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The seniors of the 1979 Razorback football team established an endowed scholarship to honor Dean Weber, the long-time director of athletic training at the University of Arkansas.

The 1979 University of Arkansas Razorback football team is one that fans will never forget. This team became the Southwest Conference Football Champions and then faced the Alabama Crimson Tide during the Jan. 1, 1980, Sugar Bowl. Even though Arkansas lost to Alabama — the team that went on to win the national championship — this exciting time in Arkansas history exemplified the commitment, teamwork and passion of the Razorbacks.

Seniors from the 1979 team joined together once again to honor Weber by establishing a scholarship endowment in his name. During their time as student-athletes, the teammates formed long, lasting friendships with Weber and knew they wanted to recognize his dedication to them and to the university. The purpose of the Dean Weber Scholarship Fund is to provide educational opportunities for students who are involved in the Athletic Training Education Program. More than $30,000 has been raised by the classmates for this effort.

Weber said: “This is definitely the highest honor one could hope to achieve: to be associated with an entire class of alumni athletes who have become your friends over the past 30 years and to be honored in a way that helps other university students in their pursuit of education. The 1979 Southwest Conference football champion seniors are to be commended for their achievements in this endeavor.”

Clay Edwards, associate vice chancellor for university development, said: “When the seniors from the 1979 Razorback football team approached us about doing something special for Dean, each person was adamant that this be given as a team — not as individuals. This group of student-athletes worked together years ago to achieve great things, and they worked together again to fulfill this significant goal on behalf of someone who is so meaningful to them.”

Frank Broyles said: “This was the last Senior Class I recruited, and they are a very special group of men. They were close as players and have remained close all these years. This is just like them: selfless and always thinking of the team first. We are so grateful they have done this for Dean. Dean’s work with our athletes has been an important part of our success over the years.”

The 1979 Razorback football team had one of the great seasons in school history. They were called “a team without stars” because of their focus on team accomplishments rather than individual recognition. The key to their success was attributed to the play and leadership of a strong senior class. The class members were well known for their close bond as friends and players, and prided themselves on being their best as a group rather than as individual players.

Kevin Scanlon, a ’79 teammate, said, “Our friendship with each other and with Dean is our biggest success.”

At their 25th reunion celebration in 2004, the seniors decided to commit themselves as a group to a project that would have a lasting effect and further strengthen their bond. They established three goals for their project: to continue their practice of achieving 100 percent participation as a group of 14 teammates, to give back to the University of Arkansas, and to honor their good friend Dean Weber for his friendship and his years of service and dedication to the university and the many student-athletes under his care. With 100 percent participation from the group, they achieved their goal with the establishment and funding of the Dean Weber Scholarship Fund.

It is with “gratitude, pride, admiration and love that we thank Dean,” said Jim “Blue Dog” Howard, a ’79 teammate.
When I attended the University of Arkansas, the campus was beautiful. The surrounding views were breathtaking, especially in the fall. Artichoke Magazine asked me what made me think about the future of this fine institution, as it would become decades down the road.

Now, when I visit campus, I am amazed. And the pride of my alma mater and amazement at the change. Amazing at how much has grown within, and kept the same sense of comfort and “home” I’ve lived for so long.

This past summer, the University of Arkansas School of Law hosted Norma Beasley, a 1953 graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law, to hear her share her time at the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1951 and the university’s Delta Gamma House, where she met her husband, Paul Young Jr., also a 1953 graduate.

Beasley is an attorney and counselor at Beasley & Williams, LLP, of Dallas, and she currently serves on the board of directors of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association. Beasley’s presence on the board of directors was as chairman of the board and chief executive officer. Throughout her life, she worked for the College of Women Who Have Won (1999) to build one of the most successful women’s organizations in the country and was selected by NBiOS Today Show as one of the most outstanding business women in America. She has been featured in several books including Who’s Who of American Law and the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership.

The School of Architecture Names

Gallery, Lecture Hall

The University of Arkansas School of Architecture in honor of Paul Young Jr. In recognition of the gift, the university named the new lecture hall in honor of the family, the university’s chancellor’s residence, made possible by a gift from Paul Young Jr. and his family.

Finally, in late October, Chi Omega Fraternity re-dedicated the Chi Omega Greek Theatre that precast concrete was the appropriate solution, but whose beautiful architecture and business programs at the University

Chi Omega Celebrates Greek Theatre Renovation

The University of Arkansas School of Architecture Celebrates New Entrance Hall

The School of Architecture also recently dedicated the Ken Shollmier Lecture Hall. On October 22, this event celebrated completion of the most recent renovation to the theatre.

The Greek Theatre stands today as a loving tribute to the founders of Chi Omega. The Greek Theatre is one of the most successful women’s organizations in the country and was selected by NBC Today Show as one of the most outstanding business women in America. She has been featured in several books including Who’s Who of American Law and the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership.

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In 2005, Wallace and Jama Fowler of Jonesboro made a $1.75 million gift commitment toward the construction of a university chancellor’s residence on the University of Arkansas campus. And, on Sept. 9, the university began construction. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on the corner of Razorback Road and Maple Street, the site of the future residence.

G. David Gearhart, vice chancellor for University Advancement, said: “To effectively greet and entertain the university’s most important visitors and guests – donors, state and federal legislators, foreign dignitaries, corporate executives, students and the public – the university needs such a facility. All of our Southeastern Conference peers have official residences that can accommodate large gatherings, as do most major national universities. Many other Arkansas institutions also have presidents’ or chancellors’ residences. They serve as focal points for activities promoting and representing the university.”

“The Fowlers have been loyal supporters of the university for many years and it is wonderful to see their gift put into action. I look forward to the day when this project is complete and the university community can begin to enjoy this much-needed and long-awaited facility,” Gearhart said.

Chancellor John A. White said: “When I first came to the university, there was already a great deal of discussion around building a chancellor’s residence. The Fowlers’ generosity has enabled us to make our plans a reality. It will mean a great deal to the future of this institution to have a meeting place that is ideal for welcoming visitors and guests to the University of Arkansas.”

Wallace Fowler attended the University of Arkansas and is chairman and chief executive officer of Liberty Bank of Arkansas as well as chairman of Fowler Foods Inc. He was a member of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century Steering Committee and a member of the Leadership and Principal Gifts Committee. Examples of the Fowlers’ wide-ranging giving to civic and social causes throughout Arkansas include the Fowler Center, a multipurpose community center at Arkansas State University, and their support of the Arkansas State University Museum. Jama Fowler is an active volunteer in the Jonesboro community. They are members of the University of Arkansas Chancellor’s Society.

Mr. Fowler has been a member of the chairman’s council of the 2004 Southern Legislative Conference, the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State University Foundation Inc., the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission, the Governor’s Citizens Council on Highways and Transportation, and the Greater Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, among his many affiliations. ASU named Mr. Fowler the Business Executive of the Year in 2003. He was honored with the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award at the Governor’s Conference on Tourism in 2002.

The Fowlers have three children, Wallace Fowler Jr., Chris Fowler and Mark Fowler.