Conger bequest helps educate new public health leaders

When Harold Conger finished his engineering degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was eager to see the world. Through the U.S. Agency for International Development, he traveled to Guatemala City, where he helped build Roosevelt Hospital, the country’s largest public medical facility.

Perhaps it was there he began to think about the importance of water and sanitation and other public health issues. He obtained a Master of Public Health degree in health policy and administration from UNC in 1958. After the degree, Conger quickly utilized his new skills when USAID assigned him to Quito, Ecuador, as director of health services for the U.S. Operations Mission. His responsibilities included evaluating water supplies and improving existing water systems.

In 1971, Conger retired after 35 years of government service. In 2003, at age 93, he returned to Guatemala to work on a Habitat for Humanity project.

When Mr. Conger died in October 2011, he left a gift of $50,000 to UNC’s public health school for a “Class of 1958 Fund.” The fund will be used to establish the Class of 1958 Scholarship, which will be awarded annually. Other members of the class are invited to participate.

“Harold deeply appreciated the education he received at The University of North Carolina,” says his son-in-law, Elwood (“Woody”) Hughes, “and he spoke fondly of his time in Chapel Hill.”

Class of 2012 Scholarship

Our alumni can lay claim to every superlative adjective—Motivated! Dedicated! Generous! Involved!

Current Alumni Association president Joseph John, MHA, and incoming president Priscilla Guild, MSPH, have committed more than $21,000 for the School’s Alumni Association Scholarship. The association is now matching, dollar for dollar, a student government initiative to establish a Class of 2012 legacy scholarship. Thanks to students, staff and faculty members, and alumni who joined in their efforts, student government leaders already are funding a second $5,000 scholarship.

“Working with the class of 2012 Annual Fund Scholarship has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at the School,” says Clayton Velicer, student government co-president. “As a current student, I know how difficult it can be to secure financial aid. It is a wonderful feeling to know that through the generous support of current students, faculty members and alumni, a UNC public health student will have this kind of support.”

To learn more about the Class of 2012 initiative, purchase a T-shirt or make a donation, visit http://studentorgs.unc.edu/subsph.