STEVENS’ GIVING SUPPORTS HEALTH SCIENCES AT MSU

Otto O. Stevens, DDS, grew up on the farm in Choteau County, Mont. that his father homesteaded in 1913. His mother homesteaded in 1916. Dr. Stevens graduated from Montana State College (MSC) in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science in zoology and earned his dental degree from Northwestern University Dental School in 1954. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps for 2 years, and continued in the Ready Reserve until retiring as a Captain, USNR, in 1978.

While at MSC, he spent three years on the advertising staff of the *Exponent* and *Montanan*, served as a homecoming co-chair in 1949 and president of the junior class during the 1949-1950 academic year, and received the Kappa Sigma Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Junior in 1950.

Dr. Stevens’ wife of 61 years, Shirley (Northam) Stevens of Helena, Mont., received a Bachelor of Science in bacteriology in 1951 from MSC. She served as the treasurer of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and secretary of the senior class during 1950-1951 academic year.

Dr. Stevens opened his family dentistry practice in Spokane, Wash. in 1956 and practiced for another 39 years. During his long and distinguished career, he received many awards and honors acknowledging his professional and community service, including the Distinguished Fellow Award from the International College of Dentistry in 1967 and served as president of the 2,800-member Washington State Dental Association in 1982.

For their 60th class reunion in 2011, Dr. and Mrs. Stevens gave a “thank you” gift of $100 per year since graduation, or $6,000, to MSU for health sciences scholarships. Since 2011, the Stevens have continued to make annual gifts to MSU, adding $100 per year since graduation, or $6,100 in 2012 and $6,200 in 2013. They encourage other alumni to consider similar annual giving, smaller amounts in the years following graduation and increasing over time. “Just imagine what a fund would be generated if 3,000 graduating seniors agreed to multiply annual gifts in this simple way,” said Dr. Stevens.

In 2013, the Stevens decided to also make a planned gift to MSU. Planned giving is a method of supporting MSU that enables donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and minimize its impact on the donor’s estate. The Stevens’ planned gift will support health science scholarships, which will be available across campus in many departments for students pursuing degrees in health professions.

“MSU offers excellent programs for future health professionals, from medicine to physical therapy to dentistry,” said Nicol Rae, dean of the College of Letters and Sciences. “This gift will enhance our recruitment efforts to attract the brightest and best students to MSU.”