



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund - Contribution**

July 8, 2013. The Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Trustees are pleased to announce that Indiana University School of Business Emeritus Professor of Management Dennis Wayne Organ, who was a University of North Carolina undergraduate Alston-Pleasants Scholar from Roanoke Rapids, has made a contribution to the graduate and professional studies Fund in the amount of \$50,000.

Professor Organ, a 1966 UNC graduate, said that he had benefited greatly from his Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund undergraduate UNC scholarship and that he is very pleased to make this contribution to help support the further recognition and encouragement of Alston-Pleasants Scholars who wish to continue their studies at any appropriately accredited American university.

While recognizing the many great teachers whose encouragement, support and instruction sustained his goal of a university education, Professor Organ, a 1962 graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School, said that this contribution is in memory of the late Joseph Talley. Mr. Talley served as the Principal of Roanoke Rapids High School and Superintendent of Roanoke Rapids Public Schools during the years in which he was a student. Mr. Talley's vision had much to do with the recruitment of so many outstanding teachers and his character and leadership infused a culture that fostered the loftiest ideals of education.

In honor of his valued support for the recognition and encouragement of graduate and professional studies, the Trustees have named Professor Organ an Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Champion.

The Fund was established in 2008 to provide graduate and professional studies scholarships to recipients of the Alston-Pleasants Scholarships that Missouri Alston Pleasants established in 1958 for selected undergraduate UNC students from Franklin, Halifax and Warren Counties.

Miss Missouri, as she was known, had said that she wanted the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund to commemorate the memory of her grandfather, Willis "Congress" Alston, a late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century state, regional and national political leader. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that Fund was celebrated in a Person Place Preservation Society program in Louisburg, NC, on May 25, 2008.

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