learning (Fine Arts)

Marvin Bastian ’75—Bobbie & Marvin Bastian President’s Fund (General), Bobbie & Marvin Bastian Museum Endowment, H. Marvin Bastian Endowed Business Fund, Bobbie J. Bastian Fellowship in the School of Music

Ronald ’63 & Mary ’62 Beatty—Michael & Mary Nell Beatty Fellowship in Accounting

Bombardier Aero/Learjet Inc.—Learjet Engineering Fellowship

Bradbury Company Inc.—Men’s Basketball

SM & LH Brown Charitable Trust—Brown Musical Theatre Guest Choreographer

James & Catherine Buck Charitable Trust—James & Catherine Buck Charitable Trust Scholarship (General)

Major Gift Highlights

Looking back through her diary, Debbie Haynes (’76) saw a sentence—written in her young voice—that illustrates how scholarships help students.

“This scholarship is going to allow me to go to med school.”

That sentence was written the day Debbie—now Dr. Haynes—won the Gore Scholarship to attend WSU.

The story typifies what scholarships do for students; they provide opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable.

The story also typifies another frequently overlooked aspect of scholarships. Scholarships not only help individuals become more successful, they often urge those individuals to give back later in life to other students.

“I always felt a great debt to WSU for my scholarship. I want to pay it back—or—pay it forward,” said Haynes.

One of the advantages of the endowed scholarship is that it goes on forever.

Another advantage is that the money goes to a few individuals, allowing you to see the effects of the scholarship.”

—Larry Beamer

Haynes, chairwoman and physician for Preferred Medical Associates, and Beamer, a general surgeon at Wichita Surgeon Specialists, didn’t always have the means to pass on such a gift.

They grew up in families that could pass on values—such as hard work, determination and gratitude—but not many amenities. The scholarships they received made life easier while also making an education beyond a bachelor’s degree possible.

Beamer and Haynes—knowing firsthand how a little help can make a big difference—are glad to be able to pay it forward.
Scholarship helps Nick Mork continue career of helping others

For more than 30 years Nick Mork was passionate about making the world a better place for children through his leadership of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County and then of Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Now he and the organization to which he dedicated most of his life are the namesake of a Wichita State University endowed scholarship for former Little Brothers and Sisters—the Nick Mork Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowed Scholarship.

Mork, who received the WSU Alumni Achievement award this January, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English in 1971. That same year, he became the first employee of Big Brothers of Sedgwick County.

“The true value of BBBS is found in the everyday lives of the thousands of the matched children that now, as adult men and women, may never be recognized for anything special,” said Mork, “but they are leading their lives in a responsible way.”

There will be two $1,000 scholarships awarded to a former Little Brother and/or Little Sister who attends WSU. Mork wants the scholarship that carries his name to have one special provision.

“I did, on more than one occasion, find myself in Dr. Rhatigan’s office passionately explaining why I should not be tossed out of the university,” said Mork. “It is my hope that this scholarship will be administered in such a way as to be made available to kindred spirits who, in spite of plentiful potential and well intentioned authorities, find themselves in need of special consideration and assistance.”

If you are interested in helping continue the positive direction of a former Little’s life, please contact the WSU Foundation at (316) 978-3040.

“As with the simplest of gestures from a Big,” said Dr. James Rhatigan, former WSU dean of students, “the smallest of contributions can help make the biggest impact.

“So long as there is a university” Rhatigan said, “this endowed scholarship will be a living testament to Nick Mork and his work. It is always appropriate when someone’s goodness is remembered.”

Wichita State President Don Beggs, left, and his wife, Shirley, Vee Gordon and Rhonda and Jeff Turner were among those taking part in this year’s Fairmount Society dinner May 4. Members of the society are the university’s largest supporters. Gordon was presented the Fairmount Founders’ award and Jeff Turner received the WSU Board of Trustees’ award.

Gordon and Turner receive top honors at Fairmount Society dinner

Major Gift Highlights

Gayla & Dan ’53 Carney—
Men’s Basketball

Betty Ann Coon ’71—
Charles “Ed” Coon Business Scholarship

Cornejo & Sons Inc.—
SASO

Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation—
Advanced Education-General Dentistry Recruitment, Dental Hygiene Renovation

Devlin Family Foundation—
Roundhouse Renaissance, Gertrude W. Devlin Scholarship Fund (Business)

Engenio Information Technologies—
LSI Logic Storage Systems Inc. Scholarship (Liberal Arts & Sciences), Kansas Science Olympiad (Liberal Arts & Sciences)

Equity Bank—
Men’s Basketball

Dorothy Evans ’35 Trust—
Dorothy C. Evans Endowed Scholarship (General)

Fidelity I Charitable Gift Fund—
Dr. James & Beverly Mershon Staff Support-Special Collections (University Libraries)

Everell & Kenneth Francisco—
Darren L. Francisco Endowed Scholarship (Liberal Arts & Sciences)

Fugate Enterprises—
SASO

Tom ’73 & Kyle Futo Foundation—
Men’s Basketball

Joseph P. & Stella ’98, ’00 Galichia—
Dr. Joseph & Stella Galichia Fellowship in Economics

Robert ’64 & Maura Geist—
Eck Stadium Skyboxes

Goebel Family/Star Lumber Foundation—
Goebel Family/Star Lumber Charitable Trust (General), Roundhouse Renaissance
Couple memorialize their fathers with scholarship

Fathers of Thomas Popp and Tammy Allen will continue to affect students’ lives

After their fathers’ deaths, husband and wife Thomas Popp and Tammy Allen felt compelled to memorialize the two men who had made such large impacts on their lives.

What better way to remember Harlan Popp, veteran aviator, and Robert Allen, lifelong student, than to name the Harlan E. Popp and Robert W. Allen Endowed Scholarship in Aerospace Engineering after them?

“Both of our fathers were passionate about what they did,” Allen said. “Even though they weren’t around for us to ask them, I think it’s (establishing a scholarship) something they would appreciate—giving someone else an education.”

During World War II, Harlan Popp flew bombing missions in B-17Gs for the Air Force from the same base where Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart were stationed.

Robert Allen spent his life as a pharmacist, but many would remember him for his passion for learning. He took flying lessons in his 50s and learned to paint and play piano in his 70s. Allen recalls he was always studying, tinkering or building.

Popp added, “You could barely walk through his garage, he had so many tools.”

Popp and Allen grew up in the same small-town area of southwest Kansas before being reunited at WSU years later. With their past in mind, they wanted the scholarship to be awarded to one deserving Kansas student at a time, so the couple can follow the student’s progress. Priority will be given to those coming from a rural background.

Just as Harlan Popp and Robert Allen raised and influenced their children, now Tom Popp and Tammy Allen will be able to benefit students growing into adulthood through scholarship—and all while keeping the spirit of their fathers alive.

Allen mused aloud, “I kind of like the idea that some student graduating in 2050 will know our dads—that they will still affect

WSU Foundation sculpture collection rated among nation’s best

The spring/summer 2006 issue of Public Art Review ranks the Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection on the Wichita State University campus among the 10 best campus art collections in America. The collection, which contains more than 70 works across campus, is owned by the WSU Foundation.

Mother and Child is just one of the many outdoor sculptures of the award-winning WSU outdoor sculpture collection.
Katherine Lyons started listening to Wichita Radio Reading Service in 1991. While she wouldn’t admit it to her many friends, she had a vision problem—macular degeneration, which led to her losing the ability to read printed words. WRRS’ programming connected her to the community. She used the radio to keep current so she’d appear up-to-date without having to rely on someone to read to her.

That is why she bequeathed $100,000 to the Wichita Radio Reading Service, founded in 1975. It is a sub-carrier of KMUW FM89 Wichita Public Radio at Wichita State University.

“She had used the services for a number of years,” said Richard King, Lyons’ attorney and executor of her estate, “It’s a wonderful service. She would listen to the news during the day with her receiver and listen to music after she went to bed. She bought transistor radios by the gross.”

Lyons was a longtime fan of WSU basketball. She would join a friend at courtside for most games from the 1950s until the early 1990s. Then, Lyons kept up with her love of sports through the WRRS readings of The Wichita Eagle sports section. In addition to current affairs and sports, the obituary listings also were of interest to her.

Lyons had outlived most of her friends and relatives when she passed away at age 99 during the summer of 2005. Her estate was left to the children and grandchildren of her friends. Lyons always encouraged King to “make new friends who are younger than yourself, because you might outlive those your age.” Along with her “friends” at WRRS, she included personal friends and charitable organizations in her estate.

Lyons was the child of a Civil War veteran and grew up in Maysville, Mo. Her mother was a teacher and her father a school superintendent before becoming a soldier. Lyons and her late husband, Mason, had no children. She was a schoolteacher and then sold advertising for The Wichita Eagle & Beacon in the 1920s. Mason Lyons was an accountant with Vickers, then Clinton Oil.

Mark McCain, general manager of KMUW, said, “One of Mrs. Lyons’ wishes was to keep the service going and spread the word about WRRS.”

A portion of the bequest will be used to purchase the closed-circuit receivers used by listeners and to provide continued reading materials for the service. Funds also will be used to promote WRRS to the community. In addition, the donation will be used to provide matching funds for a new transmitter—increasing coverage and clarity for listeners, and moving the station toward eventual digital conversion.

The largest portion will be used to establish an endowment with the WSU Foundation to benefit WRRS for years to come. Additional bequests or donations will be added to this endowment as they are obtained, working toward future funding independence for the station.
Sisters give WSU a reason to dance with joy

Ann Garvey and Emily Bonavia believe art should be considered a “raison d’être”

“It’s universally true in the U.S. that the arts are undervalued,” said Emily Bonavia.

Her sister, Ann Garvey (’76), added, “We ... have not significantly acknowledged how important art is to living.”

“If Wichita State has a successful (fine) arts department,” Garvey said, “our city is enriched.”

The enrichment from exposure to the fine arts comes in many ways. For individuals, statistical and anecdotal evidence points to increased SAT scores, better math skills and higher IQs, according to the American Music Conference.

As far as economic development goes, Garvey is involved in a local ongoing study designed to quantify how many dollars are generated from the arts. She believes the figure will be higher in Wichita, but studies in other cities cite that beyond the price of a ticket for an arts event, local audience members spend an average of $28 per person per event. Out-of-towners spend an average of $38, all according to Americans for the Arts. With the sisters’ support, these enrichments will continue indefinitely.

It’s interesting that the ballet dancer—as Garvey pointed out—is often recognized as the symbol of art. It is easy to picture a dancer, arms gracefully outstretched in an arabesque pose, as the embodiment of aesthetic perfection.

“The full expression of art is in the dancer,” Garvey said.

The symbol of support for the arts—in Wichita at least—may be embodied in two women whose thoughts and actions just as gracefully bolster a part of society too easily overlooked.
Philip Farha remembered for his appreciation of this country and love of his friends and family

Philip F. Farha was an ardent supporter of Wichita State University and a friend who will be lovingly missed.

At 86 years of age, Farha died March 2, 2006.

Farha's immediate family fled Lebanon after World War I for a life of opportunity and religious freedom in the United States—a way of life he embodied.

Farha arrived in 1921 in Wichita, where he would attend school, meet his wife, Gloria, and establish himself as a successful and generous businessman.

“He was the first one out of his extended family to go to college, and it happened at WSU,” said Farha's son, Clay. “He’s always appreciated that opportunity, and there’s a real sense of pride there.”

Farha graduated from WU in 1941 with a degree in economics and a minor in English. After graduation, but before joining the Air Force during World War II, Farha and his brothers began a grocery chain and wholesale food distributorship. The success of these businesses—along with Farha's real estate ventures—established him as a knowledgeable businessman. He soon began sharing his business expertise on several boards of directors, including the WSU Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board of Directors in which he was chair and president of each. He also

served on the WSU Foundation National Advisory Council.

In addition to giving his time to WSU, he established the Philip F. Farha Fund to support the fine arts, with an emphasis on Middle Eastern art and culture, and providing students from the Middle East with scholarships. The Philip F. and Gloria E. Endowed Scholarship for Student Support Services was established in May 1996 for students with collegiate potential and financial need.

“He was a very gracious man, pretty much the quintessential idea of a gentleman,” said Dr. Jim Rhatigan, a friend of 40 years. “He responded best to students in dire circumstances.”

“That sounds like my dad,” said Clay. “We get letters from people saying ‘he did this for me’ or ‘that for me’ ... these tributes to him have been pretty touching.”

Clay recently finished reading his father's journal from his time in the service. The topics covered are ones that were a constant in Farha's life: appreciation of this country and love of his friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria, and the “five and ten”—his five children and ten grandchildren.

Society of 1895 honorees commit to Wichita State

Leon J. Greene (second from right) was one of 26 new honorees to the Society of 1895 recognized by (from left) Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president & CEO; Barry Schwan, WSU Foundation chair; and Don Beggs, WSU Foundation president. Greene received his bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Wichita in 1954.

The WSU Foundation was privileged to recognize the new honorees at an appreciation celebration on April 7 where they were acknowledged for the planned gift commitments they have made to WSU.

Society of 1895 new members

These individuals were named to the Society of 1895 between March 1 and May 31, 2006, 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.

Robert ’71 and Sharon Bailey
James S. Barcus
Victoria Davies – ’73
Nancy Stubbs
Donna L. Urbom-McClure – ’86, ’90
Wayne Wong and his book help enhance Asian culture resources at Ablah Library

Wayne Hung Wong, World War II veteran, Wichita real estate entrepreneur and author of “American Paper Son” created an endowed library fund for WSU with his wife, Kim Suey Yee Wong. In addition, a portion of the royalties from the book will go to support this fund, which will be used to purchase books, films and other materials about Asian culture for Ablah Library. About 50 books were sold on March 13.

Also participating in the book-signing event was WSU Dean of University Libraries Pal Rao and WSU Associate Professor of History Jay Price.

Wayne Wong and his book help enhance Asian culture resources at Ablah Library

Estate gifts, cont’d from page 1

1935 with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. She was the Kansas Women’s Amateur Golf Champion in both 1934 and 1935. Evans also was an airplane pilot and a major in the Civil Air Patrol. In past years, she was a faithful donor to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through the annual fund, phone and direct mail campaigns. She also supported the WSU Alumni Association and was a Shocker Heritage Fund contributor. Evans was a Society of 1895 charter member and appreciated WSU basketball. She worked most of her life as an office manager at Evans Motors, the family business, and retired as co-owner.

Dorothy Evans was an only child and maintained a very close circle of friends. As a young adult, she and three other women had a cottage on the river in the Wichita area where they would spend many weekends.

Throughout the rest of her life, Evans remained friends with Laurian Ballantyne, known to all as “Bally.” She and Bally both resided at Larksfield Place in Wichita where they were neighbors. As Bally’s eyesight failed and she became legally blind, Evans drove Bally to all of her doctor appointments and was known to drive others as well.

It was Evans’ nature to be a caretaker. Even after her death, she made sure she took care of Bally and her cousin, Mildred Manring. The only criterion from her trust was that the scholarship be awarded to “worthy” students.

You, too, can enable worthy students to succeed at WSU by including WSU in your estate planning. Please contact Michele Lamb, vice president for planned giving, at (316) 978-3804 or mike.lamb@wichita.edu.