



News for Members of The Greystone Circle

A helping hand: Dedicated veterinarian supports students through his legacy

When Dr. James (Jim) Mailer of Stettler, Alta., passed away on July 20, 2011, he left a generous gift of \$200,000 to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN). The legacy was his way of giving back to the institution that had laid the foundation for his successful and rewarding career as a veterinarian.

Jim's generous gift supports research activities and scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students in WCVN. Additionally, the *James Peter Mailer Student Bursary Fund* was created to support five veterinary students each year who wish to enter mixed animal or large animal practice.

"It was important for him to give back to the college for all that he was given as a result of his education," explains his daughter Brenda Mailer. "And he wanted to contribute to those areas that will help to keep building the veterinary profession."

Brenda describes her father as a man who lived his life well – a dedicated veterinarian who made a difference to his profession and to his community, but most importantly to his family.

After graduating from the WCVN in 1977, Jim and his wife Joyce moved to Stettler where he began his career at the Stettler Veterinary Clinic.

"With Mom's help he dedicated himself to the practice," Brenda recalls. "He never turned down a call, no matter what time of day or night or how much sleep he had. I remember that he'd look so tired, especially during those heavy calving seasons, but he always just kept going. It was so important for him to provide good customer service."

He also looked forward to mentoring and working with the veterinary students, either as summer students or

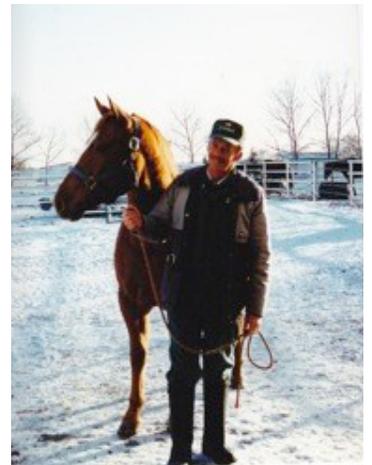
as new graduates. "Many of the students who worked with dad have told us how appreciative they were of his dedication to their learning experience," says Brenda. "They tell us that he was a fantastic teacher who would help them to self-discover the answers rather than just tell them what to do."

His daughters, Brenda and Sheree, remember their father's sense of humour, his flair for calligraphy and photography and his keen interest in politics and world affairs. But most importantly, they remember him as a man who enjoyed life and loved being a veterinarian.

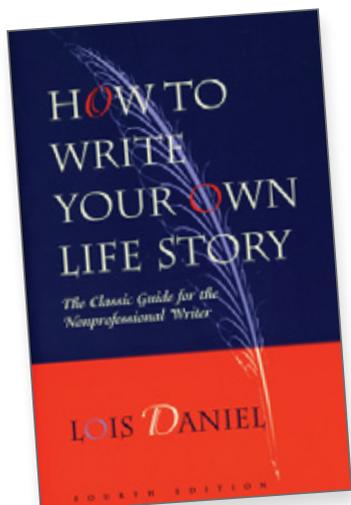
"To this day, anyone who knew our dad tells us what a wonderful veterinarian he was," says Brenda. "He was a kind, generous person, and his values and wisdom will stay with us forever."



Skylar Bieleny, recipient of this year's *James Peter Mailer Student Bursary Fund*, is now gaining valuable experience for a future career in large animal veterinary medicine.



Jim's strong work ethic, his belief in lifelong learning and his dedication to his career have motivated his daughters to "give everything your all and don't do anything half way."



The Greystone Circle Book Club

How to Write Your Own Life Story: The Classic Guide for the Nonprofessional Writer
by Lois Daniel

Writing the story of one's life sounds like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. This warmhearted, encouraging guide helps readers record the events of their lives for family and friends. If you would like to borrow our copy, please contact the Planned Giving office.





Good fit: Emotional connection inspires lifetime of service

As a student advocate, Chancellor Vera Pezer helped build a richer and more supportive environment at the University of Saskatchewan. During her early days in Student Counselling, she identified many barriers to student success; so, as Associate Vice-President of Student Services, she went on to establish services and support programs to meet students' diverse needs. This evolution has been vital for the university. "We serve the public," she says. "The more diverse we are, the more we reflect the society that we serve."

Dr. Pezer came to the U of S in the 1960s from a small community near Melfort. Being the only university student from a high school graduating class of four was daunting at first. "It was a huge jump for me to come here," she says. "I think it explains my interest in student services."

Taking up familiar hometown sports at university helped ease the transition—and led to national success in softball and curling. "Curling is, by its nature, social," says the four-time Canadian ladies' champion. "You're a small team, you make friends, and you're very close to each other. It was a good fit for me."

To help future female Huskie athletes, Dr. Pezer has donated the future proceeds of a life insurance policy to establish scholarship support. She calls her planned gift a recognition of her emotional connection with the university, students and sport, which all played a huge role in her life.

After six years as Chancellor, Dr. Pezer is now preparing to step down from her role. However, she is pleased to continue serving as the Patron Member for the Greystone Circle, helping to honour those who remember the university in their estate plans.

"I had the good fortune to be a student here, and to spend a good part of my challenging and rewarding career helping students getting their degrees. Now I've had the good fortune, as Chancellor, to confer their degrees," she smiles. "So I've come full circle."



Chancellor Vera Pezer stands in the Bowl, reflecting on her lifetime of service to the U of S. Dr. Pezer has made a planned gift to support female Huskie athletes, in gratitude to the university, which has played a huge role in her life.

Save the Date!

Greystone Circle Social – Friday June 14, 2013

Be sure to watch your mailbox for your invitation to this special event.

Greystone Circle member, Coreen Scott, encourages all members to attend this year's event. "It is a great opportunity to meet other members, and celebrate our future gifts. I am looking forward to this year's gathering, so that I can hear other members' stories, and share how we will all make a difference in someone's life."

Cathie and CD McIvor, members since 2009, enjoyed an afternoon of music and conversation at the 2012 Greystone Circle appreciation event.



Show your U of S pride by wearing your Greystone Circle member pin to this year's event.

