

Martha Wood Faculty Development Endowed Fund

“Martha Wood Honored with Endowed Scholarship”

by Leigh Duncan, University Relations, for the Clayton State Retirees Association newsletter (September 2005)

The family of Dr. Martha Maxwell Wood, founder and director of the Southeastern Center for the Enhancement of Learning (SCEL) has recently endowed a \$50,000 scholarship at Clayton State University to support professional development for the university's faculty.

Wood, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Clayton State, has long been committed to education and professional development. The creation of SCEL is a direct result of Wood's tutelage under Professor Reuven Feuerstein, director of the International Center for the Enhancement of Learning in Jerusalem, Israel. In 1998, she completed study at Brown University for certification as a trainer for Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment.

The purpose of the Martha Wood Faculty Development Endowment Fund is to support professional development for Clayton State University faculty seeking to improve their teaching expertise, while broadening their knowledge of learning theory. Awards will be used for developmental activities focused on new or innovative teaching methods or programs, as well as for expanding the applicant's professional network and access to teaching resources.

“As an educator, it is my goal to support professional development, to encourage innovative teaching methods, and to provide means to support faculty seeking to improve their teaching expertise,” says Wood.

Two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to any faculty full or part-time with at least one year of teaching at Clayton State and who meet other qualifying criteria. Recipients will be required to submit a written report upon completion of their professional development activities.

Wood is married to Jim Wood, founder of Jim Wood & Associates (JWA), former owner/publisher of the Clayton News Daily, and a remaining founding member of the University Foundation's Board of Trustees.

With many years of family commitment to building this endowment and with assistance provided by BellSouth and Georgia Pacific (obtained by eldest son James M. Wood, III, who has been employed by both companies), the goal of a minimum of \$50,000 has been achieved.

Wood was honored on Sept. 6, 2005, at a special announcement ceremony, scheduled at noon in the University Center Commons area. The celebration corresponded with the annual Faculty Development Day.