



CenturyCollege

News Release

February 26, 2009
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Century College Foundation Dedicates Fireplace Area in New Building to J. Stanley Hill

The late J. Stanley Hill of White Bear Lake, founder of the Century College Foundation, had a big heart for people who worked hard to help themselves. Though he never attended college himself, he gave generously of his time, talent and treasure to help Century College students stay in school and achieve their goals.

To honor his legacy of giving, the Century College Foundation on Feb. 19 held a ceremony to dedicate the cozy fireplace area in the college's new Science/Library building to the memory of J. Stanley Hill. College Foundation Executive Director Nick Maras and Assistant Director Carrie Dieveney unveiled a beautiful portrait of Hill that hangs over the first-floor gas fireplace. Family and friends joined college officials to share affectionate stories about Hill and his legacy.

“Stanley Hill graduated from high school at age 14 and went on to become an actuary for Minnesota Mutual though he never went to college,” said Keith MacKenzie, a longtime friend and Century College Foundation board member. “He was an exemplary man and a genius.”

MacKenzie said Hill had such a wide-ranging, curious mind that whatever conversation topic a person brought up, Hill was familiar with some research on the subject. “I appreciated all those Stanley Hill moments,” said MacKenzie.

George Hill, Stanley’s son, said his father worked incredibly hard to teach himself to become a life insurance actuary. “Getting a job like that today would require straight A’s at the college level,” said George. “He spent hundreds of hours of study on his own time to pass nine separate exams, working weekends and nights.”

George said his father retired at age 55, became a business consultant and devoted himself to charity work with gusto. “He described himself as a ‘volunteer junkie,’ ” said George. “He found lifelong joy in learning, expanding his knowledge and feeling that he was making a difference.”

Century President Larry Litecky noted that it was appropriate for the Hill portrait to include a sailboat because of Hill’s love of sailing. “I once spent a memorable day on White Bear Lake sailing with Stan,” said Litecky.

Every year at the Century College scholarship dinner, Litecky said Hill and his wife, Doris, were moved to tears by the stories of students struggling to complete their education. “He had a warmth and a humanity that I will never forget,” said Litecky.

Century College Foundation Chair Kevin Donovan said Hill would have loved the beautiful new Science/Library Building at Century, and would have been pleased to see his name affixed to the fireplace. “He was so passionate about education and community,” said Donovan. “We are all so lucky to have the legacy of the work that he has done. In the current climate of a renewed call for national volunteerism, Stanley Hill was well ahead of his time.”



Photo: The Hill family and President Larry Litecky dedicate the fireplace area of the Century College Science/Library Building to the memory of J. Stanley Hill. (L-R Satoko Hill, Bev Dwyer, George Hill, Diana Hill, Mary West, Dave West, Larry Litecky.)