

The University of New Mexico Foundation Developments

Fall 2016

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO . . .

Elmo Williams' Estate Gift to UNM Libraries Reflects a Life in Film and Television

BY HILARY MAYALL JETTY

If Elmo Williams hadn't been a courteous young man, he never would have met legendary film star Gary Cooper, and *High Noon* might have been a box office flop instead of an Academy Award-winning classic. And The University of New Mexico Libraries would have missed out on an important collection of film and television history.

Elmo was 2 years old in 1915 when his family became homesteaders in Capulin, N.M. All his life he cherished growing up in that wild landscape in far northeastern New Mexico, where he watched their adobe home rise from the earth and played with his four siblings.

"Dad's connection to land, particularly New Mexico, was intense," said Stacy Williams, Elmo's daughter. "His memories were wonderful—the farm, the daily routine. They'd go to the general store, where his dad was a great storyteller around the fireplace in winter. That sense of connection and community was profound."

When Elmo's mother decided to return with her children to her native Oklahoma, Elmo grieved, but she encouraged him to seek bigger dreams. In the bleak Great Depression years, Elmo graduated from high school, and then headed for the promise of work and higher education in Los Angeles.

Sealing a Destiny

Elmo became a carhop at a drive-in restaurant. No one there was eager to serve a patron named Merrill White. He was a regular, but demanding, so the youngest employee was given the task. Elmo's pleasant demeanor won over the cantankerous customer, and one day White made a surprising offer. White, a film editor and screenwriter, was about to sail for London and his assistant couldn't go. He asked the bright young man to accompany him.

Elmo's leap of faith sealed his destiny. Starting as an errand runner, he quickly learned about filmmaking, and within three years he and White were partners. "He was trained to edit film and work with sound," Stacy explained, "because in those days the film editor was also cutting sound effects, music, visual effects, and in some cases, the negatives."

In 1952, Elmo won an Academy Award for editing *High Noon*. Producer Stanley Kramer was in a bind with his western. It seemed the movie's



Stacy Williams and Dean of The UNM College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences Richard Clement pose with the Oscar and "Mousecar" won by Stacy's late father, Elmo Williams, whose estate gifted his collection of film and television memorabilia to UNM. Photo: Mario Lara

director was smitten with actress Grace Kelly and had shot way more takes of her than top-billed star Gary Cooper. Kramer asked Elmo to see if he could put some structure into it. "Dad had to completely rebalance and readjust it," said Stacy. "This was the first film primarily re-made by an editor. He became known as an editor who could fix movies, and his reputation grew."

Two years later Elmo was nominated for editing *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Walt Disney was so incensed when Elmo was passed over for the Oscar that he ordered a special "Mousecar" award for Elmo designed in the shape of Mickey Mouse.

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LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

UNM Alumnus' Endowment to Fund Scholarships for School of Engineering Students

BY KIM DELKER

Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared in the UNM School of Engineering's fall 2016 magazine, UNM Engineering.

Students in The University of New Mexico's School of Engineering will benefit for decades to come, thanks to the generosity of one of its alumni, Dana C. Wood, who fought a long battle with cancer, succumbing to the disease in 2013.

Wood's estate has provided a significant endowed gift that will fund student scholarships in perpetuity at UNM's School of Engineering.

A native of Gallup, N.M., Wood received his bachelor's degree in 1977 and his master's in 1990, both in civil engineering from UNM.

The Dana C. Wood Endowment for Engineering Awards will be given to the three senior engineering students with the first, second, and third highest GPAs for that year, with one-half, one-third, and one-sixth of the total annual amount available going to each, respectively.

Wood is described by his family as having had a passion for The UNM School of Engineering and students' access to engineering education.

"Dana was a Lobo fan, so he wanted to support UNM and felt strongly about giving deserving students who might not ordinarily get that chance an opportunity to pursue engineering," said Doug Wood, Dana's brother and a 1977 UNM civil engineering alumnus. "This scholarship is the perfect opportunity for Dana to leave a lasting legacy that demonstrates his passion for the School of Engineering and all that it provided him."

Dana's sister, Charlene (Dolly) Delaunay, remembers an intelligent, talented engineer, but also a person who made others feel good about themselves and who exemplified a positive spirit and determination.



Engineer, entrepreneur and UNM School of Engineering double alumnus Dana C. Wood enjoyed piloting aircraft—and was a loyal Lobo fan as well. Photo: Courtesy UNM School of Engineering

"Whenever Dana was in a room, you could be sure there would be laughter. It wasn't that he brought attention to himself. In fact, he was a master at engaging others," Delaunay said. "So many successful people let their lives get out of balance with work taking up the lion's share of time. Not Dana. He truly understood that life was meant to be enjoyed and shared with others."

After graduating from UNM, Wood worked for Bohannon Huston Inc., but his fascination with computers came to the forefront when Bohannon Huston created a spinoff company, Diginetics. He eventually led Diginetics and, after leaving that position, he started Leadertech, a software firm in Albuquerque and Los Angeles.

"Dana Wood was a creative, passionate engineer and entrepreneur, and we are honored that this gift will benefit the School of Engineering," said Joseph L. Cecchi, dean of the School of Engineering. "Dana's enthusiasm for engineering, education, and the School will live on through this scholarship, which will help undergraduate engineering students achieve their dreams for years to come."

Dana Wood is survived by his three siblings, Doug Wood of Albuquerque; Charlene (Dolly) Delaunay, a retired teacher living in Wyoming; and John Wood, a professor in the UNM Department of Mechanical Engineering. ■

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

UNM Presidential Scholarship Program Connects Generous Donors with Stellar Students

BY HILARY MAYALL JETTY

The UNM Presidential Scholarship Program (PSP) celebrated impressive milestones this year—40 years and over 4,000 students sponsored. Outstanding young students from New Mexico’s diverse communities have received substantial financial support from the PSP since 1976, enabling them to concentrate on their studies and serve with campus and community organizations. They are our future leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Thanks to benevolent individuals and corporations, over 450 undergraduates are Presidential Scholars this year. Ellen and Evan Ashcraft of Tijeras, N.M., have contributed to the PSP since 2002, when Ellen was employed as a publications editor at the UNM Foundation.

“I was asked to proofread letters that were being sent out to potential PSP donors,” she remarked, “and realized ‘hey, we could do that.’” Evan agreed, and thanks to the generous matching gift program at Sandia National Labs (SNL) the Ashcrafts have sponsored two PSP scholars every year since. The couple attends the annual PSP dinner each spring, and enjoys visiting with other Presidential Scholars whose sponsors can’t attend or whose scholarships are the legacies of deceased donors.

The Ashcrafts try to see their students several times a year. “We’ve had them up to our house, and they rarely turn down an opportunity to meet for dinner at the Frontier,” Ellen laughed, “but it’s not always possible due to busy schedules. The letters they send help us get to know them better. We learn about what they’re thinking and working on as they progress toward graduation, as well as any changes in majors and career paths.”

Because Ellen and Evan live in a rural area, they’ve enjoyed being matched with students from Capitan, Edgewood and Farmington, among other New Mexico communities. They cherish the connections they forge with students over time. Nine students have benefited from the Ashcrafts’ sponsorship throughout their undergraduate years. As a result, Ellen and Evan have watched them mature academically and personally. “We’ve made some close friends through the years,” Evan noted. “We’ve been invited to graduation parties and weddings, and have heard from people in graduate school, and even received Christmas letters.”

A PSP sponsorship offers donors this rare kind of opportunity: a direct and impressive experience of the impact of their gift. There is also the prospect of mentoring scholars, as the Ashcrafts have

discovered, sharing knowledge and wisdom across generations. Ellen is an independent Mary Kay sales director, and Evan will soon retire from SNL, but they intend to remain PSP supporters.

“It’s about personal connections with kids,” Evan said, “and over four years, watching them figure out who they are as they grow into young adults. It’s very enjoyable.” Ellen wholeheartedly concurs, adding, “As sponsors, Evan and I are grateful to play a very small part in their transformation.” ■



Ellen and Evan Ashcraft await the train in Aguas Calientes, below Machu Picchu. The Ashcrafts visited Peru last May with the Fuller Center for Housing, similar to Habitat for Humanity. It was their fifth trip abroad to build homes in disadvantaged communities.

NURTURING NEW NURSES

UNM Alumna Endows Fund in Husband’s Memory to Support Nursing Students Statewide

BY ANNA ADAMS

“New Mexico is such an interesting place because it is much more rural than urban,” said UNM alumna Brenda Izzi. “People deserve quality care whether they’re in Albuquerque, over in Clovis, down in Ruidoso or anywhere in between.”

In memory of her husband, Stephen, who passed away last year, Izzi endowed the Brenda and Stephen Izzi Nursing Education Consortium Fund to support the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC). NMNEC allows community colleges to partner with the UNM College of Nursing to provide Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees to students all over the state.

“This program is redefining nursing education across New Mexico,” said Izzi. “Nursing is an amazing field to work in, and the NMNEC program addresses the need to provide BSN educated nurses in both rural and urban communities.”

Between her junior and senior year at Highland High School in Albuquerque, Izzi began the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) program at the Career Enrichment Center, which offers trade-level coursework for high school students. After graduating from Highland in 1986, she started working as an LPN at UNM Hospital.

“Nursing just fit me,” said Izzi. “Even as a little girl, I bandaged everyone. I took temperatures. Blood did not bother me, and I even had one of those Fisher-Price doctor’s kits.”

Izzi now works as the chief administrative officer at the Department of Radiology at UCLA and lives in Los Angeles, where she first met Stephen. He worked for GE Medical Systems as an electrical engineer, servicing patient monitors.

“He was very patient-focused,” said Izzi. “He was so good at his job that his company sent him around

the country outside his typical service area. He really cared about getting accurate readings for patients,” said Izzi.

Izzi received her associate’s degree in nursing at CNM (then Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute). She then completed her BS degree in basic sciences with a focus on economics and community health from UNM, and later earned her executive MBA degree from UNM in 2002. Because she accepted her position at UCLA in 2001, she needed to fly back and forth between Albuquerque and Los Angeles to finish her MBA.

“Working and going to school takes a lot of time,” said Izzi. “No matter how much time it takes, if your heart is in it, you should keep going.”

Izzi is excited that there is momentum to create a cohesive education program across the state for nurses to get their bachelor’s degrees.

“It’s the path I wanted to take, but not the path I ended up taking,” said Izzi. “Nurses who want to get more education shouldn’t feel like they need to do it within a certain time frame for it to be meaningful. They have options, and they’ll be better for it, no matter how much time it takes.” ■



Stephen and Brenda Izzi
Photo: Courtesy UNM College of Nursing

LEARNING TO PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS

New Mexico Chamber Music Festival Challenges Students to Excel

BY HILARY MAYALL JETTY

You may refer to Pamela Viktoria Pyle as a pianist, but please don’t call her an accompanist. “I specialize in collaborative piano,” she explained. “The old idea of accompany is to ‘go with,’ as though you’re following in a lesser way. But there is always a give and take, each voice having the limelight for a time. I tell my students, the way they play—their articulations, dynamics and intention—shapes how others perform.”

An award-winning soloist and chamber music recitalist, Pyle is associate professor of Piano and director of the Collaborative Piano Program at the UNM College of Fine Arts. A graduate of The Juilliard School, her concentration in piano and string repertoires led to longtime associations with Dorothy DeLay, one of the world’s most famous teachers of the violin, and Itzhak Perlman, who was himself a student of Miss DeLay.

Pyle has performed in prestigious venues and summer institutes around the world with prominent musicians. As founder and artistic director of the New Mexico Chamber Music Festival, she brings advanced students of violin, viola, cello and piano together at UNM each summer for a week of intensive practice, mentorship and performances. “The beauty of

the campus and the mountains offer an inspired setting for students to learn,” she noted.

For the past four years, internationally diverse students from various U.S. music schools and conservatories joined with UNM students to receive instruction and feedback from renowned faculty, including members of the American String Quartet.

UNM graduate student Gabriel Longuinhos, who studies collaborative and solo piano, participated in this year’s festival. “This was a priceless opportunity,” he said. “The repertoire is difficult, but it is a collaboration between students and faculty. It was inspiring to see that much dedication.”

Participants stay on campus, and there is no fee for the program; generous support from the community helps to defray costs. Free public performances include an Old Town concert, performances at UNM’s Keller Hall plus a recital in Albuquerque’s historic KiMo Theater, showcasing students’ accomplishments.

“These young musicians play with such heart and passion,” said Pyle. “It’s amazing how that energy and desire catapults them to a new level in just a



UNM Associate Professor of Piano Pamela Viktoria Pyle accompanies student musicians during the 2016 New Mexico Chamber Music Festival. Photo: Mark Forte

week. We’re giving them the gift of learning and listening to their pieces at a deeper level.”

Pyle’s love for teaching and belief in the value of students striving to attain artistic mastery drives her ambitious vision for continuing the festival. “I played at the Aspen Music Festival for 17 summers,” she stated. “That’s where the idea came from. It would be spectacular for our festival to become a destination for lovers of great music, and a center for inspiring music students.”

Learn more about the New Mexico Chamber Music Festival, and support the success of its fifth year, at nmchambermusicfestival.org. ■

UNM People Changing Worlds

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Susan Hudson’s Gift Improves Quality of Life for Popejoy Hall Patrons and UNM students
BY MICHELLE G. MCRUIZ

Susan Hudson used to patiently wait outside the men’s room at Popejoy Hall, counting the men who exited, trying not to draw attention to herself. She wanted to make sure the restroom was empty before she would enter.

Over the years, Susan learned more about Albuquerque’s public restrooms than she ever wanted to. She knew which places had easily accessible, universal restrooms meant for one person plus a helper, if needed. And in her world, help was always needed. Only she was the one helping—either her husband or her son, both of whom were confined to wheelchairs. At UNM, unfortunately, the restrooms her family needed were not what they found.

So Susan decided to make an unusual gift to UNM’s Popejoy Hall. Her generous donation has funded the construction of the Jack and Scott Hudson Universal Restrooms at Popejoy. Now, UNM students and Popejoy patrons will not need to go through the inconveniences that the Hudsons did on a daily basis whenever they were away from home.

“It seems like a strange thing to be excited about,” said Susan, “but having these bathrooms is going to be a major thing, especially for students who are handicapped.”

Rapid Adapter

Susan and Jack Hudson had two sons, Scott and Keith. Scott was born with Duchene muscular dystrophy, an illness characterized by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness, and became wheelchair-confined from age 10 until his death at age 26. Despite his disability, Scott—“the apple of my eye, an intelligent kid,” said Susan—played Challenger Little League baseball, skied with the Adaptive Ski Program, sang in the New Mexico All-State Chorus, served as an elder at Albuquerque’s First Presbyterian Church, was a spokesperson for Make-A-Wish, and was a Goodwill Ambassador as well as a Man of the Year for the New Mexico Muscular Dystrophy Association.



From left, Jack, Susan, Keith and Scott Hudson pose for an impromptu family portrait.

“A father needs a place where he can take his daughter, and a mother needs a place where she can take her son, and not be embarrassed.”

–Susan Hudson

The Scott Andrew Hudson Endowed Scholarship will assist UNM undergraduate or gradate history majors with a particular interest in Scott’s favorite history topics: the Civil War and World War II. Scott passed away shortly before earning his master’s degree in history; UNM awarded him the degree posthumously in 2008. A Regents’ Scholar who “had so many honors and awards hanging around his neck” at graduation, Scott’s tuition, room, and board were paid in full, but he lived at home and put his UNM reimbursement for room and board into an account to pay for his graduate studies. That and the earnings from his job as assistant editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review* went toward establishing the memorial scholarship.

Deserving Dignity

Jack Hudson, who earned his PhD at UNM, became confined to a wheelchair after a stroke in 2003 and passed away in 2014. “Having two people in wheelchairs at the same time makes you very, very aware” of mundane things that many people don’t give a second thought to, said Susan, such as the ability to enter a restroom comfortably with a family member when one needs extra help. “A father needs a place where he can take his daughter,” she said, “and a mother needs a place where she can take her son, and not be embarrassed.”

Jack and Susan enjoyed attending performances at Popejoy, but she admitted that the perk that spurred them to become Popejoy donors was the donor’s lounge restroom, which offered exactly the specifications the Hudsons needed. And although Scott had an aide with him most of the time while a UNM student, if the aide were ill, Susan stepped in and quickly discovered that the only restroom within reason where she could take him was a single accessible restroom in the Honors Department.

“The bathroom issue is near and dear to my heart,” Susan said. “It has become a joke to me in a way, but it’s a serious issue. These two men were very important to me.”

The plaques with Jack’s and Scott’s names would have made them laugh, Susan said. But she doesn’t want Jack and Scott to be forgotten with the passage of time. In creating this gift, Susan is providing untold Popejoy patrons and UNM students with just the space they need to have the comfort and dignity they deserve. ■

And the Oscar Goes To . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Friend to the Stars

Elmo and his wife, Lorraine, produced documentaries, including *The Cowboy*, filmed in Deming, N.M., which received an Academy Award nomination. While in the military, editing World War II training and propaganda films, Elmo was paired with writer Theodore Geisel. They produced *Design for Death* in 1948, about Japanese culture and the origins of the war, which won an Oscar for Best Documentary. Geisel, later known as Dr. Seuss, became a close friend.



The “Mousecar” and Oscar won by the late Elmo Williams now reside at UNM. Photo: Mario Lara

“Everyone Dad met became a friend,” Stacy recalled. “He always saw the person behind the celebrity. Henry Fonda, James Stewart, Gary Cooper, Ernest Borgnine, Ray Bradbury, they were comfortable just being themselves with our family.”

Elmo’s career spanned decades and included work in editing, producing, directing and studio executive positions in film and television. His varied talents led to the success of numerous movies, including *The Longest Day* and *Tora! Tora! Tora!*. Television viewers of a certain age may remember *Hopalong Cassidy*, *Bozo the Clown* or *Hee Haw*. At 20th Century Fox, Elmo oversaw blockbusters like *The Poseidon Adventure* and *Zorba the Greek*. The American Cinema Editors presented him with the Career Achievement Award in 1990.

Elmo and Lorraine kept an extensive amount of memorabilia. Before his death in 2015, he told Stacy he wanted his collection to reside at UNM. His younger brother, Afton, was an alumnus and editor of *The Daily Lobo* in the 1940s, and a niece is also a UNM graduate. Elmo shot several movies in New Mexico, but his earliest memories truly informed his decision.

“We are the great beneficiaries of Elmo’s love for his boyhood home,” noted Richard Clement, dean of The UNM College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences. “Most films in this collection are world-class productions. His impact on the industry was significant. There are many important and interesting pieces, from storyboards, scripts and personal correspondence to photos and even a ceremonial Japanese robe.”

And thanks to Elmo’s generosity, UNM has its first Oscar — and Mousecar! ■

COOPERATIVE SPIRIT SOARS

La Montañita Co-op Creates Memorial Scholarship for UNM Sustainability Studies Students

BY ANNA ADAMS

“So much of sustainability studies aligns with what we’re about,” said Karolyn Cannata-Winge, marketing and communications director of La Montañita Co-op, who previously taught for eight years in UNM’s Communication and Journalism Department. “It’s a critical area of study.”

The co-op, New Mexico’s largest community-owned natural/organic food market with locations in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Gallup, has established the La Montañita Co-op Marshall Kovitz Memorial Scholarship for UNM students minoring in sustainability studies. Marshall Kovitz, a founding member-owner of the co-op, passed away this past spring.

“Marshall truly embodied the cooperative spirit,” said Cannata-Winge. “We are absolutely excited to be funding this annual scholarship in his memory.”

“We’ve always been extremely grateful for our long-term relationship with the co-op,” said Dr. Bruce Milne, director of the UNM Sustainability Studies Program. “It’s a match made in heaven.” The program, available as a minor since 2007, is open to students of any major.

“The theory is sustainability complements any major,” said Milne. “Our program is really very interdisciplinary, with one or two students of almost every background. It’s a strategic way of getting this knowledge into society.”

The program offers multiple opportunities for students interested in local food systems, including volunteer and paid positions. Students may work

on various projects, including within the co-op’s distribution center, which delivers food to grocery stores and restaurants all over New Mexico.

“The co-op makes organic food accessible to everyone,” said Milne, who explained that UNM Sustainability Studies students helped recruit the La Montañita retail location at the UNM Bookstore a few years ago.

Students have gone on to pursue many different paths, including working for nonprofits and local food systems. “We have students who have gone all over North and South America and Europe,” said Milne.

Sustainability in New Mexico, however, is the ultimate goal of both the program and the co-op.

“It’s great to be focusing on New Mexico, since our landscape poses so many challenges for agriculture,” said Cannata-Winge. “But I hope students find success in whatever endeavor they pursue. Sometimes we start out in one place and end up in another. It’s important to us that students can concentrate on studying and find happiness in who they are.” ■



La Montañita Co-op’s location at the UNM Bookstore was made possible by the recruiting efforts of UNM Sustainability Studies students.

UNM Foundation Director of Marketing & Communication: Jennifer Kemp; Editor: Todd Staats; Design/Layout: Mario Lara; Writers: Hilary Mayall Jetty, Anna Adams, Kim Delker and Michelle G. McRuiz. To update your address with the UNM Foundation, please email Jodie.Wilson@unmfund.org.



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FALL 2016 Developments

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Photo: Liz Lopez

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