Leonard and Marjorie Wright leave a legacy for UAF

Leonard and Marjorie Wright, ’58, came to Alaska in 1953 and spent more than two and a half decades here. Marjorie completed her teaching degree at UAF then went on to teach in North Pole while Leonard established a construction business. The Wrights never forgot Alaska and visited over the years after they left the state. Leonard passed away in 2007. When Marjorie died in 2013 at 91, their estate provided more than $2.5 million to UAF to support student scholarships. This philanthropic gift is among the largest made by individuals to UAF, and provides for scholarship support for students in any field of study who demonstrate financial need as well as good academic performance and potential. Qualified students can receive support for up to four consecutive years. A gift of this magnitude will have an enormous impact on students for years to come, and the Wright’s philanthropic legacy will help generations of students fulfill their educational goals.

Kinross Fort Knox renews $1 million support of mining engineering

Kinross Fort Knox renewed its endowment to support graduate student research in the College of Engineering and Mines’ mining engineering program. This $1 million, three-year pledge is its second to the UAF engineering research endowment it established in 2011. UAF alumnus Eric Hill, ’08, vice president and general manager of Kinross Fort Knox, said “Fort Knox has drawn from UAF’s highly trained pool of graduates and employs highly qualified students from the mining engineering program. We also continue to partner with UAF on essential research projects and hope to see this partnership greatly enhanced through a recommitment to the endowment.” The endowment is expected to support two to three graduate students per year, thereby doubling graduate program enrollment. The university is proud to continue its partnership with Kinross Fort Knox and its collaborative mission to provide educational and research opportunities to UAF students.

Research support is making an impact

A donation of a 9.1 meter ViaStat tracking antenna and associated receiving equipment from GeoEye Solutions Inc. will provide the Alaska Satellite Facility with a significant expansion of its research capabilities. ASF, within the UAF Geophysical Institute, downlinks, archives, and distributes satellite-based data to scientific users around the world. Its mission is to promote, facilitate, and participate in the advancement of remote-sensing data. “This equipment is a tremendous addition to our facility” said Nettie LaBelle-Hamer, ASF director and UAF associate vice chancellor for research. “It will not only greatly expand our data collection capabilities, but also open up the potential for new classes, expanded research topics and training tools for UAF students.” GeoEye Solutions Inc. is a subsidiary of DigitalGlobe, a leading global provider of commercial high-resolution earth imagery products and services.

Annual recognition event honors dedicated UAF donors

Four longtime donors were honored at a reception Dec. 12 at the UA Museum of the North. Linda Hulbert, individual donor and representative for New York Life, has been a steadfast supporter and helped foster New York Life’s support for UAF. The Hulbert family has a strong relationship with UAF spanning multiple generations, and recently made a $180,000 commitment to the Hulbert Terrain Park. Paul, ’62, and Birgit Hunter, who established the Paul C. Hunter Engineering Scholarship, were honored for their longevity having donated to UAF since 1964. The Pollock Conservation Cooperative, formed in 1998, was recognized for corporate giving. The group helped form the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in 2000, and member companies have since donated more than $13 million in research support. The Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation was recognized for its fellowship that supports international graduate student conservation research through the Resilience and Adaptation Program with a $250,000 pledge over 10 years. More than 150 people gathered at the reception to celebrate UAF supporters, whose generosity impacts such vital areas as student scholarships, equipment and research.
Achievements

Individual

Anonymous donated $10,007 in support of the Ted Fathauer Atmospheric Sciences Memorial Award.
Anonymous made a $20,200 gift for the Northern Gulf of Alaska Applied Research Fund in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.
Michele Aubry and Peter Christensen donated stock valued at $12,722 for the Harvey Shields Fellowship in Archaeology.
Dr. Cary S. Keller, Sportsmedicine Fairbanks, gave $15,000 to support the hockey program.
David R. Klein, '53, donated $10,000 to the Olaus Murie Caribou Travel Award in the College of Natural Science and Mathematics.
Claus-M. Naske, '61, and Dinah Naske made a $10,000 gift to his named scholarship.
Raye Ann and E. Thomas Robinson donated $15,000 to their named scholarship.
Chancellor Brian Rogers and Sherry Modrow, '72, '85, pledged $15,000, with $10,000 for Troth Yeddha' Park and $5,000 to the Alaska International Piano-e-Competition.
David and Alexandra Sonneborn donated $20,000 to the Ornithology Endowment.
The estate of Bill Stroecker made an $11,500 gift to UAF.
Joseph E. Usibelli, '59, '96, and Peggy Shumaker donated $10,000 for the Permafrost Book Prize.
Helga and Bill Watterson, '64, made a $15,000 gift for general support of UAF.
John and Fran Zarling donated $20,000, with $12,000 to their engineering scholarship and $8,000 to support UAF Athletics.

Corporate/Foundation

Alaska Aerospace Corp. donated $20,000 for the UAF Alaska Space Grant Program.
Associated General Contractors of Alaska made a $30,300 gift to the Student Investment Fund in the School of Management.
The Caterpillar Foundation made a $10,000 gift to the UAF Community and Technical College diesel-heavy equipment program.
First National Bank Alaska donated $10,000 to the UAF Community and Technical College.
Icicle Seafoods made gifts totaling $100,000 supporting fisheries programs at UAF and its rural campuses.
The Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation made a pledge payment of $41,710.
The Marion G Weeks Charitable Foundation donated $33,000 to their scholarship fund.
McKinley Capital Management donated $10,367 to the School of Management.
New York Life Insurance made a $300,000 gift with $238,360 supporting UAF pre-college programs.
Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. made a $85,000 gift to the Alaska Center for Energy and Power for geothermal research.
PDC Consulting Engineers donated $13,990 to the College of Engineering and Mines.
The Rasmuson Foundation donated $16,000 to the UA Museum of the North.
Shell Exploration and Production Co. made a $50,000 gift for research support for the Alaska Center for Energy and Power.
Teck Resources Ltd. made a $10,101 pledge payment for the Teck Scholarship supporting students in the College of Natural Science and Mathematics.
The Glosten Associates made the final $20,000 pledge payment on its $60,000 pledge for the Research Vessel Sikuliaq Exhibit.
The University Women’s Association donated $10,000 to help establish the Friends of UWA Scholarship to support UAF students.

Legacy Society

The UAF Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made provisions to include UAF in their estate plans. New members include John and Jane Aspnes, Jane Holt, and Barbara Matthews. There are currently 103 members.