



Miss Lucille Speakman taught history for more than 30 years at FSJC and Westark. She is perhaps best remembered for her commitment to teaching as a craft, her clear-eyed fascination with the world, her vivid, evocative lectures on the places she traveled during summers—Europe, Africa, even behind the Iron Curtain. “I could sit in Miss Speakman’s class and just listen all day long,” one student would recall.

To Honor Teaching Excellence

In concert with alumnus Randy Wewers ’58, we seek to both honor and perpetuate the 82-year tradition of teaching excellence at UA Fort Smith, Westark, and Fort Smith Junior College, exemplified by professors like Luella Krehbiel, Dr. Sidney Blakely, Tom Fullerton, Claude Yancey, Pete Howard, and many others.

The Lucille Speakman Legacy Endowment is named for perhaps the most revered professor among them. In dedicating the 1963 yearbook to Speakman, the editors wrote, “her name, Fort Smith Junior College, and education have become synonymous.” Nearly 60 years later, Speakman is still

remembered that way.

The Endowment, for which we seek \$100,000 in gifts, will honor outstanding faculty, past and present, by creating a permanent plaque on campus bearing their names. It will perpetuate their legacy by supporting current faculty to become better classroom teachers.

Any faculty member may apply for a Speakman Legacy Fellowship to help fund his or her endeavor to become a stronger classroom teacher, be it self-guided travel of the kind Speakman undertook or another project or activity. In fact, there are few restrictions except that applicants must

demonstrate how the planned activity will directly impact their classroom teaching—and thus the experience of their students.

If you wish to help, please indicate on your response card the name of any professor you would like to specifically honor. With a gift of \$100 or more, his or her name will be added to a plaque on campus. All faculty members honored with a gift of any size will be named—with your comments—in print and electronic publications.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Development Officer Anne Thomas with any questions at (479) 788-7033 or athomas@uafortsmith.edu.