

**Submitted by: Chacona W. Johnson, Vice President  
Development and Alumni Affairs  
President, Wayne State University Foundation**

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HELEN M. BUTTS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish the Helen M. Butts Endowed Scholarship.

This scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the School of Business Administration and the College of Education.

### Background

Helen M. Butts was born on December 16, 1919 in Detroit, Michigan to Alfred and Minnie (Klotzin) Boehmke, and passed away at her home in AuTrain, Michigan on October 6, 2013 under the loving care of her family and Lake Superior Hospice. Helen was preceded in death by her husband Grant.

Helen graduated from Wayne State University with her teaching degree in 1940. She married Grant Butts on June 16, 1943, and together they raised their five children. After working in the Detroit School District for many years, she and Grant retired to the Upper Peninsula to their home on AuTrain Trail. Helen was an avid gardener and enjoyed baking and sharing her cookies, reading, crossword puzzles, board games, and even at the age of 93, playing Words with Friends on her Kindle Fire. Helen was family-focused and was proud of her children and grandchildren.

This endowment is established with a commitment of \$115,000 from James Butts.

### Endowment Amount

**\$115,000**

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Development and Alumni Affairs  
President, Wayne State University Foundation**

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GABRIEL WARD LASKER ENDOWED FUND**

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish the Gabriel Ward Lasker Endowed Fund.

This fund is established to support the publication of the journal *Human Biology* in the University Press.

### Background

Gabriel Ward Lasker, 1912-2002, taught anatomy at the Wayne State University School of Medicine for 36 years, and was the editor of *Human Biology* for more than 30 years. He won the Charles Darwin Award of the American Association of Physical Anthropology in 1991 and the Franz Boas Award from the Human Biology Association in 1996. Lasker often said that he could think of nothing more satisfying than discovering a new scientific insight into the world. In 1969, he published an article on human biological adaptability in *Science* that took issue with the existing theory of fixed racial "types" in favor of a profoundly anti-racist view of human evolution he termed "plasticity." He encouraged international participation in the journal, and strove for a high standard of rigor and clear communication. After retiring in 1982, Lasker published over 80 more books, articles and reviews, and was working on several scientific articles at the time of his death. More information about Lasker's life and career is available in the May 1982 special edition of *Human Biology* "Salute to Gabriel Ward Lasker," and in his autobiography *Happenings and Hearsay, Experiences of a Biological Anthropologist* (Savoyard Books, 1999).

The endowment is established with a gift of \$25,000 from Bernice Kaplan Lasker.

### Endowment Amount

\$25,000

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## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROMANO STANCROFF PC ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish the Romano Stancroff PC Endowed Scholarship.

This scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the Law School.

### Background

Mark Romano and Steve Stancroff attended Wayne Law School from 1987-1990. In 2007, they started Romano Stancroff PC, a law firm specializing in consumer protection law. Mark and Steve were motivated by their experiences at Wayne Law to practice in an area that could provide direct benefits to individuals. They were specifically influenced by programs such as the Free Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC) and being on an urban campus. Romano Stancroff PC is pleased to be able to provide a need based scholarship to Wayne Law students. The firm wants to offer deserving individuals an opportunity to benefit from attending Wayne Law and hopefully encourage them to practice in areas where they can contribute meaningfully as attorneys.

This endowment is established with a commitment of \$40,000 from Romano Stancroff, PC.

### Endowment Amount

\$40,000