

Lifetime Giving

The Turret Society

These donors have contributed \$1 million or more in lifetime gifts.

As students in the early 1900s arrived at the Maryville train depot, one of the first sights to the west of the station was the impressive turrets atop the institution's Academic Hall, later known as the Administration Building. Through destructive tornados and a devastating fire, the Administration Building and its turrets have withstood the test of time, standing tall as an enduring symbol of Northwest.

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These donors have contributed between \$500,000 and \$999,999 in lifetime gifts.

Born in Staffordshire, England, on April 4, 1830, Thomas W. Gaunt was the son of Thomas Gaunt and Catherine Wooley. He moved to Nodaway County in 1857 and established a plant nursery, cultivating a variety of ornamental, shade and fruit trees. The Thomas Gaunt House was constructed during the 1870s and has been the home of Northwest presidents since its donation by the daughters of Thomas Gaunt in 1905.

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The Birches Society

These donors have contributed between \$250,000 and \$499,999 in lifetime gifts.

The first building erected on campus was Academic Hall, now known as the Administration Building. Its commanding location is situated on the highest point of land between Omaha, Nebraska and St. Louis on the old Wabash Railroad line - 1,163 feet above sea level. Five cut-leaf birches stood at the site like sentinels, prompting faculty and students to describe the Normal School as being located "behind the birches."

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These donors have contributed between \$100,000 and \$249,999 in lifetime gifts.

In 1965, Dr. Robert P. Foster announced plans to build a bell tower as a memorial to deceased alumni, former faculty members and members of the University's family who died representing our country. After years of fundraising, ground was finally broken in the fall of 1970 and the sounds of chiming bells greeted students returning for the fall of 1971.

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The Long Walk Society

These donors have contributed between \$25,000 and \$99,999 in lifetime gifts.

The original architectural plans for the campus, which were modeled after Cambridge University, included a large quadrangle, marked on the most northern point by the Administration Building, with all future campus buildings built facing the quadrangle. While the original plans were never realized, the first sidewalk built from the entrance at Fourth Street and College Avenue led straight to the front door of the Administration Building and became known as the Long Walk.

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