Tom Waller was born in Missouri. He grew up in a farming community where his life was shaped by the Great Depression and the Kansas Dust Bowl. Most of his family migrated to Idaho in the late 1930’s. He was the eighth of nine children. Tom attended NNC as a freshman before leaving to join the Army during World War II. He spent the next 35 years in military and civilian services. Tom worked at NNC for ten years after retirement, thoroughly enjoying the Christian environment and the friendships developed with the students, faculty and staff. The impact of NNC on his family was invaluable to him. When not involved with NNC, Tom loves to hunt, fish and fly airplanes.

Deloris Bloomquist Waller received a B.A. from NNC, M. Mus. Ed. from the University of Idaho, and an A.A.G.O. from the American Guild of Organists, accredited by the University of the State of New York. She taught at NNC, as well as teaching private piano and organ. She played many organ recitals, was the "Messiah" organist for a number of years, as well as the organist for the Nampa First United Methodist Church. Her professional activities include membership in the Nampa Musicafe, Idaho Music Teachers Association, and the American Guild of Organists. Her hobbies included language study (Spanish, German, French and Swedish), as well as working with flowers and flower arranging.

Tom and Deloris have two children: Anita and Bruce, both of whom graduated from NNC.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients of this award may be a beginner at organ but must have a good piano background including the ability to play hymns fluently.

2. Recipients must be willing to make a commitment to diligent organ study (consistent practice) with the goal of "church service" playing. This includes hymn playing as well as organ literature from the baroque, classic and romantic periods, and twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Organ study should include Buxtehude, Bach, Handel, Couperin, Purcell, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Franck, Vierne, Dupre and Alain. Composers of good hymn settings and variations such as Walcha, Pepping, Paul Manz, Charles Callahan, John Ferguson, Wilbur Held, Raymond H. Haan, and C. Griffith Bratt should also be included.

3. Recipients of this award must have a 3.0 GPA or above.

4. In years when a qualified recipient for this award is not found, earnings on the fund will remain in the endowment.

5. Nominations for this award shall be made by the Music Department keyboard faculty.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNC’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a "helping hand" to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Development Office, NNC, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8442.