CARROLL APARTMENTS

Ceremonial Groundbreaking

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, Carroll is building phase two of the campus apartments project. Net revenue from the two new buildings will fund student scholarships.

As requested by the donor, we are naming the apartments in honor of late Carroll professors John Downs and Al Murray. These two beloved faculty members made a significant impression on the life of the donor as well as anyone who sat in their classrooms or who worked alongside them.

In keeping with naming campus apartments after saints, the new buildings will be named “St. John Vianney” for Professor John Downs and “St. Alfred the Great” for Professor Al Murray.

November 3, 2016

Helena, Montana
www.carroll.edu
About the Saints

Alfred the Great, a ninth century English king, was known for his fierce commitment to learning—fierce because after successfully defending his kingdom from Viking conquests, he undertook an ambitious effort to revive learning. He recruited clerical scholars and established a court school. He commissioned translations, advocated literacy, and served as a patron of arts, literature, and especially the Church.

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney was a French parish priest known for his unflagging counsel to parishioners. Committed to restoring the Catholic Church in France in the aftermath of the French Revolution, he soon became known beyond his own parish for his passion to care for and support the individuals who consulted him. By the latter years of his career the number of pilgrims traveling to seek his counsel is thought to have reached as many as 20,000 a year.

Words from the donor:

“When you talk about the Carroll family, for many faculty, staff, and students John Downs was the father of that family. His love for his work and his Carroll family was evident every single day. Although I was not lucky enough to have John as a professor, it speaks volumes that he still had an effect on me. John Downs took the time to care, to ask how we were doing and somehow find the time to stop and listen. I can say from firsthand experience that John Downs made a lot of tough times for students a whole lot easier just by letting us know that someone really cared. No one ever doubted the sincerity of this man’s care and love for the students of this institution. He was also an incredible mentor for so many other faculty, and because of that, his legacy lives on.

“When anyone asks me who was the most influential person in my life, I never hesitate. The answer has always been Al Murray. One of my greatest gifts was to have him assigned to me as an advisor my freshman year in college and that is what he became for my four years at Carroll, my advisor. Al Murray could turn a chalk board and a piece of chalk into a vehicle of understanding of math; his ability to make it all seem so clear was amazing. Many other alumni shared this experience—Al was the best teacher we all had and he loved to teach.”

We are blessed at Carroll to have had the love and example of John and Al, and we are grateful to the generous support of the individual gift that has made this memorial to them possible.

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