Amy K. Paris: The ACS Scholars Program Made Me a Better Chemist

Although science was part of her daily life on the dairy farm she grew up on in Checotah, Okla., Amy K. Paris didn’t consider a career in the field until her brother, John, studied chemical engineering in college and became a member of the first class of ACS Scholars in 1995.

“I always looked up to him as my older brother,” Amy says, “so watching him go through the Scholars Program and seeing what he was learning and how happy he was made an impression on me.”

Amy also earned scholarships through the program, which helped her earn a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Arkansas.

“Being an ACS Scholar made a huge difference in my education and my career,” says Amy.

The program also provided a mentor for her, Col. William A. Meyers, a professor in the chemical engineering department at the university. “Coming from

Continued on Page 2
Donations to ACS Program More Crucial Than Ever

Continued from Page 1

a small school, it was great to have someone to talk to, help plan my course load and provide direction for my future.”

Another benefit of the Scholars Program was the chance to network with other scholars and those in the industry at ACS national meetings.

Not Forgetting Who Helped Her

Discovering a passion for chemical process safety, Amy remained at the University of Arkansas to complete her Ph.D. in engineering and then secured a position at Eastman Chemical Company. Today she is a senior chemical engineer at Eastman in Tennessee, where she enjoys hands-on work in development.

Having achieved success in her ideal job, Amy is determined not to forget those who helped her get where she is today, and she is committed to educating minority students about their options in chemistry. She has spoken at national meetings of the American Chemical Society and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and has agreed to serve as a mentor for future ACS Scholars.

“The Scholars Program gives people who are underrepresented in chemical engineering and other sciences opportunities they might not even know they have,” says Amy, who is of Cherokee descent.

Grateful to the donors who made her scholarships possible, Amy stresses that gifts to the ACS Scholars Program are more important now than ever. “Being in the program motivates you to work harder, study more and get better grades, so it turns out better chemists, which is better for the industry. If donors pull back now, they pull back for the long term.”
Protect the Future of Chemistry With a Forever Gift

While the need for scientific pioneers is increasing, competition for philanthropic support has been heightened due to current economic conditions. Without assistance, many talented students, for example, may not be afforded the education they need to pursue a career in chemistry.

But there’s a way to ensure that funds for ACS programs never run out—no matter the economic climate—through an endowment.

How It Works

• You give cash, securities or other assets to an endowment you create. Or, you can contribute to ACS’s already established endowments. If you can’t give up assets today, consider making the gift in your will.
• We use a small portion of the fund to support ACS programs, but the balance always remains invested in order to perpetuate the fund.

Example: Let’s say you would like to make sure ACS receives $1,000 every year after your lifetime, and we spend 4 percent of the endowment each year (percentage varies according to market conditions). This means that we spend that amount and reinvest the difference to offset inflation.

To calculate the amount needed to perpetuate your gift, divide the annual gift amount, $1,000, by the amount called for in the spending policy, 4 percent, and you get $25,000. So, contributing just $25,000 can continue the $1,000 annual gift indefinitely.

Take the Next Step

Learn more about creating endowments, memorials and scholarships in our FREE guide *Ensuring a Future for Chemistry Discovery*. Simply return the enclosed survey by Nov. 30.
Why I Am an ACS Legacy Leader

We often think of ACS as just a professional society, it’s so much more than that. ACS is here to grow our profession, to keep our profession thriving. We need to look out for chemistry, help the programs that keep chemistry in the forefront of innovation. It’s important to keep the pipeline of young researchers going and to encourage a richly diverse cohort of chemists to solve the challenges before us on earth.

The Irving S. Sigal Postdoctoral Fellowship was established by Dr. Catherine T. Sigal to honor the memory of her husband, Dr. Irving S. Sigal, a brilliant, young biochemist who was one of the pioneers in applying site-directed mutagenesis to study the structure and function of enzymes and proteins. The fellowship in his name advances research at the chemistry and biology interface where his seminal work made critical advances.

Cathy majored in chemistry at North Carolina State University and continued her studies by earning an M.S. in chemical engineering at M.I.T. and Ph.D. in molecular biology at Princeton.

She served for many years as director of international research at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Currently she is a member of the American Chemical Society Development Advisory Board and involved with several other volunteer activities.

Keep Chemistry Healthy and Thriving

For more information about the Irving S. Sigal Postdoctoral Fellowship program established by Dr. Catherine T. Sigal, including a video about her legacy gift, visit www.acs.org/sigal.

Including ACS in your will or other estate plans is an easy way to make a difference. And by doing this, you are becoming an American Chemical Society Legacy Leader. For more information, contact ACS today.