Former WSU students give $350,000 to honor mentor and friend Alan Elcrait
Their anonymous gift crosses the first math professorship at Wichita State

Alan Elcrait could be an intimidating figure. A mathematical wizard, he usually referred to himself as "vortex flow" and "equilibrium configuration." A man’s man, he bribed house here and there to keep him back at the University of Minnesota and then onto the University of Wisconsin with gifts.

Stronger who became friends soon recognized that what he had seemed intimidating, actually was inspiring—and that it made it easy to admire Elcrait and hard to forget him.

That was the way it turned out for two of Dr. Elcrait’s former students, who more than two decades ago ended up in the WSU math professor’s calculus one class and found themselves entranced and challenged. The students—who would later marry, discover mathematics their major and strike up a friendship with Dr. Elcrait.

As life unfolded and careers became a priority, their connection with Elcrait faded but the memory persevered. So when news reached them in December that their friend and mentor had died, they felt the loss deeply. Those students—not only retired to Wichita to attend Dr. Elcrait’s memorial service, but they also chose to honor his legacy by creating the first-ever math professorship at Wichita State in his name.

"His influence, his legacy, his kindness, was a gift," said Dr. Elcrait’s wife, for whom the professorship is named. "We were so honored to be asked to be a part of this program. We were at the center of the major decisions about the department for the past quarter century."

Dr. Elcrait’s friend and colleague, Stephen Brady, described his approach to life as pastoralist.

"He attacked it," Brady said. "If he had a goal, he would go at it flat out. He was a brilliant mind and I was considers one of the deepest thinkers in his field."

Dr. Elcrait published peer-reviewed papers and wrote two textbooks. He collaborated with colleagues from around the world. As a colleague and friend Ron DeLeo put it: "His death was mourned at Oxford."

The former students said they never forgot Dr. Elcrait or the impact he had on their lives. "When Dr. Elcrait entered the classroom, he was always casually dressed in jeans and a tattered sweater. He attacked the blackboard, they recalled. He was an instant hit. His first lecture on a matter that was communicates his was communication and everything had to be done in an instant, a joking, but time-saving method of illustrating, but is a chaotic sort of way."

They credit Dr. Elcrait with influencing their lives irreversibly.

"If he had a brilliant mind and I considered one of the deepest thinkers in his field," said Brady. "His influence, his legacy, his kindness, was a gift."

Dr. Elcrait was born in Chicago, but grew up in Indiana. He received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of New Mexico and his master’s and doctorate from the University of Indiana. He moved to Wichita in 1969 and began his career at Wichita State, where he taught for 47 years.

He was a runner and an avid home-brewer. He enjoyed hiking, skiing and traveling the world. Dr. Elcrait is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.
Rudd Foundation gives $150,000 to Koch Global Trading Center

Leslie Rudd ’81 says the center will give students the career skills they need

The finding campaign for the Koch Global Trading Center is on track to exceed the $1 million mark with a gift of $150,000 from the Rudd Foundation, founded by entrepreneur Leslie Rudd ’81.

Rudd said he was pleased to support a project that will offer WSU students a unique educational experience.

“I think it’s a good investment in the future of our university,” said Rudd, CEO of Leslie Rudd Investment Company and owner of Standard Beverage Corp. “The Trading Center will provide training and knowledge relevant to the business community and valuable to employers. It will also help the university attract the best and brightest faculty and students.”

Though the original goal for the trading center fundraising campaign was $1 million, the WSU Foundation will continue to solicit gifts to ensure the center’s financial stability, said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO.

“Our hope is that the trading center will establish WSU as a leader in business education and better prepare our students for the future.” — Leslie Rudd

Rudd, who recently was named emeritus chair of the WSU Foundation’s National Advisory Council, has supported Wichita State for more than 50 years. He and family members created a scholarship in honor to his mother, Ethel Rudd, and he also supports the Rudd Foundation Fellows in the WSU Barton School of Business.

What drew his support to the Koch Global Trading Center, Rudd said, was learning about its mission to give students a comprehensive understanding of how markets work and how trading concepts apply to many areas of business.

“The goal of every university should be to push students to be more prepared for the increasingly competitive marketplace,” he said. “Our hope is that the trading center will establish WSU as a leader in business education and better prepare our students for the future.”

Rudd has successfully navigated the world of business on several fronts. His entrepreneurial focus is primarily on heavy businessmen such as Russ Odette Estate and Edge Hill Estate wineries, Oakville Grocery, Dean & DeLuca and PRESS Restaurant.

A friend to Charles Koch, whose Koch Industries provided the lead gift for the trading center, Rudd said the best piece of advice he would give WSU business students as they prepare for careers is to learn the theories of Koch’s Market-Based Management. That philosophy is explained in Koch’s book, “The Science of Success.”

“The book not only explains the importance of understanding markets but also the significance of fundamental principles such as honesty, integrity, respect, humility, and treating real value,” Rudd said. “Those things, when combined with a passion for what you do, will enhance your personal and professional life for years to come.”

The Koch Global Trading Center is scheduled to open this summer in Clinton Hall. Its goal is to prepare students for careers in the financial and energy markets and educate them about the impact trading activities have on all sectors of a business.
For WSU student Casey Jankord, scholarships help make getting an advanced degree possible

Casey Jankord will complete the 26-month Physician Assistant program this summer

Casey Jankord, a junior nursing student in the Physician Assistant program at Wichita State, poses for a photograph.

Not only does she miss spending time with the man she married one year ago, but she also frets about the expenses they’re incurring with two rents, two sets of utility bills, gasoline, and so on.

On top of it all, she’s unable to work as she completes her clinical rotations to become a physician assistant.

“It’s been stressful sometimes, but through it all I’ve had the comfort of knowing that my scholarships would help pay for school and that will make it easier for us to get our finances in order once I graduate,” said Jankord, who is two months away from completing the 26-month Physician Assistant (PA) program at Wichita State.

Among the scholarships she has received at Wichita State is the Donald D. Shera endowed fellowship, established by Shera in 1960 to help a deserving graduate student with financial need. Shera also has established a scholarship for undergraduate students who need help paying for college.

“I am a strong believer in education, especially for students whose parents cannot afford a college education,” said Shera, who runs chairman of the board and CEO of Multimedia Inc., before retiring in 1999. “I hope to make a positive impact on the lives of students.”

Before enrolling at Wichita State to enter the PA program, Jankord, 29, graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in human nutrition. She then worked as a medical assistant in a dermatologist’s office for a year to get the experience required of applicants for the PA program.

After a year of classroom work in the program, Jankord has lost the past year completing clinical rotations in family practice, emergency room medicine and otorhinolaryngology. She has one more rotation to complete before graduating this summer.

Jankord and her husband have a home in Manhattan, so she hopes to find a job as a physician assistant somewhere in that area.

“There is a strong demand for physician assistants, especially with the Health Care Reform Act bringing new patients into the system, so I’m optimistic,” she said of her improving job outlook.

Paying off college loans and related expenses won’t be a big help, thanks to the scholarships she has received.

“It helps a lot to get even a little extra money when you’re in school, especially when you can’t work,” she said. “It has made getting a graduate degree possible.”

Jankord said she is humbled by the thought of someone who doesn’t have her personally caring enough to help students like her achieve their dreams.

“I know that, as a result of my getting this kind of help, I want to do the same thing when I’m financially able,” she said.
Allegro provides $2.3 million worth of software to Koch Global Trading Center

The in-kind gift will help educate WSU students about commodity risk management.

Allegro Development, a Dallas-based enterprise that helps companies track and trade commodity prices, has donated a software package valued at $2.3 million to Wichita State University’s new Koch Global Trading Center.

WSU students will see the software as a tool to better understand the complex processes of trading commodities, tracking their movement from the point of production to the point of consumption, and measuring risk throughout the process, said Michael Hinton, Allegro’s chief customer officer and former vice president of products and solutions.

“Ultimately, students who use the software will have a competitive edge in the job market,” Hinton said.

“Currently, most students fresh-out of college are not prepared to manage the complexities of a commodity system that involves end-to-end trading, risk and logistics,” Hinton added. “With the software, Allegro is providing real-time intelligence for improved decision making in a process called commodity value chain risk management. Companies can use it to help ensure that they are managing their commodities as efficiently as possible to produce lower risk and greater profits. Allegro will donate 50 software licenses to Wichita State as well as ongoing support and maintenance, so the value of the in-kind gift is $2.3 million, with support and maintenance valued at $250,000 a year, Hinton said.

Hinton cited a recent survey of energy-related companies that showed their number one concern is the availability of well-educated workers ready to step into jobs from which many baby boomers are retiring.

“Educating college students on the impact technology will have in the energy industry will help them become empowered faster because of the skills they will learn,” Hinton said. “The software has been more exposed to technology than any other generation. They are the leaders of the future energy industry.”

Timothy L. Finley, an associate professor of finance at WSU, has been working with Wichita State-business professors to prepare the curriculum for the Koch Global Trading Center.

"Part of the mission of the center is to expose our students to energy and commodity trading," said Finley. "Allegro's gift is an integral part of that. Using their software solutions, we are developing a new trading class where students will be able to trade different assets, such as oil, and then track, and evaluate the risk of that trade. We could not offer this course without their software."

Allegro is a leading provider of commodity value chain and risk management software, based in Dallas. It offers services in Calgary, Houston, London, Singapore, Sydney and Zurich.

The Koch Global Trading Center will be equipped with real-time quotes, international data feeds and analytics software to prepare business students for careers in the financial and commodity markets. It seeks to educate students from all disciplines about the impact of trading activities and how they are viewed in the business world.

The two-square-foot facility will be located on the main floor of Clinton Hall. It is slated to open this summer.
Aspiring archaelogist Don Henkle provides gift to benefit anthropology field school

The funds will help WSU students and faculty conduct field experiments and lab work.

A anthropology professor Donald Blakemore remembers one of the first times Don Henkle joined him and a group of WSU students on an archeological field trip in Kansas. Henkle, a metal detector hobbyist, began swinging his equipment over ground near where Blakemore and his students were moving in an orderly line, methodically mapping their progress and setting up work grids.

"He quickly began to see the advantages of what we were doing and began to adapt to our methodology," Blakemore said. "He was one of the smartest people I ever met."

The two men formed a friendship and over the next 25 years, Henkle frequently accompanied Blakemore on archeological field trips around Kansas, Colorado and Texas. Still, it was a poignant surprise to Blakemore when Henkle, nearing the end of his life after a battle with cancer, revealed that he was leaving a generous gift to Wichita State's anthropology department to benefit the field schools.

"I think he was trying to do a little bit of payback for all the enjoyment he got out of our trips over the years," Blakemore said. "He really enjoyed a good puzzle and that's what we do in archeology, one puzzle after another."

Henkle died Feb. 18, at the age of 79. After a career working for an electrical wholesale company in Wichita, he retired while still young enough to pursue the somewhat obscure hobbies of archeology and metal detector exploration. He began attending meetings of a group of amateur archeologists and met Blakemore at one of those meetings.

"He had no formal education (in archeology) but he learned fast and contributed a lot to our field schools," Blakemore said. "He would show up with resources that I had forgotten sometimes."

One thing that Henkle learned over the years was how difficult it is for the anthropology department to secure the funds to pay for field schools and the analytical lab work that follows each trip, Blakemore said.

"He wanted to help us have a thriving field school program," he said.

Wanda Henkle, who was married to Don for almost 49 years, said that his association with Blakemore and the amateur archeology group enriched his life and the lives of all who knew him.

"He worked hard to be able to do something like this," she said of the gift to Wichita State.
Wichita State University Foundation

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TECT Aerospace supports STEM-mentoring initiative with $100,000 pledge

In most technologically complex businesses, TECT aerospace needs engineers and other analytical minds in its workforce of the future. That's one reason it describes its recent gift to the WSU Foundation as "an investment in our future." TECT Aerospace has committed $100,000 over five years to Wichita State's College of Engineering to help develop a community-wide program for mentoring K-12 students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The gift was made with the assistance of The Glass Foundation, which provides philanthropic support on behalf of the TECT family of businesses owned by Kenneth E. Glass and family. The financial support is seen as crucial to efforts by WSU's College of Engineering and its partners to be named a winning city in the U.S.100 initiative, which seeks to bolster STEM mentoring for underrepresented students nationwide. Wichita is one of 10 finalists who will be awarded a total of $4 million in resources to five winning cities to be announced in May. Finalists improve their chances by demonstrating financial support from community and industry partners.

"TECT Aerospace and The Glass Foundation are pleased to support Wichita State's effort to obtain a STEM-mentoring grant for Wichita," said Pete Kopper, president of TECT Aerospace. "We see this as an investment in our future. Engineering professionals are key to our businesses and we want to encourage the development of skills that we will need to staff the workforces of the future."

With six facilities in the United States, TECT Aerospace provides custom manufacturing services of components and assemblies for a variety of companies. It is one arm of TECT, a family of privately held aerospace companies.

"TECT Aerospace has established a strong relationship with WSU's Office of Cooper Education, which helps WSU students get work experiences in their chosen fields of study. The company has provided internships and on-the-job experiences to several Wichita State students."

The gift from TECT Aerospace will be used to help WSU's College of Engineering create a citywide STEM mentoring program aimed at stimulating interest among girls, low-income youth and students of color in STEM education careers. The program will recruit retirement-aged professionals to serve as STEM mentors to Wichita area students to volunteer to engage in mentoring relationships and activities with K-12 students.

The WSU-led coalition for the U.S.100 competition includes the city of Wichita, school districts, industry and business leaders, volunteer groups and youth-serving organizations. The coalition intends to move forward with a local STEM mentoring program even if it is not selected for the U.S.100 initiative.

"We have to continue to grow our core talent and make students aware of exciting STEM careers that impact our community and the world," said Larry Whitman, associate dean of the WSU College of Engineering who is leading the STEM-mentoring effort for Wichita State. "This commitment from TECT Aerospace demonstrates the kind of leadership that will keep Wichita as the Air Capital of the World."
New diagnostic tool at AEGD made possible by Lewis H. Humphreys Trust

The charitable trust provided $560,955 to the WSU Foundation to purchase the high-tech machine.

The Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at Wichita State is one of the few dental faculties in the region using a high-tech diagnostic machine called a cone beam CT scanner, thanks to a grant from the Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust.

The trust approved a request by the WSU Foundation to purchase the scanner at a cost of $560,955. The machine, sometimes referred to as an MRI for the teeth, will benefit both the dentistry residents in the AEGD program and the patients who receive treatment at the AEGD clinic, said Dr. David May, a Wichita dentist and AEGD assistant clinic director.

"The cone beam CT scanner introduces the resident to a tool that is rapidly becoming the standard of care for analysis of patients undergoing complex oral surgical and implant procedures, where a 3-D view of the area is critical and vital to success," May said.

When patients receive the kind of precise treatment that is possible with the new scanner, he said, they avoid unnecessary, stressful or even harmful procedures.

The Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust, based in Kansas City, Mo., viewed the grant as an opportunity to enhance the AEGD program at WSU while delivering quality care to patients in the community, said Tony Twyman, the trust’s administrator.

"The gift of similar program was an important factor in this decision," he said, referring to a privately funded program for AEGD patients who do not have the means to pay for care. "It is the trust’s hope that more individuals can take part in this program with the enhanced technology."

The Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust was established in 2004 to support and promote educational, cultural, human services and health care programs for underserved and disadvantaged populations.

Only about a half-dozen dental practices in the Wichita area have cone beam CT scanners. AEGD officials hope the new scanner can be used to provide services for the patients of Wichita dentists who don’t have those on hand, producing new revenue that will help AEGD grow and carry out its mission.

"This gift is transformational for our AEGD program, which is still in a growth stage, and is particularly significant because it is the first that we have received from the Humphreys Trust," said Lynette Murphy, WSU Foundation senior director of development for the College of Health Professions and University Libraries. "We hope that this is only the beginning of a continuing relationship with this organization."

AEGD is a one-year postdoctoral education program that offers dentists an opportunity for advanced experience in a variety of clinical settings. It was founded at Wichita State in 2008.
Memorial — Gary Parker ’71 shared the fruits of his hard work with many

The founder of Center Oil Co. was proud of his connections to Wichita State

With a $4.9 billion energy company to run and a large family to enjoy, Gary Parker had to be selective about the activities that competed for his time.

But when the WSU men’s basketball team was in St. Louis to play in the MVC Tournament, there was little question where he would be.

“It was the one thing that would get him out of the office,” his son, Craig, said with a laugh. “He really enjoyed basketball and their recent success was something he greatly admired and liked to brag about.”

Mr. Parker also was proud of his status as a Wichita State alumnus, graduating in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. “He knew that without his education at WSU, he couldn’t have achieved the success he did,” Craig Parker said.

At the peak of that success and achievement, Mr. Parker died Feb. 8 while on a skiing vacation in Colorado. He was 64. He leaves behind his wife, Karman, six children and 16 grandchildren.

In recent years, Mr. Parker had included Wichita State in his philanthropic contributions, giving generously to WSU athletics as well as to the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

“Gary Parker had an enormous passion for life and a deep love for his family,” said Elizabeth King, president and CEO of the WSU Foundation. “His business success was partially due to his not perceiving failure as an option. It was a true privilege to work with him to carry out his philanthropic goals at Wichita State.”

Mr. Parker grew up in Wichita and attended Butler County Community College before transferring to Wichita State. While attending WSU, Mr. Parker was married and had two children. Upon graduation, he began his career in accounting with Koch Industries.

In 1976, Mr. Parker moved to St. Louis to join Apex Oil as executive vice president. Ten years later, he founded Center Oil Company, which distributes gasoline and other refined petroleum products throughout the United States. He also founded Center Ethanol Company LLC, located in Sumner, Ill. He was a founder of Reliance Bank and sat on the board of Reliance Banchares Inc.

Mr. Parker and his wife supported a variety of organizations and causes, most notably the St. Louis Children’s Hospital and other groups assisting underprivileged children. Most of their philanthropy was done anonymously.

Mr. Parker enjoyed outdoor activities and sports and spent part of his free time golfing, playing squash and traveling.
Martin Perline indcuted into the 2014 Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame Class

On March 7 in St. Louis, Martin Perline, Wichita State economics professor, was honored for his 38 years as the faculty representative for athletics and inducted into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame. He also was recognized as a Paul Morrison Award recipient, given to individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective institutions, the Conference or to athletics, in general.

Perline, who joined the WSU faculty in 1973, served as the faculty representative from 1975-2013. According to the bio in the MVC program, “his main task was to certify, after consultation and documentation by the director of admissions, the athletic eligibility of all shooter-student-athletes.” He also served on the board of directors of the Wichita State Intercollegiate Athletic Association and represented WSU to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and MVC.

Martin Perline,  Wichita State economics professor
WSU Foundation's new scholarship dinner a success

The WSU Foundation tried a new format for the scholarship dinner this year and it proved to be fun, entertaining and successful. Instead of holding individual college scholarship/donor events as in the past, on Feb. 26 all scholarship recipients and their donors attended a dinner at Koch Arena. Nearly a dozen student displays lined the concourse for attendees to view and instrumental ensembles filled the area with music.

During the program and dinner, about 300 people listened to student speakers representing each college, in addition to WSU President John Bardo; Elizabeth King, president and CEO of the WSU Foundation; and Deb Byers, director of financial aid.

There was musical entertainment along with two videos developed by the WSU Foundation.

During the evening, donors and students could have their photos taken, which were posted on the WSU Foundation's Facebook album. Live tweeting was shown intermittently on two big screens. More than 100 tweets and 35 photos were shared at the event.

See a photo gallery at http://on.fb.me/1eMND5W.
Society of 1895 members gather to celebrate their university and share their stories

While it’s helping to enhance the department of their former major, giving back to the alma mater that helped prepare them for successful careers or creating a fund to honor a loved one, the varied reasons all mean that the future of Wichita State is secure with the help of legacy gifts made yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The WSU Foundation honored 26 new members to the Society of 1895 on April 10 at the Marcus Welcome Center. The new members enjoyed a private ceremony emceed by Mike Lamb, the Foundation’s vice president for planned and annual giving, prior to the holuday for all members.

During the funeral program, WSU President John Bardo updated attendees on campus happenings including the residence hall, the future razing of Wheel Shocker Apartments, the new technology buildings and the increases in enrollment for fall 2014. Keith Picke, interim dean of the College of Health Professions, introduced Patricia Himmel, mother of five children, four of whom have benefited from the services provided by the Evelyn Hesler Cancer Clinic. The programs of the WSU speech-language-hearing clinics have been enhanced by the estate gift from Evelyn Hesler in 2008. Elizabeth King, president and CEO of the WSU Foundation, recognized the new and current Society of 1895 members and commended them on their generosity and forward-thinking commitment to Wichita State. The WSU Foundation, by the College of Fine Arts Dean Rod Hill Miller, entertained the audience with moving and fun musical performances and concluded the program leading attendees in singing the alma mater.

There are 535 donors in the Society of 1895 who have documented 955 planned gifts. Photos from the event may be found in the WSU Foundation’s Facebook photo album by clicking here.

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The WSU Foundation’s new pre-campaign billboard now up

The WSU Foundation’s new pre-campaign billboard can now be seen on East 21st Street by Cessna Stadium. It faces east toward Oliver Street.

To learn more about the campaign, visit https://foundation.wichita.edu/visionsortereality