Bob Bailey (‘71) leaves home near sunny La Selva Beach, Calif., in the late morning to enjoy a stress-free drive to work along Highway 17 up from the coast—a drive through beautiful scenery, allowing him to consider the potential of the upcoming day.

Bob—a distinguished engineer for Apple Computer, Inc.—is a Wichita State University alumnus who knows firsthand how a scholarship can help students discover their own potential.

Accordingly, he and his wife, Sharon, have established the $300,000 Robert and Sharon Bailey Endowed Presidential Scholarship. The intent of this scholarship for engineering students is to pay for fees, tuition and books for the recipients while at WSU.

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His scholarship—from Boeing—impressed upon Bob how much financial support really affects students.

Bob and Sharon have regularly donated over the years, but decided that now is the time—during the “We are Wichita State” campaign—to give in a bigger and, as Bob said, “a more personal” way. Now the Baileys will be able to see directly the effects their money will have on the education of a few highly qualified students.

“It’s investing in the future,” Bob said. “In a way, it is a reward-for-excellence type thing. A lot of things are geared toward ‘everybody’s a winner.’ I just thought the people who worked hard and were conscientious and applied themselves deserved to be recognized. I felt that way when I got a scholarship, and I feel that way now.”

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“When I went there, I was on a scholarship,” he said. “It headed off trying to get that money by working or (going into) debt, and I didn’t have to deal with all of that ... I was able to spend more time worrying about school than how to cover it all.”

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Driving to work each morning—rising sun above—Bob Bailey can smile a little easier thinking of the opportunities unfolding for a select few WSU students 1,400 miles away.
Kansas Scottish Rite Foundation expands support of WSU

The different entities of the Scottish Rite help fund children in need of services at Wichita State University’s Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic and incoming WSU freshmen and graduate-level students in the department of communication sciences and disorders. Now, the Kansas Scottish Rite Foundation is helping fund WSU faculty and their activities in that department through an endowed faculty development fund.

“We support faculty at the University of Kansas in the speech, language and hearing department,” said Larry Christie, vice president of the Kansas Scottish Rite Foundation, “and it was time to do that for WSU. We already support—and continue to support—students and children.”

The $80,000 gift is the first “We are Wichita State” campaign faculty development fund for the College of Health Professions. Faculty development is a top priority for Peter Myers, professor and dean of health professions, and the gift will assist the department in recruiting and retaining faculty. One year alone of payout from the fund will more than double the amount the program has available this fiscal year.

“This gift represents a substantial contribution to our faculty,” said Kathy Coufal, department chair for communication sciences and disorders. “Because we have a large faculty who conduct research and mentor graduate and doctoral students engaging in research, this gift supports participation in professional conferences where the faculty and students present their research and engage professional development exchange with colleagues.”

Another person who now has firsthand knowledge and a greater appreciation of the clinic’s services is John Myers, Wichita Scottish Rite secretary. During a trip with his wife, Nancy, to Colorado, Myers suffered a stroke. On his return trip and in a Wichita hospital, he suffered two more. Myers is receiving therapy at the WSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

“It was a natural thing to do—going to the WSU clinic,” said Myers.

“John always was good with comprehension,” explained Laurie Hughey, director of the clinic. “The exercises he does are for visual tracking, recognition and decoding. He uses a line guide to help him focus on the line he’s reading.”

Myers feels very fortunate because he has regained many of the skills he temporarily lost.

A line guide is a simple tool used by clients to help them focus.

Bill (’94) and Donna (’73) Ard recently donated $30,000 to the Wichita State University Department of History to provide students with scholarships and to support a part of WSU that is sometimes overlooked.

“It’s not as glamorous as the other departments out there,” said Bill, with an ironic smile, but “it’s fun to help a department that maybe is not getting as much attention as others.”

Twenty-six years ago Bill co-founded Security Self Storage; since then, Bill and Donna have turned the success of that business—along with other ventures—into a life in which they can enjoy the things they are passionate about, and help others. Through the “We are Wichita State” campaign, the Ards have combined their passions and their philanthropic natures into a scholarship that reflects what they value.

PASSION

One of their passions—one that is obvious if you’ve seen Bill’s office decor or talked books with Donna—is the study of history. For example, Bill packed up supplies and hopped into a jeep with WSU history professor Phillip Thomas to follow portions of Lewis and Clark’s journey to the Pacific Ocean. Other years, the Ards have traveled the world visiting significant sites of antiquity (in addition to a little “R and R”). They’ve trekked along parts of the Oregon and Santa Fe trails, felt the soil of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields, and toured pre-Columbian spots of interest and numerous locations in Europe. They’re fascinated by studying how the past has shaped the present.

“I can’t judge the future if you don’t know your history,” Donna said.

HELPING OTHERS

Judging by the Ards’ history of giving, the futures of WSU history students are looking good.

Their $50,000 scholarship gift is the latest in a long string of donations to the WSU Foundation and other organizations, and testifies to Bill and Donna’s passion for helping others.

In addition to monetary support, the Ards give of their time. Bill is a member of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council and serves on its nominating committee. They are life members of the WSU Alumni Association and are also current members of the Fairmount Society. Specifically, the Ards hope to do two things with the scholarship. They want to support a history education that teaches students to be objective, and they want today’s students to help the world no easier than Bill did during his time at WSU.

Bill explained, trailing off with a mixture of pride and exasperation, “I had three jobs during college . . .”

In general, however, giving is more of a fundamental outlook for the Ards.

Donna said, “If you have the opportunity to give and to share, you have an obligation to do so.”
Students Cassie, Kelly, Kristina and Erica are anything but unmotivated. These four are the officers of the inaugural Best Buddies chapter at Wichita State University, and if any group of girls has the get-up-and-go to make it work, it's this one. Best Buddies, a national program brought to Wichita by WSU and Starkey Inc., a local nonprofit organization, matches college students with adults with disabilities. The program aims to enrich both groups’ lives and to incorporate members of our society with disabilities who sometimes find themselves on a lonely fringe.

“What happens with individuals with disabilities is, they just get stuck,” said Best Buddies president Cassie Williams. “This program is just a way to get them out.”

Through the “We are Wichita State” campaign, Jay Hall (’83) is supporting the program by offering a scholarship to elementary education majors who volunteer with Best Buddies. Jay’s brother, Joe—the namesake of the scholarship—receives services at Starkey Inc.

Williams is the first recipient of the Joe Hull Scholarship. The new chapter will officially launch on Starkey’s 75th anniversary in October, but in the meantime “buddies” (adults with disabilities) and “college buddies” (the students volunteering) are already teaming up and having fun.

“We’re excited,” said activities director Erica Mize. “The four of us worked so hard last semester and over the break to get this off the ground.”

These four fast friends, squeezed shoulder to shoulder onto a small couch and excitedly finishing each other’s thoughts, explained how the program works.

“College buddies” go through background checks before completing a likes/dislikes profile that matches them up with “buddies” who enjoy the same things. After being matched, the volunteers and their buddies attend one group outing per month (with other buddies and volunteers) and one one-on-one outing per month, and will usually talk or e-mail regularly throughout the week.

Kelly Dirks, treasurer, completed the group’s thoughts.

Keep current

If you would like to receive pertinent, up-to-the-minute information regarding Wichita State University, such as “We are Wichita State” campaign updates, new ways to give, etc. please send your e-mail address to Belinda Venters, WSU Foundation communications coordinator, at belinda.venters@wichita.edu. Your address will not be included in any lists that are sold or shared.

Go Shockers!

The WSU Foundation is proud to recognize the success of the men’s basketball team this season. The Shockers won the MVC regular season title and made it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

Education: Past, Present and Future

In many ways, Janet (Noel) Coleman grew up on the campus of the University of Wichita. As a child, she often was on the WSU campus where her father, O. Carroll Noel, was a professor in the College of Education. As a student who graduated with a degree in elementary education in 1957, she felt the positive impact of WSU faculty (including John Bjord and Geraldine Hammond). She also was president of the student body, and a member of Mortar Board and the debate squad.

Coleman went on to earn a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Ohio. She and her family eventually settled in Nebraska where she worked as a teacher in special education and a school psychologist.

Considering her career in education, Coleman shares, “I feel like everything I learned, pretty much everything I became, I can attribute to Wichita U.”

In 1988, Coleman’s relationship with Wichita State University continued when she made outright gifts creating the O. Carroll and Nelle Noel Scholarship in Education. This fund was established as a tribute to her parents and to her father’s 25-year teaching career at WSU. Coleman also has included a gift in her estate plans for an additional education scholarship, which will bear her name.

“I hope the scholarships are going to make it possible for someone to pursue an education,” she said, “and it might encourage other people to give, too. I hope that other people might follow my lead.”

Now retired, Coleman reflects on her motivation for supporting WSU.

“I think very positively of what WSU did for me,” she said. “It served me well and I want to give back some part of what I can. I am not a millionaire, but I give what I can.”

Education and WSU—they are threads clearly woven through the fabric of Coleman’s life. From her past as the daughter of a WSU education professor, a WSU education student and a teacher, to her present and future support of education assets.

Coleman values the potential available through education at WSU.

“It’s just what I can do to pay back what Wichita U. gave to me,” she said.

“We are Wichita State”—the momentum continues

Since the Wichita State University Foundation began the “We are Wichita State” fund-raising campaign in July 2004, the Foundation has received $22,542,277 in gifts. The gifts have created 94 new funds for support of students, faculty and staff.

“I am enthused about the momentum of the campaign,” said Marilyn Pauly (72), WAWS Campaign Cabinet and National Advisory Council member, and vice chair of Commerce Bank. “With the extraordinary W. Frank Barton gift, which was announced in October, we have seen several more gifts to the campaign. It seems to have been an incentive for gifts of all sizes and diversities.”

New funds since the campaign began include 65 undergraduate scholarships, eight graduate fellowships, two graduate assistantships, one staff support fund, eight faculty support and development funds, six faculty of distinction endowments and four faculty of distinction chairs.

“It is wonderful to see donors give to programs that are meaningful to them,” said Pauly, “and students and faculty in the various colleges are benefiting.”

The campaign focuses on the heart and soul of the university—the people. Gifts to the university touch the lives of today’s students, faculty and staff, as well as that of those who follow. The gifts are an important investment in the university’s future.

Like Coleman, an increasing number of WSU alumni are using the potential of their estate assets to support the future of the university. By making a gift to WSU through your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance or through a charitable gift annuity, you can make a statement as to the value you place on education. For information about how to include WSU in your estate plans, contact Michael Lamb, associate vice president for planned giving at the WSU Foundation, (316) 978-3064 or mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

How can you continue the momentum? Speak with a development officer about the “We are Wichita State” campaign by calling the WSU Foundation at (316) 978-3060.

Visit www.wichita.edu/wearewsu for campaign updates and features.
President’s Club members enjoy walk down memory lane

About 350 Wichita State University President’s Club members and guests attended a reception in Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art and took a nostalgic walk down memory lane during an exclusive preview of The 1940’s Radio Hour performed by the School of Performing Arts on Nov. 29. This special event was hosted by President Donald Beegh and first lady Shirley Beegh to honor members of the President’s Club and to recognize 12 new Life Members. Lifetime membership is extended to donors contributing $100,000 to $199,999 in a lifetime.

Attending the President’s Club preview were, pictured from left: President Donald Beegh; President’s Club Life Members Sherry Ann Phillips and Mary May, Paul and Carolyn Harrison, Elizabeth Kinch of Delta Dental Foundation, Kathy Dawson, Patty and Dwayne Grimsley of Davis-Hare Auto, Janet and David Murfin; and WSU Foundation National Advisory Council Chair Barry Schwanz. New Life Members not in attendance were: Dr. and Mrs. D. Ray Cook, Cornejo & Sons Inc., Mr. and Mrs. John L. Lovitt, Midwest Plastics Supply Inc., Williams Company Foundation and Mr. Loy L. Wood.

More nurses join local workforce thanks to local hospitals

Since January 2004, WSU’s nursing class size (previously limited to 40 students) has increased due to gifts from Wesley Medical Center and Via Christi Regional Medical Center to support additional clinical faculty. Three academic-year classes of 50 students each have been made possible by Wesley; Via Christi has sponsored one. The state mandates the number of clinical faculty-to-student ratios at 1-to-10 off-site clinical rotations. Additionally, the general number of qualified student applicants for WSU’s two-year program number three times what the program can admit.

The gifts provided the community support necessary to give the way for the university to reallocate funds to 57 of 2012 and 2015. Betty was community-minded. The most public example of their generosity is WSU Elliott School of Communication named in their honor. Their support of the communications field also includes the Eugene Hughes Endowed Faculty Development Fund in the Elliott School and the Snowy Owl Award, honoring a graduate or undergraduate who has demonstrated significant accomplishments in academic or professional activities.

“Betty shared many interests with Oliver, but had diverse interests of her own. She served in various organizations including Christian Women’s Club, Music Theatre of Wichita, Wichita Radio Reading Service, Amy Mahan’s Mother’s Day, and many others. Her support of the Kansas Symphony, Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Wichita Opera, and Wichita Grand Theatre.”

Memorials

New memorials were established in honor of these deceased friends of Wichita State through the WSU Foundation between Nov. 1, 2003, and Feb. 28, 2008. To contribute, please call the Planned Giving Office, (316) 978-3809; toll-free (888) 216-2596, or e-mail mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

Betty Jane Elliot individually and with her late husband, Oliver, was a steadfast supporter of Wichita State University, the Wichita community and beyond. Betty’s passing on Nov. 12, 2005, will leave a void in many lives. In addition to her philanthropic endeavors, Betty will always be remembered for her gracious, kind and unselfish nature, her wonderful sense of humor, and her strong faith.

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King named president and CEO of the WSU Foundation

Due to the tremendous growth the WSU Foundation has seen in the past decade, a new position has been created—president and CEO—and Elizabeth King will fill it as of July 1.

Since 1991, the net assets of the Foundation have grown from $53.8 million to more than $150 million. During this time, the operations of the Foundation have been directed by King in her role as vice president for university advancement where she has had oversight responsibilities for University Communications, the Ulrich Museum of Art, the Foundation and served as liaison to the WSU Alumni Association.

“We have grown substantially in many aspects,” King said. “In addition to increases in the number of donors and their gifts to WSU through the Foundation, we have seen growth in staffing, board involvement and financial management requirements.”

In light of the growth, university and Foundation leaders recognized that effective management of the Foundation now requires a leader whose full attention can be focused on the Foundation.

“The action by the WSU Foundation Board is a very positive step for Wichita State University and the Foundation,” said WSU President Don Beggs. “Private support is essential to the future of the university.”

The model of a full-time CEO for fundraising organizations of universities is increasingly common, and is followed by four other universities in Kansas (University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University and Washburn University).

During his involvement with the WSU Foundation, Barry Schwan, current chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, has seen many changes. He views this one as positive in the Foundation’s efforts to support the students and programs of the university.

Looking ahead, Schwan sees the continuation of good stewardship and the success of the “We are Wichita State” fund-raising campaign.

“King brings many assets to the Foundation,” Schwan said, “including good work ethics and her passion for the university’s mission.

“She can keep so many balls in the air at one time,” he continued. “She’s great at multi-tasking and, in addition, people enjoy working with and for her. Continuing under her leadership, we will enhance the private support needed to meet our goals.”

The Foundation stresses the importance of honoring donors’ intentions to ensure their confidence in the way their gifts are managed.