Esther Showalter Deal’s life has been focused on serving others as she moved from being a teacher to working at summer camps to volunteering. And even at 80 years old, she continues to help others. Her scholarship fund, benefiting education majors at Goshen College, began getting distributed to students in the spring of 2011.

Deal was born on June 18, 1931, on a farm east of Goshen. She graduated from Goshen College in 1953 with a degree in elementary education. After four years of teaching near Goshen, she decided to go into voluntary service.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.

“During my years at GC, my professors’ emphasis on service led me to feel that my life should be focused on helping others,” said Deal.

In 1957, Deal spent a year in voluntary service in Phoenix, Ariz., teaching in a migrant camp for Navajo children who were waiting to start public school. During that time, she met a Goshen College graduate, Trula Detweiler, who had been teaching on the Navajo reservation, and she asked Deal to join her at Ganado Public School, 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. She taught at Ganado for five years.

During her life, Deal remembered the motto, “Culture for Service,” that she learned at Goshen College. Being a schoolteacher gave her some time off each summer, and she chose to use that free time to live out her alma mater’s motto. Her desire to serve took her to places like Los Angeles, Chicago and northern Michigan, often working with the minorities in the area. Deal also served at a number of summer camps, including Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich., and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Divide, Colo.

In 1964, Deal returned to Indiana and taught for 10 more years. In 1973, she married L. Thomas Deal, a business man from Fort Wayne, Ind. Because school systems in Indiana at that time were suffering from financial problems, she could not find a teaching position in the area, but she found many opportunities for service in Fort Wayne.

Deal volunteered for over 30 years at Lutheran Hospital and became involved in the American Association of University Women, where she served in many offices.
Clayton Sommers: From farm boy to business man

Growing up on an Indiana farm during the Great Depression while attending Howard-Miami Mennonite Church in Kokomo, Clayton laid the foundation for Clayton Sommers to lead a life that combined ministry with business.

Clayton used the lessons he learned from the Great Depression to make good business decisions for his farm. “He was a careful spender, a disciplined saver and a generous giver to the church,” said his son, Karl.

After marrying Ruth (Hershberger) Sommers in 1935, they lived on the home place with his mother for nine years. They saved enough money to purchase a baler, a scarce commodity during World War II, and used it as the centerpiece of a business to serve the needs of local farmers. Using the proceeds of this business, Clayton and Ruth were able to purchase a 120-acre farm in the early 1940s.

In 1954, Clayton was ordained as a minister at a church near Kokomo. Two years later, he and Ruth moved off the farm and into Kokomo to devote more time to the church. They frequently visited people in the community and entertained them in their home. “One common belief and practice was their love for the Lord and service to the church,” said Karl.

With the proceeds they earned from selling their farm, Clayton and Ruth purchased a house with seven apartments in Kokomo. Clayton opened an insurance, real estate and tax return preparation office and managed the apartment complex to generate income for living expenses while volunteering his time to the local church. For most of the next 40 years, Clayton continued to run an insurance, real estate and tax business for people in the community.

Clayton and Ruth had three children, Grace, Karl and Elson. Grace and Karl both attended Goshen College. Elson was a business entrepreneur, but died in 1984 at the age of 44 after struggling with cancer. Ruth died in 1992 at the age of 79, and Clayton continued an active life in both ministry and business until his death on Oct. 10, 2010, at the age of 97. In their end-of-life trust, Clayton and Ruth set aside funds to care for the church.

“During their lives, they connected their work with their faith,” said Karl. “They saw the purpose of Goshen College as embraced by its motto ‘Culture for Service’ as compatible with their beliefs.” Because of these connections, part of their trust was designated to benefit the Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Education, and part was designated to fund the Daniel and Lizzie Sommers Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Daniel and Lizzie Sommers were Clayton’s parents. Their scholarship fund was established to provide financial aid for Goshen College students who are preparing for ministry, for service in the mission field, or for other related Christian service.

Longest working employee has seen a lot of changes over 50 years

Goshen College is happy to recognize Kennard Martin for his 50 years of work at the college by naming the 2011-12 school year “The Year of Kennard Martin, Leader in Service.”

Kennard is GC’s longest working employee. He came to Goshen College in 1961 to work in the dining hall for two years for his 1-W conscientious objector alternative service.

Fifty years later, he’s still serving the college by mowing lawns and plowing snow.

Kennon has seen a lot of changes working on campus for 50 years, including several buildings that have gone up on campus, like the Good Library, Umble Center, Roman Gingerich Recreation-Fitness Center and Music Center. But what hasn’t changed is his love for the outdoors and his job. “I love the changing of the seasons and the energy student activity brings on campus,” he said.

– Alysha Landis

Celebrating 20 years of television at Goshen College

During the fall of 1991, a small group of students at Goshen College was unsatisfied with the video production opportunities on campus. Out of that desire for more hands-on opportunities came GC Journal, a biweekly video news magazine. Twenty years later, through the transformation of technology, GC Journal has evolved into The Correspondent and was recognized as the 2010 Indiana Television School of the Year from the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters.

The Correspondent was established in the fall of 1991 by a small group of students who were unsatisfied with the video production opportunities on campus. Out of that desire for more hands-on opportunities came GC Journal, a biweekly video news magazine. Twenty years later, through the transformation of technology, GC Journal has evolved into The Correspondent and was recognized as the 2010 Indiana Television School of the Year from the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters.

HERITAGE

Development Office Staff:  
Jim Cuskey  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
Role: Sherry  
Director of Annual Giving  
Roger Nafziger  
Director of Gift Planning  
Ken Pleisher  
Major Gift Officer  
Editor:  
Alysha Landis  
Acting News Bureau Coordinator  
Design:  
Hannah Kerig Meyer  
Graphic Designer  

HERITAGE Newsletter, published three times each year, is a service for friends of Goshen College on developments in planned giving and estate planning. Each issue also focuses on a small number of participants in the college’s special and deferred gifts program. Information in HERITAGE Newsletter should not be considered an interpretation of the law or of federal tax rules and regulations. Your own lawyer, bank trust officer or financial adviser can help you select the most advantageous way to give or bequeath funds or property to Goshen College. Litho in U.S.A.

HERITAGE

Development Office Staff:  
Jim Cuskey  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
Role: Sherry  
Director of Annual Giving  
Roger Nafziger  
Director of Gift Planning  
Ken Pleisher  
Major Gift Officer  
Editor:  
Alysha Landis  
Acting News Bureau Coordinator  
Design:  
Hannah Kerig Meyer  
Graphic Designer  

HERITAGE Newsletter, published three times each year, is a service for friends of Goshen College on developments in planned giving and estate planning. Each issue also focuses on a small number of participants in the college’s special and deferred gifts program. Information in HERITAGE Newsletter should not be considered an interpretation of the law or of federal tax rules and regulations. Your own lawyer, bank trust officer or financial adviser can help you select the most advantageous way to give or bequeath funds or property to Goshen College. Litho in U.S.A.

Kenard Martin for his 50 years of work at the college by naming the 2011-12 school year “The Year of Kennard Martin, Leader in Service.”

Kennard is GC’s longest working employee. He came to Goshen College in 1961 to work in the dining hall for two years for his 1-W conscientious objector alternative service.

Fifty years later, he’s still serving the college by mowing lawns and plowing snow.

Kennon has seen a lot of changes working on campus for 50 years, including several buildings that have gone up on campus, like the Good Library, Umble Center, Roman Gingerich Recreation-Fitness Center and Music Center. But what hasn’t changed is his love for the outdoors and his job. “I love the changing of the seasons and the energy student activity brings on campus,” he said.

– Alysha Landis