At a news conference on May 5, the WSU Foundation announced a gift of $8.5 million from the estate of Evelyn D. Cassat. The majority of the gift is directed to WSU's department of communication sciences and disorders, specifically the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, and the WSU Regional Institute on Aging.

“This is the second largest contribution in the university’s history,” said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO. “It is dramatic. In addition to what it will do for the faculty and students of WSU, we can only begin to imagine what it will do for aging citizens in terms of research and quality of life.”

Cassat and her husband, Paul, lived in Abilene, Kan., for many years. She graduated from Florence Memorial High School in 1929, received a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri in 1933 and a Bachelor of Science in education from the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia in 1938. Cassat was a high school teacher in Florence, Chapman and Abilene.

A neighbor of Cassat’s parents offered to finance a legal education for her, given her quick wit and obvious intelligence. Cassat was interested but said that her parents did not consider the law a good career option for women, so she did not pursue it.

Paul Cassat attended Kansas Wesleyan University, but his educational work was interrupted by his success in working with the United Telephone Company in Abilene. Southwestern Bell took over the company in 1939. He was a trouble shooter and key man for Southwestern Bell for many years until his retirement in the mid-1970s. He often talked about stringing private lines from General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s train to his mother’s Abilene home when Eisenhower visited during World War II. Paul Cassat was known as a kind and gentle man.

His father, Carl, was an auto mechanic until his death in 1926, and Paul Cassat demonstrated an avid interest in this emerging industry. The year that his father passed away, Paul Cassat submitted a patent application concerning the functioning of the internal combustion engine, and was awarded a patent for his idea in 1929. He was only 20. In 1944, he developed a plan for a fluid clutch in automobiles and regularly talked about improvements in automobiles he envisioned.

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Neither Paul nor Evelyn Cassat made more than $6 an hour during their careers, yet through their financial acumen, they were able to save and invest and, in the end, provide a major gift to the university.
The Brown fund also allowed Palermo to return to WSU to direct the musical, “Hair,” which was performed in May. Since Palermo was impressed with Therrien’s work in “The Wild Party,” he asked her to be an assistant director. “I’m really happy to continue this relationship with WSU,” said Palermo. “It’s been really fulfilling, challenging and fun in a lot of different ways.”

The success of “The Wild Party” is a testament to the way private funding enhances the lives of students and the university departments in which they are involved.

For the second time in the past three years, a Wichita State Opera and Musical Theatre production was invited to one of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival’s (KCACTF) regional competitions. WSU students performed “The Wild Party” at the Council Bluffs, Iowa/Omaha, Neb. regional this past January.

“This was a real honor,” said Marie Allyn King, director of WSU Opera and Musical Theatre and director of “The Wild Party,” which was performed on campus in October 2007. “Only five shows in our eight-state region were asked to go.”

From the regional competition, Alex Stoll, a senior majoring in dance, and Emily Therrien, a graduate student studying vocal performance, were invited to perform their roles as Burrs and Queenie respectively at the national KCACTF in Washington, D.C., this past April during the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship National Audition.

“This invitation for Alex and me to perform there was completely out of the blue,” said Therrien. “I was personally ecstatic at the opportunity, but I think it’s great for the entire cast and crew of the show as well.”

When asked about the experience of performing on the world-famous Kennedy Center stage, Stoll said, “It was awesome—unbelievable. But equally amazing was the other learning opportunities we had on this trip, like performing staged readings of new plays, and the chance to audition for professional companies.”

In addition to superb acting, “The Wild Party” owes some of its success to the S.M. & L.H. Brown Charitable Trust Guest Artist Fund and the Harold Hauck Guest Choreographer Fund. The funds allowed Andrew Palermo, a critically acclaimed choreographer and performer, to train and mentor the cast of “The Wild Party.” Palermo is co-founder and co-director of New York City’s dre.dance.

“The Hauck and Brown funds were critical to the success of ‘The Wild Party,’ as they ensured that the performance was of the highest standard,” said King. “As a direct result of that support, WSU students received superior training, professional mentoring, and enjoyed the accolades of their peers (at the regional KCACTF) and national recognition at the Kennedy Center.”

“It was fulfilling to see them absorb what we threw at them,” Palermo said of the student performers. “We had a great time working together.”

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The success of “The Wild Party” is a testament to the way private funding enhances the lives of students and the university departments in which they are involved.

“No virtue of our distinguished alumni in opera, theatre, the visual arts and music, WSU has long enjoyed a reputation for artistic excellence,” said King. “Now the Hauck and Brown funds have helped put WSU’s music theater program on the national map as well.”
Scholarships are motivated by a wide variety of reasons including the desire to honor a life-changing instructor or memorialize supportive parents, but all help to ensure a quality education for future generations. For Howard Lachenmayr, the Lachenmayr Endowed Engineering Scholarship was established because of his belief in the value of a good education and because of his personal experiences in financing his own college career.

He transferred to the University of Wichita as a husband and father. Aside from being an avid basketball fan, as he is today, the majority of his spare time was spent away from the campus earning a living for his family and his education. Today, Lachenmayr would be considered a nontraditional student. But at that time, he was more the norm.

“I was probably one of the youngest graduates in my class,” he said. “Many were older and working because there weren’t college loans or other types of financial help. Wichita University was known for its flexible class schedules because if a class wasn’t offered in the evening one semester, it probably was the next to accommodate the working student.”

Lachenmayr received a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering in 1962. Following graduation, he worked for the Bemis Company. He also worked for Poly Gal in Lebanon, Ind., a division of Inland Container Co., but moved back to Newton when the company was sold and his new position would relocate to New York.

Newton is where Lachenmayr started a residential construction business and built approximately 100 homes in Harvey County. He was a member of the board of directors for the Wichita Area Builders Association.

His next career move became his last—industrial oil producer, following in the footsteps of his late father-in-law, who owned one well.

“I decided I wanted to own some more of them,” he said, “so on Oct. 1, 1973, I purchased an oil lease that made about 10 barrels of oil a day. Oil was $4.25 a barrel then.”

Through the ups and downs of the oil production business, Lachenmayr said it has been an interesting career and still is a great business to be in.

“You need to be a gambler for sure, if you want to get into this business,” he said. “My son has joined me, so I guess I encourage being a business owner.”

Lachenmayr, an Alumni Association life member, spends more spare time on campus now than when he was a student. And he financially supports his interests, in addition to creating the scholarship in 2004, with gifts to the College of Engineering, Shocker Athletic Scholarship Organization, and the College of Fine Arts School of Performing Arts and Connoisseur Series.

Lachenmayr and his wife, Diane, who received her WSU bachelor's in journalism in 1968, attend basketball games and fine arts performances.

“We went to Washington, D.C., when WSU went to the Sweet 16,” Diane Lachenmayr recalls. “We were on a theater trip to New York, but we left our hotel and theater tickets and traveled by train to see the game. The most heartwarming was the pep rally before the game and Don Beggs’ emotional speech.”

When asked what advice he would give WSU students, Lachenmayr said, “Absolutely finish school, no question about that. It may not prepare you for everything you run into in life, but it gives you the thinking and reasoning ability to face challenges that come your way.”
**Major Gift Highlights**

The WSU Foundation received $15,000 or more from these individuals, corporations, foundations and estates between Feb. 1 and March 31, 2008. The projects funded are listed with their names. We appreciate their contributions.

**Audine & Virgil Bargman Estate**
- Audine & Virgil Bargman Endowed Scholarship (General)

**Bomhoff Enterprises LC**
- H. Russell Bomhoff Endowed Scholarship in Engineering

**Evelyn D. Cassat Estate**
- Dr. James J. Rhatigan Electronic Resources Fund (University Libraries)
- Library Special Collections
- Paul M. Cassat Chair in Communication Sciences & Disorders
- John & Ruby Hendren Professorship in Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Evelyn Hendren Cassat Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic
- Paul & Evelyn Hendren Cassat Faculty Development in Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Carl & Rozina Cassat Professorship in Aging (Research Administration)

**Coleman Foundation Inc.**
- Kansas Entrepreneurial Initiative (W. Frank Barton School of Business)

**Devlin Family Foundation**
- Roundhouse Renaissance Campaign

**Barry ’72 & Paula Downing Foundation**
- Athletic Unrestricted Fund

**Lawrence M. Jones ’53 Estate**
- Dr. Lawrence M. Jones Professorship in Liberal Arts and Sciences

**John L. & Sharon Kiser**
- Baseball Indoor Practice Facility
- WSU Science Advancement Fund

**Charles & Elizabeth Koch**
- Athletic Unrestricted Fund

**Preferred Health Systems Inc.**
- Roundhouse Renaissance Campaign

**Rudd Foundation**
- Dharma deSilva Scholarship or Professorship in International Business

**Spirit AeroSystems**
- Edwin A. Ulrich Annual Exhibition Fund
- Kansas BEST (College of Engineering Dean’s Circle)
- Robotics in the Classroom (College of Education)
- Spirit AeroSystems W. Frank Barton School of Business Scholarships
- Barton Business Week
- Spirit AeroSystems Student Achievement Education Scholarships
- Spirit AeroSystems Student Teaching Education Scholarships
- Spirit AeroSystems Engineering Graduate Fellowship
- Spirit AeroSystems Non-Need Based Engineering Recruitment Scholarships

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**Affinity for helping students basis for estate gift to Wichita State University**

The Wichita State University Foundation has received a gift of $580,000 from the estate of Audine and Virgil Bargman to establish an endowment for scholarships.

Audine Bargman, raised in Dill City, Okla., was a retired cosmetologist. Virgil Bargman, who grew up in Palmer, Kan., retired as a machinist from the Boeing Co. He attended Wichita State briefly. The Bargmans later resided in Derby, Kan.

“They both had an affinity for helping students further their education,” said Sharon G. Miles, WSU Foundation senior development director for the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Michael Lamb, WSU Foundation vice president for planned giving, said the endowment will provide a total of $24,650 in annual scholarship support, beginning with the fall 2009 semester.

Jerry Juhnke, who had been their financial adviser for more than 15 years, said that neither of the Bargmans had much family and so made the joint decision to support Wichita State.

“They dearly loved each other, led simple lives and weren’t concerned about status,” said Juhnke. “When hosted for lunch in 2004 by Miles, Lamb and me to celebrate their estate gift plans, the Bargmans chose their favorite restaurant—Kentucky Fried Chicken. That’s just the type of thing that made them happy.”

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**Wichita State University Foundation hosts the 2008 Fairmount Society Dinner**

Nearly 200 members of Wichita State University Foundation’s Fairmount Society, WSU’s most distinguished support group, gathered May 1 at the annual Fairmount Society Dinner at the Wichita Marriott.

University President Donald Peggs and chair of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council and Board of Directors Nancy Martin presented the Fairmount Founders’ Award to H. Russell Bomhoff and the WSU Fairmount Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award to Bomhoff and his wife, Ilene. Peggs and WSU Board of Trustees Vice Chair Joe Norton presented the Board of Trustees’ Award to Joseph A. “Joe” Johnson.

Recognized for their contributions as new life associates of the Fairmount Society were Capitol Federal Foundation, Gordon Evans Charitable Trust, Kansas Scottish Rite Foundation, Murfin Drilling Company, National Plastics Color Inc. and Spirit AeroSystems.

Underwriters for this event were Commerce Bank, Dodge & Cox Investment Managers, Fisco LLC, Fund Evaluation Group LLC, Mastholm Asset Management LLC, Payden & Rygel Investment Management, Speece Thorson Capital Group Inc. and Steinberg Asset Management LLC.
Before announcing the new members of the Society of 1895 during an April 1 luncheon at the Marcus Welcome Center on the WSU campus, Michael Lamb, WSU Foundation vice president for planned giving, talked about the Foundation’s newly discovered core values. He explained how the members of the Society of 1895 demonstrated one of these core values—passion, by supporting the dreams of those who walk our campus.

Dr. Cheng and Sabrina Donn, who live in Tustin, Calif., were among 20 recognized as new members of the Society of 1895. Cheng Donn is a WSU alumnus and a consultant to the Joint Tactical Radio System program at Boeing Anaheim. During their trip to Wichita, he and his wife toured many campus buildings, learned about new university programs and had dinner with Dr. Robert L. Schrag, a former professor of Cheng’s and the namesake of the electrical engineering professorship the Donns established with their planned gift.

Members of the Society of 1895 have expressed their support for WSU by notifying the Foundation about their planned gift commitments.
Due to incredible forethought while serving on the board for Union Pacific Corp., Larry Jones was able to designate a gift of $400,000 to Wichita State University’s Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences after his death. Jones died Nov. 7, 2007.

Union Pacific had created the Board of Directors’ Charitable Contribution Plan to recognize the interest of company and board members in supporting worthy charitable and educational institutions.

“These gifts are available through the generosity of the Union Pacific Corp. to its directors and, of course, from Larry’s service to that company,” said Anita Jones, Jones’ widow.

The gift established the Dr. Lawrence M. Jones Distinguished Professorship in the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Jones was a leader in the community, faculty member at WSU and a member of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council for many years serving on the investment committee.

He was president and CEO of the Coleman Co. and director for several corporations including Cessna, Bank IV and Union Pacific.

“In addition to LAS offering some of the most pleasurable courses we took as undergraduates,” said Anita Jones, “we felt these studies are the vital core for an abundant intellectual life. Our favorite professors at the time also were in these subjects: English, history and political science, so the opportunity to offer a professorship is particularly appealing.”

Dick Worrall remembered for his generosity and ambition

Even though Richard “Dick” Worrall, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., didn’t have a personal relationship with WSU, he was connected to the university through two of his longtime friends, the late Arthur Skaer and his wife, Carolyn. Carolyn Skaer is a former member of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council, member of the Ulrich Museum Advisory Board and creator of two endowed student funds. Therefore, when he wanted to honor his late friend, Dr. Forrest Richert, Worrall established a scholarship in Richert’s name in WSU’s College of Fine Arts.

Worrall, a physical therapist as well as an accomplished singer and dancer, died on Feb. 24, 2008, at age 76.

While he was growing up in Pittsburgh, Pa., singing and dancing were always part of his life. In addition to the artistic influence he received at home, Worrall took dance classes at school from first grade on, taking lessons from Gene Kelly’s mother and his sister, Louise. However, his family’s financial situation limited the number of private lessons he could take, even though they were 15 cents each. To solve this problem, Worrall sold magazines to pay for his lessons.

His singing and dancing talents allowed him to finance his college education. After graduating from Temple University with a degree in physical therapy, he worked at clinics in Pennsylvania, Ohio, California and overseas, and eventually earned a master’s degree in physiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

In addition to his profession as a physical therapist, Worrall kept his passion for music and dance alive by performing for various opera, musical and church productions.

“I was most impressed by the obvious incentive he must have had to succeed,” said Worrall’s sister, Marlene McHale. “He took many avenues to realize as many of his dreams as possible. He managed to sing, dance, entertain, travel and ski, and also be with people he enjoyed as well as aid and assist so many who needed his talents in physical therapy.”

Worrall’s legacy of ambition and generosity will continue to benefit WSU students for years to come.

Larry Jones’ gift reflects core studies and passion for music

Dick Worrall’s generosity will continue to benefit WSU fine arts students with a scholarship established to honor his late friend, Dr. Forrest Richert.

Larry Jones continued his love and support for WSU through an estate gift establishing the Dr. Lawrence M. Jones Distinguished Professorship in the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Recognizing the past, supporting the future

In my role with the Foundation, I am privileged to hear the stories behind why so many alumni and friends choose to include a gift to WSU in their estate plans. The motivations are as varied as the instruments you will use to make your gifts. But whether the gift will come through a will, trust, life insurance, gift annuity or retirement plan, the common message you share is that “WSU made a difference in my life.”

Perhaps you recall the faculty member who went out of her way to help you succeed. Or you remember discovering your leadership ability through serving in student government. Some of you developed lifelong friendships forged in science labs, music rehearsals or watching Shockers sports teams. For others, there is the recognition of the importance of the relationships between the university and the community. By including a gift to WSU in your estate plans, you help to perpetuate these same life-changing experiences for generations to follow.

Many of you will share your plans with those of us here at the WSU Foundation. In doing so, you allow us to thank you through membership in our Society of 1895, named after the founding year of Fairmount College, predecessor to WSU. You also allow us to make certain that we have clearly defined how you want your gift used. Of course, we acknowledge and respect those who wish to remain anonymous, but we still encourage you to let us know of your plans on a confidential basis, so that we can confirm and document the purpose of your gift.

To those who have already created a provision for a gift to WSU in your estate plans, thank you. In doing so, you are expressing appreciation for your university of the past and confidence in the university of the future. To those who have a gift in place, but have not yet advised us, please consider sharing your plans with us. If you are accepting of public recognition, your gift may stimulate others to consider the same type of support. And if you would rather remain anonymous, we will treat you and your gift with confidential respect.

To learn more about the impact you can have by including a gift to WSU in your estate plans, please contact me at: 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS 67260-0002, (316) 978-3804 or mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

Michael Lamb ’80, MBA, CFRE
WSU Foundation vice president for planned giving

$8.5 million gift to WSU, continued from page 1

Neither Paul nor Evelyn Cassat made more than $6 an hour during their careers, yet through their financial acumen, they were able to save and invest and, in the end, provide a major gift to the university.

“Evelyn Cassat, in particular, was an expert investor,” said James Rhatigan, WSU Foundation consultant. “The wealth she created will continue to be invested through the WSU Foundation and earnings from those investments will present opportunities for students and faculty alike, far into the future.”

Rhatigan met the Cassats in 1998 when they called President Eugene Hughes with a business proposition. “It was immediately apparent that this couple was highly intelligent and creative,” said Rhatigan. “I found them more interesting the longer I knew them—an endless source of stories.”

Rhatigan developed a warm relationship with them and became a close confidant to Evelyn Cassat after her husband’s death Nov. 21, 2002. Evelyn Cassat died Sept. 9, 2007.

The Cassats’ quality of life in their later years was severely compromised by hearing loss. Evelyn Cassat also had macular degeneration and glaucoma, impeding her vision, which had a marked affect on her investment work. These factors led her to a growing interest in aging and eventually this became the focus of her gift.

The gift will go toward renovation and equipment for the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, which will be renamed the Evelyn Hendren Cassat Clinic. The portion of the gift allocated to the department of communication sciences and disorders will support distinguished, endowed professorships that will further research in audiology and related subjects. The funds also will be used to enhance clinical services and support faculty development.

“This is a transformational gift for our college, which has had only one other endowed faculty position prior to this contribution,” said Peter Cohen, dean of the College of Health Professions. “This gift will result in a program and facility that are both second to none.”

The contribution to the WSU Regional Institute on Aging will support significant expansion of opportunities for WSU faculty to conduct aging research and also will support the Carl and Rozina Cassat Professorship in Aging, named after Paul Cassat’s parents.

“‘Invest in our faculty’ will be the principle underlying the use of this generous gift,” said J. David McDonald, associate provost for research. “Programs will be created to enable faculty to secure large blocks of time for research aimed at improving the health and well being of older Kansans.”
Memorials at WSU: A lasting tribute, a significant gift

- Hap Houlik ’50 was a former football and baseball player and Shocker Sports Hall of Fame honoree. When he died in 2007, a memorial was established in his name, which will be the first fund to assist with the maintenance of the Shocker Sports Hall of Fame.

- Ken McGrew ’57 was a huge Shocker fan. His wife, Jean, established an endowed scholarship in memory of him to benefit the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

- Berle Walkup didn’t attend WSU, but his grandson, Casey, did. Casey played on the Missouri Valley Championship baseball teams in 1997, 1999 and 2000. When the Walk of Champions and the Wall of Champions is completed, there will be a brick and a plaque in memory of Walkup as part of his memorial for baseball.

Have you ever considered establishing a memorial at Wichita State? Creating such a fund is a fitting tribute honoring the legacy of a relative, friend or colleague. Whether the individual is a graduate of WSU, an avid supporter and friend of the university or specifically someone dear to your heart, a memorial at WSU may continue that relationship, lauding the life and memory of a person who touched the lives of many. Simultaneously, it will benefit students, faculty or programs at the university.

Many of WSU’s endowed funds were originally established through a memorial, signifying the importance of memorial funds. In fiscal year 2007, 29 memorials were established, resulting in more than $88,000 in assistance. To date in fiscal year 2008, 32 new memorials have been created with nearly $84,000 in contributions.

Creating a memorial is a simple process. Once a family member or friend decides to establish a memorial with WSU, a fund will be opened specifically under the name of the deceased.

Although the details of the fund are not necessary at this time, many choose to designate a specific area or college that was dear to the individual’s heart. The college or area designated will then be contacted to be made aware of the gift. All logistics and details of the memorial are handled by the WSU Foundation staff, including acknowledgement letters to all contributors on behalf of WSU and the family.

Regular updates also are sent to the family, or the designated contact person of the memorial. Approximately two to three months following the creation of the memorial, a WSU Foundation staff member will get in touch with the family or contact person to discuss details regarding the use of the memorial fund, ensuring that the names of those honored will live on through scholarships, faculty support or other programs.

Foundation staff received a donation and this sentiment from Joan Beren, WSU alumna, donor and chair of the WSU Board of Trustees.

“This donation is in appreciation of your kindness during my recent illness.”
- Joan Beren

We wish Joan all the best for continued good health.

For more information, please contact Natalie Olmsted, Foundation planned giving associate, at (316) 978-8842. All gifts to memorials should be directed to the WSU Foundation, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS 67260-0002.