



Davis Hall

CORNERSTONE

ED ODOM'S "ROCK SOLID" GIFT CREATES ENDOWMENT FOR GEOLOGY

If you're like most people, you've never even heard of bentonite. But for NIU geologist Ira Edgar "Ed" Odom, the very fine clay material was everything. At his May 2003 funeral, his sister remembered, "Ed could weave tales about bentonite that sounded like romance novels." His enthusiasm for studying rocks and minerals was contagious. From 1964 to 1981 he built a strong program in mineralogy at NIU while continuing to do research. His explorations took him to 29 foreign countries.

Ed's daughter Ellen Bemis remembers vacations that often resulted in side trips to see mineral deposits and outcrops. "He thought geology was a good area for students and that it didn't get enough attention." Ellen says her father particularly loved going to field camps with the students.

In 2003, Ed committed \$100,000 to establish the Ira Edgar Odom Scholarship Fund in the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. Through this gift, hundreds of young people will benefit from scholarships for field camp training and studies in mineralogy and petrology. Ed Odom's passion has created a legacy that will be "rock solid" for years to come.



(Far left) Ed Odom in the 1960s demonstrating rock samples to some of his geology students. (Left) Ed enjoying retirement.



Please see Page 2 to read about Michelle Bricker, who is a recipient of the Odom Scholarship this year.

INSIDE:
SEE HOW ONE GIFT MADE
A DIFFERENCE FOR AN
NIU GEOLOGY STUDENT.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
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Age	Current Rate	Payment	July 1, 2008 Rate	Payment
70	6.5%	\$650/year	6.1%	\$610/year
75	7.1%	\$710/year	6.7%	\$670/year
80	8.0%	\$800/year	7.6%	\$760/year

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates (American Council on Gift Annuities) \$10,000 Gift Amount

Effective July 1, 2008, the suggested gift annuity rates will decrease. If you are considering this type of charitable gift, you can receive higher payments if you complete your gift prior to July 1.

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

On February 14, a senseless tragedy struck our campus that has forever changed the NIU family. Our wounds are deep, but the outpouring of love and support we have witnessed gives us confidence that we will get through this together.

In a moment of deep reflection, President John Peters remarked, "Let our message to the world be one of hope, one of healing, and the indomitable Huskie spirit." Please know that we will continue to do what we can to support and bring healing to our students and to all of those who have been impacted by this horrible event.

Thank you for your ongoing kindness, thoughts, and prayers.

Forward, together forward,

John Sentovich

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CORNERSTONE Society

The Cornerstone Society recognizes, thanks, and celebrates those who have created a lasting legacy at NIU through a bequest, trust, or other estate gift. To become a member or to discuss



a gift planning opportunity, please call John Sentovich, Director of Gift Planning at (815) 753-1344, toll free at (866) 385-1507, or e-mail him at sentovich@niu.edu. Find us on the Web at www.niufoundation.org/giftplanning.

MICHELLE BRICKER CARRIES ON ED ODOM'S LOVE OF GEOLOGY

Michelle Bricker's eyes light up as she talks about the field she loves, probably not any different than Ed Odom. Growing up in Southern California, Michelle's environment opened the door to her first research. "We used to go out into the desert and poke around for all sorts of rocks and minerals," she says.



Later, a community college professor hooked her on geology. "He made it fun and took the time to challenge me," she says. Marriage, a family, and moving cross-country delayed Michelle's studies, but at age 35 she was ready to move ahead and attend NIU despite some challenges. "I've had to sacrifice a second income to do this, so the Odom scholarship really helps," she says.



"I am really enjoying my research here at NIU. I would like to eventually pursue a Ph.D. and teach some day."

—Michelle Bricker

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS: A REFLECTION OF YOUR VALUES

Providing for one's family is a top priority in most estate plans. Caring for loved ones can bring enormous satisfaction. Many people also find great personal satisfaction in helping not only their family but also worthy causes that have positively impacted their lives.

Giving through a will is a common way to support charitable organizations. Ed Odom's bequest through his revocable living trust to establish an endowment for students like Michelle Bricker is a good example.

WAYS TO GIVE

Your gift can be made as either a specific bequest or as a percentage of your estate. Through a specific bequest, you donate a certain amount of cash, securities, or property to NIU. However, most people do not know what the exact size of their estate will be at their death. Therefore, making a gift to NIU and other charitable organizations by using a percentage amount can be a more appropriate way to divide the estate. It allows you to benefit charitable organizations and

individuals in relative proportion.

The official bequest language for Northern Illinois University Foundation is: "I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise, and bequeath to Northern Illinois University Foundation [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for [purpose]."

MAKE YOUR GIFT LAST FOREVER

Endowing your gift through the NIU Foundation ensures that your philanthropic goals will continue in perpetuity. With an endowment, only a portion of the earnings of your gift are distributed each year to fund scholarships or other initiatives at NIU important to you. The principal is never touched.

If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to discuss, please contact John Sentovich, Director of Gift Planning at (815) 753-1344 or sentovich@niu.edu. For more information about bequests or other planned gifts, please visit www.niufoundation.org.



DISCOVER HOW TO CONTROL THE FUTURE OF YOUR ASSETS

- Please send me the FREE guide, *Bequests: Creating Your Personal Legacy*.
- I am interested in learning more about endowments.
- Please enroll me in the *Cornerstone Society*, as I have already remembered NIU in my estate plan through:
 - my will a life insurance policy
 - my trust my retirement plan assets
 - other _____.

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Northern Illinois University is in the final phase of its first-ever comprehensive capital campaign, True North. The final phase focuses on building endowments to provide a regular, perpetual stream of supplemental funding for NIU's colleges, departments, special programs, and tuition assistance.

True North is a reflection of NIU's values—remaining true to its historic mission of providing access and opportunity for all who desire it. With more than \$119 million of the \$150 million goal already committed by generous alumni and friends, NIU is better positioned to provide academic opportunities that can change students' lives. Gifts of assets, such as bequests in wills, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plan assets, and life insurance gifts all count toward our ambitious—but attainable—goal by June 2010. **Best of all, you decide how your gift will benefit NIU!** Thank you for your support.

