



Photo by Warren Mell/McCaw Cellular

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

In the 11-year-old tradition of honoring outstanding Seattle University graduates and those who serve the university, we present this year's winners of the Alumni Awards. These deserving people will gather with their friends and family at a banquet in their honor on May 13, where their combined years of service and professional achievement will be recounted.

by Nani Paape and Courtenay Harris

It seems appropriate that Steve Hooper, president and CEO of AT&T Wireless Services, would describe his vision for a wireless future from a hands-free cellular phone in his car. Heading toward the airport, Hooper outlined cellular technology's future impact on the average person.

"This conversation is a good example. Wireless communication will mean a more peaceful existence, one not tethered to a telephone cord. People will communicate anywhere, anytime, just like we're doing now."

He continued, "Everybody is dealing with an avalanche of information. In the future, you'll use one device connected to a wireless network. With that personal assistant, you'll be able to identify the information that's important to you and screen out the rest, and prioritize time for important things like family and friends."

Hooper said two things prepared him to guide the company that's revolutionizing communication. "My experiences at Seattle University taught me how to think things through, not just do. The second thing was the work ethic that I learned from my mom and grandfather, who said, 'work hard, work smart. Let your actions speak for themselves.'"

After graduating from Seattle University with a degree in civil engineering, Hooper decided to get some business experience before pursuing an MBA. He worked as a naval architect-in-training, then spent two years with C.F. Braun, an

**STEVE
HOOPER**
1975
Alumnus of the Year

**"WORK HARD, WORK SMART.
LET YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK
FOR THEMSELVES."**

engineering construction firm. Hooper received his MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Some of his Wharton School friends thought they would step right into prestigious jobs after graduation, but Hooper had a different plan.

"I wanted to advance to a key leadership role, but I was never in a hurry to get the top job right away. I was willing to pay my dues, work hard, show loyalty and commitment, and work my way up."

Twelve years ago, Hooper accepted the post of financial analyst at McCaw Communications, a promising young technology company. Adhering to his family's work ethic, Hooper helped the company grow as his job titles did. He was in turn controller, treasurer, vice president, executive vice-president, and

CFO. Shortly after McCaw's 1994 merger with AT&T, Hooper became president and CEO of the new industry giant. "Some of my Wharton School friends are still hopping from company to company, trying to land that top job," he commented.

Today, Hooper serves on the MBA advisory board for the Albers School of Business and Economics and mentor to MBA candidates. Calling his years at the university the most rewarding and enjoyable of his academic career, Hooper said he had always wanted to pay back some of what Father Maguire, Father Powers, and the Engineering Department's Dick Schwagler had invested in him. "Dr. Schwagler was instrumental...a great friend and mentor, a great teacher." He added that he hopes to have the opportunity to teach at Seattle University one day.

Reserving time to spend with his wife, Cathy Beth, and children, Steven Jr., 14; Catherine, 11; and Collette, 8, isn't always easy. "I've taken a couple steps backward lately because of the merger," he sighed, "but my family has been tremendous."

As he neared the airport, Hooper revealed that, despite feeling honored to receive the Alumnus of the Year award, he finds all of this attention difficult. "I'm kind of humble. I just work hard, and that's what I hope people will appreciate. I'm still a regular person who cares most about treating people with dignity and respect."

—N. Paape

Whenever Norman Chamberlain's father encouraged him to excel, he advised, "Norman, no matter what you have to do to get it, get an education." Chamberlain completed his high school courses a year early, and won admission to Walla Walla College, where he prepared for a human services career. While he and his wife, Barbara, helped to raise three daughters, Rebecca, Bonita, and Bethany, Chamberlain was a teacher, counselor, businessman, volunteer, and student. Taking his dad's advice to heart, he earned four college degrees before capping them off with a doctorate in education from Seattle University.

To explain his service philosophy, Chamberlain recited, "Life is love and love is service." He continued, "This phrase has directed my life and most of my decisions." Over the years, this philosophy of loving service has led Chamberlain to unexpected opportunities.

One opportunity came many years ago when he volunteered as group counselor for residents of a halfway house. Chamberlain found the men to be "not stereotypes, but bright, interesting characters." Before long, he and his wife had opened their home to one of the men to help him put his life back together. That fellow was the first of many such guests. "I didn't



Photo by Larry Gill

NORMAN CHAMBERLAIN 1981

Community Service Award

"LIFE IS LOVE AND LOVE IS SERVICE."

know anything about rehabilitation then, but I knew about the pragmatic things: how to get a job, how to have friends," explained Chamberlain.

Then, he said wryly, "Something happened by accident."

The accident Chamberlain referred to was a debate with a lawn mower. The lawn mower won, and Chamberlain lost two toes in the argument.

Afterward, the men at the halfway house sent a touching get-well card. Along with it, Dick Hudson and Lloyd Snyder delivered a job offer. Would Chamberlain serve as executive director of Pioneer Human Services, an innovative offender and substance abuse rehabilitation program? After Chamberlain's release from the hospital, he limped into Pioneer's office and began what became a 17-year career of service in corrections and rehabilitation.

Asked about his graduate studies at Seattle University, Chamberlain replied, "The nurturing atmosphere of fellowship and friendship helped me define my own limits and better identify what I wanted to do." In the educational leadership program, he rediscovered faculty member Roy Wahle, the guidance counselor who had made it possible for him to finish high school early. "He became a very dear friend," Chamberlain recounted. He also cited Sister

Jeanette Sheen for inspiring creativity and spontaneity.

Chamberlain has taught at Seattle University and several area colleges. He has served on boards and national associations to improve local and national correctional standards and policies. A long list of distinguished service awards celebrates his contributions, including the 1991 Washington State Council on Crime and Delinquency Mark F. Cooper Lifetime Achievement Award.

In recent years, Chamberlain and his family turned to community building in their neighborhood, Seattle's Rainier Valley. He and Barbara, a retired math teacher, helped found the Southeast Seattle Crime Prevention Council, honored by President Bush as the 13th Point of Light. They also donated land

for and worked to build the Southeast Seattle Senior Center. And Chamberlain served two terms as president of the Rainier Chamber of Commerce.

Chamberlain now spearheads fund-raising for the Rainier Valley Cultural Center, slated to open next month in a remodeled church building that will serve the needs of the most diverse population in the city. The center will include an auditorium, galleries, and work space for diverse ethnic and arts groups to share their traditions. Asked about the success of his ambitious funding plan, which raised more than a half million dollars, Chamberlain demurred, "I just created a plan—which I learned to do in a Seattle University leadership course."

—N. Paape

For Paul Milan's French In France students, school isn't over when class is dismissed.

"We share dinners at my home, go out to museums, visit convents or other cultural sites, go to cafés, or go skiing. I spend lots of time with students. I think personal attention and getting to know students really well make for quality teaching." Milan loves to teach French, whether the classroom is in



Photo by Chris Narators

PAUL MILAN 1964

Distinguished Teaching Award

"IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COUNTERACT ETHNOCENTRICITY AND GAIN THE SKILL OF KEEPING AN OPEN MIND."

Seattle or Grenoble, France.

He knew early on that he wanted to teach. "In grade school, I wanted to teach grade school; in high school, it was high school. But when I got to college, I decided that university-level teaching would be the most interesting, because of the colleagues, the excellence."

Milan got lots of inspiration from his teachers at Seattle University, where he

earned his bachelor's degree in foreign languages. "Madame March and, Jim Parry, Al Mann, Joe Monda... they were personally interested in each student. They made learning enjoyable," he recalled.

After completing his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Washington, Milan returned to Seattle University to teach French language and literature.

Has nearly 30 years of teaching French changed him? "Definitely. At first, I took up French because of the challenge of mastering a foreign language. But eventually, the language took me over. I not only teach French, I travel to France, eat French food, read French novels, see French films. I think mastering and teaching a foreign language and culture have had a profound effect on me."

Besides teaching French on campus and spending a quarter of almost every year with students in Grenoble, Milan has in previous years served as Foreign Language Department chair. He is now coordinator of the university's arts and sciences collegium, a mentoring group that matches each new tenure-track faculty member with an experienced faculty mentor. Mentors welcome all new teachers, answer their questions, and provide the opportunity to build professional relationships based on trust and confidentiality. Milan finds the mentoring job exciting. "It's inspiring to get to know a new faculty group which shares Seattle University's values: personal interest in students, commitment to quality courses. They bring exciting new energy to the university."

How did he think his students would describe him? Milan modestly declined to

speculate, and said instead that he holds those students in high regard. "The French program continues to attract good students. That's always been true. I treasure the quality of students here."

Milan said he hoped his students find him an enthusiastic teacher, one who transmits joy and interest in learning. "There is great value in learning a foreign language and culture. It's an opportunity to gain appreciation for different traditions, counteract ethnocentricity, and gain the transferable skill of keeping an open mind."

When he's not at school, Paul enjoys spending time with his wife, Nancy, and staying in touch with daughters Carla, and Catherine. He finds time for jogging, biking, tennis, hiking, and, of course, French.

—N. Paape

Bob and Maxine Larson credit the Jesuits with sowing the seeds that grew into the couple's four decades of service to Seattle University. Bob reflected, "The Jesuits were fine role models. Back when we were students, they not only taught classes, they also went out to the community and parishes to promote the university and recruit students. ...They always went the extra mile." Fondly, Bob and Maxine recalled several memorable Jesuits. "Father Peronteau, Father Robinson, Father Gilmore...there were so many fine teachers."

With a chuckle, Bob told about some rather forceful encouragement he'd received in a large philosophy class taught by Father Gilmore.

"I usually didn't say much in that class. Then one day I

asked a question from the back of the room. After class, Father Gilmore was waiting outside the door for me. He grabbed me, spun me up against the wall (I thought I was being mugged!) and said, 'Larson, don't you ever let me catch you being silent at the back of the room again when you are capable of questions like that!'"

Maxine and Bob graduated from Seattle College with degrees in sociology. After Bob's first year of graduate study at Fordham University, they married. In quick succession, the first four of their seven children were born. Juggling work and family life meant long days for them both, as Bob completed his doctorate at the University of Washington and taught night school classes at Seattle University. The offer of a full-time teaching post in the Sociology Department launched his distinguished teaching career that spanned 43 years. Bob also served as associate dean and as the department's chair.

Shifting the focus of the conversation away from himself, Bob proudly enumerated Maxine's many campus activities and service to his department and students. "Maxine hosted seniors at Sociology Department spring parties, invited guest professors and faculty members to dinner at our home, and held alumni committee meetings here." Maxine once came to the rescue of the Sociology



Photo by Larry Gill

ROBERT AND MAXINE (GILL) LARSON 1949

University Service Award

"THE JESUITS WERE FINE ROLE MODELS."

Department by filling in as receptionist and secretary. She came for "a few days," and stayed for six weeks. Maxine added, "I work in the Registrar's or Controller's Office for several weeks at the beginning of each quarter. I like being around young people."

Maxine offered a matter-of-fact explanation of her reputation as the university's

premier Christmas party planner. "The Jesuits had always hosted the Christmas party," Maxine explained, "but one year their budget just wouldn't cover it." So the Larsons and their friends the Guppys recruited faculty volunteers to provide food and create decorations. That successful event became the first of 27 Christmas parties guided by Maxine's talents.

Last spring Bob retired from teaching, but returned in the fall to chair two departments, Sociology and Fine Arts. Commenting on Bob's supposed retirement, Maxine gave a vigorous "Ha!" Pointing to the RV parked outside, she described the cross-country tour they took a couple of years ago during his sabbatical. When Bob is "more retired," Maxine said, they would like to revisit some of the high points of that trip. But for now, like their Jesuit role models, the Larsons are busy at home and on campus, going that extra mile.

—N. Paape