



KU ARCHIVES

Not exactly “Animal House”: Members of the GP10 in this 1983 photo of Grace Pearson Scholarship Hall residents include (1) Tom Magliery, (2) Bob Duran, (3) Gene Field, (4) Dennis Linse, (5) Tom Matches, (6) Paul McAllister, (7) Fred Sherman, and (8) Rick Arnoldy.

## Grace notes

### Hall alumni create new scholarship

It’s true they’re a close-knit group of friends. The alumni of KU’s Grace Pearson Scholarship Hall share a lot of memories.

Chris Courtwright, journalism and economics ’83, remembered how he and his housemates found an old copy of *Food for Fifty* in the hall and quickly learned to multiply all measurements in the recipe book by one-and-a-half. The recipes as written never seemed to feed all 48 students and their resident director.

Set up as a cooperative in 1955, the hall was funded by Joseph R. and Gertrude Sellards Pearson and named in honor of Joseph’s sister, Grace. It served as home base for most of its residents for their entire undergraduate careers. Because many returned each year, the bonds forged there ran deep.

“Many of us email daily,” Courtwright said.

Out of this correspondence grew the idea for a legacy: The Grace Pearson Alumni Scholarship. Ten alumni, who call themselves the “GP10,” pooled their money. Bob Duran, hall resident from

1983 to 1986, said the initial idea was to chip in a set amount each year to help a hall resident.

“The first year we collected the money and gave it all away,” he said.

Partnering with KU Endowment and the Department of Student Housing, the GP10 soon set their sights on creating an endowed fund for the scholarship, a \$25,000 goal at that time. The GP10 continued to build the fund even as they gave away scholarships each year. The scholarship has assisted

seven students so far, and in April 2007, it reached the \$25,000 goal.

The group started with just 10 donors, but the members hope their numbers will grow with each new graduating class. The GP10 gather annually to celebrate each new recipient, an effort to foster the relationships between current and former hall residents — and inspire scholarship recipients to donate when they become alumni.

Duran hopes the group’s idea will spread: “It would be great if other scholarship halls could use the same type of grassroots fundraising model.”

— Sarah Aylward

“When I was a student at KU, I used to look at the buildings on campus and think, ‘You know, when I get rich I’m gonna donate a bunch of money and get a building named after me. Maybe even a new basketball arena!’ ...

“Well, reality set in pretty soon after my first paycheck. Still, though, I have always thought it would be cool to provide a scholarship to a GP resident every year. So I had an idea. What if we all chipped in and created a scholarship of our own?”

— Bob Duran, electrical engineering ’87, in a 2001 email to fellow Grace Pearson Hall alumni



### SUPPORT THE CAUSE

Contact Dan Almanza, 785-832-7341 or [dalmanza@kuendowment.org](mailto:dalmanza@kuendowment.org), to create a new scholarship fund or to contribute to the Grace Pearson Alumni Scholarship. Or give online at [kuendowment.org/gracepearson/](http://kuendowment.org/gracepearson/).