

## Gift celebrates Hope's role

**Elmer Hartgerink '39** always remembered the difference that a Hope education had made for him.

As a result, he supported the college throughout his life. Correspondingly, when he died a year ago this month, the scientist-entrepreneur made a major gift through his estate in support of *Legacies: A Vision of Hope*.

"He had always had a lifelong love of Hope College and science. And he was also a businessman, and he put all three of those things together throughout his life," said his son, Dr. Ronald Hartgerink '64. "He loved chemistry, and knew that Hope College was profoundly influential in that love for chemistry, and just was grateful for that for as long as he lived."

After graduating from Hope, Elmer Hartgerink completed his master's in organic chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He subsequently returned to Zeeland, Mich., the city of his birth, to work with Chemical Specialties Inc. He stayed with the firm when it was acquired by Miles Laboratories, and remained with Miles Labs—serving in Zeeland as well as Granite City, Ill., and Elkhart, Ind.—until retiring as director of environmental control in 1979.

Three days later, he became chairman and chief executive officer of Wyckoff Chemical Company Inc. in South Haven, Mich. He was Wyckoff's president until 1989, when Ron succeeded him, and remained the company's chairman until the firm was purchased by Catalytica Inc. in 1999.

Hope presented Elmer with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1988. In 1991, he and his first wife, Margaret, who died in 1993, established the "Elmer E. Hartgerink Endowed Professorship in Chemistry" and the "Margaret Baron Hartgerink Nursing Scholarship."

Elmer became the first of three generations of Hartgerinks to attend Hope. All three of his and Margaret's children attended (son John attended from 1964 to



**Elmer Hartgerink '39**

1966, and daughter Eleanor graduated in 1972)—as did Ron's son Kevin, who graduated in 1998.

Like his father, Ron and his wife Barbara have also made a major gift on behalf of the science building project—for the same reasons that earned Hope his father's support.

"Dad's career and mine are somewhat parallel," said Ron, who was at Exxon for nearly 20 years before joining Wyckoff. He stayed with the company after the merger with Catalytica, serving as manager of the South Haven site and senior vice president for corporate research and development until retiring at the end of December.

"I also credit Hope College with getting me off on the right foot in chemistry," he said. "I went to Berkeley shortly after I graduated from Hope and found that I had been well prepared and ready to go, and always appreciated the great start that Van Zyl and Kleinheksel gave me."

"And in fact those were the same two gentlemen who got dad off on the right foot. So we have those two professors in common," he said. "They were pioneers and built the foundations upon which a lot of others subsequently built and did Hope College proud as well."

His appreciation of the program stems not only from his experience as a graduate, but from his experience as an



**Dr. Ronald Hartgerink '64**

employer. There is a need, Ron has found, for the sorts of graduates that Hope produces.

"Businesses like Wyckoff absolutely depend on chemistry. We wouldn't be here without chemistry. And even the very large petroleum companies like Exxon and many, many other companies depend on chemistry for their business, and we all do in our own lives," he said. "So it's worthwhile supporting good chemistry programs because we need good chemists."

The science center project will help assure that Hope continues to produce not only good chemists but good scientists in general—as well as non-scientists who are scientifically literate.

The \$36 million project will double the current Peale Science Center building, expanded to the west to include new classrooms, laboratories, and office and storage space. Peale Science Center, which is more than 25 years old, will be updated to better meet contemporary teaching and research needs.

The expanded building will continue to house the departments of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, the geological and environmental sciences, and psychology, with the department of nursing moving in from its cottage headquarters on 14th Street. The design will complement the college's on-going emphasis on collaborative student-faculty research as a teaching model, with the addition of interdisciplinary classroom space reflecting the way that science disciplines increasingly inter-relate.

The new construction and the renovated Peale Science Center will be joined by a three-story atrium, which will contain a large informal meeting space for both students and college guests. The proposed atrium will be named for Drs. Van Zyl and Kleinheksel, and all who donate \$10,000 or more to the science center will be honored on a recognition wall.

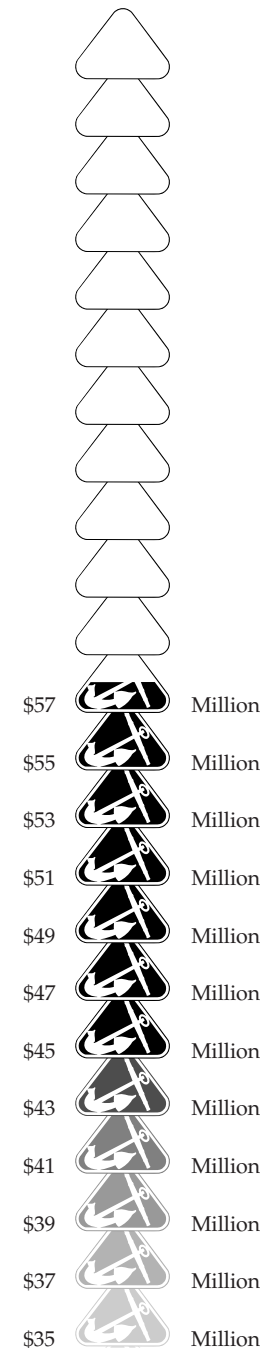
Not every alum or friend of the college can afford to underwrite a portion of the science building or of one of the other components of the campaign. Every gift, however, has a major impact, combining with other contributions to build the Hope experience that will benefit future generations.

## LEGACIES

A VISION OF HOPE

CAMPAIGN WATCH

RAISED TO DATE: \$58 MILLION



### Legacies: A Vision of Hope

is an \$85 million fund-raising effort that has three primary components: renovating and expanding the science center, increasing the endowment, and addressing short-term and long-term facility and space needs.

For more information, please visit the college on-line at [www.hope.edu](http://www.hope.edu) or call (616) 395-7783.

**Watch the giving grow!**

## Towsley supports project

The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation of Midland, Mich., has awarded Hope a \$750,000 grant for the renovation and expansion of the college's science center.

The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation was established in 1959 by Margaret Dow Towsley with a gift of Dow Chemical Company common stock and incorporated as a private, charitable foundation. The foundation's goal is "to assist religious, educational, charitable and scientific

organizations with their programs, and for the prevention of cruelty to children."

Recent support of the college by the foundation includes a \$500,000 grant in 1994 for the Towsley Research Scholars program at Hope, which supports the college's faculty in blending their research interests and teaching. Most recently, the award supported the research of Dr. J. Jeffery Tyler, assistant professor of religion, during his sabbatical last year.