POWER. PASSION. PURPOSE.

The theme for the 2012 Women and Philanthropy Workshop, held April 18 at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, neatly describes the message that keynote speaker Margaret May Damen shared with the women (and men!) who attended this year’s workshop. Damen shared powerful and insightful remarks as she encouraged attendees to reflect on the impact they want to have on the world around them. She also led very lively small group discussions that inspired participants to think about their own philanthropic past in order to get them thinking about their philanthropic futures. The discussion sessions gave the guests an opportunity to reflect on what inspires them to support the programs and organizations they are involved with even as they consider what kind of legacy they want to leave through philanthropic efforts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

The volunteers and staff of the Women and Philanthropy initiative wish to express their heartfelt thanks to Colleen Armstrong, who completed her second four-year term as a committee member on June 30. Colleen, a 1982 graduate of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was a member of Alpha Phi sorority and was involved in both Homecoming and VEISHEA, among other activities, as a student at Iowa State.

She has continued to support Iowa State as an alumna with giving to Cyclone Athletics, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and other areas on campus. Colleen is also a lifetime member of the ISU Alumni Association. Thank you, Colleen, for your support for and advocacy on behalf of the Women and Philanthropy program!
Just a few decades ago, times were different for women in higher education. As recently as the 1960s, gender often played a key role in guiding a person’s field of study. Today, as women who attended school in that era contribute to Iowa State, many are especially committed to creating scholarships that enable young women to freely pursue their academic and professional passions.

Diane Brandt (1961, B.S. Textiles and Clothing) is one such alumna. Last year, through her estate, she established an endowed fund that will serve many generations of Iowa State women. Born Diane Robinson in Emmet County, Iowa in 1938, Brandt attended high school in Armstrong, pursued a degree at Iowa State, and married fellow student Ray Brandt. After graduation, they moved to Cedar Falls when Ray became an engineer with John Deere. The couple divorced in 1978.

Soon after arriving in Cedar Falls, Brandt became involved in public service, volunteering on the Cedar Falls Planning and Zoning Commission and serving as president of the Waterloo Branch of the American Association of University Women, president of the League of Women Voters of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, and as a board member of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. After working with these organizations for more than ten years, she ran for the Iowa House of Representatives and won, serving from 1975 to 1982. Brandt’s friend and fellow representative Jane Teaford noted, “Diane became interested in working in the public sector to have a positive influence on the community and the state. She could always be counted on for enlightened public policy positions.”

Jean Lloyd-Jones, who was a Johnson County state representative from 1978 to 1989 and a state senator from 1989 to 1994, said, “We all thought very highly of Diane. She worked hard on legislation and researched bills carefully; she was often the one still working in the chamber after everyone else had gone.”

After leaving public service, Brandt completed a master’s degree in accounting in 1984 at the University of Northern Iowa and took a position at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, returning to Cedar Falls in 1999. Through the years, she maintained her Cyclone ties, keeping in touch with friends like Beverly Madden (1960 B.S., 1970 M.S.), a fellow member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. “Diane was a strong, conscientious student involved in sorority and campus activities,” recalled Madden. “Her leadership in community and state service attests to the value of a land-grant education and will serve as a role model for the women who are able to study at Iowa State thanks to the scholarships she’s provided.”

When Brandt’s health began to fail in 2003, she let Iowa State know of her desire to give the value of her estate

ISU Foundation Women and Philanthropy Committee

Colleen Armstrong
West Des Moines, Iowa

Cynthia Jeffrey
Ames, Iowa

Kristi Knous, Chair Elect
Urbandale, Iowa

Becky Kresowik
Iowa City, Iowa

Lora Talbot
Belmond, Iowa

Dee Reinhart Vandeventer, Chair
Cedar Falls, Iowa

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
The Women and Philanthropy Committee welcomes four new members who will begin their four year terms July 1, 2012:

Chris Cornelius
Bellevue, Iowa

Kathryn Bettis
Glenview, Illinois

Tamara Stein
Muscatine, Iowa

Susan Streit
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The committee is looking forward to working closely with these ladies in the future and is excited to see what each of these women have to offer!

New committee members, L–R: Susan Streit, Chris Cornelius, Kathryn Bettis
Not pictured: Tamara Stein
Perhaps you share my feelings that so much of what we are today is because of what we learned and experienced at Iowa State. I’m so grateful to the Foundation for the opportunity to pay back a bit by serving as the Women and Philanthropy Chair these past three years. It has been an honor for me to have the opportunity to be a part of such a talented committee of committed women and to share both Iowa State’s and my own philanthropic story with all of the many wonderful, giving women I have met.

One of the committee’s greatest accomplishments over the last three years was rewriting our business plan. The revised vision and mission statements truly get to the core of this program: To educate and encourage women to be philanthropic leaders at Iowa State University and in their communities. We’ve lived that mission through the impactful annual programs many of you have experienced. That certainly was true with this year’s inspirational workshop led by Margaret May Damen.

This is the last time for me to publicly thank both the W&RP committee and the ISU Foundation staff — Melissa Rowan, Jolene Johnson and Larissa Holtmyer Jones — for providing the power behind our work. I want to especially acknowledge Colleen Armstrong’s contribution to the Women and Philanthropy initiative as she completes her second term as a committee member. If you haven’t already, you can read a bit more about Colleen's involvement with Iowa State on the front page of this issue.

And as we thank Colleen for her years of service, we now welcome our new committee members; Kathryn Bettis, Chris Cornelius, Tammy Stein and Suzy Streit. Leading them and the rest of the committee will be your new chair, Kristi Knaus. In looking to the next two years, there’s no doubt in my mind that the best is yet to come.

Dee Reinhart Vandeventer ’75
Chair, Women & Philanthropy Committee
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who attended the Spring 2012 Women and Philanthropy Workshop! Here is a sample of responses from attendees about what they liked most about this year’s workshop:

- The discussion sessions gave us a chance to get to know one another. Also, I felt the stories shared were great.
- The excellent speaker and networking with others.
- Sharing ideas and thoughts about philanthropy.
- Collaboration among women.
- Being given the confidence to go forward.

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