



For Immediate Release

August 22, 2014

\$2.3 Million Pledge by Robin Froman and Steven Owen will Establish the First Endowed Chair in UConn's School of Nursing

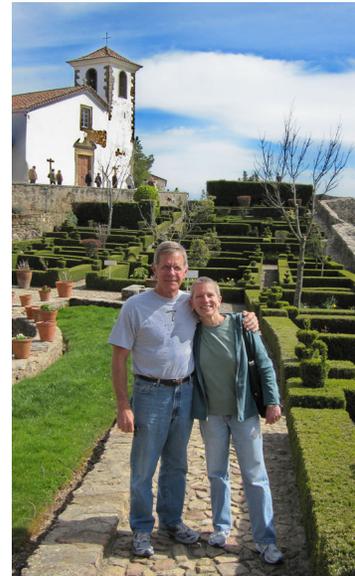
STORRS, CT — UConn's School of Nursing has received a pledge of \$ 2.3 million from Robin Froman and Steven Owen to establish its first endowed faculty chair. The pledge will also support a professorship and research at the school.

The gift, which is the largest ever for the School, is a strong expression of support and affection for UConn and its education and nursing programs from the couple, who have a long affiliation with UConn.

Froman is a multiple UConn alumna, completing bachelor's, master's and doctor of philosophy degrees in education from what is now known as the Neag School of Education before discovering her affinity for nursing and completing her bachelor's and master's degrees in the School of Nursing. She later served as a faculty member, a department chair, and interim associate dean in the School. In 1991, Froman established UConn's Center for Nursing Research and served as its first director.

After nearly 30 years at UConn, Froman was recruited to be associate dean for research at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where she established a Nursing Research Center that helped move the School into the nation's top 40. She later served as dean at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and also held an endowed chair of nursing in the University of Texas system.

Owen is emeritus professor in the Neag School's Department of Educational Psychology where he taught and conducted research for nearly 30 years. He later served as professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and as professor and statistical scientist in the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. *(continued)*



“This extraordinarily generous gift will support generations of UConn nursing leaders,” says Regina Cusson, dean of the School of Nursing and a long-time colleague of Froman’s. “Through their long careers in education, Robin and Steve know firsthand the value of an endowed chair in attracting excellent faculty and enhancing our culture of scholarship.”

“We are incredibly grateful for this generous pledge by Robin Froman and Steven Owen, which will provide a lasting source of financial support for the teaching, research and public service activities in the School of Nursing,” says UConn President Susan Herbst, who has made increasing UConn’s endowment a high priority. “Endowment support is an investment in UConn’s long-term excellence and ensures our ability to sustain and protect UConn’s academic mission,” says Herbst.

“Endowed support for faculty not only recognizes excellence, it provides dependable resources so the chair holder can plan and develop long-range teaching and research activities,” says Froman. “Greater support for faculty recruitment and retention is an essential element of addressing the nursing shortage. Too many applicants are turned away from nursing schools because of a lack of qualified faculty to teach them,” adds Froman.

“We believe the endowed chair will strengthen an already great School of Nursing and help the School address the nation’s shortage of nurses over the long term.”

About The UConn Foundation

The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.'s mission is to solicit, receive, and administer gifts and financial resources from private sources for the benefit of all campuses and programs of the University of Connecticut. The Foundation operates exclusively to promote the educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational objectives of the University. For more information, please visit www.foundation.uconn.edu.

Media Contact

Kristina Goodnough

UConn Foundation

kgoodnough@foundation.uconn.edu

(860) 486-3198