Physics Department Awards 2003-2004
Scholarships and Fellowships

The following scholarships have been endowed through the generous gifts of the friends of the UMR Physics Department. Scholarships are announced annually at the Harold Q Fuller Undergraduate Research Seminar, held last year on April 29, 2003. Please contact the Physics Department if you would like to add to the endowment fund of these scholarships or would like to establish a new one.

Recipients of the Harold Q Fuller Scholarship-Loan were Timothy Ivancie of St. Louis, Missouri, and Armin Ahlheim of St. Clair, Missouri, who commented "Some of us have what it takes between the ears to go to college but we lack it in our pockets to attend. This help makes it possible for the monetarily challenged to achieve an education." The $1,300 scholarship-loan was endowed by the late Dr. Fuller, chair of the physics department from 1948 to 1970 and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to recognize outstanding achievements among juniors and seniors in physics. One quarter of the scholarship is an interest-free loan that students begin to repay when they start their first jobs.

The Stephen P. Reed Scholarship Fund, an endowment, provides scholarships to US citizens enrolled in mathematics or physics who are sensitive to a peaceful and humane search for knowledge and solutions to technological problems of mankind. Micah Burgdorf, of Florissant, Missouri, and Samuel Woods, of Smithville, Missouri, received the Reed Scholarship.

Recipients of the Burke H. Miller Memorial Scholarship were Christopher Schwartzze of Vienna, Missouri, and Sarah Eyermann of Churubusco, Indiana. This $500 endowed scholarship was established by the Miller family to commemorate the academic achievements of their son, Burke, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in physics in 1969 and later died during the Vietnam War. The award is for promising and dedicated students in physics.

Ryan Kinney, of Kansas City, Missouri, was awarded the first Ed and Mary Sue Sickafus Endowed Scholarship/Fellowship, established by Ed (BS ’55, MS ’56) and Mary Sue Sickafus in conjunction with the Ford Motor Company and awarded to physics students on the basis of their performance at UMR. "The scholarship has allowed me to focus just on school and related activities instead of payments and loan applications. It has been very helpful," said Kinney.

The Richard W. Hannum Endowed Development Fund was established through a bequest by Richard Hannum (PhD ’66). The fund is currently used to provide scholarships for outstanding students in Physics. Nathaniel Bates received the Hannum Scholarship for 2003-2004.

Charles Williams of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Matthew Krems of St. Louis, MO received the Leon E. Woodman Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the Woodman family in honor of Dr. L. E. Woodman, Chair of the Physics Department from 1919 to 1948. It is offered to students in physics who are of good moral character, maintain a satisfactory grade point average, and are in financial need. "This scholarship is a great honor and very much appreciated," commented Matt. In addition to endowed scholarships, which are usually awarded to juniors and seniors, the department awards special Department Scholarships, funded from the annual phonathon, to students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. This past year, department scholarships were awarded to Benjamin Bethge, of Webster Groves, Missouri, Joshua Carey, of Fredricktown, Missouri, Toby Case of Loveland, Colorado, Christopher Chandler, of Warrenston, Missouri, Jeffrey Jau, of Kansas City, Missouri, Kevin Johnson of West Plains, Missouri, Christopher Owen, of St. Louis, Missouri, Adam Robbins, of Fredricktown, Missouri, Brett Sweeney, of St. Charles, Missouri, Andrew Walters, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Sara Whitbeck of Webb City, Missouri.

Endowments: Gifts that Keep on Giving

Through the generosity of friends and alumni, the Department of Physics has been very successful in raising annual support for scholarships, student travel funds, and program enrichment. As you make your annual commitment to the department, however, you might want to consider starting an endowment in your name or in the name of a loved one, so that your gift will still be making a difference when your great-grandchildren enroll at UMR. An endowment to the university will bear the name that you designate in perpetuity.

Consider the impact of leaving an endowed scholarship or lecture series in your name. With an initial gift of $10,000 (which may be started with $2,000 and a pledge of $2,000 annually over the next five years) you can start a fund from which generations of students will benefit. The fund will generate approximately $500 per year initially, and will continue to grow as the principal increases each year. The UMR physics department has several donors that have been adding to their endowment for several years, including endowments established last year by Ed and Mary Sue Sickafus, and by the estate of Richard Hannum.

Endowments may be established with cash or readily marketable securities. Regardless of the amount of the endowment you wish to establish or the methods used to establish it, your investment will have a significant and long-term impact on the Physics Department and on the University of Missouri-Rolla. Please call Lucy Sutcliffe at 1-800-392-4112 or e-mail her at lucys@umr.edu if you have any questions or wish to discuss options available to you for giving to the department.