



A fitting tribute

New memorial scholarship supports Libraries Student Ambassadors

BY ASHLEY NIETFELD



A new endowed scholarship will assist K-State Libraries Student Ambassadors when they need a helping hand.

The Patricia Boze Libraries Memorial Scholarship honors former librarian and Kansas State University graduate ('73) Patricia Boze, a woman known for her welcoming personality, smile and sometimes "hard-nosed" approach to getting results. According to her husband Larry Boze, it was a combination she made work.

The first two scholarships will be awarded this academic year, and

Throughout her career, Pat maintained a reputation for her compassion, enthusiasm and belief in the role of libraries in enriching the lives of their patrons.

"Pat wanted to help students, especially over financial rough spots," said Larry. "The Libraries Student Ambassadors is a very interesting group of students and staff, where students can get training for real, professional roles. Assisting the Libraries' ambassadors seemed like a win-win solution."

opportunity to recognize their service and time commitment."

The ambassadors have developed a variety of successful new programs in recent years. In spring 2024, they started the "Where the Wildcats Are Book Club" that has continued into the fall semester. They choose popular titles that appeal to a broad audience and meet to discuss the selections bimonthly in Hale.

They've also held "Fireside Chats" next to the electric fireplace in Joyce and Joe's Cornerstone Café in Hale

"Pat wanted to help students, especially over financial rough spots. The Libraries Student Ambassadors is a very interesting group of students and staff, where students can get training for real, professional roles."

— LARRY BOZE



Libraries Ambassadors and advisor Dan Ireton (right) kick off the year at their annual retreat in Hale Library.

an additional pool of money will be set aside for Libraries Student Ambassadors who are facing a financial emergency, such as replacing a tire, paying a utility bill or purchasing textbooks.

The scholarships will be awarded based on need and merit, recognizing ambassadors for their contributions to the Libraries, the university and the wider community.

A librarian's legacy

Pat (1952-2020) received a master's degree in library science in 1988 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She went on to work at the Lincoln Trail Library System and the Illinois State Library where she managed operations and training for interlibrary loan systems. She also was called on to consult regarding matters of running a library, including grant writing, public relations, personnel and more.

Engaging students

The ambassadors program launched in fall 2013 and was the first of its kind for an academic library. It was created to enhance outreach efforts and ensure the Libraries was meeting the needs of students.

On average, 30 students serve each year, and the program welcomes both undergraduate and graduate students to represent a wider audience and gain diverse perspectives.

The students meet monthly with the program's advisors, librarians Sara K. Kearns, Daniel Ireton and Carol Sevin, to learn about library resources and services and discuss ways to engage with other students and increase outreach.

"Students who become ambassadors want to help others at K-State," said Kearns. "They choose the Libraries largely because of how important libraries have been to them. I'm delighted that we have this

Library. These were an opportunity to talk to students to gain feedback about the Libraries' services, resources and spaces.

"As a long-time ambassador and someone who has struggled financially, this opportunity is especially meaningful me," said Brinna Wellington, president of the Libraries Student Ambassadors. "I am excited to have the Patricia Boze Libraries Memorial Scholarship support the future of the K-State Libraries Student Ambassadors."

Learn more about the life and legacy of Patricia Boze at ksufoundation.org/impact/campus-impact/a-librarians-legacy-lives-on.

