

here&there

Endowments Hires Evaluation Officer

Stephanie Wilson, an evaluation, research and management executive who has worked with organizations across the country and abroad to improve their effectiveness in reaching goals, has joined the Endowments as part of a strengthening of the foundation's program evaluation and public accountability efforts.

Wilson, who previously worked in Bethesda, Md., as a group vice president for international economic development at Abt

Associates, one of the country's largest research and consulting firms, specialized in transferring successful U.S. evaluation methodologies to other countries. At the Endowments, Wilson will be responsible for evaluating entire program strategies and developing systems for measuring progress toward goals.

"Hiring someone with Stephanie's experience sets a new standard in our work around evaluation and accountability," says Endowments Associate Director Grant Oliphant. "As a foundation, we are placing a high premium on understanding and increasing our effectiveness, and Stephanie has the perfect credentials to help us do that. It's an added bonus that she is a Pittsburgh native and cares very deeply about this community."

Wilson, who started at the Endowments in April, was born and raised in East Liberty. "I'm delighted to be back in Pittsburgh," says Wilson. "After a career in business, I see this as an opportunity to serve the community that gave me my start and to give something back."



ENVIRONMENT INTERNSHIP FUNDED TO HONOR ENDOWMENTS DIRECTOR, WIFE

An undergraduate student internship at one of the region's most important nature preserves, funded by the Endowments to honor one of its longest-serving board members and his late wife, has received additional funding from the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation of New York.

The William H. and Ingrid S. Rea Student Internship in Applied Ecology at the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Rector, Westmoreland County, was created in 2001 through a donation from friends honoring the couple on their 65th wedding anniversary. At its spring meeting last year, the Endowments approved a \$50,000 grant to further fund the program. This spring, the Dodge Foundation, in recognition of the Reas and family members who sit on its board, awarded another \$50,000 grant to fully endow the internship.

Rea and his wife, Ingrid, who died of cancer in April, raised sheep and Black Angus cattle on a farm bordering the sprawling reserve. Both were active in ecological projects there and were tireless advocates for the environment in leadership positions. William Rea was appointed to the Howard Heinz Endowment Board in 1977.

"The grant from our board and the funding from the Dodge Foundation will ensure that a long line of students will have not just a superior education on ecological systems, but also a degree of passion that approaches what Bill and Ingrid Rea had for their work in environmental preservation," says Endowments President Maxwell King. "This is a living tribute to the Reas but it also furthers the goals of the Endowments' environment protection work and the Dodge Foundation's efforts in education."

Named for the former chairman of the Phelps Dodge Corporation, which had mining and other business interests, the Dodge Foundation is a family philanthropic organization based in Riverdale with a focus on the environment. Cleveland Dodge was William Rea's maternal grandfather, and the foundation's trustees include Dodge's other grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One current trustee is Bill and Ingrid Rea's daughter, Ingrid "Ingie" (Rea) Warren.

The 2,200-acre reserve was founded in 1956 as the research and education field station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Research and education programs at Powdermill are connected to universities in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia. Faculty and students at these schools use the reserve to do applied research. The internships are key to efforts at Powdermill and the Carnegie to increase the numbers of scientists and educators in applied ecology careers.



Photo courtesy of Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Pittsburgh Dentist, Civic Leader Joins Endowments

Dr. Judith Davenport, a Pittsburgh dentist who has served as a trustee and advisor to some of the region’s most important artistic and cultural institutions, has joined the Howard Heinz Endowment Board.

Dr. Davenport also serves on the board of Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Foundation in New York City. In Pittsburgh, she is board chairman of Carlow College and a trustee of The Andy Warhol Museum, The Birmingham Foundation, The Carnegie Museums, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Public Theater.

In addition to running a private general dentistry practice for 21 years, she was a dental consultant for Blue Shield of Pennsylvania and served on the Dental Review



Commission for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Corp. She is a member of the board of Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation, a Pittsburgh-based

business founded by her husband, Ronald, who is its chairman and CEO.

“Judy is an old friend of my late husband’s and mine. She is brilliant at looking beneath the surface of issues and getting to what really matters. She has a very quick, very inquisitive mind, and she is passionate about the arts, education and the future of Pittsburgh. She will be a great addition to our board as we continue looking for ways to increase

the impact of our philanthropic dollars in this diverse community,” Howard Heinz Endowment Chairman Teresa Heinz said in announcing the appointment.

Through the years of her professional career and in community service, Dr. Davenport has received numerous honors, including Distinguished Alumna from The Pennsylvania State University and a Professional Women of the Year award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs.

A graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Davenport received a Doctor of Dental Medicine and a Masters of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh. She and her husband are the parents of three children and live in Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

ASSET DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE CREATED

A \$120,000 Endowments grant to the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh has allowed the organization to begin a program that provides expert financial coaching for low-income women, many of whom are heads of households with children.

The Asset Development Initiative has been created to assist women, many from minority groups historically denied the same wealth-generating opportunities afforded middle- and upper-class women. The program’s goal is to establish a personal financial base and build bankable assets that improve their family’s quality of life. The counseling areas are focused on helping women achieve homeownership, complete post-secondary

education or develop entrepreneurial skills to succeed in small businesses.

“This grant allows us to offer new paths to employment and economic self-sufficiency for so many women who otherwise would be floundering,” says Cecilia Griffin Golden, the YWCA’s CEO. “The Asset Development Initiative is essential in this community because so much of the harmful effects of racism affecting women and girls has to do with economic disadvantage and financial illiteracy.”

In addition to helping women meet key financial milestones, the initiative also supports families in becoming “banked,” a social services term that refers to establishing a financial base through accounts that allow for better tracking of household income and

expenditures. Setting a financial baseline allows initiative staff to coach women on budgeting, planning for emergencies and investing.

Asset Development is one of a series of programs being funded through the Children, Youth & Families Program to improve financial literacy for low-income residents in southwestern Pennsylvania. This also supports one of the foundation’s key goals that involves grantmaking and management support from the other four program areas to promote diversity and inclusion, especially in areas that improve quality of life for African Americans in the region.