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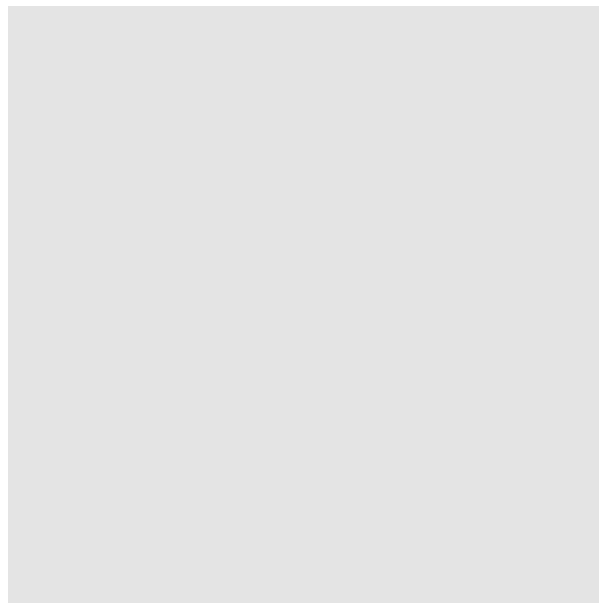
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Donations accepted for scholarship dedicated to late WKU professor

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com Jul 21, 2018



Edward Bohlander
submitted

Family and friends of retired Western Kentucky University professor Edward Bohlander, who passed away this month in Vietnam, remember him as a man with a passion for his profession.

“He was a man who loved teaching,” said Gretchen LaGodna, Bohlander’s sister. “Even after he retired, he still couldn’t quit.”

Now, a new scholarship in Bohlander's name will support students long after his death.

"The great thing about a scholarship endowment is it's going to last forever," said Donald Smith, president of WKU's College Heights Foundation, which is administering the new Ed Bohlander Scholarship Fund.

Bohlander, a sociology professor who taught at WKU for about 35 years, died in Vietnam shortly before he was to rejoin his family in Bowling Green.

After initially traveling to Vietnam in late March, Bohlander's passing followed a severe head injury he suffered after a fall in his Ho Chi Minh City hotel room. The injury left him comatose and stranded in the country for months. Bohlander also had multiple sclerosis.

Bohlander's wife, Crystal, wrote of her husband's fascination with Vietnam in a recent Facebook post.

"Vietnam was Ed's place," she wrote. "He loved it, wrestled with its meaning and political history for decades and chose to make it his last big trip. It is a beautiful place and one he chose not to leave in the end."

On June 25, Crystal Bohlander learned she would soon be returning home with her husband after finally getting approval from Allianz, the family's travel insurance company. But Bohlander died before an air ambulance could bring him home.

Although the family is still determining the parameters and criteria of the scholarship, Smith said he anticipates it to be available for students during the 2019-20 academic year.



Smith said he knew Bohlander through phone-a-thon fundraisers he would help out with. The two would share popcorn and soft drinks and listen to callers. Bohlander “had a real good rapport with his students,” Smith said, adding that’s what he most liked about him.

Smith shared several ways that supporters can donate to the Ed Bohlander Scholarship Fund.

Donations can be made by mail to the College Heights Foundation at 1906 College Heights Boulevard No. 41016, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Checks should be made payable to the College Heights Foundation and supporters are asked to note the donation is in memory of Ed Bohlander in the memo line.

Supporters can also make donations by calling 270-745-4597 and providing a credit card number. Supporters are asked to indicate over the phone that the gift is designated for the Ed Bohlander Scholarship Fund, according to Smith.

Online donations may also be made by visiting www.alumni.wku.edu/bohlander.

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