



Bold and Blue!

It is the name of SDSU's newest comprehensive campaign, and it captures who we are as Jackrabbits. The Bold reflects our high aspirations for SDSU. The Blue describes our affinity and love for this university.

As the chairs of the Sylvan Circle Legacy Society, we are proud to promote this opportunity for people to join us and impact our university and participate in **Bold and Blue** through their own gift planning. Our work with Marc Littlecott, Director of Gift Planning at the SDSU Foundation, was a thoughtful and eye-opening process for us to see what we could accomplish for SDSU and still address the needs of our family.

Through your membership in the Sylvan Circle Legacy Society, you impact the people, places, traditions, and innovations that make SDSU great.

The Sylvan Circle Society honors friends who have acted on their passion and explored their vision through a planned or deferred gift to the university. Through your conversations with the Foundation's Office of Gift Planning, you can be certain that your legacy gift will be used to impact the areas of SDSU that you care about most.

We are inspired by the vision of our SDSU Foundation: "Transforming Lives Through a Culture of Giving."

Bold and Blue: A Campaign for South Dakota State University has a goal to raise \$500 million over a seven-year period. More than \$320 million has already been committed through the leadership phase. Sylvan Circle members have been an important part of that success, and we want to encourage others to consider being a part of this campaign.

The Sylvan Circle has exceeded 1,200 members. We hope you will join us in encouraging others to consider doing their legacy gift planning – whether it's during the Bold and Blue campaign or in the future when the time is right for them.

This magazine includes stories about donors who made a difference through their legacy planning. Be willing to share your story and motivation for being part of the Sylvan Circle. You will likely inspire others to do the same.

As always, we want to express our sincere gratitude and respect for your commitment to SDSU.

Go Big! Go Blue! Go Jacks!

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Keith Rounds & Cathy VanderWal-Rounds



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Schencks Fund Excellence for Future Jackrabbits



To Ted Schenck, nothing beats standing on the top of a mountain in Alaska, overlooking an ocean and watching Canada geese migrate.

"I would say, I got to live my dream. Not many people can knit their interests and hobbies into their job for their entire lifetime. This is what I got to do as a wildlife professional," Ted explained. Most of his career was spent working for Game, Fish and Parks and the USDA Forest Service. He worked in several states, including Alaska, South Dakota, and South Carolina. Ted said it was all possible because of the master's degree in wildlife biology he received from SDSU in 1971.

"The places I have been and the experiences I have had, and got paid to have because of my degree — I would have never been able to afford them otherwise," Ted said.

His wife, Paulette "Punkin," also credits her master's degree from SDSU to opening doors that eventually led to her dream career.

Although their starting point was the same – SDSU

 as they reflect on their careers in retirement, the couple readily admits they each took a unique path to discover their dream career.

Ted knew from day one that he wanted a career focused on wildlife. As a kid growing up in the rural community of Spencer, lowa, he and his best friend, Dennis Heien, got to know the local game warden. Being the avid outdoorsmen and hunters that they were, Ted said after learning about what the game warden did, the friends decided they would go to school for a degree in wildlife.

Deciding on a career did not come as easily for Punkin.

"I was a parent's worst nightmare. At one time I had five majors, and I didn't have enough credits in any one degree area to graduate," she said.

Punkin was finally able to complete her bachelor's degree seven years after she and Ted left Brookings for his first job teaching environmental studies at Plattsburgh University in upstate New York. She learned SDSU had recently introduced the general studies degree and worked closely with the dean of the program to graduate.

"The quality of instruction and the flexible way SDSU faculty work with students' situations always gave me the sense that everything being done was being done for the sake of helping students," Punkin said.

Bachelor's in hand, she was able to complete a master's in counseling. This master's degree allowed her to accept a position working as a high school counselor. It was when Ted accepted his dream job of working for the Forest Service in Sitka, Alaska.

At the time, it was among the only positions open in the small fishing community of 7,000. "I found the career I never knew I would love. The master's in counseling from SDSU really launched my professional career," said Punkin, who went on to teach university classes at several universities and complete a Ph.D. in counseling education.

More than the institution that launched their careers, SDSU was also where the couple met while competing on the SDSU Rifle and Pistol Team together. Ted, a senior at the time, had been competing on the team for three years when, on a whim, Punkin and her roommate signed up to compete on SDSU's first women's rifle team.



"Having funds available to faculty who understand their students' and departments' needs best is a way to offer practical help to future generations."- Ted Schenck

"Without rifle team, I don't think we would have met," Punkin said. "Because of this experience, we ended up shooting together in various types of things throughout the majority of our marriage."

In recognition of the role SDSU played in leading them both to find their dream careers and each other, the couple worked with the SDSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning and left a gift through their estate to benefit excellence funds for the Department of Natural Resource Management and the Counseling and Human Development program. Excellence funds are discretionary dollars that are used by leadership of the colleges to advance strategic priorities and elevate student and faculty aid.

The flexibility excellence funds offer SDSU faculty is the reason the Schencks chose to support them. Ted and Punkin explain that when they were students, these funds were used to help them out.

The first time, it was in the form of a \$25 loan the winter after they married. Ted needed to repair his vehicle so he and Punkin could travel back and forth to campus for classes and graduate research.

Both Punkin and Ted said similar funds were utilized by faculty when they were students to cover the cost of professional conferences and field trips.

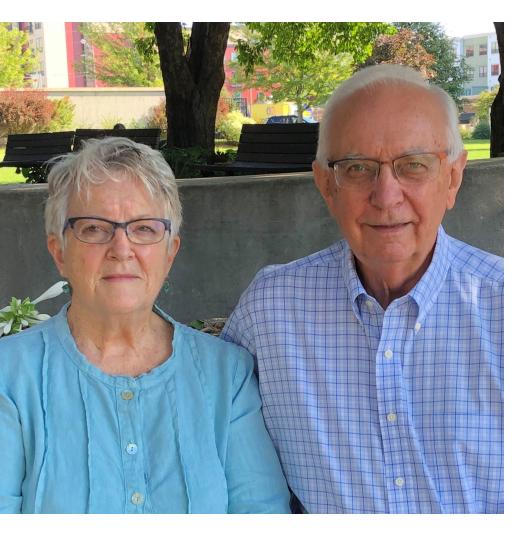
"Having funds available to faculty who understand their students' and departments' needs best is a way to offer practical help to future generations," Ted said.

Punkin added, "These funds help students connect with experiences that would otherwise be out of reach."

Tell us about your experience?

"What I loved about the process is we had a general idea about what areas we wanted to impact, but we did not know how to do it. What Marc Littlecott and Keli Books offered, is once we told them what we wanted to do, they told us exactly how we could achieve our goals." -Paulette "Punkin" Schenck

Give-It-Twice Helps Professors Take Time for Research



The balancing act between teaching and research can be a difficult one for university professors to navigate. As a former professor, Dr. Richard Vetter has experienced that.

"I was a professor. I know how difficult it is for professors to squeeze in time to research problems," said Richard, who became a Jackrabbit in 1961.

Together with his wife, Janice, Richard established an endowed professorship to support a professor within the College of Natural Sciences to temporarily step away from teaching and focus their time solely on research.

When the Vetters started to revisit their will, the couple's first step was contacting the SDSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning to explore how they could achieve their philanthropic goals through their estate plan. The Vetters implemented the Give-It-Twice estate strategy to establish the professorship.

"Give-It-Twice expands what we can do with our resources," Richard said. He explained that Give-It-Twice allows them to stick with their original estate plan: giving their remaining assets to their daughters, Stephanie and Pamela, and a few local charities. The difference is, instead of allocating funds in one lump sum, the funds are invested in two revocable trusts created inside their will. These trusts will support their daughters on one hand, and also their charitable pursuits on the other.

All of Richard's 40-plusyear career involved research and balancing it along with many other daily responsibilities. He spent the early years of his career as a university professor, followed by 30 years at Mayo Clinic.

With a Ph.D. in bionucleonics, Mayo researchers often called on Richard for his expertise in radiation as they studied new ways to diagnose and treat disease.

"It was challenging, and I enjoyed the challenge," said Richard, who retired in 2010 as Mayo Clinic's Medical Director for



Safety. "When research involved radiation, I was brought into the room to talk through a question. I was interacting with worldrenowned researchers. And although I was only helping them with one small aspect of the problem they were investigating, it felt like I was making a significant contribution."

When he reflects on his career, Richard credits the critical thinking and research skills he developed as an undergraduate and graduate student at SDSU.

"I need to underscore the critical thinking skills I developed and the strong emphasis on basic science and research methods," Richard explained. "SDSU gave me what I needed to move forward."

Growing up on a Castlewood, South Dakota, farm, Richard initially chose SDSU because he was interested in agriculture and had a strong desire to teach, not farm.

Halfway through his bachelor's degree, a keen interest in science led him to refocus his major to botany biology. It was in the botany biology department that he got to know Professor Gerald Meyers – the man Richard credits with teaching him how to think critically and apply this skill to research.

"Critical thinking is especially important when approaching a research problem and solving it," he said.

After receiving a bachelor's in botany biology, Richard accepted a research assistantship, which covered graduate tuition costs.

"I would not have been able to get a master's without the assistantship," said Richard, who funded his bachelor's degree with dollars he saved through

"I was a professor. I know how difficult it is for them to squeeze in time to research problems."- Dr. Richard Vetter

a land grant scholarship, working for SDSU in the agronomy department and as a resident assistant, and employment through the Castlewood Farmer's Elevator.

Around the time he accepted the research assistantship, Richard married his high school sweetheart, Janice. Like Richard, Janice needed to cover her own college costs. Her mom became a single mother to four after her father was killed in an accident.

"My mom set a good example for me," said Janice. "Even though she did not have much monetarily to give, and she always had a part-time job, she did what she could to help others."

Janice received an education degree from Northern State Teachers College and a master's in education from Purdue University. Janice taught elementary education for the first few years after she completed school. She went on to spend the remainder of her career working in social services, helping families in need.

When it came time to apply for a Ph.D., Richard said the experience he gained through the research assistantship paid off. All the prestigious Ph.D. programs he applied to offered him research assistantships, except Purdue University, which offered him a fellowship.

"SDSU prepared me well to apply anywhere I wanted," he said.

Richard went on to teach as an assistant professor in health physics (radiation safety) and then as a professor in health physics until he began his career at Mayo Clinic in 1980.

In addition to the professorship, Janice and Richard also utilized the Give-It-Twice strategy to sponsor two endowed scholarships.

It gives us more giving options

"After Marc Littlecott explained it to us, we realized Give-It-Twice gives us more options than our very traditional estate plan." - Dr. Richard Vetter

Want to learn about your giving options? Contact the SDSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning at 605-697-7475.



Jackrabbits Land Legacy

The land is your legacy. SDSU understands that because it's our legacy too.

"The university's mission as an 1862 land-grant institution remains the same," said Dr. Barry H. Dunn, SDSU's 20th President. "To be a beacon of opportunity, providing access to higher education, championing the creation of knowledge and understanding, and continuously expanding the university's reach. It starts with the land." By partnering with SDSU through the Jackrabbits Land Legacy, you can make gifts of land, grain, machinery, and other property to support scholarships, research, athletics, and academic programs in areas most important to you.

SDSU alumni and friends have already taken the steps to gift their ownership of property in a variety of ways that will impact future generations of Jackrabbits.

Give-It-Twice Continues Farm Legacy

Farming is all Alan Fenner ever wanted to do. In fact, his dad had to work to convince him to leave the family's Iroquois, South Dakota, farm to attend college.

As it turned out, his SDSU degree allowed him to pursue his passion for farming.

"Attending SDSU completely changed my life. I don't know that I would have been able to end up on the farm if I had not taught first," Alan said. "Funny how life takes twists and turns, and things fall into place."

Meeting Marlys Hauck is among "life's twists" that

Alan references. They met at a Halloween dance hosted by Mathews Hall. "We always say it was fate," Marlys said. "It was one of the few weekends Alan didn't go home to farm and staved on campus."

Unlike Alan, Marlys, who was a farm girl from Menno, only went home on rare occasions. As an only child, she valued the independence college provided her.

That Halloween evening, Marlys saw Alan standing by the door and asked him to dance.

"I have no idea why I asked him," she said. "I am not the type who would do that.





I was shy, and normally, I would have been sitting against the wall."

Marlys was pursuing degrees in home economics education and science. As someone who loved science, she initially wanted to become a food researcher. "I found out the only place I could get a job in food research was in a big city. And I love visiting cities, but I didn't want to live there. So, I decided to get a degree in home economics and minor in science, because there is a lot of science in family and consumer sciences," she explained.

Marlys went on to share her love of science with hundreds of students. She taught family and consumer sciences, as well as middle school science classes, for nearly 40 years. In another twist of fate, Alan also ended up teaching.

After graduation, he began farming some leased farm ground, but the acres weren't enough to pay the bills, so he also worked a factory job. He loved farming, but the factory job was not a good fit. Then he heard a radio ad. "They were advertising on the radio that if you had an interest in being an ag teacher, you could teach high school agriculture classes and become an FFA Advisor with a limited certificate."

Alan returned to SDSU and began taking courses in spring of 1975. By spring of 1976, he was teaching agriculture education classes. By the time they married, they were both teaching. "It was nice to be able to bounce ideas off each other," Marlys said.

Alan taught until Marlys' dad, Ray, was ready to retire from farming. "Farming is all I have ever wanted to do. Before SDSU, it was all I knew. I enjoy the diversity of it. The science and mechanical parts of it – farming is the career path I was intended to take."

Taking over the Hauck family farm was a dream come true for both Alan and Marlys. "Alan's love of farming was just what I "Attending SDSU completely changed my life. I don't know that I would have been able to end up on the farm if I had not taught first. Funny how life takes twists and turns, and things fall into place." - Alan Fenner

was looking for," she said. "I liked growing up on the farm."

The farmland Marlys' parents handed over to the couple in 1983 was purchased by her grandpa, Edmond Buechler, for her parents when they married. "They had an agreement with my grandpa that they would buy the farm from him over a period of time," Marlys explained.

Marlys retired from teaching in 2012. As Alan looks toward retirement, their only child, Carrie, and her husband, Zach, are not interested in taking over the family farm or serving as landlords. So, the couple looked to their alma mater for a solution. The SDSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning matched the Fenners' estate goals with the couple's philanthropic priorities. It was important that their children and grandchildren receive an inheritance, but also that their charitable impact continue amongst multiple organizations.

The couple utilized the Give-It-Twice strategy, directing a portion of their estate, including farmland, to fund two revocable charitable trusts. Upon their passing, the two charitable trusts will work in tandem to provide an inheritance to their daughter and sonin-law, and to create two endowed professorships: the Fenner Family Endowed Professorship in Agriculture Education and the Fenner Family Endowed Professorship in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. The trust will also continue funding the Fenner Writing Improvement Endowment, which the couple actively supports today.

"Having both been educators and lifelong learners, education means a lot to us," Alan said. "Since we don't have the option of keeping this farm in the family, what better place than SDSU to entrust its legacy?"

Why Give-It-Twice worked for us

"If we sold the farmland, we'd be paying taxes. If our daughter inherited it, she would be paying taxes. Give-It-Twice keeps the legacy of our family farm alive without the tax burden." –Alan Fenner

Sandra A. Whalen Scholarship Keeps Her Memory Alive



Sandra Hutches was into politics. She knew what she believed and who she believed in. And the journalism, political science, and history major shared these thoughts and beliefs with other Jackrabbits in her weekly *Collegian* column.

Shawn Whalen was impressed.

"She was the first person I met who was into politics. Sandy ran the Young Republican's campus campaign for Bob Dole," Shawn said.

Sandy would go on to a successful career that blended her savvy for writing and politics. She worked for a newspaper, in communications for a trade organization, and then spent nearly two decades serving on the communications team for the Minnesota Legislature. In 2017, she launched her own writing and graphic design business, Hale Design.

When Shawn and Sandy met through mutual friends on fourth floor of Young Hall, Shawn was a freshman and Sandy was a sophomore. It was fall of 1986. Initially, they were just friends. "Back then, I was not brave enough to admit that I liked her more than a friend. And then, three years after we met, it just finally happened," Shawn recalled. In 1992, they chose to return to campus to get married in the campus Catholic Parish. It was the church where Shawn grew up.

Today, Shawn enjoys talking about Sandy – it's a way to honor the extraordinary life she lived. After nearly 30 years of marriage, he lost Sandy to cancer in January 2020. "It is important to me to tell stories about her to keep her memory spoken and alive."

In the wake of her death, Shawn established the Sandra A. Whalen Scholarship to uphold her legacy. "It is a good way to honor her and keep her name alive. This scholarship is something positive to come out of the tragedy and grief," he said.

Shawn worked with SDSU gift planning officer Ned Gavlick to establish a scholarship that truly reflects Sandy and her interests, and then included SDSU in his estate plans to reinforce the scholarship many years from now. The journalism scholarship "...gives preference to students from South Dakota who are pursuing studies in journalism, communication studies, or political science."

A Brookings native, SDSU was very much a part of Shawn's childhood. So, when it came time for him



to start thinking about where he would attend college, Shawn said SDSU made the most sense.

An affordable college education mattered to Shawn. "I paid for school myself. My parents instilled in us to start saving for college at a very young age. I got a paper route when I was 10 and was mowing lawns for my college fund."

To help cover tuition, Shawn worked 20-plus hours a week – first for

"It is a good way to honor her and keep her name alive. This scholarship is something positive to come out of the tragedy and grief." - Shawn Whalen Kmart, then for Daktronics as an intern in the application engineering department. "I got this internship where I actually got to go upstairs and work with engineers who did custom projects. I got really well-rounded exposure at Daktronics."

Shawn is an Associate Electrical Engineer/ Communications & Security Specialist for Burns & McDonnell. He credits the Daktronics internship and the education he received at SDSU with helping him land his first job.

"When I graduated in 1991, the job market was terrible," he said. He got hired after a campus job fair interview. "I remember during the interview I could share stories of work experience from my internship at Daktronics."

Shawn also credits his parents, John and Peggy, both SDSU journalism graduates, for helping him to develop his communication skills.

When he first met Sandy, the fact that she was a journalism major gave them something to talk about. "I come from a family of journalists," explained Shawn.

In fact, his grandpa owned

several newspapers throughout the Midwest. In recognition of this legacy, the Whalen family funds the John and Genevieve Whalen Journalism Scholarship to honor Shawn's grandparents. This scholarship would familiarize Shawn to philanthropic giving at SDSU and set the stage for his own generosity later in life.

While Shawn spent most of his school week at State working and studying, Sandy was actively involved in campus activities. In addition to writing for the *Collegian* and Young Republicans, she served as the chairperson of the 1987 Hobo Day Parade.

"So much of our reason for meeting was SDSU, and we came back to celebrate Hobo Day nearly every year. As alumni, SDSU was still a good part of our life," he said.

The scholarship Shawn established is now part of Sandy's legacy. "For years to come, I want to get to see a South Dakota student get a scholarship in journalism that has her name attached to it," explained Shawn, "and to have students read about her and understand the life she had."



BOLD BODD BBDDE

The Campaign for South Dakota State University

The Bold & Blue campaign will elevate our university through investments in four key pillars that define the Jackrabbit identity.

- **Our People**, to fuel the enrichment of academic opportunities with scholarships for students, and support for faculty and programs that provide that margin of excellence.
- **Our Places**, to provide the spaces that enhance learning, research, and innovation, and venues that entertain and inspire.
- **Our Traditions**, to sustain and build those organizations, opportunities, and recurring events that define the well-rounded Jackrabbit experience.
- **Our Innovations**, to stimulate activity in research and discovery aimed at society's great challenges and opportunities.







The Campaign for **South Dakota State University**

Bold & Blue: The Campaign for South Dakota State University will position SDSU as a premier land-grant university, recognized for high value, innovation, and undeniable impact. Our goal to raise \$500 million will impact every aspect of State, enhancing academic success by bolstering student support and faculty resources.

Bold & Blue emphasizes opportunity and growth inside the classroom and out, enriching the Jackrabbit experience while maintaining our prestige as a university of unstoppable progress.

The campaign will further establish SDSU as a leader in scholarly pursuits and a top-tier destination for building cutting-edge careers that are signature to our university. This initiative will empower the university to do what it does best: **transform lives**.



BOLD describes our aspirations, our unwavering commitment to being a premier university. Bold speaks to our reputation as a university of firsts, forever forging ahead with unparalleled progress. With our most ambitious goal yet, we'll usher in innovations and milestones. The Jackrabbit family will collaborate with creativity, navigate with nimbleness, and dream with determination. Bold is about moving forward, taking chances, and embracing excellence at SDSU.

BLUE stands for our loyalty, affinity, and unceasing bond to this university. SDSU is the backdrop of life-changing decisions and lifelong relationships. It's a canvas upon which the Jackrabbit family paints a proud history of revolutionary impact and daring ideas, spanning centuries of growth and change. Together, we will sustain all that we love about SDSU while shaping the future for generations of Jackrabbits still to come. Through this campaign, we can demonstrate the limitless capacity of philanthropy from a community that never fails to bring the blue.



Sylvan Circle Society

The members marked in italics have since passed. We remember their legacy in making a difference at South Dakota State University.

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