The North Carolina Community Foundation’s newest affiliate is the New Hanover County Community Foundation, but the work of this group has been making an impact on the Wilmington area for more than two decades. Originally chartered in 1987 as the Cape Fear Community Foundation and later renamed the Community Foundation of Southeastern North Carolina (CFSENC), the organization was founded by Wilmington resident and visionary Dickson Baldridge to help people manage their philanthropic intents and benefit the New Hanover area. The CFSENC grew steadily over the years. When the affiliation agreement with the NCCF was finalized in March, it brought $82 fields and assets exceeding $5.2 million.

According to Ned Barclay, board president, the CFSENC sought to partner with the NCCF for several reasons. Primary among them were the similarities in operating philosophies and a shared mission to keep local resources local. “The time had come to take the organization to the next level in terms of growth, meeting community needs and providing sound philanthropic resources for those seeking to establish funds,” he said. The board also wanted to align with an organization that shared its understanding and devotion to the region — its people, challenges and opportunities. “We believed the NCCF was a good match,” he said. “This has certainly proven to be true.”

NCCF CEO and President Jennifer Tolle Whiteside is excited about the opportunity to expand into a new county. “This alignment is truly a win-win for both parties,” she said. “We can provide additional resources to help meet community needs, build capacity and expand programs, and at the same time the NCCF can benefit from new partnerships with the strong local leadership that exists among nonprofit, business and government sectors in Wilmington.”

Patricia Lawler, NCCF’s regional associate, is the New Hanover County Community Foundation’s development officer. Her residency in Wilmington and wide community involvement provide a deep knowledge of the area that is helping to make the transition seamless. Also contributing to the strong launch is the NCCF’s Vice President for Affiliate Services, Beth Boney Jenkins, who divides her time between Wilmington and Raleigh and has life-long ties to the New Hanover County area. “We know the strengths and potential of this area,” Lawler said. “This will be a successful partnership for us all.”

Nearly every affiliate foundation has a grants chair and committee, although many entire boards operate in this capacity. Grants programs are generally announced via local news media, direct contact with nonprofits and word of mouth, as our agency partners in most communities are aware of the process.

And in case nonprofits need some guidance about applications, regulations and time-lines, the NCCF staff holds grant-seekers workshops throughout the state. Sessions cover topics ranging from grant-writing to the value of endowments and are often co-led by affiliate board members.

NCCF staff partners with our local volunteers to ensure proper processing of each application. Staff reviews narratives and budgets, ensuring that each agency is in compliance with our reporting requirements and maintains good standing with the IRS. NCCF associates also follow up with applicants if questions arise.

The NCCF has introduced several educational resources to help ensure that grants committees feel comfortable and secure in their efforts to effectively allocate awards from their affiliate’s community funds and also to help advise on other funds held by that affiliate if called to act in this capacity. Some of these tools include The Guide to Community Grant-Making Programs developed and distributed last year, as well as tele-seminars on grant-making at various levels, a new educational option introduced in 2010.

When the vetting and approval processes are complete, checks are cut and sent out to grantee partners throughout the state. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, the NCCF distributed nearly $5 million to 1,450 separate causes. (Audited figures for gifts distributed as of fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, will be available later this summer.)

The work continues through site visits and program evaluations that occur throughout the year, which further strengthens the process and partnerships between nonprofit organizations and affiliate advisory boards. This is important because grant requests grow every year; increased needs due to a recessionary economy have influenced this trend. Reviewing requests, making recommendations and ensuring a near seamless and ethical process require hard work and teamwork between both staff and volunteers. The process is punctuated by grantee celebrations when checks are allocated and the important work is highlighted. “The true reward is a stronger, more effective network of communities throughout North Carolina that is realized in part through the generosity of our donors and fund-holders,” Tolle Whiteside said. “It’s gratifying to provide the infrastructure and processes that allow this impact to occur.”
A dear friend of the Foundation, Edward Brown, recently passed away. Mr. Brown, who lived in the Western part of the state, was a very active and engaged philanthropist who did a lot for people in his beloved mountains. He was especially interested in education, and early education was his particular passion.

Over lunch one day he shared with me a bit about his upbringing, family and career. He told me his family was not wealthy growing up, but he was well aware of the kids that were coming to school from poor families, and even as a youngster felt a real tug to help. He had traveled all over the world as a civil engineer and he saw many children who lived in less than ideal situations. He wanted to help.

What an honor it is to have these kinds of conversations with individuals, to hear their stories and to work with them to ensure their charitable wishes continue to come true.

I appreciate and thank you for your willingness to engage in these conversations with our staff. We are honored by your trust. In these days of Facebook and emails it is always lovely to sit down and talk in person.

National Community Foundation

Jennifer Tolle Whiteside
President and CEO
NCCF

The J. K. Walker Fund is the largest in the NCCF’s nonprofit endowment portfolio and has a large impact on the Foundation’s overall funding ability.

The NCCF’s donors establish scholarships for many reasons: to memorialize loved ones, perpetuate professions and vocations, leave legacies or honor much-loved schools. The NCCF is just as committed to stewarding these grants, which last fiscal year totaled nearly $900,000 in both direct scholarships as well as grants to educational institutions that make awards to pupils attending these schools.

The power of endowment giving means that funds established with the NCCF benefit from the steady growth of the corpus. Many donors work to strategically increase their scholarships through their own ongoing strategies. Growing the principal obviously translates into larger distributions, which make the scholarship increasingly attractive to applicants, meaningful to recipients and further underscores its importance, relevance and reasons for establishment.

Special events are often the first thought for growing funds, and we have successful examples throughout the state. However, “fundraising beyond the fund-raiser” is a challenge we all face, and two of our scholarship fund-holders have shared some ideas that have translated into remarkable growth.

Bertha Sawyer and Wminted B. Meiggs Sr. Family Scholarship
Raymond Meiggs established this endowment with the Northern Alamance Community Foundation in 2004 to both honor his beloved parents and to help connect the dots between his passion for education and vision for economic development in the northeastern corner of our state, where he calls home.

Meiggs, a former teacher who later launched a successful fertilizer company, considers “building” the scholarship key to its ongoing effectiveness and has employed several strategies to continually infuse the fund’s balance. He has transferred appreciated stock to the fund and

The Meiggs family photo was taken in 1938. Raymond is the second small child from the left.

personally makes regular gifts of cash. He took advantage of the IRA distribution allowed up through last year. He also has chartered funds through the sale of farmland and other real estate and solicits contributions from family members on a continuous basis. “This is my passion, and it’s too important to the future economic of our area,” he said.

“Lack of education, the college drop-out rate and the challenges of getting young people to return to this region are all limiting factors that I want to help combat.” The Meiggs family scholarship has been awarded continuously since it was established to go to a deserving high school graduate from northeastern North Carolina, with a preference for Camden County students, where his parents reared their family of 10. His goal is to increase the fund so that the scholarship amounts can grow to renewable awards of up to $5,000.

With a plan in place, we are confident that his strategies for growth will pay off.

The Beaver Creek High School Memorial Scholarship Fund

The consolidation of several Ashe County high schools meant that a beloved school in West Jefferson closed its doors for good. And while the building was eventually razed, Beaver Creek High alumni did not want to erase their memories of this school, which operated from 1954 to 1999. The Class of 1957, which had been particularly close and remained so through annual reunions, decided that a scholarship named after the school would help its legacy to live on.

What happened next is nothing short of phenomenal. A direct-mail pledge campaign took the fund from zero to nearly $30,000 in about 45 days. And when pledge-payment time arrived, virtually all checks were received within two weeks. The solicitation reached about 650 alumni and resulted in 123 donors for a 19% return, which is extremely successful by any standard and particularly in the fund-raising arena.

Lynn Moretz, ’57, coordinated the effort and said he had never been involved in anything so positive. “It’s been a phenomenal experience,” she said. “But we’re not finished; we’re just beginning to scratch the surface.”

Moretz and committee members John Duvall, ’57; Becky Burgess, ’57; Patricia Goins, ’57; Robert Burgess, ’57; Nancy Edwards, ’57; Jerri Francis, ’57; Randall Lyalls, ’56; Carrol Howell, ’56; Shelby Ison, ’56; Haskell McGuire, ’59; and Jennifer Treski, ’79

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1 North Carolina Community Foundation
Landis elected to statewide board  
H. Kel Landis, III has been elected to the NCCF’s statewide board. He is a partner with Resus Capital, a financial services firm that has offices in Raleigh and Charlotte. He is a trustee with the Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise, a member of the Kenan-Flagler Business School’s alumni and serves on the boards of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Foundation and the NC Supplemental Retirement Board.

Unifor marks giving milestone  
The Unifor Endowment will award grants in early June at an annual event that always moves those in attendance because of the stories shared about the impact that the fund has made over the last 11 years. The fund has awarded more than $2 million to nonprofit organizations in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties since 1999. Its board voted last year to dissolve its private foundation status to merge assets with the NCCF due to our long and productive partnership.

Swain County’s United Gift Fund continues to grow, make impact  
The Swain County United Gift Fund grows each year. Begun as the Swain County Community Foundation’s letter-writing campaign directed to seasonal residents, the fund-raising effort now involves a wide representation of county residents.

Members of the SCCF’s board and their families marched in a recent parade carrying a banner to thank the community for its widespread, generous support. L-R: Elise Delfield, Jessica Cline, Zachary Cline, Ann Marie Wright, Christine Colcord and Toby Allman.

businesses and even children, who conduct pen- ny drives through local schools. This year grants were distributed to 18 area nonprofits, including significant gifts to the Bryson City Food Pantry, Big Brother and Big Sister, PAWS (animal shelter) and Swain Qualla SAFE (to combat domestic vio- lence).

Wilson County affiliate supports important WWII history project  
The Wilson County Community Foundation made a grant to the Wilson County Historical Association for digitization of the Hackney-McCain WWII History Project. The funds will help the group conclude its efforts to scan and edit stories shared by local World War II veterans. In a note to WCCF President Stuart Watson, former NC Secretary of Cultural Resources Betty Ray McCain wrote that the gift will allow the group to preserve the memo- ries of Wilson’s “greatest generation.” She added:

“I hope the stories we’ve gathered will touch your heart and make you very proud of your dad and all of our local heroes.”

Growing youth programs make an impact throughout the state  
The NCCF’s Youth in Philanthropy project continues to grow, with several programs making grants in their communities. Recent examples:

• The NCCF’s seventh and latest program initiative is in Wake County and part of Cary Academy’s Student Leadership Club. The middle schoolers call themselves I.T. for Influential Teens.

• Cary Academy’s Student Leadership Club com- prises our newest youth program. The middle school group calls itself I.T. for Influential Teens.

• Catawba Valley’s youth initiative, in partnership with the area YMCA Teen Center, awarded $2,500 in community grants to youth programs in April. This is only their second year making grants.

• Vance County’s Teens with Power, our very first youth program, recently awarded funds for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Group for work at both Northern and Southern Vance high schools.

• The Youth Philanthropy Board of the Wilkes Community Foundation (T3LC) awarded $5,000 to various initiatives in 2010, including funds for a sculpture project promoting recycling.

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State of Generosity  
A sample of Foundation news and events throughout North Carolina  

Onslow County’s youth group is called HARMONY. The Onslow affiliate matched up to $500 of the group’s fund-raising result, which totaled nearly that sum during this first year of operation. (Visit nccommunityfoundation.org soon for an inspirational story about six amazing girls, aged 10-12, who won Watauga County Community Foundation’s prestigious Spirit of Philanthropy Award – and then went on to win regional honors as well.)

NCCF-sponsored women’s giving programs also on the rise  
The NCCF now boasts a statewide women’s fund and eight women’s giving groups throughout the state, including a first: a jointly sponsored venture with another community foundation.

• The Art of Giving is a collaboration with the Triangle Community Foundation and brings together women who want to take a regional approach to philanthropy in the multi-county area that comprises the Triangle.

• Another new group in the Catawba Valley area has just been created, with news to come on this giving circle later this summer.

• While just over a year old, the Women Givers of Nash-Rocky Mount have awarded more than $15,000 for causes supporting women and children.

• The Women Givers of Northeast North Carolina, associated with the Northern Albemarle Community Foundation, are already soliciting donations to their Power of the Purse event, slated for Nov. 18. Maya Angelou has sent two stunning bags.

• The Wake County Women’s Giving Network is a great example of the activities that typify many circles; the group’s Leadership Committee just held a half-day strategic planning meeting to chart its future growth; grants invitations went out to nearly 85 nonprofits, with reviews already in process; site visits to last year’s grantees were just conducted; a new membership recruiting event called Women, Wine and Philanthropy was introduced in mid-May; and planning is underway for the annual grantee luncheon in November.

Rural Center Forum: Philanthropy impacts rural economic development  
The NCCF was well-represented at the Rural Partner’s Forum this fall. Sponsored by the NC Rural Economic Development Center, both NCCF CEO and President Jennifer Tolle Whiteside (far right in photograph) and statewide board Chair James W. Narron participated on panels to discuss the impact of philanthropy on economic stimulus initiatives. Peggy Birkemeier, Northeastern Region- al Associate, also represented the NCCF at the event. Statewide Director Brian Cutchfield and Tolle Whiteside both serve on the Rural Center’s board and participate in an ongoing advisory capacity as members of a roundtable to further examine philanthropy’s role in economic develop- ment. For more info on the forum and a study of philanthropy in North Carolina, visit ncruralcenter.org (Photo by Dan Crawford)
State of Generosity
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MILESTONES

100th birthday

Lieselotte Timmel recently celebrated her 100th birthday amid many well-wishers and friends. She has established a family fund with the Moore County Community Foundation to honor her father, a German artist, philosopher, inventor and poet. Ms. Timmel has also led an extraordinary life of accomplishment and generosity.

Affiliates mark their 10th anniversaries

Hats off to affiliate foundation partners in Beaufort, Bertie-Hertford and Currituck-Dare, which are all celebrating their 10th anniversaries this year. Beaufort’s beginnings were recently summarized in the affiliate’s latest newsletter, which can be found at nccommunityfoundation.org on the Beaufort page. (Word has it that the Johnston County affiliate is already hard at work planning their 20th anniversary for next year!)

HAPPENINGS

ACCF spring dinner and JAM concert raises awareness and dollars

The Alleghany County Community Foundation (ACCF) hosted a spring event featuring a Moravian chicken pie dinner and a program showcasing the area’s Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) in April at the beautiful Laurel Ridge Conference Center in Laurel Springs. Proceeds went to the ACCF’s Opportunity Fund, which makes grants to nonprofits throughout the county. JAM was founded in 2000 by Helen White, a guidance counselor and traditional musician, to engage children in the musical heritage of their mountain community. Since 2000, hundreds of students have completed instruction, participated in field trips, attended concerts and performed. Small groups of advanced JAM students also often compete at fiddlers’ conventions, play at nursing homes and participate in community events and festivals to raise money for many good causes.

2nd Currituck-Dare Duck and Wine Festival is a sell-out

More than 500 tickets were sold for the Currituck-Dare Duck and Wine Festival, with proceeds earmarked for the Currituck-Dare community fund, the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, Currituck Kids and the Friends of Jockey’s Ridge State Park. For more photos of this event visit coastival.org

Rocky Mount’s Fun Run for Charities is a success

The second annual Reach Out Rocky Mount Fun Run for Charities was a rousing success by all accounts. Registration for a day packed with events started early, with a nonprofit fair and push-up contest an hour before the official start of the 5K and 10K races. Among the charitable agencies participating were the Friends of Jockey’s Ridge State Park, the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, Currituck Kids and the Rockingham County Community Foundation’s reception planned to raise awareness and funds for area nonprofits.

HCCF president, and Mary Morgan, ACCF legal counsel and Harnett County native, talked about the value and potential of endowed giving to further their clients’ charitable goals.

Rockingham County hosts friend-raiser in Mayodan

The lovely Autumn Creek Vineyard in Mayodan was the site of the Rockingham County Community Foundation’s reception planned to raise awareness and acquaint local residents with the affiliate and its work to support the critical needs and interests in the area.

“Tax-relief” brings together Harnett County CPAs to discuss tools for giving

The Harnett County Community Foundation hosted an “after tax-day celebration” for local CPAs at the Broad Street Deli in Dunn. Al Bain, HCCF president, and Mary Morgan, HCCF legal counsel and Harnett County native, talked about the value and potential of endowed giving to further their clients’ charitable goals.

NCCF holds Community Conversation in Moore County

Fund-holders, donors and Moore County Community Foundation board members came together with members of NCCF’s statewide board and staff over lunch in Pinehurst this spring to discuss and obtain feedback on needs, issues and giving trends. Guests were particularly excited to meet statewide NCCF Board Member Jim Black from Raleigh – and he also was delighted to learn more about the work of the Moore County affiliate.

Greene’s board holds fund-raiser at historic home

Members of the Greene County Community Foundation hosted an historic house-tour and fund-raiser at the beautiful residence of Don Bausor in February. The Edward Dawson Home (C. 1898) in Snow Hill proved to be a beautiful backdrop for an evening planned to mark Mardi Gras and learn more about the Greene affiliate’s work in the community.

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It’s fitting that the Vass Area Library in Moore County is located in the small town’s old movie house, as its chief benefactor Mark Dawson made his mark in show business.

Dawson started out as a singer in Philadelphia in the mid-1930s with his own radio show (“Frisco Time with Mark Dawson”) and vocal performances with the city’s famed orchestra. He was about 20 years old when his voice coach urged him to seek a stage career in New York.

On his very first trip Dawson auditioned for a Broadway show and won the part. Since he had no agent, the producers sent him to Cubby Broccoli, who represented him briefly and later teamed him with Liberace for a night club tour. (Broccoli ultimately became a film producer, notably known for the 007 movies.)

While never a headliner, Dawson was cast as a “featured performer” in a series of Broadway musicals, including “By Jupiter,” “Sweethearts,” “High Button Shoes,” “Ankles Aweigh” and several others.

But World War II interrupted Dawson’s stage career. He served three years with the Marines and while enlisted, performed with the band led by Bob Crosby, Bing’s youngest brother.

Postwar Dawson headed to Hollywood and parts in several movies, most notably “The Detective,” with Frank Sinatra and “The Hot Rock,” with Robert Redford. Both of these films turn up occasionally on the late show and continue to pay residuals.

Early television also attracted Dawson, who had a recurring role on the popular soap “One Life to Live.” He also performed in “Sgt. Bilko.” “Car 54 Where Are You?” and the “Colgate Comedy Hour,” among others.

Dawson was married three times. His last wife, Carol, was a June Taylor Dancer on the Jackie Gleason Show. He never had any children. And due to his parents’ untimely death while a young teen, he grew up in a series of foster homes. He had no close relatives.

But Dawson did have a few close friends. Among them were Marilyn and Peter Madsen, whom he and Carol met in the Woodside community just outside Vass and near Pinehurst. The Dawsons had retired to the area in 1978, and the Madsens, former educators also from New York, relocated there in 1990. The men played golf at least twice a week, and the couples enjoyed socializing.

When Dawson’s wife, Carol, died in the mid-90s, his friendship with the Madsens grew. The two men frequently dined together, and Dawson spent all his holidays with the couple. Dawson rarely saw anyone except the Madsens in his later years.

Since Dawson had no family to speak of, he named Madsen executor of his will. And when Dawson died in 2007, Madsen learned that an endowment had been established to benefit the Vass Area Library and Veteran’s Memorial, a cause very near and dear to Madsen’s heart.

Although not personally involved, Dawson knew the library and the small military museum, also housed in the old movie theater, were important to the community and to Madsen, who is a founding and current member of the board of the Friends of the Vass Library Foundation, A Veteran’s Memorial. He had seen Madsen and others work hard over the years, holding countless book sales and golf tournaments to raise funds necessary to keep the building and museum open.

When Moore County Library System pays for books and a librarian’s salary at the Vass branch, all other expenses are covered by the Foundation. So Dawson wanted to honor his friend with a special tribute to his cause.

And what a tribute it is. Madsen and the board were astounded to learn that the Mark and Carol Dawson Endowment for the library and museum totals in excess of half a million dollars! “In the past, we’ve been dependent on what we could raise just to pay for the basics,” Madsen said. “Now we know the library and military museum can be funded in perpetuity.”

And the tribute to Dawson and Madsen’s friendship will live on as well.

(Editor’s note: Portions of this article are based on research conducted by Peter Madsen and used with permission.)

An agency endowment like the one established for the Friends of the Vass Area Library can ensure that the work of your nonprofit lives on. It’s an investment in your future. It can help create an organization from an uncertain economy or declines in governmental funding. Organizations that establish endowments through the NCCF enjoy the following benefits and advantages, all for a minimal fee:

Pooled resources and prudent investment management: An agency endowment with the NCCF directly and immediately benefits from inclusion in a large portfolio with access to experienced investment managers and endowment services. This can increase fund growth and income. Even modest endowments can enjoy the leverage usually reserved for organizations with multi-million dollar funds. The Foundation handles all investment management and oversight, accounting and financial reporting, including an annual audit.

Credibility and stability: Having an endowment with NCCF signifies to donors that the organization is serious about long-term security. The endowment offers a permanent income stream that can be distributed or reinvested, while assuring donors that the fund’s principal remains protected.

Marketing support: The NCCF can provide your board and staff with ideas and advice to promote your fund.

Administrative services: The NCCF provides all administrative and record-keeping support, including gift acknowledgments and fund performance reports.

Major and planned giving expertise: Foundation staff members are available to work with donors and advisors on major and planned gifts.

Effective use of charitable resources: The agency enjoys the benefits of expert service for low fees, eliminating administrative burdens so your organization can focus on its mission and services.

Getting started is easy: A minimum of $10,000, board authorization and a simple legal document—no agent, the producers sent him to Cubby Broccoli, who represented him briefly and later teamed him with Liberace for a night club tour. (Broccoli ultimately became a film producer, notably known for the 007 movies.)

While never a headliner, Dawson was cast as a “featured performer” in a series of Broadway musicals, including “By Jupiter,” “Sweethearts,” “High Button Shoes,” “Ankles Aweigh” and several others.

But World War II interrupted Dawson’s stage career. He served three years with the Marines and while enlisted, performed with the band led by Bob Crosby, Bing’s youngest brother.

Postwar Dawson headed to Hollywood and parts in several movies, most notably “The Detective,” with Frank Sinatra and “The Hot Rock,” with Robert Redford. Both of these films turn up occasionally on the late show and continue to pay residuals.

Early television also attracted Dawson, who had a recurring role on the popular soap, “One Life to Live.” He also performed in “Sgt. Bilko.” “Car 54 Where Are You?” and the “Colgate Comedy Hour,” among others.

Dawson was married three times. His last wife, Carol, was a June Taylor Dancer on the Jackie Gleason Show. He never had any children. And due to his parents’ untimely death while a young teen, he grew up in a series of foster homes. He had no close relatives.

But Dawson did have a few close friends. Among them were Marilyn and Peter Madsen, whom he and Carol met in the Woodside community just outside Vass and near Pinehurst. The Dawsons had retired to the area in 1978, and the Madsens, former educators also from New York, relocated there in 1990. The men played golf at least twice a week, and the couples enjoyed socializing.

When Dawson’s wife, Carol, died in the mid-90s, his friendship with the Madsens grew. The two men frequently dined together, and Dawson spent all his holidays with the couple. Dawson rarely saw anyone except the Madsens in his later years.

Since Dawson had no family to speak of, he named Madsen executor of his will. And when Dawson died in 2007, Madsen learned that an endowment had been established to benefit the Vass Area Library and Veteran’s Memorial, a cause very near and dear to Madsen’s heart.

Although not personally involved, Dawson knew the library and the small military museum, also housed in the old movie theater, were important to the community and to Madsen, who is a founding and current member of the board of the Friends of the Vass Library Foundation, A Veteran’s Memorial. He had seen Madsen and others work hard over the years, holding countless book sales and golf tournaments to raise funds necessary to keep the building and museum open.

When Moore County Library System pays for books and a librarian’s salary at the Vass branch, all other expenses are covered by the Foundation. So Dawson wanted to honor his friend with a special tribute to his cause.

And what a tribute it is. Madsen and the board were astounded to learn that the Mark and Carol Dawson Endowment for the library and museum totals in excess of half a million dollars! “In the past, we’ve been dependent on what we could raise just to pay for the basics,” Madsen said. “Now we know the library and military museum can be funded in perpetuity.”

And the tribute to Dawson and Madsen’s friendship will live on as well.

(Editor’s note: Portions of this article are based on research conducted by Peter Madsen and used with permission.)
have divided up the 46 graduating classes in an effort to name a person for each year and organize a communications tree. Plans are for each class reunion to include an update on the Beaver Creek Scholarship, with files and pre-addressed donor envelopes distributed to attendees. The group also is collecting email addresses to keep track of future fund-raising expenses as low as possible and to utilize additional communications channels.

The group’s scholarship selection committee was entering their first grant cycle as of press time, with awards expected to be announced in early June. "We thought it was important to come out quickly," Moretz said. "Initial grants will be modest, but the goal is to give at least $5,000 in scholarships each year," Moretz said. "And through the vehicle of endowment giving, we are confident that we can do that."