

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Pair gives \$100,000 to create scholarship

BROCKPORT — During her two years at SUNY College at Brockport, Julie Van Horn has come to appreciate the Newman Community's home-like atmosphere.

"It's so warm and welcoming, everyone's so nice," she remarked. Van Horn said she brings both her Catholic and non-Catholic friends to the Newman Center on campus "all the time, and they love it."

The former Joan Buttmore has her own tale of friendliness and warmth of the Newman Community — one that led her to a lifelong companion. Some 50 years ago, she and Archie Freitas met while volunteering at a Newman Club pancake breakfast.

"I like to say that he scrubbed the pots and pans and I dried the dishes. And we're still doing the dishes together," said the woman who would become Mrs. Freitas on Aug. 17, 1957.

Though they've lived in California for nearly 40 years, the Freitasas maintain a strong devotion to their college and their Newman experience. So much, in fact, that the couple has donated \$100,000 to begin the Newman Scholarship at Brockport.

Van Horn, a 19-year-old education major, is the inaugural recipient of this scholarship. She got to meet her benefactors July 15, when the Freitasas were honored and Van Horn served as lector during the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Newman Center.

This is the first scholarship connected with the Newman Community in the college's history. "I was surprised. I had no idea that it was such a big deal for the church," Van Horn said.

Joan Freitas said she hopes the Newman Scholarship will inspire college students to be involved in their Catholic community, as well as the community at large.

"You've got to give back. You can't always be on the take-take end," said Joan, 71.

Archie, 70, said he doesn't consider their \$100,000 contribution a big sacrifice, remarking, "We're rewarded in the act of do-

ing it, and getting to meet the individual who's receiving it first."

To be eligible for the scholarship, candidates must be: pursuing teacher certification at the college; entering their junior or senior year; carrying a grade-point average of 3.0 or above; practicing Roman Catholics; and involved in volunteer service. Margot Van Etten, Newman Community campus minister, said Van Horn will be the only Newman recipient for 2001-02, but five scholarships will be awarded beginning in 2002-03.

Van Horn will be a junior at SUNY Brockport. The Pendleton, Niagara County, native is a Newman Center council member who also teaches Sunday school at Church of the Nativity, in the village of Brockport.

The Freitasas, on the weekend they met Van Horn, observed how much the campus has expanded since their days as students, when SUNY Brockport was an all-teachers' college and Hartwell Hall was the only main building on campus — "that, and the Quonset huts," Joan Freitas said.

Archie, who got his master's degree from Brockport as well, went on to teach elementary education. Joan, who gained her master's from the University of Rochester, was a high-school physical education instructor and later a guidance counselor.

The Freitasas moved to California in 1963 where they raised five children. They are grandparents of 10.

Archie noted that all his children earned college degrees, saying, "We have a belief in education as being the foundation of life."

On the other hand, none of Archie and Joan's parents advanced beyond the eighth grade but they, also, supported their children's efforts to attend college. For that reason, the Freitasas began the Newman Scholarship in their parents' memory.

"They were not obstructionists. They believed in what we were doing," Archie said.



Karin von Voigtlander/Photo intern
Campus Minister Margot Van Etten (right) awards Julie Van Horn her plaque for being the first Newman Scholarship recipient. The scholarship's founders, Archie and Joan Freitas, look on during 10 a.m. Mass July 15.



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