

Creating musical legacies

When the Ruff and Hildner families decided to establish an endowment in the memory of their parents, Jonathan and Margaret, they wanted to do it in a way that would provide the most benefit for the greatest number. **David Ruff '71 BS** is a former teacher and has learned over the years that “a department is expensive to run.”

The Jonathan and Margaret Hildner Fund was established in 2002 and is the first non-scholarship endowment ever designated to the NMU Music Department. It provides annual funding to provide student experience-enhancing projects conceived and designed by the music department.

The endowment has recently been renamed the Students' Music Opportunity Fund to better reflect its broad purpose of enhancing the music education of as many students as possible.

When the fund was established, Don Grant, department head, said, “Because of the wide parameters of the endowment, it can be used for a variety of projects such as funding student creative efforts, commissioning the composition of musical



The memory of Margaret and Jonathan Hildner is honored through this endowment to the Music Department.

works, and funding travel that is related to performance opportunities away from campus.”

Today, Grant notes that “there are many things that would not have been possible without this fund, such as our Jazz Festival, Gilbert and Sullivan productions and other programs that provide opportunities for our students, the campus and the community. Just this year we were able to reach out to 2,000 grade-school and middle-school students through the production of “Little Red Walking Hood,” that told the familiar story using musical themes from opera. We hope to make this an

annual tradition.”

“My mother enjoyed attending the music concerts at NMU, especially when my daughter **Patty**, a 2001 music education graduate, was involved,” says Ruff. “I think my mother and stepfather would be pleased to know this kind of effort was being made to support the arts in their names.”

Ruff calls NMU “our family university,” explaining, “I’m an alum and, as I mentioned, my daughter, Patty. My wife, Ruth, attended as did another daughter. Between our two families, there are three generations of NMU graduates, including Ruth’s mother, the late **Vivian (Kelto) Paynter**, class of 1936, two of Ruth’s brothers, many of her cousins, plus two of my stepfather’s brothers. So, Northern’s been good to us.”

Ruff said the endowment was designed to challenge Northern students, faculty and staff to continue to come up with creative music endeavors and to challenge Marquette community members to get involved in supporting the arts. He stresses it was also created to provide an easy and effective way for other alumni and friends of the university to contribute to the endowment and help carry forward the NMU musical legacy.

Perpetuating a love of arts and music—the Jamriches

“**Music has a palliative effect**, a healing factor, for the well and the sick,” says NMU Past President John X. Jamrich, explaining the impetus behind establishing the John X. and June A. Jamrich Endowed Music Scholarship

and their namesake Endowment for the Arts shortly after coming to NMU in 1968.

We asked Jamrich to talk about his family’s support of the arts, especially music, at NMU:

My interest and involvement in music goes back many years—to my years in elementary school where the support of an enthusiastic music teacher pretty well set me on my way. She insisted that I begin with piano lessons. It was the Depression; we had no piano and paying for the lessons would be a problem. Her bargain was that she

would give me lessons in exchange for my coming to school early every morning to clean all the blackboards. Added to the bargain was permission to do my practicing on the auditorium piano. Another factor in this was my being selected to play a classical record over the school speaker system every morning, before classes began. With each record, I provided a short composer and composition resume.

During the growth years of our family, we were very deliberate about exposure to music and art. Even then we held a belief in the “Mozart Effect” and the vital role that fine arts has in personal lives.

In the immediately following years, I continued the piano, took up the clarinet and the violin. By the time I began college, I was pursuing the piano seriously (practicing 3-4 hours per day), studying clarinet with a Chicago Symphony member, piano with John Carre, as well as orchestral conducting with a pupil of Frederick Stock, the director of the Chicago Symphony.

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All of this came with us to Northern Michigan University, and one of our first areas of attention was the music department and the art department.

As state funding wanes temporarily, philanthropy plays a vital and critical role in providing the stimulus for innovation, research, and cultural enhancement of our university and the community it serves.

During the past years of retirement, I have returned to the piano. Mrs. Jamrich and I have provided musical entertainment in dozens of retirement facilities, assisted living and nursing home residences in the Venice and Sarasota area for twelve years. I am now the Pianist in Residence here at Mayo Clinic Florida. As of this writing, I have performed 835 one-hour recitals in the patient lounge. I'm part of the broader program at the Mayo Clinics entitled: Humanities in Medicine. In 1999, I was asked to compose The Centennial Suite as part of the 100th Anniversary Program of Northern.

Mrs. Jamrich and I still view the emergence and expansion of Northern Michigan University's fine arts and music programs with the same fervor and gratification



The Jamriches enjoying a good book and a good tune during their time at Northern, 1968-1983.

that we brought to Northern in 1968. It is self-evident that as state funding wanes temporarily, philanthropy plays a vital and critical role in providing the stimulus for innovation, research, and cultural enhancement of our university and the community it serves.

Ultimately, our university students are the major beneficiaries of our support as they pursue their professional careers and disseminate the cultural ingredients of their education in our society.

For more information on how you can support music education at NMU by contributing to the Students' Music Opportunity Fund or the Jamrich Endowed Music Scholarship, contact:

NMU Foundation

906-227-2627

877-GRAD-NMU

foundtn@nmu.edu

or visit our Web site at www.nmu.edu/foundation

The 1899 Society

Recognizing planned giving

When you provide for NMU and its students in your estate you are making a very special gift.

Planned giving creates a legacy that will benefit generations of students and help ensure that the teaching, learning, and research objectives of NMU will continue to be achieved at the highest levels.

To recognize this extraordinary support, when you designate a gift of \$10,000 or more to NMU in your estate plans—through wills, trusts, life income gifts, IRAs, retirement plans, life insurance policies and other vehicles—you will join other select individuals and families in the 1899 Society (named for the year that Northern was established).

As a member, you will share a very special place in our university family and inspire others to make a lasting and significant commitment to higher education at NMU. You will also have privileged access to special university events, communications and other opportunities to share in the growth and achievements of our students.

If you designate a planned gift of \$10,000 or more prior to January 1, 2010, you will also be honored as a charter member of the society.

Have you already made a planned gift to NMU? Then you will automatically become a charter member.

Have you notified the NMU Foundation of your planned gift? If you have arranged a planned gift but have not notified the NMU Foundation or have not completed a Planned Giving Declaration of Intent, please contact us so that we can make sure that your gift is properly acknowledged and that you are recognized as a charter member.

If you are interested in discussing a planned gift, please contact the NMU Foundation. We will be happy to discuss the many options and which might be best for you and your family.

Falcone gift highlights estate planning

Recently, Marjorie Falcone '63

BSW named the NMU Foundation in her Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The six-figure gift will establish the Marjorie Seavoy Falcone Foundation Fund to benefit the NMU Social Work Department.

Marjorie's generous gift is just one example of how planned giving can establish a legacy of support in a way that benefits both NMU students and the donor. In a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, one of the more popular and flexible types of life income plans, cash,

securities, real property and other assets are transferred into the trust. A trustee manages the assets, which pay a variable income for life or for a specified term. When the trust terminates, the remaining assets are transferred to the charity.

Planned giving provides an opportunity to begin realizing your charitable vision and make a lasting and significant commitment to the future of NMU and its students. In addition, during uncertain economic times, a planned gift may allow assets to recover and potentially increase the value of your gift while, with some options, offering a competitive return on investment.



In Memoriam: Phyllis Maki

Among her many accomplishments and civic achievements, Phyllis Maki played an important role in supporting and advancing fund-raising at NMU. Phyllis joined the NMU Foundation Board of Trustees in 1990 and served for sixteen years. She was president of the board from 1996 until leaving for health reasons in 2006. She helped pioneer a new age in private giving at NMU and inspired many to support the university and its students. She was given the NMU President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

According to NMU Foundation Executive Director Martha Haynes, "There are few people with Phyllis' level of energy and commitment to projects. She guided the board with strength and vision through its first-ever campaign and never for a moment stopped believing that we could achieve great things to benefit Northern and its students. That tireless spirit of hers is still here among us, although she is greatly missed."

Phyllis' family has requested that memorials in her memory be made to the Phyllis and Carlo Maki Endowed Scholarship at NMU.