

The Ann Gordon Webster Endowment

THE ANN GORDON WEBSTER ENDOWMENT FOR ANTHROPOLOGY was established in 1996 to assist women who are returning to school to pursue graduate studies in anthropology. It honors the memory of a woman who received her own master's degree at a "non-traditional age" and then taught at GW for 14 years.

Ann Webster (1929-1994) received a B.A. in history from Wellesley College in 1950. She married Harry Webster, a foreign service officer, and spent much of the next two decades abroad, raising four children in Madrid, London, Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia), and The Hague. It was in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) that she began to teach. At this time (1961-64), the official schools taught more about the history and geography of Europe than of Africa; Ann, with her typical independence, set out to rectify this despite an almost total lack of supplies.

Ann returned to school herself at GW in 1977 and obtained her anthropology M.A. two years later. Immediately, she was hired as an adjunct faculty member to teach undergraduate courses, especially freshman archaeology. Her success in the classroom enabled her to teach year after year despite spurning suggestions that she pursue a doctorate. Ann did not want to be a professional academic, she wanted to teach. Besides her classroom instruction, she was active in GW's Academic Athletics Program, tutoring student athletes who had poor English skills. Meanwhile, she worked in an Urban League tutoring program, teaching phonics and other subjects to students at H.D. Cook Elementary School in Washington, D.C.

After Ann's death, her husband and children established a fellowship in her name to support women — following in the spirit of Ann Webster's experience — who are beginning an advanced degree in anthropology in order to re-enter the work force, change careers, or advance their current careers. Grants are awarded annually in the spring on the basis of financial need and potential for making a significant contribution to anthropology. The money is intended to be used for academic books and other school-related costs. Preference is given to students in the anthropology master's program, but those in the Hominid Paleobiology and Human Sciences Programs are eligible to apply.

The Anthropology Department chairperson and the Columbian College dean's office select recipients of the award. Applications can be obtained online at www.gwu.edu/~anth or in paper form from the Department of Anthropology, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052 (phone 202-994-6075, fax 202-994-6097, e-mail anth@gwu.edu). They should be returned to the Department by the first Friday in March to be considered for the following academic year.



Application for Funds

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I. Personal Information

Name: _____ ID# _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

II. Educational Status

Undergraduate degrees/dates:

Are you: an applicant to a GW graduate program already enrolled in a GW graduate program?

Graduate program now enrolled in/expected date of completion:

Number of credits earned toward degree: _____ Grade point average in graduate program: _____

Have you arranged for an Incomplete in any class? How many?

III. Financial Status

How are you financing your graduate studies?

Do you have financial responsibilities for a person(s) other than yourself? Please specify.

IV. Recent Life History

Describe what you have been doing since you last attended school (250 words).

V. Essay

Describe and document your commitment to, and your professional objectives in, the field of anthropology (500-600 words).