Norm and Natalie Pond Provide Generous Deferred Gift to Physics

Norm and Natalie Pond have recently pledged a deferred gift of $750,000 to the Physics Department. At the time of maturity, it is expected that a major portion of the fund will endow a physics professorship. In addition to the deferred gift, Pond also donated through his company, Intevac, Inc., a scanning electron microscope with image analysis, and an ultra high vacuum (UHV) pumping and chamber system, as described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Edward Hale, Chair of the Physics Department, said of the gifts: “The Department is so pleased with these gifts. The deferred gift will provide support for a new distinguished faculty member and will strengthen our program by attracting a renowned physicist to our department. The first use of the scanning electron microscope will be by Prof. Don Hagen, who will use it to study aircraft and rocket exhaust particles. Prof. Dan Waddill will use the UHV system to further his studies of magnetic alloy films prepared and characterized under UHV conditions.”

Norman received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from UMR in 1959, and a Professional Degree in physics in 1997 for his subsequent accomplishments. He also holds an MS degree in physics from UCLA.

Norm was employed in various technical and managerial positions at Teledyne and Varian where he was president until 1990. He then left to found Intevac where he is chairman, CEO, and president. Intevac, Inc., is a diversified manufacturer of high technology products in Santa Clara, CA, and was formed by the concurrent acquisition of several businesses that produced equipment for night vision, semiconductor fabrication, and magnetic media. Intevac’s primary product is a multi-station, static sputtering system used to produce magnetic thin film coatings on disks used in computer hard disk drives. Through Norm’s fine business acumen, Intevac has captured a large share of the world market for such coating systems. The company is also active in designing equipment used to produce flat panel displays, and is doing research and development in the photonics.

Norm has long been an active participant in electronics related industry and military committees. He organized and led the Advisory Group on Electron Devices for the Department of Defense. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Electronic Industries Association, and is presently a director of IDEMA, the leading organization in the disk drive industry.

Norm and Natalie have three grown children, and live in Los Altos Hills, California.