

Staffords Create Business Endowment

John and Connie Stafford have long been involved in supporting and improving the College of Business. Both graduates of the industrial administration program—John in 1976 and Connie in 1979—they recently reaffirmed their commitment to the college with a \$300,000 gift which will establish the John and Connie Stafford Business Endowment.

Their gift will be further enhanced through the matching gifts program at General Mills, where John is the vice president of Financial Shared Services.

“Our gift is provided to enable the College of Business to continuously improve,” said Stafford. “The Gerdins and many others have generously provided a stunning and advanced building; we now need to fill it with the faculty, staff and students consistent with the college’s vision. We hope our faculty fellowship allows the College of Business to realize its potential.”

“We thank John and Connie for their generosity and dedication to their college,” said Dean Labh Hira. “They have done so much for us over so many years, and they are unmatched in their passion to make their college better.”

John Stafford joined General Mills in 1979 and rose quickly through the company. He began as



a financial associate and progressed through General Mills’ financial operations in the United States. His career has taken him to Canada, the Netherlands, and then back to the United States in 1994 as vice president, Financial

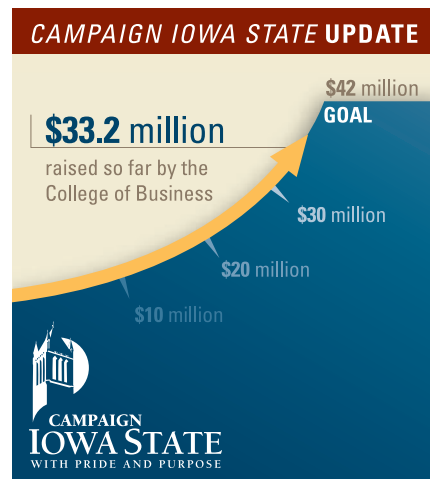
Operations, for Supply Chain Operations and vice president, Global Internal Audit. He has been in the United States since then.

Stafford is a past chair and current member of the College of Business Dean’s Advisory Council. He was instrumental in fundraising and planning for the Gerdin Business Building. He has been heavily involved with the College of Business, speaking to numerous classes and providing insight to faculty regarding curriculum development and research projects.

The college honored Stafford with its John D. DeVries service award in 2005 for his outstanding service.

“I have enjoyed every minute of membership in the Dean’s Advisory Council. This group has contributed much to the advancement of the college,” Stafford said. “I am also very impressed with the college’s leadership. Under Drs. Handy, Allen, and Hira we have seen the consistent stewardship and growth of this treasured asset. We are very grateful for their passion, commitment and guidance.

“It is a delight to reflect on all that has been accomplished since our days in industrial administration. More importantly, feeling the rate of change accelerate—and watching the vision for the college unfold—is exciting.” ■



“The Staffords are unmatched in their passion to make their college better.”

—LABH HIRA

These College of Business donors were mistakenly left out of the fall 2007 Prospectus list of those who made a gift between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007. Please accept our apologies and thanks for your support to the college.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Dr. William Thompson

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Daniel and Sharon Krieger