Petrick’s gifts transforming students lives

It’s the people who define Illinois Wesleyan more than anything say Dave ’67 and Ellen Reid Petrick ’68. So when they make a gift, whether it’s for a scholarship or in support of the new classroom building, Dave and Ellen look beyond the University to the students who will benefit.

“We’re investing in people and people have always made a difference at Illinois Wesleyan,” said Ellen. “So, when we make a gift, whether it’s for the scholarship fund or the new classroom building, in the end the impact is on students which is where it should be.”

One of the many gifts made by Dave and Ellen is a scholarship fund that supports three students of Hispanic heritage. “Many of our company’s (Bretford Manufacturing) employees are Hispanic,” says Dave, “and we have a great deal of respect and admiration for them, which is why the scholarship fund was created.”

Another recent gift to the new main classroom building, will fund two group study rooms. “That gift will provide a

Meginniss-White’s Gift to Benefit Caring Faculty

The daughter of college professors, Kathy Meginniss-White’s ’81 feels her life was transformed by the caring faculty at Illinois Wesleyan. Now she hopes to help transform the lives of others by establishing a faculty development fund in the sciences.

“I was in pre-med and Jonathan Dey was my advisor and Bruce Criley my mentor,” Kathy says. “I felt like they both truly cared about me. I remember bombing a mid-term in French and Professor Dey learned about it and set up a meeting with me even before I knew my grade. And, Bruce Criley always pushed me and made me want to be better. Wesleyan was like a family and I’ll always cherish that.”

With her parents being retired professors, Kathy wanted to make a gift that would enrich the faculty, much as their nurturing enriched her Wesleyan experience. The faculty development fund she established will provide a one-time grant to a faculty member from a different discipline—biology, chemistry, psychology, computer science and physics—each year.

“The most important reason I support Wesleyan and why I wanted my daughter to attend was the sense of family,” says Kathy. “Some of the best days of my life were while I was at IWU and the majority of my friends are classmates or friends I made there, even though we now live all over the world.”

Higgins’ Parents Inspire Classroom Gift

Tracy Higgins Bucknam ’81, learned many lessons from her parents and one that she has applied in her relationship with Illinois Wesleyan over the past 30 years has been to give back in whatever way she could. So Tracy and husband Greg decided to make a gift to the new main classroom building in honor of her late parents.

“My parents were always involved in giving back,” said Tracy. “My mother was a teacher, like her mother and grand mother and my three sisters. She would always be available to tutor those who needed her. Dad was an executive with Monsanto and served as president of the county American Heart Association, was very involved with the United Way and he endowed scholarships at his alma mater Duke and Shippensburg where mom went.”

Following her parents’ example, Tracy joined Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, in her first year at Wesleyan. She also wrote for the Argus and was named editor in chief her senior year. A history major she went on to earn a masters degree in liberal studies at Georgetown.

Like many young graduates, Tracy had more time than money to give back

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**Eckley Gift Establishes Two Endowments for Excellence**

Prior to his death, President Emeritus Robert S. Eckley, his wife Nell B. Eckley and the Eckley Family Foundation established two new Endowments for Excellence. The Robert S. and Nell B. Eckley Summer Scholars and Artists Program will support summer research and creative activity for five students each year, enabling them to stay on campus over the summer to work under the direction of faculty mentors. The second Endowment for Excellence the Robert S. Eckley Lecture in Economics will bring a noted economist to campus for a lecture each year.

“Bob and Nell touched the lives of thousands of students during his 18 years as president and they truly understand the importance of the Transforming Lives campaign to our students and academic programs,” said President Dick Wilson. “We have entered the second half of this fundraising campaign and friends like Bob and Nell are stepping forward with support that enhance the excellence of our academic offerings.”

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**Hess Endowed Professorship To Be Matched By Ames Challenge**

The Wendell and Loretta Hess Professorship in Chemistry is the latest and seventh endowed professorship of the Transforming Lives campaign. What makes this and the other endowed positions even more significant is that each will actually result in two new positions, because of a matching gift provided by Chuck ’50 and Jay Ames ’49.

“In establishing this endowment we knew that the Ames Challenge would double our gift’s impact,” said Wendell Hess, a 27-year member of the Chemistry faculty and Wesleyan’s first provost. “We also wanted to show that even people like us, who do not possess great wealth, can, with careful planning and management, express their appreciation for IWU in a significant way.” The Hess endowment will be funded through a combination of annual giving and a deferred gift, so the professor can be named in the fall of 2012.

“Wendell Hess is one of our longest serving and most loyal faculty members and administrators,” said President Wilson in announcing the gift. “He knows the heart of a great university like Wesleyan is its faculty, and established this endowment to make it possible for the University to recruit and retain more first-rank faculty, who in turn attract top students to Illinois Wesleyan.”

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**Froelich’s Continue Tradition of Giving Back**

Nancy Hoose Froelich ’54 and her late husband Bill ’49 always believed in giving back so it only made sense to Nancy and her family to join the Transforming Lives campaign and make a gift to the new classroom building.

“Mom and dad both attend Wesleyan and both were very fond of the University,” said son Craig Froelich. “Beyond that strongly believe in giving back to the community and that higher education is of critical importance.”

In their earlier years, Nancy helped Bill and two of their sons run the family business, the Froelich Memorial Home in Gridley. As Bill expanded his business interests becoming a founding partner of Heritage Enterprises nursing homes, Nancy’s community service activities became legendary. She served on a myriad state, county, community and philanthropic boards, including serving three terms as Chairperson of the McLean County Board and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities of the State of Illinois. In 1989, she was recognized with the Wesleyan Distinguished Alumni Award.

Wesleyan was a part of Nancy’s earliest years with her father Oscar Hoose serving as a trustee from 1934 to 1946. In addition, Bill and Nancy’s granddaughter, Katie Laiming Bachelor was, a 1999 Illinois Wesleyan graduate.

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**Roberts Answers Call With Classroom Gift**

As a student Bill Roberts ’64 spent most of his classroom time in Shaw Hall, which was first opened in 1954. Looking back Bill thought that Shaw was showing signs of wear when he graduated and can’t imagine what it would be like taking classes there today.

“My guess is it can’t have improved much with time. So I applauded the University’s decision to launch plans for a new classroom facility,” Bill says. “Carole and I are also aware of President Dick Wilson’s guiding principle that we don’t undertake a building project until we

Continued on next page
Sigma Chi Leadership Giving Circle Scholarship

Sigma Chi’s have a long tradition of campus leadership, and two recent chapter alumni want to see that tradition continue. Ross Straseske ’06 and Dan Pfeifer ’06 decided to recruit other Sigma Chi alumni brothers to form a Giving Circle that would provide scholarship support as recognition for a chapter member’s activity in campus leadership.

Giving Circles bring together two or more donors to combine their giving to fund a scholarship. Members of the Giving Circle can determine what kind of student receives their support, and the criteria might include financial need, an academic area of study, a particular hometown or locale, or another reason of the donors’ choice.

“After we decided we were going to start a Giving Circle Scholarship, it was easy to get others involved because it was ours, we owned it,” said Ross. “We were able to decide where the money was going, what the criteria would be and what the scholarship would be named.”

The group hopes that the leadership scholarship will ease the financial burden on the recipient so that he can have the time and freedom to get involved on campus and represent the fraternity in a leadership role.

“Almost all of the donors in our group had never contributed anything to the University,” Dan added. “But, the Giving Circle was an easy way to make something positive happen, it allowed us to get excited about what we were creating and the impact it could have on the Sigma Chi Fraternity.”

If you have an interest in forming a Giving Circle, contact Jeff Mavros in the Office of Advancement at jmavros@iwu.edu.

COUNTRY Financial Classroom Gift Builds on 50-Year Partnership

COUNTRY Financial has been a significant part of Illinois Wesleyan building projects since the early 1960s when it relocated its headquarters from Chicago to Bloomington with the Illinois Farm Bureau family of companies. Today, the company’s most recent gift to the new main classroom building will add the COUNTRY name to yet another important campus building project.

“We’re excited to again provide Illinois Wesleyan students with the facilities and resources needed for a top of the line education,” said COUNTRY Financial Chief Executive Officer Kurt Bock. “This donation further strengthens our longtime partnership with Wesleyan and its next generation of students.”

In addition to facilities projects, COUNTRY has been a generous provider of scholarship funds and internship opportunities to Wesleyan students. Today there are about 115 Illinois Wesleyan graduates working at COUNTRY and the company provides about 20 students with internships each year.

“COUNTRY’s support of Wesleyan over the years goes well beyond facilities,” said President Dick Wilson. “Their support of our students and graduates has been important to both organizations.”

The COUNTRY-Illinois Wesleyan partnership’s foundation was established when COUNTRY helped construct and occupy two temporary buildings on campus in the 1960s. Soon after moving into its new Bloomington headquarters, the University took possession of the buildings, which became the Sheriff Science Hall and the Fred Young Fieldhouse.

In recent years, COUNTRY provided significant financial support for the Center for Natural Sciences and the Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center projects.

Petrick continued

quiet space for students to use when they are not in class and in the evening, which is something that we never had in Shaw Hall when I was a student,” notes Dave.

In the end, whether it’s the new classroom building or a scholarship, Dave and Ellen are helping to transform the lives of students.

Higgins continued

to Wesleyan following graduation. She put her writing skills to use as class agent and later served as a leadership agent for annual giving. For the past 20 years she and Greg, who has become a strong supporter after meeting the late Minor Myers, jr. on a trip to campus, have been annual donors to the Wesleyan Fund.

While Tracy and Greg don’t get back to campus often they did make a recent visit to look in on the progress of the classroom building, which should open in the fall of 2013.

Roberts continued

the money or commitments in hand and we wanted to do our part move this important and timely project forward.”

This is not the first time Bill and Carole have stepped forward to support Illinois Wesleyan. In 2006, Bill was the driving force behind the Coach Bob Keck Endowed Scholarship Fund, named in honor of his legendary track coach. They’re also long-time donors to the Wesleyan Fund for annual giving. A member of the Board of Trustees, Bill was named the 2003 Distinguished Alumnus.

In 1993 Bill joined the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson and currently serves as managing partner, splitting his time between offices in Chicago and Springfield. Prior to Hinshaw & Culbertson, Bill served as a U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, senior counsel to the U.S. Attorney General in Washington and chief legal counsel to former Illinois Governor Edgar.
Campaign Goals

Transforming Lives has a goal of $125 million, with nearly 8 in every 10 dollars going to build the endowment.

**ENDOWMENT FOR STUDENTS:** $30 million is being sought to increase the number of need-based grants and merit scholarships.

**ENDOWMENT FOR FACULTY:** $20 million will be raised to increase the number of endowed professorships and to support young faculty and visiting scholars and artists.

**ENDOWMENTS FOR EXCELLENCE:** $22 million will provide funds that will build on our excellence in a number of key academic and student support programs.

**THE WESLEYAN FUND:** $26 million is being sought in annual giving, along with an increase in the number of alumni giving from one in five to one in three by 2014.

**CAMPUS FACILITIES:** $27 million is being sought to build a new Main Classroom Building, apartment-style student housing and a new theatre complex.

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How can you get involved?

Co-chairs Steve Wannemacher ’73 and Jean Baird ’80 invite you to join the Transforming Lives campaign.

Find out how by contacting the University’s Office of Advancement

Call: (309) 556-3091 or (800) 689-9743

E-mail: advancement@iwu.edu

Go online: www.iwu.edu/campaign/

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2014 Goal — $125 Million

May 2012 total $96.8 Million