The N. Bruce and Lorry Hanes Endowed Fellowship Fund

Professor N. Bruce Hanes retired from Tufts University in 1992 after 32 years on the CEE faculty, 12 of them as Chairman. Although he was officially retired, Bruce never truly left the Environmental Health and Engineering community. He faithfully attended the annual Tufts CEE Alumni and Student Awards Dinners, professional conferences, reunions at both University of Wisconsin and University of North Dakota and most importantly communicated regularly with former students, friends and colleagues. We all remember Bruce for his personal warmth, generosity, encouragement, and friendliness. Professor Hanes passed away on April 21, 2014.

Bruce’s legacy is simple and clear: the most important investment one can make in students is to give them the support to make a difference as both professionals and people. To honor his commitment to students and their growth as professionals and leaders, the CEE Department at Tufts University has established the N. Bruce and Lorry Hanes Endowed Fellowship Fund. The fellowship will be awarded to Master of Science students engaged in Environmental Health Engineering research. The fellowship preserves Professor Hanes’ legacy by focusing on students and honoring his innovative spirit. It is the first Master of Science Fellowship established in the School of Engineering and it will be awarded in perpetuity.

As a fellow colleague, classmate or friend, perhaps you can identify with the importance of student financial support and you know how hard Bruce worked to find grants and scholarship aid for his students. In the 1960s he successfully secured one of the first environmental engineering graduate traineeship grants from the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, the predecessor of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Building on that success, Bruce won similar training grants in environmental health from the U.S. Public Health Service. He was an active lobbyist for these federally funded training grant programs, testifying before multiple congressional committees as an advocate for the education of environmental engineering and health professionals.

Bruce was a lifelong advocate for environmental engineering education. He championed its evolution over more than four decades through his public and professional service as well as his role as an exemplary educator of scores of leaders in environmental engineering and health. Bruce took great pride in the contributions that his students and colleagues made to grow and define this new and emerging interdisciplinary field of study.
Bruce was a legacy member of AEESP and its predecessor organizations, AAPSE and AEEP, in which he served in many capacities through the years, including Chairman of the Education Training Committee, Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Analysis and Training Support, Board of Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President. He also served as Chair of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and was elected president of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

As a member of the ABET Board of Directors, he worked diligently to incorporate health and safety topics into engineering design courses and refine the criteria used to evaluate environmental engineering programs accredited by ABET, Inc. His leadership at Tufts contributed to the department’s official name change from “Civil Engineering” to “Civil and Environmental Engineering” in 1993 and the subsequent accreditation of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering in 1995.

Our goal is to raise $250,000 in gifts and pledges by June 30, 2016. To encourage our campaign, the University will match all gifts and pledge payments received by June 30, 2017, dollar-for-dollar as part of the Tufts Financial Aid initiative. We are pleased to announce that in the few months since the establishment of the Hanes Fellowship gifts and pledges have reached over $135,000, and the University match is underway. This match doubles the impact of the fellowship, enabling it to provide one or more summer student fellowships, underwrite research expenses, or provide additional support during the academic year.

Please join us in growing Bruce’s legacy by contributing to the N. Bruce and Lorry Hanes Endowed Fellowship Fund. Your donation will benefit from the University’s matching offer and give current and future Tufts CEE students the financial support Bruce believed was critical in allowing them to grow into thoughtful and active professionals and citizens. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to the Trustees of Tufts College and in the memo space write “N. Bruce and Lorry Hanes Endowed Fellowship Fund”. Mail to:

Ellen Schuette  
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Ellen Schuette, ellen.schette@tufts.edu, 617-627-0534 is happy to answer any questions about this initiative.

If you would like to share memories or comments about Bruce, please contact Bruce’s daughter, Vicki Hanes Siarnacki at bahamabound@gmail.com or Lin Brown at linfield.brown@tufts.edu.