

Major scholarship fund established in memory of William B. Cohen

The University of Virginia's College at Wise has received a \$1.1 million gift to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of William B. Cohen, a longtime friend of the College.

The gift was made by the estate of Mr. Cohen's widow, Phyllis Marks Cohen, who passed away in 2003. The William B. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Fund will benefit needy and deserving students, with preference given to students who are unable to pay their college expenses. The first William B. Cohen Memorial Scholarships will be awarded in the fall of 2005. The fund will provide up to 40 scholarships annually.

Mr. Cohen's family, who came to the United States from Lithuania, founded Cohen's Department store in Norton. Mr. Cohen managed the store for a number of years before going to law school. Mr. Cohen and his family have been friends of the College for decades. It was through the generosity of Mr. Cohen, his brother Wallace, an attorney in Washington, D.C., and his sister, Jeanette, a physician in Boston, that the Chapel of All Faiths was built in 1982.

Mr. Cohen was a graduate of the University of Virginia and Harvard Law School. He practiced law in Norton, Knoxville, Tenn., and finally Louisville, Ky., where he lived at the time of his death in 1987.



UVa-Wise receives \$595,000 from Dr. Paul Dishner

The University of Virginia's College at Wise is the recipient of a \$595,000 gift from the estate of Dr. Paul Dishner. The gift will

be used to create an endowment that will fund special projects and events at UVa-Wise.

A Scott County native, Dr. Dishner had a longtime interest in UVa-Wise and in higher education.

"Paul was one of seven children born to a poor but respected and hard-working family in rural Duffield," said Anna B. Dishner Gamble, Dr. Dishner's sister and the executrix of his estate. "The quality of his upbringing however, infused him with an absolute determination to succeed not only in making a living, but in making a difference."

Mrs. Gamble said her parents, Bradley and Sibyl Dishner, especially her mother, instilled an appreciation for education in all her children. Three of Dr. Dishner's teachers, Janie Taylor, Reba C. Stone, and Callie Darnell Sproles, also played an important role in his life.

Dr. Dishner, who passed away in 2003 at the age of 78, received his pre-medical education at the University of Tennessee and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He received the M.D. degree from the University of Tennessee in 1950. His post-graduate medical education included appointments at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Parkland Hospital in Dallas and University Hospital in Birmingham. He returned to Miami as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Army Air Force, traveling across the country, as well as internationally. He practiced briefly in Kingsport before moving to California, where he maintained an active private practice in Costa Mesa. In addition, he served as clinical professor of medicine at the University of California School of Medicine in Irvine. He was co-chairman of the infectious disease department, head of internal medicine, member of the executive committee and chief of staff of the Orange County Medical Center in Orange County, California.

Dr. Dishner's benevolence was significant in the establishment of the medical school at East Tennessee State University, which later recognized his contributions by establishing the Paul Dishner Chair of Excellence in Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine. He also has been honored by the designation of two professional chairs in his name by the University of the West Indies, where he taught for various periods of time and to which he gave major financial support.

"Dr. Dishner's concerns for higher education of under-privileged young people extended past his benevolence to institutions, and led him to support, either wholly or in part, advanced education of about thirty-five individual students in whose education he took a personal interest, at 10 colleges and universities," Gamble said.



The \$200,000 check was presented by Napoleon Hill Foundation Chairman Charles Johnson, left, to UVa-Wise Chancellor Ernest Ern.

UVa-Wise receives \$200,000 gift from the Napoleon Hill Foundation

The University of Virginia's College at Wise has received a \$200,000 gift from the Napoleon Hill Foundation. The

gift will be used to endow the Napoleon Hill Scholars Program at UVa-Wise, ensuring scholarships for its student participants for years to come.

Established in 1997, the Napoleon Hill Scholars Program annually selects 10 outstanding business students to participate. In addition to possessing a minimum 3.0 grade point average, students chosen for the Napoleon Hill Scholars Program must complete the College's Keys to Success business course, which explores Hill's business philosophy. Napoleon Hill Scholars also share what they learn in the classroom by talking to business students at area high schools.

Don Green '61, the Napoleon Hill Foundation's executive director and vice president, said the Foundation has been consistently impressed by the "good attitudes" of the Napoleon Hill Scholars. "Just being around them you know they're going to make a difference," Green said.

The gift was made on Oct. 25 in conjunction with the College's seventh annual Napoleon Hill Day, a commemoration of the birthday of the Wise County native and author of *Think and Grow Rich*. First published in 1937, *Think and Grow Rich* has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide and continues to appear on the list of top business books. Hill's works are licensed for publication in a host of other countries including China, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Croatia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Napoleon Hill Foundation, a non-profit educational institution with offices on the UVa-Wise campus, remains dedicated to promoting Hill's philosophy and "to making the world a better place in which to live."

"Every time we influence a young person we think we're another step closer toward our goal of making the world a better place," Green said. "The Napoleon Hill Scholars Program is a wonderful example of how we can make a difference."