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Donor Sadie Boyer '58 Connects with Late Professor's Family, Makes New Gifts to Fund

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – One piece of advice from a math professor had a profound impact on Sadie Boyer’s career and life. Nearly 60 years later, she’s had the opportunity to thank her professor’s family and pay forward that kindness through a scholarship for young women pursuing STEM careers.

Boyer’s connection with the late professor’s family helped her decide to make two major gifts totaling more than $26,000 to the Sadie Livingston Boyer – Dale Boyer Endowed Scholarship Fund. The fund supports students majoring in mathematics, chemistry, biology, environmental studies, human nutrition or pre-engineering, with first preference given to female students.

As a Winthrop senior in 1958, Boyer said she had plans to work for a stock brokerage firm. But Professor of Mathematics G.W. Hahn, who recognized her talents, warned Boyer that opportunities for women in the field were slim and encouraged her to pursue other career options. Hahn’s advice led her to accept a position with NASA – the beginning of a fruitful 32-year career punctuated with numerous achievements and firsts.

Hahn’s earnest advice, Boyer explained, changed the course of her career and her life. At NASA, Boyer was able to advance, and she and her husband, Dale, were able to save money and travel the world.

“Over all those years, I’ve thought about this man and realized that if he hadn’t come to me and advised me, I probably would have gone to work for a stock brokerage firm and been stuck there,” said Boyer, who credited Ken Sheetz, associate vice president for advancement at Winthrop, with helping her locate Hahn’s family.

Connecting with his family in Maryland has given her “great closure,” while learning more about Hahn’s life encouraged Boyer’s decision to make additional gifts to the Sadie Livingston Boyer – Dale Boyer Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“Part of Professor Hahn’s happiness was helping people,” said Boyer. “I had the wonderful opportunity to thank the family of the man who made my life better, and who made the lives of other people better.”

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