

DEPAUW

FALL MAGAZINE 1994



FEATURE SECTION:
Celebrating 75 years of
Edward Rector's Legacy

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Investing for the Richest Returns of All

By Jeffrey Waggoner

Edward Rector's "Investments in Humanity" not only changed the course of thousands of students' lives but also were perhaps the defining moments in setting DePauw on course to become the national liberal arts university it is today.

No darkness oppresses more thoroughly than that of ignorance.

The sentiment is Shakespearean, but its reach extends before and after the rebirth of mind that marked the Renaissance. The sentiment is as simple and intense as fire: Against all the forces that conspire to darken and inhibit a human mind – habits, distractions, the company one keeps, a lack of means, and more – to value learning insists on conditions that will expose a human mind to what light we can know here in what time we have.

The Renaissance held no monopoly on this commitment to the enlightenments that education affords. That commitment has existed in many times and many places – whenever and wherever the urge to foster human growth has outshone both the urge to let it flicker away and the urge to snuff it out.

Seventy-five years ago this fall, the sentiment to value learning evidenced itself at DePauw as it seldom has shown at institutions of higher learning anywhere. But, then as now, sentiment alone could not compel much of any darkness to recede. Even in 1919, a meaningful commitment to learning required, in addition to warm intentions, the prudent investment of someone's hard-earned, tangible dollar.

And 75 years ago at DePauw those dollars were very, very tangible indeed. In April 1919, a living benefactor who had donated to DePauw before, but who bore no discernible personal tie to DePauw, announced a donation of unprecedented proportions to establish a scholarship foundation in his name at DePauw. In August 1925, upon that benefactor's death, the vault of his generosity opened again for DePauw and its students, this time even more widely than in 1919. This benefactor's various "investments in humanity," as the benefactor himself called his donations to DePauw, totaled almost \$4 million.

This is the story of those gifts and the man who made them. This is the story of how one man, Edward M. Rector, turned on a light at Old DePauw that neither time nor changing curriculum has yet extinguished.

His story belies the common assumption that one person or one vote cannot change the world. In his story, one person cast one decisive vote to ensure that, at least for the students of DePauw, enlightenment would always have a chance to win out over ignorance.

At DePauw and well beyond, with each DePauw student it touches, his decision is still changing the world today.

Bright and ambitious but too poor to go to college ...

Edward Rector was born into modest Midwestern prosperity in Bedford, Ind., on July 7, 1863. Before then his father, Isaac Rector, had prospered as a banker for almost two decades. In fact, the home into which Edward Rector was born was of such stature that the word around Bedford was that Isaac Rector was the wealthiest man in all of Lawrence County.

But the family's wealth and status were short-lived. Not long after the Civil War, Isaac Rector's business failed. To meet his debts, he sold off his property. The Rectors moved out of a house fit for a family of respect and station into a smaller house – a rental – elsewhere in the neighborhood.

DePauw's magnificent Rector Scholarship Foundation sends its deepest roots back to this time – to Isaac Rector's abrupt transition from successful banker to pauper.

Especially in small-town middle-America, where everyone knows everyone else (and if they don't, they know someone who does), exchanging prominence for

Edward Rector on the art of giving at DePauw ...

"My investment in DePauw ... is altogether the most satisfactory and profitable investment I have ever made, and it is the thing of greatest interest in my life today."

PHOTO: DEPAUW ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

poverty only deepens the grind of living on modest means. Such a misfortune as Isaac Rector's would have bitten deep indeed in Bedford, Ind. According to his son, though, Isaac Rector weathered his misfortune well. Years later, in the words of Edward Rector's biographer, former DePauw President George R. Grose, Edward would remember that the Rectors' skid only proved his father's "stalwart integrity and heroic fortitude ... in this time of adversity."

Many years after the decline, the Rectors' family misfortune bore a specific consequence that young Edward himself would feel for the rest of his life. He graduated from Bedford High School when he was 14 years old in 1877. Six of his classmates were already primed to embark for Valparaiso to attend what eventually became Valparaiso University. Always bright and studious, serious even then in his passion for learning, Edward naturally wanted to follow his classmates on to college. The family's lack of money, however, prevented him from taking that course. In those days, before student loans, college was a financial impossibility for Edward Rector.

Forty-six years later, in an Indianapolis speech on the values and satisfactions of educational philanthropy, Rector vividly recalled the sharp disappointment he had felt when financial constraints deprived him of a college education.

"When I graduated from Bedford High School ... nearly all of my class went off to college ... I felt very much abused that I did not have the means to accompany my classmates, and I have always afterwards had a notion that if I were ever able, I would like to help some fellows to go to college who were in the fix that I was in at the time."

His lack of means drove Rector into various odd jobs, all of which served better to build character than financial independence. First, he worked in a drugstore. When the drugstore folded, he worked in a printing office for \$1.50 a week. He considered becoming a printer himself – but soon thought better of that, sensing that the life of a shoemaker might suit his temperament; after much thought he saved the path of a shoemaker for another day. He worked for two years as a clerk in the office of the County Recorder and County Auditor. In 1881, he started reading law in his off-hours and began to define his life's direction.

In 1882, 19-year-old Edward Rector accepted a clerking position in the law firm of Stem and Peck, patent attorneys in Cincinnati. For the next three years, that position funded Rector's own formal legal education at the University of Cincinnati School of Law. Combining regular employment with the rigors of legal studies, of course, demanded much of Rector. But, in 1885, with no collegiate preparation behind him, he graduated second in his law school class of 62. After graduation, he stayed on with the law firm of Stem and Peck as an attorney in Cincinnati.

Rector quickly proved his aptitude for law, gravitating easily toward a lifelong specialty in patent law. Only one year after this former clerk had sat for the Ohio bar examination, one of the partners in the firm, Peck, asked Rector, then just 23, to join him in the new law firm of Peck and Rector. Rector agreed, and their Cincinnati partnership flourished.

How successful in these early years in Cincinnati was the man who would become DePauw's "best friend"? Very. One look at Rector's personal client list testifies to

Below, The first class of Rector Scholars, which entered DePauw in 1919, consisted of 47 men (including one African-American), all from Indiana. By 1931, there were 619 Rector Scholars from 26 states and four foreign countries.



the extent of his firm's success. The list of companies whom Rector himself represented reads like a who's who list of American business: American Telephone and Telegraph, Firestone, General Electric, General Motors, Packard, Studebaker and Westinghouse Electric, to name only the most prominent companies of such stature (and such ample revenues), were grateful to have benefited from counsel and representation as able as Edward Rector's.

In the spring of 1892, just entering his great success in law, Rector pulled out of Cincinnati and moved to Chicago. He had wrestled long with the decision to move. As he wrote in a letter, he found it difficult to "give up an absurd income of four or five thousand dollars a year and start out alone in a strange city." Unlike Cincinnati, however, Chicago was growing and thus represented many more opportunities for a lawyer of growing repute. With his loyal client base now retaining him at his new Michigan Avenue address, Rector doubled his established income his first year in Chicago.

The next year he formed a thriving partnership, and Edward Rector's way to wealth had begun to unfold.

Two events of moment ...

For DePauw, two events of particular moment in Rector's personal life occurred after he moved to Chicago.

In 1837, the woman with whom he had enjoyed a rare companionship in Cincinnati, Lucy Rowland, followed him to Chicago so that the couple could marry. The couple would remain childless, and Lucy Rowland Rector would wholeheartedly support her husband's philanthropic enterprises over the years.

The second "event" was the gradual formation of what would become one of the Rector's longest-standing friendships. This friendship allowed Rector to listen in as his new friend, another prominent Chicago lawyer, spoke often and highly of his alma mater, DePauw University, from which the other lawyer had graduated in 1890. The two men's friendship outlasted one century and continued well into the next. Rector had many a chance to hear his new friend speak highly of Old DePauw. Soon Rector himself grew fond of the school and took an increasing interest in its scholastic and financial well-being.

The other lawyer's name was Roy O. West.

Rector gives to DePauw students ... Students give back to DePauw

West's recollections of his days in Greencastle took such deep hold of Rector

High Man on Edward Rector's List

"Your name has always headed the list of Rector Scholars - I recall that it was the first one on the first list that was sent to me two years ago - so you have always been 'high' man of the lot."

With those words, Edward Rector eased into a personal expression of his regret that A. Dale Allen '24 would interrupt his education at DePauw in 1921-22 and suspend his Rector Scholarship for the year.

Allen's "heading [of] the list of the Rector Scholars" was an in-joke for Rector, a play on the alphabetical "advantage" of Allen's last name. But, joking aside, Allen also typified Edward Rector's own vision of a Rector Scholar.

Allen devoted his entire life to education. He interrupted his DePauw education so that he could start a high school in Millhousen, Ind., near his hometown of Greensburg. After completing his journalism degree at DePauw, Allen taught journalism, mathematics and history in seven high schools in Indiana, serving also as a school administrator. A man of active mind throughout his life, Allen earned two advanced degrees from Indiana University - a master's degree in 1942 and his doctorate in education in 1955.

He was on staff at Indiana University-Bloomington for eight years. During his last 15 professional years, he taught as full professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. There he also served as the university's assistant dean of the School of Education.

Through his "investments in humanity," Edward Rector's influence on Allen's career was immeasurable.

"I am confident that, had it not been for the four years of tuition and the generosity and encouragement of Edward and Lucy Rector, I would not have had a college education," Allen once said.

"As the oldest of seven children in a poor but happy family, I could not have afforded college expenses without the financial help of Edward Rector."

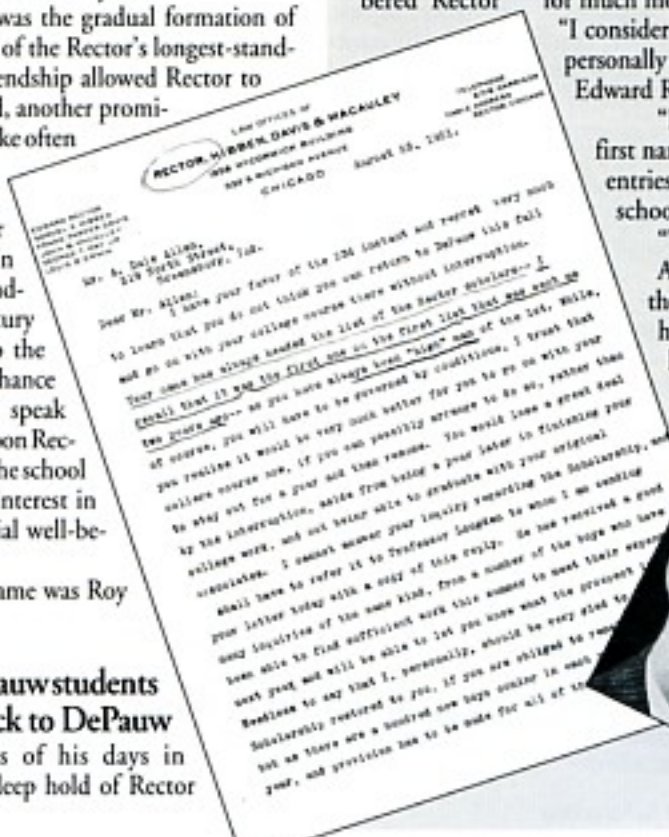
But, as usual in assessing the effects of Rector's liberalities, Allen remembered Rector for much more than his money.

"I consider it a great honor and privilege to have known personally during my four fruitful years at DePauw, Mr. Edward Rector and his wife, Lucy."

"He told me at our initial meeting that I was the first name he had 'learned' from the first list of 1919 entries. He knew my name and my hometown high school in Greensburg, Ind."

"This recollection still means much to me."

Allen died at the age of 93 on June 8, 1994. On the preceding weekend, his fatal illness had caused him to miss being recognized as "the oldest living Rector" at this year's Alumni Reunion.



Left, Edward Rector maintained correspondence with his Scholars, as illustrated by his letter to Dale Allen. Right, Allen circa 1925.

Edward Rector on the art of giving at DePauw ...

"[Students] could have my last dollar, if need be, rather than to be obliged to go home and abandon their efforts to secure an education for the lack of such a pitiful sum of money as would enable them to continue and complete it."

that DePauw consumed the last 11 years of the patent attorney's life. For years, his colleagues at law – ally and opponent alike – had marveled at Rector's uncanny ability to focus on and elucidate the central issue of a case. Rector practiced law until he died in 1925. But he also focused what he himself considered to be his best energies on the unfamiliar challenges he found in his new calling – DePauw.

"My business is DePauw," Rector came to say in his last years, "and I practice law as an avocation to pay expenses."

What eventually grew into the river of Edward Rector's generosity to DePauw began as three cautious little drops of funding for building improvements. In 1914 and 1915, he submitted gifts of \$100, \$500 and \$400. Considering his later emphasis on students' scholarships, there's a gentle irony in Rector's earliest donations to DePauw: the building that benefited from his first largess was the gymnasium.

The turning point of Rector's commitment to DePauw occurred in May 1916. During a visit to Saratoga Springs, N.Y., he and his wife spent an evening with then-DePauw President George C. Grose. When the conversation turned to DePauw, Rector asked Grose a simple direct question: "What are the immediate needs for the best development of DePauw?"

President Grose responded, "The three most urgent needs are the student housing facilities, adequate endowment and provisions for free scholarships for the promotion of higher scholastic standards." Neither man could have realized it at the time, but Grose's response provided a working outline for the rest of Edward Rector's life.

Before that New York conversation with President Grose ended, Rector had pledged \$200,000 to DePauw. The money, he stipulated, should go to the construction of a residence hall for women students; he wanted the hall named after his father, Isaac Rector. Later, in order to complete the construction and furnishing of what is still today DePauw's Rector Hall, Rector donated an additional \$150,000 to DePauw.

In 1918, he began to address the second immediate need that President Grose had identified: endowment.

A university is only as good as its faculty. At the close of World War I, DePauw's faculty, though recognized for their classroom excellence, worked without adequate compensation or a retirement fund. Perhaps because of his conversations with Roy O. West and President Grose, or perhaps because of his own passion for the central transaction of all formal learning, Rector reorganized the necessity of extending tangible appreciation to DePauw's faculty.

"There is no finer body of men and women in the world than those composing the faculty of such institutions as DePauw University," Rector said. "Nobody renders greater or more inadequately paid services for humanity and the future of our country."

"In contributing to an Endowment Fund whose income goes exclusively to their support, one is making an investment of the very highest and finest character."

Between 1918 and 1923, Rector himself sought to remedy the issue of inadequate faculty endowment at DePauw. In 1918, he contributed \$50,000 to the endowment fund. In 1920, he helped establish a retiring faculty fund at DePauw: his gift of \$120,000 was the first gift that fund received. In 1923, he contributed an additional \$35,000 to the endowment fund.

Sometime in late 1918 or early 1919, Rector took up the task of satisfying the third need that President Grose had identified for him in 1916: "provision for free scholarships for the promotion of higher scholastic standards." All of his donations up to then had benefited the students of the University only peripherally. Rector decisively moved students to the center of his philanthropy efforts in the spring of 1919.

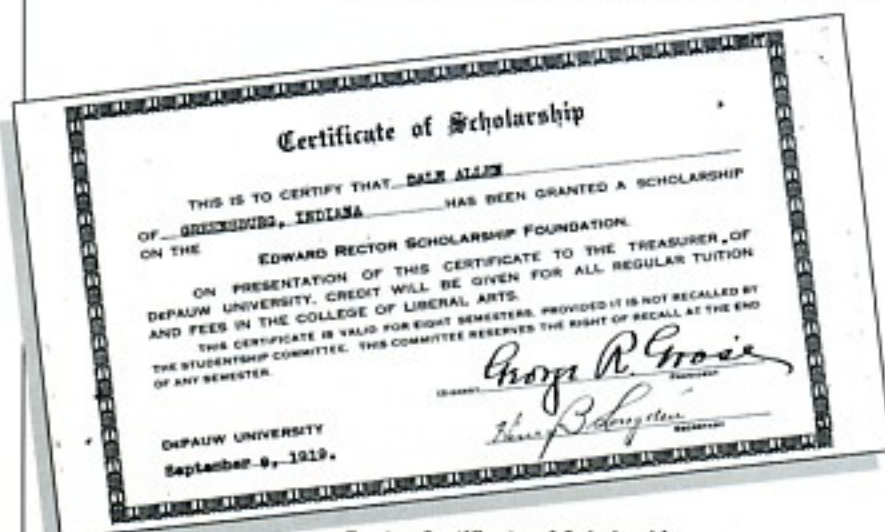
Students were not only DePauw's principal users but also often its neediest users. Rector, though, looked at students from a longer perspective than their immediate financial need. He wanted to encourage scholarship. He felt that personal AND societal benefits of encouraging students to fulfill their potentials were the richest returns that he and society as a whole could know.

As he said later, "My investment in DePauw is altogether the most satisfactory and profitable investment I have ever made."

After circling the central concern of students and their scholarships for so long, in the spring of 1919 Rector put his money where he thought it could reap the greatest returns. A lump-sum gift of \$1.069 million established The Student Loan Fund and the Rector Scholarship Foundation at DePauw.

The loan fund, small only in comparison to the Scholarship Foundation itself, ensured that monetary constraints would bar no student from a DePauw education. Having known the pinch of such constraints firsthand, Rector was only too willing to provide DePauw students a way to see their educations through.

"[Students] could have my last dollar, if need be," he said later in speaking about the loan fund. DePauw's favorite investor preferred to give his last dollar, he said, to having students "be obliged to go home and abandon their efforts to secure an education for the lack of such a pitiful sum of money as would enable them to con-



Rector Certificate of Scholarship

tinue and complete it.

"I do not know of any investment of small or a large sum of money that is likely to bring more direct returns and greater ones, of more far-reaching effect, than just such assistance to young men and young women who are eager for higher education in an institution such as DePauw."

The University responded to the wonderful gift with gratitude and understandable surprise. Henry B. Longden, long-time professor of classics and German at DePauw, was University vice president at the time; he also became the secretary for the Rector Scholarship Foundation. Writing on behalf of the University, on April 30, 1919, Longden could not help coloring his announcement of the gift with a certain amount of bewilderment.

"The rather startling announcement was made," Longden wrote, "that Mr. Edward Rector, of Chicago, was willing to deposit enough money with the treasurer of the University to maintain 400 scholarships in perpetuity."

Rector's plan for the scholarship foundation was simple. He wanted to ensure that, every year "in perpetuity," 100 incoming freshman men would be able to receive full-tuition scholarships for a four-year education at DePauw. Rector could ensure a largess "in perpetuity" in only one way: he had to begin the Foundation with a principal investment of sufficient magnitude to guarantee that the scholarships could derive entirely from the interest on that investment. He could not have foreseen that the Depression would cut deeply not only into the investments (especially Chicago real estate) but also that more scholarships were awarded during this period.

That association, too, is consonant with Rector's own plans for his scholarship foundation. Time and again, he adamantly distanced the scholarship fund from financial need; the loan fund existed to meet purely financial situations. From the very beginning, Rector saw the scholarships that bear his name as symbols of intellectual and moral excellence. Over the years, many Rector Scholars could not have attended DePauw without their Rector Scholarship. (Of the 47 students in the first class of Rectors in 1919, for example, only six could have studied at DePauw without a scholarship.) But Rector wanted all to know that his scholarships primarily rewarded excellence – and his scholarships thereby encouraged excellence, too, both in high schools and at DePauw.

"Inquiry is often made as to whether the scholarship foundation is intended primarily for the benefit of young men without means to secure a college education," Rector said in a speech in 1923. "The answer is, 'No, the scholarships are awarded upon the basis of scholarship and character, and nothing else.'"

As secretary of the foundation, in his correspondence with potential scholarship recipients, Longden conveyed Rector's wishes perhaps even more clearly.

"We want you to appreciate," Longden wrote, "that the chief purpose in the mind of our benefactor, Mr. Rector, was character and scholarship, and that unless

John F. Cady '23: Rector's First Rector

John F. Cady '23 was the "first Rector Scholar." That is, he was the first Rector selected. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and did graduate work at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Pennsylvania.

Cady is a retired distinguished professor of history at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and still lives in Athens. Cady was a Fulbright Fellow and Guggenheim Fellow, whose area of research and writing was Southeast Asia.

Cady also taught at Franklin College; University of Rangoon, Burma; University of Maine; University of Pennsylvania; and Franklin & Marshall College.

He wrote a number of award-winning books including *Southeast Asia: Its Historical Development* and *Roots of French Imperialism in Eastern Asia*, as well as numerous academic articles. In 1981, DePauw awarded Cady an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Cady was founder of the Rector Alumni Association and the *Rector Newsletter*. He also chaired the association's executive committee.

In a draft of a letter to the Rector alumni classes of 1923-25, Cady wrote: "The basic obligation of the Rector alumni is to establish a cumulative tradition of outstanding public service in government, the professions or in a business, which is required to provide a firm basis on which a long-term associational program can be built. Mediocre performance is not enough. ...

"For both Mr. Rector and for DePauw, the scholarship foundation was a gamble, an act of faith. It is for the Rector alumni to demonstrate whether that faith was valid and justified."

The Rector Alumni Association's Rector Memorial Library Fund contributed more than 2,000 volumes to the University library.

Cady was unable to attend the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Edward Rector's 1919 gift that established the Rector Scholar endowment.



John F. Cady

✧

"The basic obligation of the Rector alumni is to establish a cumulative tradition of outstanding public service in government, the professions or in a business ..."

John Cady

✧

**"We want you to
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scholarship ..."**
Henry Longden

the Rector Scholar develops into a genuine student and cultured gentleman, he has failed the purpose of the scholarship."

By itself, Rector's original 1919 endowment of the scholarship foundation would have been a philanthropic legacy that would justify pride in anyone. But, for the last six years of his life, from 1919 to 1925, Rector was saving his most generous gifts to DePauw – his most generous "investments" in the humanity that would pass through DePauw – for last. The general DePauw community would know the full extent of this man's generosity only upon his death.

Rector died on August 1, 1925. The reading of his concise will created a stir in Greencastle. In his will "this wonderful man," as the *Greencastle Banner* called Rector with excited bias, had entrusted to DePauw a sum of money that almost doubled all of his other donations put together.

The total bequest to DePauw in Rector's will came to \$2.3 million. Of that total, Rector specified these apportionments: \$100,000 would go to the Retiring Allowance Fund for teachers and administrators; \$250,000 to the construction of a women's residence hall whose name would be Lucy Rowland Hall "in honor and memory of [Rector's] wife"; \$250,000 to the construction of a men's residence hall whose name would be Longden Hall, "in honor of Professor Henry B. Longden and in appreciation both of his long and valued services to the University and of his special services to the Edward Rector Scholarship Foundation, to which the success of that foundation is so largely due." The balance of Rector's final donation to DePauw would "be devoted to the purposes of the Edward Rector Scholarship Foundation."

Given the extent of Rector's affection for DePauw and its students, it is little wonder that Rector Scholars themselves paused formally to honor Rector following his death. When their numbers were still relatively small, Rector Scholars maintained close ties. At their

first meeting after Rector died, the Rector Scholars Society drafted a resolution whose words have echoed throughout DePauw's succeeding generations of Rector Scholars.

In their resolution, the Society vowed to pay "homage and reverence to the memory of Mr. Edward Rector, who, though nationally prominent as an able counselor-at-law, a public-spirited citizen and benefactor, we feel was peculiarly our own, and whose reputation for good deeds, superb character and brilliant accomplishments will live not only in the minds of all who came in contact with him, but in our hearts as well."

Over the years DePauw's Rector Scholars, consciously or not, have renewed the spirit of that resolution by being some of DePauw's most loyal alumni. Their Rector Scholarships greatly benefited them while they studied at DePauw. Perhaps recognizing the benefits that they enjoyed, as a group Rector Scholars "give back" generously to the school that has helped them succeed in life. The Sesquicentennial Campaign in the 1980s, for example, raised \$121 million. In all, more than 18,000 alumni contributed. Twelve percent of those contributors were former Rector Scholars. The Rectors' donations, however, accounted for \$46 million or 38 percent of all the funds raised in that campaign, testifying to both their gratitude to Edward Rector and DePauw and to the success so many Rectors have achieved in life.

The Rector Legacy

In 1919, the first class of 47 Rector Scholars entered DePauw: all were from Indiana. (Interestingly, in that time we consider much less enlightened than ours, one of the members of that first class was an African-American.) By 1933 there were 607 Rector Scholars on campus – from 26 states and four foreign countries. DePauw's profile changed from that of a small Indiana college to a national liberal arts university.

Through the years, policies changed in administer-

Right, Henry B. Longden was the first secretary of the Rector Scholarship Foundation. Edward Rector in his will recognized his service by providing the funds to construct Longden Hall.



Photo: DePauw Archives and Special Collections

ing the endowment. At times, there was so little income from the fund that the scholarship was more honorary than substantive. Women weren't admitted as Rector Scholars until 1984 – although they could earn the scholarship once they were here by having grades that were higher than *all* the male students. (See sidebar, page 22.)

For a time in the '30s, the foundation awarded fellowships (at different times \$1,200 and \$1,000) for graduate study for the Rector Scholars. Professor Longden chose six or eight members of the graduating classes to be recipients. The students studied at the finest graduate schools not only in the United States but also the world.

For example, fellowship winners in the Class of '32, according to *The Rector Record* of that year, were planning to study organic chemistry at Harvard, Illinois or Johns Hopkins; Latin at the University of Illinois; international finance at the London School of Economics; physics at the University of Chicago or Wisconsin; English at Oxford; speculative philosophy at Boston University; and embryology at Harvard or Johns Hopkins.

So while Rector's gifts opened DePauw to a national student body, Rector Fellowship winners were making DePauw's reputation in graduate higher education.

Last Words

That same *Rector Record* notes that Edward Rector's body, originally buried in Chicago, in 1931 was moved to Forest Hill Cemetery "overlooking Greencastle and the DePauw University campus where his heart always was." Six Rector Scholars served as pallbearers.

Finally, Lucy Rowland Rector remained actively involved in the Rector Scholarship Foundation until her death in 1949. Characteristically, in her will was \$300,000 for Rector Scholars.

The Rector Scholarship Today: By the Numbers

Endowment: \$10.27 million (market value as of June 30, 1994)

Income 1993-94: \$580,000 est. (Spending policy: 6 percent of endowment value for last 12 quarters)

Income reinvest: Some income from the endowment is reinvested to keep inflation from eroding the buying power of the principal.

Total number of Rector Scholars: 109

Presidential Rector Scholars (full tuition): 16

Upper 2 percent of graduating class

Average SAT scores	Verbal	650
	Math	720
		1370

Average ACT score 32

Rector Scholars (\$9,000): 95

Upper 2 percent of graduating class

Average SAT scores:	Verbal	640
	Math	700
		1340

Average ACT score 31



DePauw and Greencastle Rector Scholars

Edward Rector's cornerstone gift not only was instrumental in making DePauw a liberal arts university, it also continues to have an effect on campus and in the Greencastle community. By our count, there are 19 Rector Scholars – eight active or emeritus DePauw professors and the current alumni director – living within shouting distance of East College.

Current faculty members are Jeffrey M. McCall '76, associate professor of communication arts and sciences, and John E. Morrill '57, professor of mathematics.

Emeritus faculty include John J. Baughman '48, senior professor of history; Howard W. Burkett '38, professor emeritus of chemistry; Robert H. Farber '35, vice president and professor of education emeritus; H. David Maloney '48, senior professor of

economics; Arthur W. Shumaker '34, professor emeritus of English; and Howard R. Youse '37, professor emeritus of botany.

Other Rector Scholars living in the Greencastle area are W. David Barr '31, author and long-time reporter and columnist for the *Greencastle Banner-Graphic*; Robert W. Evans '59, owner Collins-Evans Real Estate; Richard A. Bittles '78, president, HBG Insurance and Bonds; Diane Jo Gaston Callahan '91, teacher; Kevin Gough '77, teacher; and Duane Scott Lewis '89.

Darel F. Lindquist '68, writer, is also known for writing the words for "The Ballad of the Monon Bell"; Arthur L. Masten '68, retired teacher; Charles Rector '38, retired funeral home director; J. McRae "Mac" Thornton '61, DePauw's director of alumni affairs; and James Houck '43.

Only If She's Smarter Than All the Boys

Edward Rector on the art of giving at DePauw ...

"I do not know of any investment of small or a large sum of money that is likely to bring more direct returns and greater ones, of more far-reaching effect, than just such assistance to young men and young women who are eager for higher education in an institution such as DePauw."

Not until 1984 did the Rector Scholarship Foundation award four-year scholarships to incoming freshman women at DePauw.

Until then, only incoming freshman men could benefit from a Rector Scholarship from the moment they officially set foot on campus as enrolled students. A female DePauw student could earn a Rector only for a maximum of three years — only after her first year, and then only if she stood at the top of her class — only if she outperformed all the boys.

What might seem odd about such terms is that Edward Rector himself arranged them.

Prospective DePauw women consistently expressed interest in Rector Scholarships. One 1927 letter, written by a friend of athletic donor Ira B. Blackstock, pleaded to Rector Foundation head Henry B. Longden the case of the writer's niece, "who for the past three years has been an honor student in the Quincy High School." The Rector Foundation archives abound with similar requests from (or on behalf of) prospective women students.

And, every time, a letter of denial from Longden sets the record straight. In his reply to the Quincy student, for example, he observed that "Rector Scholarships are given only to young men, and therefore, of course, your niece is not eligible."

Longden explained the necessity of such a cold response: "That is the condition under which the Foun-

dation was established. The only exception is when a young woman stands at the head of her class in the University. Then she may receive a scholarship. That has happened several times."

Three women must have stood at the heads of their class because they all appear in the first graduating class in 1923: Gladys Amerine Crook, Grace Dorcas Hutchinson Ruthenburg Harvey and Harriet Geiger Thoma.

So if in the early years of the scholarships women "several times" proved that they could outperform all the boys, why wait until 1984 to extend the common decency of equal treatment? If you were Edward Rector, why would you establish your Scholarship Foundation with an undeniable bias against women?

The vast preponderance of the evidence suggests that Rector, true to his prudent Midwestern nature, arranged terms of his foundation as he did for what he deemed to be an eminently practical reason.

"At the time the scholarship foundation was established," Rector said, "the number of young women at DePauw was largely in excess of that of young men, for which reason, among others, the offer of scholarships was limited to young men ... with the result that the relative numbers have been reversed, and the young men are now in the majority."

Not having "the young men ... in the majority" had concerned many in the DePauw community in the years before Rector established the scholarship foundation. In a letter to Professor Henry B. Longden, Chicago attorney Amos Miller observed that, according to the tenor of his good friend Rector's comments, "DePauw is at all times threatened by a majority of women students."

In fact, DePauw women outnumbered DePauw men by a ratio of 2 - 1 before the Rector fund started distributing scholarships in 1919. By 1929, just 10 years after Rector money first offset tuition expenses at DePauw, the numbers had indeed reversed: men now outnumbered women by a ratio of 2 - 1. Responding to Miller, Longden cited this reversal as proof that Rector's plan had achieved one of its major goals.

But why consider a predominance in the numbers of women a "threat" at all? Why bestow full-tuition scholarships on one hundred incoming men every year, but on only one or two women?

Two old hands around DePauw's admissions office see such questions from a more mundane administrative point of view.

"Rector's decision to favor men was easily understood at the time," says Robert H. Farber '35. A former Rector Scholar, Farber served as DePauw's interim director of admissions and head of student recruitment in the late 1930s.

"DePauw didn't have any trouble attracting women;



Right, page one from the May 1932 Rector Record.

student recruitment for women was relatively easy," Farber continues. "But the people Rector was talking to – Longden, President Grose, Roy O. West – impressed upon him the need to raise the scholarship tone among the men."

John Wittich '44 agrees.

"We really needed more men than we were getting," he recalls. A former Rector Scholar himself, Wittich assumed the directorship of the Rector Scholarship Foundation in 1952 and worked as DePauw's director of admissions from 1952 to 1961.

"Before the Rector Scholarships, DePauw was getting superior women students, but we were not getting superior men."

Whatever might have underlain the Rector Scholarship Foundation's original terms we would do well to see Rector's motives with some generosity of our own: For all his genuine humanities, for all the magnanimity he has extended to men *and* women students at DePauw, Edward Rector still was only a product of his time — just as we are products of ours.

While Rector Scholarships were originally only awarded to males, females could qualify as this early class photo illustrates.



Profiles in Scholarship: Three Generations of Rector Scholars

By Jeffrey Waggoner

Edward Rector on the art of giving at DePauw ...

"My investments in DePauw ... are not investments in DePauw University; they are investments in humanity, in the men and women who are to carry on the work of our country and of the world when you and I are gone ..."

Focus on Three Beneficiaries of Edward Rector's Generosity—a 50th-Anniversary, a 25th-Anniversary and a current Rector Scholar.

"It is hardly fair," Edward Rector once observed about the pool of Rector Scholarship recipients, "to single out two or three and tell you of them, while saying nothing of a hundred others who are just as interesting and just as inspiring in every way. They are leaders on the DePauw campus, now, and they will be leaders in after life wherever they go."

Like Rector, *DePauw Magazine* recognizes the unfairness of "singling out only two or three" of DePauw's finest students. But, to make it easier for you to finish reading this issue before you receive the next, we felt constrained to single out only three Rector Scholars as subjects for up-close profiles now: John J. Wittich '44, Dr. Russell

C. Sklenicka '69 and Erin K. O'Brien '96.

Wittich, Sklenicka and O'Brien certainly have excelled in their own particular rights. But, as you read of them, we ask you to remember that each represents a much larger class, too—the honored class of more than 3,500 fellow Rector Scholars over the past 75 years at DePauw.

Rector Scholars John Wittich, Erin O'Brien and Dr. Russell Sklenicka posed in front of Rector Hall on Alumni Reunion Weekend '94.



Scholar, Director, Achiever

A Rector Across Three Decades

John J. Wittich '44

"... every now and then you run into an atypical guy such as John J. Wittich '44, an absolute original."

Typically, students earn their Rectors, enjoy tangible honor of tuition waivers, enjoy the intangible honor of high peer respect, and when they graduate from DePauw, the honors of being a Rector recede quietly into a pool of memories that the word "DePauw" will come to evoke as the years go by.

Limiting the honor of a Rector to four short years indeed does happen far too often. To paraphrase Edward Rector himself, as a matter of principle, it is hard not to single out any of DePauw's thousands of Rector recipients for the honors of Rector association and recognition after college, too.

That's the typical slant on a Rector Scholar's experience. But every now and then you run into an atypical guy such as John J. Wittich '44, an absolute original.

Wittich's public association with the Rector Scholarship Foundation touches, not just the normal four years, but an impressive proportion of three decades. He enjoyed all the honors of being a Rector Scholar as a student at DePauw in the early 1940s. Between 1952 and 1961, in addition to serving as one of DePauw's most beloved and certainly most garrulous directors of admissions, Wittich was director of the Rector Scholarship Foundation. And, in 1969, Wittich earned the Rector Achievement Award, given annually to the 25th-Anniversary Rector Scholar who has achieved the most in the 25 years following his or her graduation from DePauw.

Such prolonged association with the influence of Edward Rector is atypical for a DePauw student. But then John Wittich and his career are both atypical.

For most of his life after graduating from DePauw, Wittich, now a "retired educator" (as he wrote in this year's Alumni Reunion program), worked in teaching, administration and research in higher education – a career choice that requires a special devotion to educational ideals and to the students who grow through their exposure to those ideals. After graduating from DePauw with a B.A. in economics, Wittich earned an M.S. in education from the University of New Mexico in 1947 and a Ph.D. in psychology from Stanford in 1951. Wittich capped off his service to higher education as president of MacMurray College, a private liberal arts school in Jacksonville, Ill., and as a Presidential Counselor at Stetson University.

As further proof that John Wittich is not your typical



Rector Scholar, note also that he has accepted three honorary doctorate degrees, one each from DePauw (in 1971), Illinois College (in 1979) and MacMurray College (in 1980). Additionally, don't forget that *Who's Who in America* has cited him as a man unusually worthy of recognition for his lifetime of achievements.

Even this Rector Scholar's marriage comes complete with its own atypical element. While at DePauw, Wittich met and married Leah Elliott '44, the woman with whom he still enjoys his life today. All three of John and Leah's children – Karen Ann, Jane Ellen and John Elliott – are degreed and well on their own by now. The Wittichs live in comfortable (though certainly not inactive) retirement in De Land, Fla.

So far, so typical. But Wittich himself points out an oddity about his and Leah's children – or at least about where their children took it upon themselves to enter the world.

"Every one of them was born in a college town!" Wittich remembers with his trademark enthusiasm. "Nann – Karen Ann – was born in 1947 when Leah and I were at the University of New Mexico. Jane was born in 1949 when we were at Stanford. And Johnny was born in 1957 on Locust Street in Greencastle when I was director of admissions at DePauw."

From one end of his career to the other, Wittich has typified Edward Rector's observation and prediction about his scholars: "They are leaders on the DePauw campus, now, and they will be leaders in after life wherever they go." What sets Wittich apart even from other Rector Scholars is the degree to which his life has typified Rector's emphasis on scholarship and leadership. The ease with which Wittich has assumed and fulfilled one position of leadership after another speaks much about the man who his formative years as an undergraduate at DePauw helped him become.

Wittich's long and broad experience in higher education permits him an unusual vantage point for mea-

"It's hard to overestimate the good that Rector's contributions brought to DePauw. ..."

John Wittich

suring the effects of Edward Rector's philanthropy. A researcher must dig through archives and can only peer in at the Rector story as an outside observer. Wittich, however, as a Rector Scholar himself not only has lived through much of the Rector Foundation's history firsthand; he also has seen the effects of educational philanthropy from the perspectives of many schools.

One thing Wittich's broad experience has shown him is that Edward Rector's philanthropic influence has enlightened more than one college campus.

"It's hard to overestimate the good that Rector's contributions brought to DePauw," Wittich observes. "They really lifted DePauw from the position of an also-ran to a place of pre-eminence."

"But Rector had an influence far beyond even DePauw, too," Wittich continues. "For example, the college at which I became President, MacMurray College, owes some of its benefits to Edward Rector."

"Senator James E. MacMurray, industrialist and Illinois state senator, talked to Edward Rector, and said I've got a pile of money, and I'd like to – as Edward

Rector said – 'invest in humanity.'" Rector told Senator MacMurray to pick out one college and focus on it, and that was the most satisfying thing he could do. MacMurray apparently took Rector at his word – almost literally – providing Illinois College for Women with \$4 million for endowment and a residence hall named after his wife. The college, in appreciation, renamed the institution in MacMurray's honor.

"So above and beyond his donations to DePauw, Edward Rector set a standard for some wealthy people to find some worthy purpose for their philanthropy – and I guess Edward Rector hoped that purpose would be a small, church-related college, which DePauw was."

In other words, whether you look at Edward Rector from DePauw's perspective or from that of other colleges and universities, Rector's primary business was helping humanity to achieve to an atypical degree.

Seen from that perspective, perhaps achievement as atypical as John Wittich's were in Edward Rector's plans – or at least in his best hopes – all along.

From Chicago to Florida via Rector and DePauw

Dr. Russell C. Sklenicka '69



"Many of the things I did at DePauw carry over directly into my [medical] practice today."

Dr. Russell C. Sklenicka

A recurring theme in the story of Edward Rector's philanthropy is Rector's own stubborn insistence that the purpose of his Scholarship Foundation was not to help the needy, but to reward the bright and studious.

Maybe so. But, time and again throughout the Rector story, you find case after case like that of Russ Sklenicka. Undeniably bright and studious, coming out of high school Russ also undeniably needed financial assistance to attend a private university.

"Together with my Noah Scholarship, my Rector Scholarship enabled me to come to DePauw," Sklenicka recalled during Alumni Reunion Weekend last June. "Coming from a blue-collar family on the south side of Chicago, as I did, I had to have a certain degree of financial help."

"Even with my financial aid package, my parents still

worked extra hard to help me get through school."

Not all Rector Scholars have needed Rector money just to get their college educations. But, as with Russ Sklenicka, scholastic excellence and financial need coincide often enough in DePauw's Rectors to remind you why Edward Rector established his Scholarship Foundation: "to help some fellows to go to college who were in the fix" that Rector himself was in when he had wanted to go to college.

In 1965, family finances certainly were not the grind for new high school graduate Russell Sklenicka that they had been for Rector. But the Sklenickas' finances were not extravagant, either.

Born and raised in the southwest Chicago suburb of Berwyn, Sklenicka describes his roots as "a very, very blue-collar, very ethnic, Czechoslovakian neighborhood." His family's support was never in question. But his upbringing did not predispose Russ for his career as an orthopedic surgeon, nor did his practical, down-to-earth upbringing nudge him naturally toward the serious study of the liberal arts that he found at DePauw.

More than anything else, what turned Sklenicka toward DePauw was his respect for one particular teacher.

"A very, very influential person for me – my high school Latin teacher – absolutely pounded it into my head for three years that I was to get a liberal arts education, that I was to go where I could have the humanities as well as everything else, and that I had to do that."

"With my dad, at first my decision to come to DePauw didn't go over very well," Sklenicka remembered, "but at the end he couldn't have been more pleased that I went to DePauw."

"I don't think my dad ever got over the fact, though, that my favorite courses were Russian history and literature here with Jack Wilson. My dad never understood how, even when I was deep in pre-med and Vertebrate Anatomy and so on, I could be doing myself any good by taking econ from Doc Warren and courses in Wilson's incredible Russian studies program.

"But part of DePauw's business of humanity and the humanities also gives you a sense of caring for people, for relationships that aren't purely scientific. Many of the things I did at DePauw carry over directly into my practice today."

Sklenicka always knew that he wanted to go into medicine, and he always knew that he wanted to live and work in Florida. After graduating from DePauw in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in premedical science, he started living both dreams by enrolling in the University of Florida's College of Medicine in Gainesville. He graduated from med school in 1973, and he has lived and practiced in Florida ever since.

Today, home for Sklenicka is Lakeland, where he lives with his wife, DePauw alumna Betsy Roberts Sklenicka '69, and their two children, Kimberly, a 19-year-old sophomore at Wake Forest, and Scott, a 16-year-old high school junior.

By his own estimate, Sklenicka's years at DePauw laid the groundwork for the successes he has known in both his profession and his personal life since 1969.

"DePauw was a life-changing experience for me in many, many ways.

"I was active in many areas. I was UB president. (Yes, in cooperation with Ted Katula, my UB leader at the time, I am the one who brought the Temptations and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles to campus.) I was a Sigma Nu and was even a pledge trainer at Sigma Nu. I was Phi Beta Kappa. I sang in the university choir. And

I was an instructor of Vertebrate Anatomy."

Amid so much day-to-day activity between his 18th and 22nd years, what did being a Rector Scholar mean to Sklenicka? Was Sklenicka aware of any of the history – particularly the history involving Edward Rector – that had helped make his "life-long changing DePauw experience possible?

"We had a Rector Scholars banquet and other gatherings. I realized that we had a Rector Hall. And I saw the Rector Scholarships listed and described in the University catalog.

"I wasn't really aware of Edward Rector, but I was well aware that someone's immense generosity underlay all the Rector Scholarships."

Edward Rector himself would not have taken the young Sklenicka's preoccupation with the business of his own developing life as a slight. After all, the whole point of Rector's "investments in humanity" was not only to recognize classroom excellence, but also, secondarily, to enable DePauw students to more fully grow into their potentials. Russ Sklenicka did just that during his four years in Greencastle. Rector himself would have agreed that a bright, 18-year-old had better things to think about than whatever historical figure might have donated the student's scholarship funds.

For both Edward Rector and Russ Sklenicka, what is important is that young people continue to have the opportunity for the fertile growing environment that schools such as DePauw provide.

"I am convinced that I wouldn't have gotten such an experience if I had gone to a larger school," Sklenicka said. "You're not guided into taking the liberal arts if you're taking a 'science-track' premed program, which is what larger schools give you.

"I think that if you do not get that liberal arts experience, then you have missed out on college."

"DePauw was a life-changing experience for me in many, many ways. ..."

Dr. Russell C. Sklenicka

A Presidential Rector

The Right Rx for a Career in Medicine

Erin K. O'Brien '96

Imagine for a moment that you are working in the DePauw Office of Admission.

It's late in the recruiting season – say, late April or early May – but you're still trying to land one of the brightest prospects you've seen all year, an Indianapolis girl whose name from end to end reveals her Irish heritage, one Erin Kathleen O'Brien.

During the past year, thousands of applications have crossed your desk in quest of the 600-odd seats available for this year's entering freshman class at DePauw. You've carefully reviewed each of those applications. You've followed up by talking to applicants, many of whom have displayed the traits you always look for in a DePauw student: scholarship, personality, character and leadership.

But you probably can count on one hand (okay, maybe two or three hands) the students whose applications can match the strength of O'Brien's. Her science

aptitude is unusually high (before she graduates from high school, she knows that med school will follow her baccalaureate degree). Accordingly, you've already offered her a Condit Science Scholarship.

Yet the Condit scholarship alone has not convinced O'Brien to attend DePauw. Late in the recruiting season, O'Brien is still wavering between DePauw and a famous private, Catholic university in northern Indiana that does not grant academic scholarships.

How do you bring such a student in under DePauw's wing for the next four years? At that point, what unused pearl of persuasive force can you offer O'Brien that will sway her to come study in Greencastle.

You could do what DePauw's Office of Admission did: You could offer her the choicest recruiting enticement you have at your disposal. You could offer her a Presidential Rector Scholarship.

A Presidential is a four-year, full-tuition scholarship.

... as Erin O'Brien learned, a Presidential Rector makes a powerfully enticing recruiting tool, too.



Photo: Lawrence D'Amico

... Rector Scholarships exist completely to reward the highest scholastic excellence.

Strictly complying with the original spirit of Edward Rector's philanthropy, today's Presidential Rector Scholarships exist completely to reward the highest scholastic excellence.

But, as Erin O'Brien learned, a Presidential Rector makes a powerfully enticing recruiting tool, too.

"I already liked a lot of things about DePauw," she says of her decision to do her undergraduate work in Greencastle. "The small size of the school was a big plus."

"And the small size meant that I would get more personal attention at DePauw than I would get at the larger schools I was interested in at the time. Right away, I'd be working with professors who know each of their students. I already knew I wanted to go into medical research, and at DePauw I'd be doing research as soon as I got here my freshman year. At other schools, I would have had to wait until my junior and senior years to do research."

"So I was already very interested in coming here. But when I found out I was getting a full scholarship, that pretty much clinched my decision for me."

Now a junior majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry, O'Brien notes that her Presidential Rector steered her into an education that has been everything she had hoped it would be.

"I have friends who did go to that famous Catholic university in northern Indiana, and they are amazed at what I do here. I do research. I work with my professors; I know all my professors; I go to their houses when they invite us over for cookouts."

"These friends of mine at [that other private university] don't have opportunities like that. I ask them if they can't just go to the career planning and placement office and get some alumni connections, if they can't just get an internship with someone. They have no idea what I'm talking about. But here, that's all just a given."

And there's another given at DePauw that attracted O'Brien as she began to prepare herself for a career in medicine. Despite her commitment to science, she

"I do research. I work with my professors; I know all my professors; I go to their houses when they invite us over for cookouts."

Erin O'Brien

wanted to prepare for med school where the scientists themselves not only coexist with the humanities, but also actually are taught as humanities, too. DePauw's steady, consistent attention to the liberal arts – regardless of a student's primary field of interest – fit that bill for her, too.

"As a doctor, you have to communicate with people really well," she observes. "You have to be able to write well and to speak well. Here at DePauw, classes are so small that we have a lot of discussion during class. That in itself really strengthens your communication skills."

"Even with the science classes I have here, and with the research I've done in the Science Research Fellows Program, there's a lot of speaking and giving both oral and written presentations."

O'Brien says that the humanities surround her science education here and stretch her in other ways, too. The latitude that DePauw's curriculum demands have allowed the future Dr. O'Brien, medical researcher, the humanizing experience of studying subjects as diverse as German, history, philosophy, religion, psychology and political science.

Before her post-DePauw career has even begun, it is impossible for O'Brien to reflect on all the long-term effects of her Presidential Rector Scholarship. The present and short-term effects, though, are easier for her to gauge.

"My Rector means I don't have as much pressure now, so I can concentrate on my schoolwork while I'm here."

"Down the road" she continues, "the scholarship means that I won't go to med school already having a huge debt from college. That's a big weight off my back. And it helps my family a lot, too."

Removing the onus of financial strain for bright and talented people was the primary goal for all of Edward Rector's "investments in humanity." And, by assisting Erin Kathleen O'Brien, the Rector Scholarship endowment is still carrying out the mandate of Edward Rector's beneficence.