



# Fort Foundation Focus

by Fred A. Rose, Volunteer Publicist

[www.fortfoundation.org](http://www.fortfoundation.org)

Hey! Its scholarship season again! I think that many of you know that an unusually large number, and dollar amount, of local scholarships are awarded to Fort High School graduates. At the recent High School Award Ceremony (May 30<sup>th</sup>), a little over \$300,000 of local scholarships were awarded to about 60 High School seniors. Of that, \$87,000 were from the Community Foundation. In addition, the Foundation is granting about \$75,000 to former Fort High students for post-graduate degrees, a total of more than \$160,000 from the Foundation alone! Quite spectacular, won't you agree, in a city of less than 12,000, and a graduating class of just 225 students!

In a column last fall (October 4, 2006) I talked about the new General Scholarship fund. However, most of the Foundation's scholarships are named for a donor or in honor of someone. So In this column I would like to talk about some of those named scholarship funds and the people behind them. The list is impressive:

- Walter and Louise Buell
- Jason Dahnert
- Juanita Schreiner
- Maurice and Clara B. Staller
- Eileen Harrison
- Jerome Hake
- Ben and Ada Hake
- Ralph and Clara Rutridge
- AAUW Second Chance
- Knox/AAUW
- Isabel Mathews
- James and Frances Luther
- Dr. James Russell

And, several of these funds support multiple scholarships! For example, the Buell fund supports the Buell Merit Scholarship, the Buell Honor Scholarship, and the Buell Graduate Scholarship. The Knox/AAUW fund supports the AAUW Adopt-a-Student Scholarship and a Graduate Scholarship.

There isn't room here for details about all of them, but I thought I would discuss a couple of them in this column and plan on providing details about some of the others in future columns.

Jane Knox was born in Painesdale, Michigan. She attended the Chicago Art Institute and the University of Wisconsin-Madison before entering Michigan State University where she graduated magna cum laude. Before her marriage to William D. Knox, she taught high school mathematics and English. Following marriage, they resided in Fort Atkinson where she was a prominent and active

worker in the community. She was especially active in the work of the local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) where she was a Charter and Life member.

She lent strong personal and financial support to the scholarship activities of the group. Following her death in 1987, the Knox family established a memorial fund through the Foundation for the Knox/AAUW Scholarship Fund.

Another one, the Eileen Harrison Education Scholarship, is a bit unusual. Unlike the other scholarships in the Foundation's care, she is still with us. The scholarship was funded by her husband, Martin Harrison, in honor of his wife. What a gift! Hey guys, how many of us have ever thought of a Valentine's or anniversary gift to rival that?

Eileen was a kindergarten teacher in the Fort Atkinson School District for 28 years, and it was actually her retirement that prompted her husband to create this scholarship in her honor. Initially she commented to some of her friends, "I don't know how to properly react – all of them [the other scholarships] are from people who are dead" During an interview in preparation for this column, she told me, "I have come to appreciate the opportunity to be involved in giving some much deserved assistance to those pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in education," a statement that makes me feel that she is now a bit more comfortable with the unusual honor bestowed upon her by her husband.

The point I would like to make is that a scholarship fund does not have to be dedicated to the memory of someone no longer with us. Is there any chance that you might consider bestowing that honor on one of your loved ones?

And, you know, your family as a whole might consider endowing a scholarship. In addition to the endless (literally) good it does for the community, it is a way of guaranteeing that decades from now, even **centuries** from now (think about that), the family name will be remembered by future citizens of Fort. You were here, and left a mark!

Anyone needing more information, or who would like to make a donation to the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation, is asked to contact Helen Rose, Program Administrator, at 920-563-3210 (office), 920-563-4926 (home), or visit the Foundation's Web site at [www.fortfoundation.org](http://www.fortfoundation.org). By the way, there is a lot more information about all of these scholarships on the Foundation's Web site, and it is updated regularly. Take a look when you have a minute!