CONTINUING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

For a journalism student like Addie Wallace, Detroit provides an endless stream of stories as she practices her skills. This year, her goal of becoming a feature reporter moved forward with a scholarship named for one of the city’s news icons.

In April, Wallace became the fifth recipient of the Ben Burns Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Journalism. Wallace said the $5,000 award has provided the ability to focus more intently on her studies. More than that, however, Wallace said the scholarship gave her the encouragement to continue pursuing a career in newspaper or magazine journalism.

“Receiving the scholarship reassured me that I’m on the right path and my hard work is paying off,” Wallace said. “I never had the chance to meet Ben Burns, but people in the department always tell me what a great teacher and journalist he was, so I’m honored to receive this scholarship in his name.”

As a former executive editor of The Detroit News and the long-time chair of Wayne State’s journalism program, Burns was a mentor and inspiration for countless young journalists. He founded Wayne State’s Journalism Institute for Media Diversity and shaped the journalism program into an engaging experience that teaches the craft of reporting in an urban environment.

When Burns passed away in 2012, his wife Beverly Burns created a scholarship in his memory for promising student journalists at Wayne State.

Since 2013, the Ben Burns Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Journalism has been awarded each year to one rising senior majoring in journalism. To be considered, students must perform well academically and have a body of work that shows a commitment to the profession.

“Ben had such a passion for students, and for creating an environment where they could learn the highest ethical standards and understand the importance of fairness and accuracy in their work,” Beverly Burns said.

“When he died, I felt like, ‘This is way too soon for his legacy to stop,’ and I thought that a scholarship was the right way to honor Ben.”

Addie Wallace
DISCOVERING BETTER TREATMENTS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illness impacts a staggering number of people. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in 17 Americans—approximately 13.6 million people—live with a serious psychiatric disorder such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, and even more suffer from depression.

Dr. David Rosenberg, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at the School of Medicine, and the Elliot D. Luby, M.D. Endowed Professor, leads a team of talented researchers as they decode the brain’s biology and identify objective biomarkers for mental illness. With support from the Elliot D. Luby, M.D. Endowed Professorship, the team has facilitated innovative, pioneering work in the most high-risk and vulnerable populations.

“I can’t imagine a more exciting time in psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences,” said Dr. Rosenberg. “The endowed professorship has supported our pilot studies in bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and children at increased genetic risk for these disorders. The funds also support our investigations into new and safer treatments for delirium, new technology, including high-field MRI measurements of brain chemistry and physiology, sophisticated genetic analyses and more.”

One of the most innovative offspring of the Luby Endowed Professorship has been the establishment of the Integrated Psychosis Clinic and Program. This program, the first of its kind, fully integrates researchers, educators and clinicians working side by side. “We believe the Integrated Psychosis Clinic and Program will serve as a national model for how to integrate care and best practice,” said Dr. Rosenberg.

Support from the Luby Endowed Professorship helped facilitate the necessary pilot data to merit a prestigious R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health on the first attempt.

“In this era,” Dr. Rosenberg said, “it is almost unheard of to receive funding on the very first submission. Because of the support of the Luby Endowed Professorship, pilot projects such as these are producing results and getting national attention.”

Funds from the endowed professorship have also greatly helped involve Wayne State University students, residents and post-doctoral fellows in leading-edge research.

“PHILANTHROPY IS A GAME CHANGER,” said Dr. Rosenberg. “THIS CARRIES ON DR. LUBY’S LEGACY AND TRADITION OF GREAT MENTORSHIP AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.”

Philanthropic partnerships ensure that Dr. Rosenberg and his team remain on the forefront of education and mental health care. The department’s ability to build and maintain a robust research enterprise that may exist in perpetuity is made possible through donor support.
ENDOWMENT IMPACT

The stories in this report are examples of how endowed gifts impact Wayne State University. As a supporter of an endowed fund at Wayne State, you are making a difference in the area you choose, whether that’s student support, research or community programs.

Wayne State’s endowment is a lot like your retirement account. Working with the Investment Committee of the Foundation Board and an external investment manager, we carefully invest our funds now so we have the money to support our plans for the future. The annual earnings generated by these investments are then used to support university programs in accordance with donor-specified terms.

Although some of the endowment is unrestricted, most of it is designated for a specific purpose. Below is a breakdown of the areas that are supported by the Wayne State endowment.

For additional information about the financial performance of Wayne State University’s endowment, visit pivotalmoments.wayne.edu/give/endowed.php

ENDOWMENT PERFORMANCE AS OF SEPT. 30, 2017

Total value = $339 million
(Total value as of Sept. 30, 2016 was $311 million)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS

10.9% 1 year
5.2% 3 years
6.5% 5 years
4.6% 10 years

A gift to the endowment at Wayne State University is an investment in the future. A strong endowment enables the university to confidently carry out its mission, now and in the future, with the security of permanent funding. A key focus of Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University is to significantly grow the endowment, and donors have contributed more than $199 million to endowed and associated funds during the campaign so far.
MISSION

We will create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.