



PEPPERDINE LEGACY PARTNERS



Letter from PLP President, Lydia Folkerts

This 2020-2021 school year is a history-making year. Every student, from kindergarten to college will have a shared collective memory of how they started this school year. For students, they will vividly remember what grade they were entering, and professors will remember how they curated and fine-tuned their courses for an online learning experience. While we have never started an academic year at Pepperdine quite like this, we

start this year in great anticipation of what the

future holds. We choose to look for the beauty,

hope, and optimism in the light of this anticipation. Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." We indeed hold on to this hope and also claim God's promise that Jesus will comfort us as we mourn the loss of faithful friends of Pepperdine Legacy Partners (PLP). Connie Fulmer, Gloria Alesso, and Claudette Wilson were women who were friends of PLP, mentors, professors, encouragers, and always champions of students. Please read more about their impactful lives and send us an email to let us know how they played a significant role in your life. We would love to hear from you: plp@pepperdine.edu.

Our name, Pepperdine Legacy Partners, takes on new meaning this year as we partner with our Helen Young Scholars and new Benton Scholar and intentionally make meaningful connections with each scholarship recipient. As students will have this year imprinted on their memory, we have an opportunity to make a lasting imprint on their hearts. This year, especially, it is my hope that we will leave a loving legacy on our students. You, as members of PLP who join alongside us financially and spiritually to lift up our organization in renewed ways, are a part of this legacy. Perhaps, just perhaps, at the end of this academic school year and because of the unique challenges that attending Pepperdine during a pandemic has led to, our students will be more connected to our PLP community

in a way they will remember for the rest of their lives.

So, we step into this academic year with faith. We trust that Christ is with us as we continue to affirm our mission to financially and spiritually support students from Churches of Christ, equip them for faithful service, and encourage meaningful engagement in church throughout their lives. Please keep Pepperdine in your prayers and we are grateful for your continued support.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Blessings,
Lydia Folkerts



Stauffer Chapel on the Malibu Campus.

IN THIS ISSUE

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2024

FIRST EVER ANDY AND DEBBY BENTON SCHOLAR

IN MEMORIAM

Celebrating Our Graduating Seniors- The Class of 2020

The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 was postponed until Spring 2021. However, the Pepperdine Legacy Partners (PLP) National Board was still able to come together remotely with several of our graduating Helen Young Scholars to celebrate their graduation from Pepperdine with a reception over Zoom! Goody bags were mailed to each of their homes ahead of time. We had an opportunity to hear from each of the students from locations around the country about how their semester finished up and what their future plans are. They are attending a Fulbright Scholarship, starting jobs, getting married and more! Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



Welcoming our new Helen Young Scholars

Your annual membership and gifts to Pepperdine Legacy Partners have allowed us to provide \$5,000 scholarships to these amazing students. As they start their life-changing journeys at Pepperdine we hope you will take the time to write a quick note or prayer to them, please direct your correspondences to plp@pepperdine.edu.



Nathan



Jacqueline



Luke



Hunter



Kylie



Jake



Alanna



Drake



Chloe



Connor



Anne Towles



Phillip



Mary Paige



Annie

ANDY AND DEBBY BENTON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

First Ever Benton Scholar!

Introducing our first ever recipient of the Andy and Debby Benton Endowed Scholarship --Jackson Gieger from Edmond, OK! The generous donations we received from our PLP members and the larger Pepperdine community allowed us to establish this endowed scholarship to honor President Emeritus Andy Benton and Former First Lady Debby Benton for their years of dedicated service to Pepperdine.



Note from Jackson:

"I am so honored to have received the Andy and Debby Benton scholarship. I have done some research and am amazed by the work of the Benton family for Pepperdine and for the advancement of God's Kingdom. I am humbled by the opportunity to represent Mr. and Mrs. Benton as a scholarship recipient. I am so excited for the opportunities that Pepperdine has presented me with, both spiritually and academically. One of my biggest factors in picking Pepperdine is its amazing study abroad program, which I am thrilled to be a part of. Through the resources provided by Pepperdine, I hope to grow stronger in my faith and to work as a servant for God's kingdom during my time at Pepperdine."

In Memoriam

We lost several dedicated PLP members this year. Their memory will live on in the lives of the students they impacted through their work at Pepperdine University and Pepperdine Legacy Partners and Associated Women for Pepperdine.



**Constance
"Connie"
M. Fulmer**

Connie was a long time friend and member of Pepperdine Legacy Partners. She faithfully attended the University Church of Christ on campus. Her memory lives on in the lives of the students she touched both inside and outside the classroom. After receiving her PhD from Vanderbilt University, Fulmer began her teaching career faithfully instructing students in Victorian and British literature. She taught at Lipscomb University for twenty years. In 1990 she joined the Pepperdine faculty. "I learned so much from her as a teacher, a colleague, an administrator, and, most importantly, as a friend," says Dana Dudley, assistant dean of special academic programs. "The world is a little dimmer without her, but heaven is brighter." Gifts to honor Fulmer's memory can be made to Pepperdine Legacy Partners and the Helen Young Scholarship, per her request.

Excerpt from Pepperdine Newsroom article published on March 17, 2020.



Gloria Alesso

Former Associated Women for Pepperdine President and longtime AWP/PLP board member, avid supporter of Pepperdine, and dear friend to Helen Young, passed away on May 31. She was a member at the Lancaster Church of Christ.

In Memoriam



Claudette Wilson

Claudette along with her husband John F. Wilson, now Professor Emeritus in the Religion and Philosophy Division at Seaver College, spent decades dedicated to serving students at Pepperdine. “The Wilsons regularly participated in lectures, special events, performances, and special honors given to people at Pepperdine. Claudette was our constant encourager, ready to serve in whatever way needed, and was always ready for fun. She always knew what was going on around campus and made a point to congratulate and compliment people through her handwritten notes. Anyone who has ever received a note from Claudette treasures it deeply,” shares Tami Williamson, manager of the Office of Church Relations at Pepperdine.

“She loved inviting students into her home or meeting them for coffee. She would mentor them during their time at Pepperdine. Those students soaked up the love, attention, and guidance they received from Claudette.” For many years, particularly after her retirement in 2004, Wilson devoted much of her time and energy to the Associated Women for Pepperdine (now Pepperdine Legacy Partners), providing scholarships for deserving students from Churches of Christ. She was widely known and loved for her “ministry of encouragement”—writing hundreds of notes of gratitude and encouragement to anyone she thought needed or deserved such attention. During these years, Wilson, alongside former Pepperdine first lady Helen Young, shared a passionate love for, and devotion to, Pepperdine University. Claudette most recently served on the Pepperdine Legacy Partners’ National Board as the Correspondence Secretary.

Excerpt from Pepperdine Newsroom article published on July 6, 2020.



National Board 2020-2021

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Reminder! You are more important than ever! During this unprecedented period PLP is unable to hold in-person sales and other fundraising events. Your membership dues and gifts are more important than ever to help us to continue to support our scholars. Pepperdine is here! Our students need you! Please help us by encouraging others in your communities to help us support these scholars. All donations are tax deductible.