



  
COLORADO MESA  
UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION

# PRESIDENTS' REPORT

July 2013 - June 2014

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# PRESIDENTS' REPORT

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Appreciation is extended to Denny Herzog and Jessica Peterson for their writing and editorial assistance. Special thanks to Mirella Garigen and Amber Crowe, at IDP, for collaboration on the report's design.

Cover photo of CMU Grad, Britnee Rivera from Mililani Town, Hawaii.

# THE PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Dear Friends,

Colorado Mesa University is so much more than a collection of buildings near North Avenue. We are a community within a community.

It's easy to tell our story by the numbers. CMU is nearing 10,000 students, with approximately 1,100 faculty and staff, more than 3,000 donors, and thousands of community members who visit our campus every year to enjoy our athletic and cultural offerings.

But that doesn't really give a complete picture. In fact, our story cannot be adequately told in the collective. Each of our students has his or her own experience, as does every faculty and staff member and each and every donor.

Every year the numbers grow, and with that growth come more challenges for CMU. We are committed, as we have always been, to providing the best education possible at an affordable price to every deserving student seeking a degree.

**We do that in the face of declining state and federal revenues. Yet last year, we were able to award more than \$700,000 in scholarships to deserving students, an increase of 40%.**

In these pages, you'll read about three people who funded CMU scholarships, and why they did it. Ron Davis is helping Eagle County students escape the cycle of poverty. Helen Stonebrink is encouraging students to go into agriculture. Bill Love wants part of his wife's legacy to live on through art and music students.

Scholarships are a key component in how CMU functions, allowing the university to maintain small class sizes, with instructors who really know the students. They allow us to train tomorrow's teachers, scientists, nurses and business professionals.



Gene Garcia, 2013 Distinguished Alumni

Gene Garcia, one of our Distinguished Alumni last year, knows firsthand the importance of not being an anonymous student. He is a 1966 graduate of then-Mesa College, who went on to earn a Ph.D. He has held positions of substantial responsibility in government and higher education and is the author of more than a dozen books. Garcia grew up in a family of migrant workers. Without scholarship assistance, he said, "I would have ended up back in the fields."

Yet he remembers well his days at Mesa, and the importance of the relationships he developed with his professors. "They influenced me in a more personal and social way than an academic way. It made a tremendous difference to me," Garcia said.

It is because of our supporters that we are able to provide meaningful assistance to our students and help them succeed.

Thank you for your commitment to and passion for higher education at CMU.

Tim Foster  
President of CMU

Lee Ann Shobe  
President of CMU Foundation



## THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

*Andrea Meza is a CMU student and loves the additional support she receives from her Guardian Angel.*

This story began 17 years ago in Southern California with a girl named **Becky**. She was 18 at the time, working in fast food and raising a 4-year-old son. She had no family. Her parents had disowned her when she became pregnant.

That story hasn't ended yet – and probably won't for some time.

**Ron Davis** was well along in a very successful career. He was a graduate of Cal State Fullerton and wanted to do something philanthropic for his alma mater. A school official pointed him toward Becky. "She's a good kid," he said. She just needed a break.

Becky became the first of what are now hundreds of **Guardian Scholars** when Davis decided to help her through school.

The Guardian Scholar graduation rate is higher than **90%**

Guardian Scholars are now at 70 schools around the country, and CMU is one of them.

Guardian Scholars do in fact get scholarships – they typically amount to whatever is needed after state and federal aid, usually about \$8,000 a year at CMU. But that's not all they get. Writing the check is only a small part of the program. "A lot of people can write the checks," Davis said. "Hands on support is our difference."

Every Guardian Scholar gets a **Guardian Angel**, someone who has pledged not just \$10,000 a year for four years, but also the time necessary to mentor and counsel the scholar. That can be a great deal of time. It works. Guardian Scholars all come from disadvantaged backgrounds, many from the foster care system, more often than not from poverty stricken homes. Some have suffered abuse.

Yet the Guardian Scholar graduation rate is higher than 90 percent.

CMU's Guardian Scholars are all from the Vail Valley, where Davis has now lived for more than two decades. This year there are 10 new scholars. Davis picked CMU – he could have picked any school in the state – because the school has "an outstanding product at a reasonable price" and he is impressed by **President Tim Foster's** "business approach to higher education combined with his hands-on compassion for each individual student who he knows by name."

**Don Remy**, another Guardian Angel in the Vail Valley, said the program "wouldn't be possible without the support we get from CMU." He can rattle off the names of half a dozen CMU staff members who he says are essential to the success of the program.

"The CMU staff, the Guardian Angels and the scholars are fully integrated into a family of support," Davis said.

One never knows where that relationship might lead. It was the holiday season a couple of years ago and Davis and Guardian Angel **Mark Kogan** were meeting with a Vail caterer. She said she'd just lost a key employee and was worried about her business in the upcoming busy season.

That's when Kogan remembered two CMU Guardian Scholars who were studying culinary arts. After a phone call they both had jobs in less than 30 minutes, and the caterer's staffing problem was solved.

**Chris Little** is a 2013 CMU Guardian Scholar graduate now attending law school at Drake University. He may no longer be in the scholarship program but he could be found one summer morning at the Davis residence, deep in a discussion with Ron about what kind of law he wanted to practice. The two had begun the discussion the night before and talked until 1am, after a party for 70 Scholars and Angels.

That's the thing about Guardian Scholars. When someone signs on to be a Scholar they're signing on for at least a four-year

relationship, and probably many years longer, with a Guardian Angel.

Remy tells the story of a budget training class he scheduled. All 10 of the freshman indicated they would attend. Three didn't, citing various reasons, none of them good.

"I texted those three and told them 'bad decision'," he said. The three are still in the program and have likely learned the first of many lessons from a Guardian Angel.

Commitments matter in this program.

The goal is to turn out not just an educated person, but a good, self-reliant citizen. "A hug or a kick in the pants, both have a place in the Guardian Scholars family," Davis said.

"These people care about you," Little said.

They care about you like you are "family." That is a word Davis comes back to again and again. "We are more than a scholarship. We are a family making dreams come true," Davis said. "That says it all."

And what about Becky? She finished her degree, had a successful career with Perrier, got married to a Skype executive and they had two more children. They live in Silicon Valley.

Ron Davis walked her down the aisle. ■



*Guardian Scholars Founder Ron Davis visits CMU regularly to meet with the Guardian Scholars.*



## THE CAROLYN D. LOVE ENDOWMENT



*'Bluebirds,' painted by Carolyn Love, was a gift to her friend Jan Pomrenke and is shown here with Mrs. Pomrenke's permission.*

**B**ill and Carolyn Love were never content to sit around the house and watch the world go by. They had a better idea of how to see it – from above, while flying in a tiny airplane. So that's what they did.

It was 1979. Bill removed the four rear seats from his Cessna Skymaster and replaced them with two extra fuel tanks. That was enough, he calculated, to fly 2,400 miles from Hilo, Hawaii, to Oakland, Calif. – the longest leg of their trip around the world. It took them seven months, with stops in 23 nations, to circumnavigate the globe. It was a journey most of us can only imagine.

Bill remembers it as their greatest adventure.

That it may have been, but there were many more trips to many more countries, and other out-of-the-ordinary experiences. They rode camels in Egypt and elephants in Thailand. There was the passage through the Panama Canal, and boat trips on the Mississippi and Columbia rivers, to name just a few.

When they were home, the Loves could be found on tennis courts, or the ski slopes. You could catch Carolyn at the piano, or in her studio, painting. Or you might find her having a spirited game of Hand and Foot with her Friday afternoon card group. In fact, it was on a ski hill in Sandpoint, Idaho, where the two met and began their 41 years together.

All those years and all those adventures came to an end last December, when Carolyn died at the age of 71. "She was an exceptional gal," Bill said. "What she did, she did well."



*She was a person of great talent who was happiest when she was passing her knowledge on to others*

Indeed she did. Her painting friends recall Carolyn as a gifted artist, a painter's painter, someone who was always willing to offer a constructive critique and share her many techniques.

Her husband remembers her in much the same way. She was a person of great talent who was happiest when she was passing her knowledge on to others.

On his office walls at CabParts, Inc. – the cabinet manufacturing company he owns – are pictures of the Skymaster, and pictures of Carolyn.

Ask him what he does at work and his answer is "not much." That's not likely the case, though. Among other things, he's happy to give a visitor a tour. His employees greet him with a friendly "Hi Bill."

Being a small business owner is at least his third career. When he retired for the first time, he had been a mining engineer with Hecla Mining Company for 31 years. He worked for Occidental Oil Shale, Inc. for three years, but lost that job in 1982 – as did thousands of other people in western Colorado during the oil shale bust. In 1985, an economically dark year on the Western Slope, he bought CabParts.

Bill Love is 93 now and still spends seven or eight hours a day in his office.

After Carolyn's death that's where he sat and pondered what he could do to memorialize his talented wife.

He knew he wanted to do something to honor Carolyn's memory, but he wasn't sure what.

Then a couple of members of Carolyn's card group approached him with an idea.

The Hand and Foot players had a game scheduled for the day after Carolyn died. They met, but didn't play cards. Instead they discussed what they could do to remember their friend.

"How about scholarships for CMU students?" they suggested; scholarships in art and music, Carolyn's two biggest passions. It didn't take Bill long to say yes.

There will be eight scholarships in all – four in music and four in art. For him, they will serve "as a tribute to her generous and inspiring spirit, and her love of all things beautiful."

That's not all, though. When music students perform at CMU, they will do so in what will be renamed later this year the Carolyn D. Love Recital Hall.

"Carolyn was the most giving and thoughtful person I've ever known," said Patti Milius, a Friday afternoon card player and friend of the Loves since they moved to town. "She was a tremendous friend." ■

# “THOSE COWS SURE MAKE GOOD PEOPLE”

*Helen Stonebrink*



*Helen Stonebrink and scholarship recipient Shelby Miller, enjoy a quiet visit with the horse that Shelby competes on.*

The Homestead Act may be the single most important piece of legislation ever passed, if you ask **Helen Stonebrink**.

It set the course of her life. Now 91, and a resident of The Oaks in Fruita, she is happy to tell a visitor about her strong agricultural background, and her hopes and fears for the future of family farms.

Her love affair with the land began when her father brought the family west, to Routt County, to teach school. But soon after arriving in Colorado he took advantage of the Homestead Act and acquired ranch land.

The family grew deep roots in the agricultural lifestyle. Stonebrink has spent nearly her entire life on a ranch. She married a rancher from northeast Oregon, and they ranched there until he died.

If there is one thing she wants to do now, it is whatever she can to encourage younger generations to preserve the family farm. Corporate farming and agricultural imports are anathema to her.

“I’m amazed to see how many people think it’s OK to import food,” she said. “It isn’t.”

To that end, she funded the **Clyde and Helen Stonebrink Agricultural Scholarships**, to be awarded to students who are committed to carrying on an agricultural or agrarian lifestyle. The scholarships will support one student at Western Colorado Community College, and one at CMU, every year.

“We need to encourage farming and ranching in our young people. We’re losing our people and that means the land will fall into huge holdings rather than family farms,” she said.

That notion of young people engaging in farming or ranching is a recurring theme in any conversation with Stonebrink.

We’re losing the land, she fears, to corporate farming – and that’s not something she’s willing to live with. ■

## THE FINANCIAL REPORT



The Colorado Mesa University Foundation is proud to report a successful year. Significant support continues to come from individuals, government entities, corporations and foundations. In our 2014 Fiscal Year:

**14% increase**  
in total contributions over the previous fiscal year

**40% increase**  
in scholarship dollars awarded

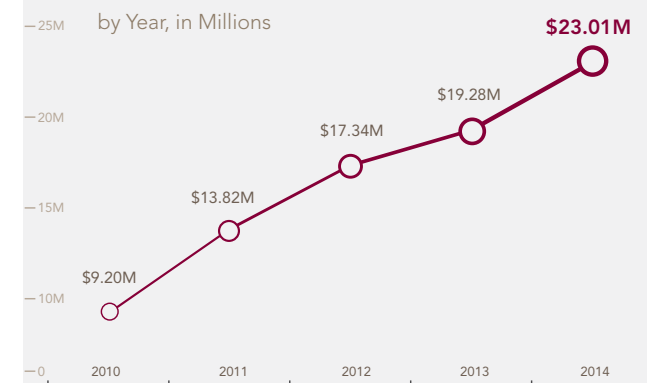
**Nearly \$4M growth**  
in the endowment

**15.9% return**  
on investments in the endowment fund

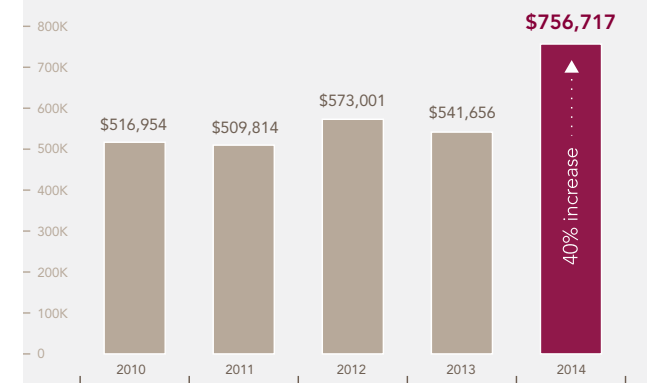
**100% of all gifts**  
support students. No fees are taken from donations.

	2013	2014
Gifts Received	\$ 3,487,521	\$ 3,972,858
Donors	3,648	3,310
Scholarships awarded	\$ 541,656	\$ 756,717
Endowment Value	\$ 19,284,005	\$ 23,012,802

### Endowment Value



### Scholarship Dollars Awarded



# DONOR HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all of our donors for their dedication to supporting student success at Colorado Mesa University. The following donors made gifts of \$1,000 or more to the CMU Foundation between **July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014**. We also greatly appreciate the 3,000+ donors who are not listed but made a significant impact on the educational experience of all CMU students.

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\$100,000 and above

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Helen M. Stonebrink

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## Cum Laude

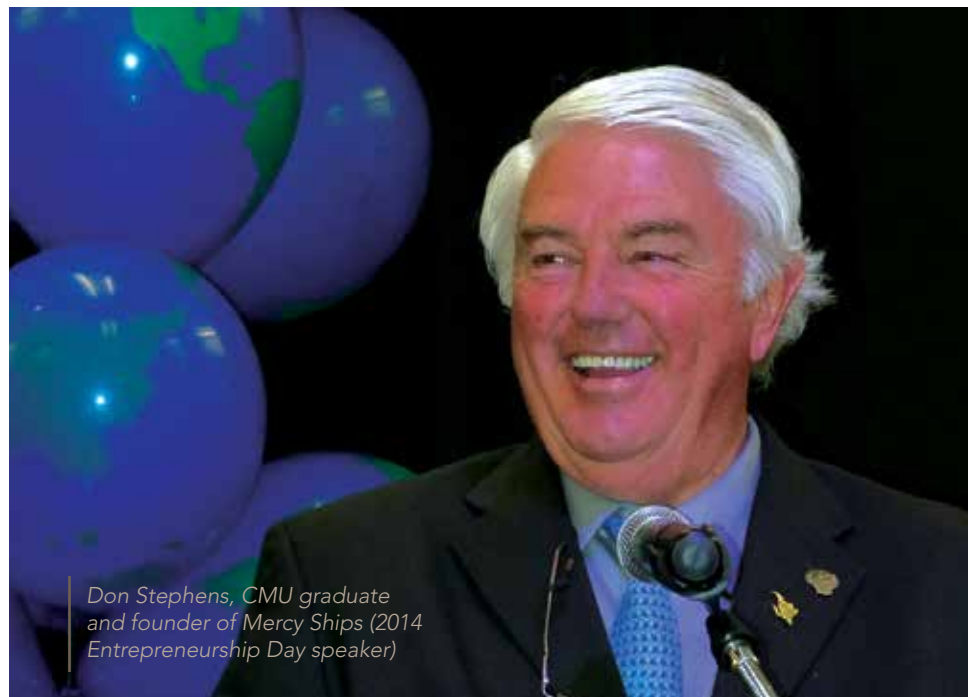
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*Don Stephens, CMU graduate and founder of Mercy Ships (2014 Entrepreneurship Day speaker)*



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## Distinguished Scholars

\$1,000-\$2,499

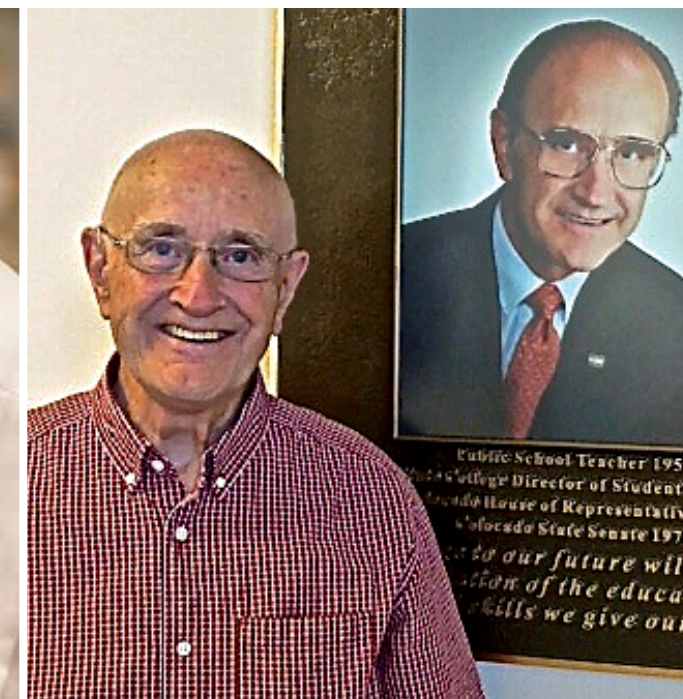
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Jake and Jennifer Aubert  
Robert W. Bacon

## Distinguished Scholars

continued

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## WAYS TO GIVE

The opportunity to pursue higher education is limited for many students by financial pressures that are made greater by decreased state funding and rising tuition costs. This makes even the relatively affordable costs of attending Colorado Mesa University out-of-reach for many students.

Gifts to the Colorado Mesa University Foundation support student success by providing critical financial assistance for scholarships and academic programs. Since CMU's founding in 1925, the university has transformed students' lives, built a better-educated citizenry and strengthened the region's workforce.

### Check

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### Credit Card

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