

**Nomination for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser:
Henry Pierson “Pete” French, Jr., Ed.D.
Professor Emeritus, History, Monroe Community College**

Overview

Seven organizations join together to nominate Dr. Henry Pierson “Pete” French as the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of 2010. The organizations include **Monroe Community College Foundation, Rundel Library Foundation, Rochester Regional Library Council, Warner Graduate School at the University of Rochester, Christ Episcopal Church, University of Delaware and Rochester Public Library.**

We come together for this nomination because we share a debt of gratitude to this college history professor and his astonishing ability to raise funds for the organizations fortunate enough to attract his support. Not only is Dr. French a dedicated volunteer who is generous with his own philanthropy, but he is also a committed fundraiser—often raising money for several different projects and passions at the same time.

With so many organizations benefitting from the same person’s efforts, we have endeavored to summarize the impact Dr. French made for each individual campaign, event and organization.

Monroe Community College Foundation

A long-time member of the Monroe Community College President’s Circle of Donors, the Alice Holloway Young Society and the E. Kent Damon Lifetime Giving Society, Dr. French and his wife, Beverly, have personally given in excess of \$100,000 to support student success and teaching excellence at Monroe Community College.

As a director of the Monroe Community College Foundation Board, Dr. French plays a leadership role as chair of the planned giving program. Since 2005 when Dr. French joined the planned giving committee, MCC has secured in excess of \$1.5 million in charitable gifts. His leadership voice and active service helped launch a charitable gift annuity program, a seminar series on securing your financial future, a planned giving specific newsletter. Dr. French has hosted numerous breakfast and lunch events designed to promote the Monroe Community College Foundation and encourage philanthropic support. His service and passion for individual cultivation, personal solicitation and stewardship has resulted in numerous major and leadership level annual gifts.

Through gifts of his personal funds, Dr. French established two scholarships to benefit Monroe Community College students. The first, the Henry Pierson “Peter” French III Endowed Scholarship, awards a student of political science a scholarship based on academic merit.

Dr. French and his wife, Beverly, established the Beverly and Dr. Henry Pierson “Pete” French, Jr., Endowed Award for Excellence in History when Dr. French retired from MCC in 2005. This scholarship honors an MCC student for academic

achievement in the study of history, when the student demonstrates a focused progress toward global understanding.

Rundel Library Foundation, Rochester Regional Library Council, and Rochester Public Library

Perhaps it's not surprising that a 41-year college professor should be committed to the service of libraries. Dr. Henry "Pete" French's personal involvement in fundraising for our area's libraries, however, demonstrates an extraordinary devotion to this cause, one that elevates Dr. French to the level of outstanding volunteer fundraiser.

Dr. French initiated and co-chaired the fundraising campaign to establish the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries (named for the library's former director). The Hacker Fund is a joint effort between the Rundel Library Foundation and the Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC). The fund awards small grants each year to libraries in the Greater Rochester region that are leaders in innovation, or that provide quality training to their staff members. The campaign to establish this endowment fund exceeded its goal of \$150,000, in large part because of Dr. French's steadfast efforts. He insisted that the goal be raised to a higher level each time it was met, working tirelessly to follow up on every suggestion of a possible donor. His letters and calls to prospects almost always secure gifts—even today, as he continues to raise funds for the library.

Currently, Dr. French is a member of the Rochester Public Library 100th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee, for which he is actively engaged in planning a wide variety of campaigns, programs and other special events to celebrate this important milestone throughout 2011.

Dr. French and his family demonstrate their commitment to the library with their own gifts. They have named the Genevieve Lynn Johnson French Literature, Philosophy and Religion section in honor of Dr. French's mother, and the Henry P. French, Sr., and Genevieve French Library Director's Office in honor of both of his parents.

In addition, Dr. French served on the Rochester Public Library board from 1992 to 2003, taking the role of president from 1998 to 2000. He also served on the Friends of the Rochester Public Library board from 1983 to 2003, including several terms as president from 1988 to 2001. He represented the Rochester Public Library on the Rochester Regional Library Council from 1998 to 2008. In 2008, Rundel and RRLC brought Dr. French's efforts full circle, by naming him as the sixth recipient of the Harold A. Hacker Library Lifetime Achievement Award.

Warner Graduate School at University of Rochester

A graduate of the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester with two masters' degrees and a doctorate, Dr. French took on an important leadership role as a Charter Member of the historic George Eastman Circle annual giving society when it was launched at

the University. His early participation helped to inspire alumni and others to join Dr. French and his wife in their ardent support of the Warner School and the University of Rochester.

Dr. French continues to serve on the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Warner School and has been a venerable member since 2005. In addition, his service as a gracious and eloquent host for special Warner School events has played an important role in raising the visibility of the School's work across the broader Rochester community.

"The ambitious vision and course being charted for the Warner School are made possible through the acts of leadership, dedication, and support carried out by outstanding friends like Pete French," said Preston K. Faulkner, Director of Warner Advancement at the Warner Graduate School.

University of Delaware

As an alumnus of the University of Delaware's Class of 1957, Dr. French maintains an active relationship with his alma mater, both as a generous supporter and as a volunteer for his 50th class reunion celebration. Dr. French took on a leadership role on the reunion committee and was instrumental in reconnecting many classmates to the university. Once he had made the connection with these former classmates, he actively solicited gifts in honor of the Class of 1957's milestone year. As a direct result of his efforts, the Class of 1957 exceeded its fundraising goal in both donors and dollars, establishing the Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund and raising the bar for future class reunion gifts.

Dr. French continues to be a strong advocate for the University, not only through his continued financial support, but by offering advice and continuing to reconnect with fellow classmates as well.

Christ Episcopal Church

Dr. French served his country as a military chaplain during the Korean War, and extended his connection to his faith by serving as a chalice bearer in Christ Episcopal Church's daily eight o'clock service. His support of the Church includes generous gifts to Christ Church's annual fund, as well as to the current capital campaign. He also served as the Church's representative to the local Episcopal Diocese during the election of a new bishop.

In the interest of making a strong connection with Episcopal diocese overseas, Dr. French was part of an Episcopal delegation that traveled to China several times. His visits were reciprocated by a Chinese bishop who came to Rochester, sharing knowledge and faith with the American diocese than reached out to his own church.

"Pete has been such an active part of this parish; people adore him," said Winifred Collin, rector of Christ Episcopal Church. "He comes early to church and inquires about the health and well-being of others. While recent illness has limited his involvement, he is a faithful and active participant."

Summary

Following in the footsteps of his father and accentuating a deep family commitment to education, philanthropy and service to the Rochester community, Dr. Henry Pierson "Pete" French has spent over 40 years selflessly asking, giving and advocating. The collective group of seven nominating organizations expresses heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Dr. French, and we resoundingly support his nomination for the Association of Fundraising Professionals 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award.