

Frank and Pat Nelson Endowed Aquatic Resources Research Fellowship

We have no other info on this source at this time. May or may not be operating interested students can check into this

What follows is an old press release that we snagged

The anticipation of this doctoral program makes the Nelsons' charitable gift annuity-funded "Frank and Pat Nelson Endowed Aquatic Resources Research Fellowship" particularly significant. The income from the endowment will be used to award fellowships to full-time students pursuing doctoral-level studies in the aquatic resources field.

Frank and Pat Nelson understand that water is one of the world's most precious natural resources—a resource that is central to our quality of life. Education is another. They realize that Frank's alma mater, Southwest Texas State University (SWT), is the ideal place for the two to combine.

The Nelsons are not alone. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is reviewing making aquatic resources the sixth doctoral degree offered at SWT. Not only is SWT ideally located in the state for a focus on aquatic studies, but it also has a proven track record in water concerns and offers strong bachelor's and master's programs in aquatic biology.

The objective of the Aquatic Resources program is to produce professionals trained in the science of water, including its role in sustaining human and other forms of life. The program will include course work designed to provide an understanding of what is necessary to maintain aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, knowledge of the historical, legal and political policies regarding sustainable water resources, and an understanding of the importance of economic development regarding use of our water resources.

These professionals will be able to analyze and formulate solutions to critical water-related problems as they relate to management and policy issues. They may function as employees of state, federal and international agencies and organizations, private industry, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, or other relevant stakeholders involved in major water-related issues.

Texas anticipates a doubling of its population, from 18 million today to nearly 36 million by the year 2030. There already exists an unsustainable supply of freshwater for Texas' present population, as evidenced by water use restrictions brought on by widespread drought, as well as the rapid and continuing depletion of the state's aquifers. Thus, the primary goal of SWT's Aquatic Resources program is to generate scientists who can work within an interdisciplinary environment to develop solutions to this problem – a problem of state, national and international implications. Because of SWT's central and water-sensitive geographic location, its unique responsibility for major regional aquatic resources, including ownership of its own aquatic ecosystem (San Marcos springs, wetlands and lake complex), and its established educational and outreach programs, the SWT Department of Biology proposes to create this uniquely interdisciplinary, doctoral-level program of research, education and planning.

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To Frank Nelson, this endowment is an opportunity to give back something to SWT. “The wonderful life that I've had goes back to the gates of SWT. If it were not for the university, I would not have had any of the things I have now,” Frank says.

Frank Richard Nelson was born and reared in San Antonio by a mother who inspired him to work hard and pursue his education. Patricia Ann Schiwetz Nelson grew up in Houston, the daughter of noted Texas painter Edward M. “Buck” Schiwetz. Frank and Pat met in San Antonio. Pat has a bachelor's degree from UT-Austin and a master's in counseling and psychology from Trinity University in San Antonio. Frank received his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1958 and his master's in educational administration in 1962, both from SWT.

The Nelsons were both employed by the same school district in San Antonio for more than 30 years. Pat taught junior high earth and life sciences and Frank taught high school biology. They subsequently worked in special education services, Pat in the area of diagnostics and Frank in supervision and vocational adjustment of handicapped students. Pat then continued to work part-time as a consultant to various San Antonio area schools. Throughout their lives, the Nelsons have seen education as essential and have been eager to play a role.

“Brainpower has to be a significant part of the essence of this country if we are going to keep the standard of living to which we have become accustomed,” says Frank. “Universities must be widely supported if we are to meet this goal.”