Private Gift Helps Set Course for SeaDoc Society

Ron and Kathleen McDowell of Eastsound, Washington, believe that scientific research is an essential tool of policymakers. They have endowed the Pacific Northwest Fund, which supports the regional director and scientist position of the SeaDoc Society.

The SeaDoc Society is a marine ecosystem health program of the Wildlife Health Center created to address the decline in marine wildlife such as seabirds, whales, and abalone, and the overall health of marine ecosystems. Its activities in the Pacific Northwest and California are under the direction of Dr. Kirsten Gilardi, who is in the early stages of extending the program to include the Baja California coastal ecosystem.

The SeaDoc Society’s Pacific Northwest Regional Director and Chief Scientist Joe Gaydos says, “The Puget Sound, Northwest Straits and Georgia Basin waters are in trouble, and that affects our health, wealth and peace of mind. We deeply appreciate the leadership that Ron and Kathy McDowell and Dean Bennie Osburn have provided in the effort to support needed research and get it into the hands of people who can use it.”

SeaDoc Society scientific expertise helped inform the Washington governor’s initiative to clean up and restore a healthy Puget Sound.

Also, using the SeaDoc model in negotiations with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Wildlife Health Center has signed a memorandum of understanding with Yellowstone National Park and Montana State University to manage wildlife health in the park and Greater Yellowstone area.

Graduate Fellowship Honors Richard Freedland

The 2006 Richard A. Freedland Fellowship was awarded to Angelo Arias, a PhD student in the Pharmacology/Toxicology Graduate Group under the mentorship of Dr. James Angelastro in the school’s Department of Molecular Biosciences. Mr. Arias is investigating the role of a specific protein, ATF5, in glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer.

Selection of a Freedland fellow is based on how well the individual reflects Dr. Freedland’s high standards for research excellence.

Dr. Freedland, still a member of the Graduate Group in Nutrition, taught and carried out research in physiological chemistry and the dynamics of animal metabolism, including the effects of hormones, nutrition and genetics on carbohydrate and lipid metabolism.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

New Law Benefits School

For a limited time, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides a unique opportunity for legal and financial planners, their clients and charities. During 2007, the owner of an individual retirement account (IRA) may direct a transfer of funds from the account directly to the School of Veterinary Medicine. The new law allows people age 70 ½ or older to exclude up to $100,000 from their gross income during tax years 2006 and 2007 for cash gifts made directly to qualified charities, without paying taxes on the distribution. Both traditional and Roth IRAs are eligible for the charitable rollover.

Among the individuals most likely to benefit include those who must take mandatory minimum withdrawals, but don’t need the extra income; those whose major assets reside in their IRAs, and who wish to make a charitable gift during their lifetime; and those who have made estate plans to leave the balance of their IRAs to charity.

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Gary Rogers of Orinda, California, transferred $100,000 from his IRA to the School of Veterinary Medicine to assist in construction of the veterinary research building, Vet Med III B. To learn more about how you can help the school by taking advantage of this opportunity, contact the development office at (530) 752-7024.