The Simon & Norma Edwards Scholarship

Norma Petersen was born November 4, 1913, in Tacoma, Washington—the fourth of eight children of Anna Foss and August 'Pete' Petersen. When Norma was three the family moved to Cove on Vashon Island, where they established and ran the Cove Seed and Feed Store. After graduating from Vashon High School, she worked four years as a bookkeeper and housekeeper to save money for her and her sister to attend Northwest Nazarene College (now Northwest Nazarene University). Her sisters, Esther and Dorothy, and brother, Harvey, all graduated from NNC.

Norma pursued a medical career. Since she was only 4'10" and 98 lbs, it took persistence and determination to convince the nursing school to accept her, but she prevailed and graduated in the first nursing class from NNC. Her first job was at the Mangum Clinic, where she earned $50 each month. Norma later worked at Harborview Hospital in Seattle. After both her parents died, she moved to New Haven, Connecticut, to be the Nursing Supervisor at Yale University Hospital.

Simon Edwards was born October 28, 1905, in Seattle, Washington—the youngest of eight children of Jacob and Jacobine Edwards. Simon's teen years were spent on a fox farm in Alaska. Alone on the small island with only occasional visits from his cousin or brothers, he learned to cook, build a cabin and hunt and fish in order to survive. He also spent a lot of time reading the Bible his mother had given him. When he returned home he married Ruth, his childhood sweetheart and Norma's sister, and they had four children—Joyce, Layn, Phil and Symone.

When Ruth died of cancer at age 36, her dying request was that Norma would return and raise her children. So, in 1946, Norma put her career on hold and moved to Seattle. She and Simon married, and Norma instantly became a full-time mother. She and Simon subsequently had a son, Jon. Norma and Simon owned a Nursing Home in the University District. She was a school nurse for Shoreline High School and a social worker for King County. She loved crossword puzzles, sewing and reading. Simon owned and operated a fishing boat and worked in the Aleutians in the Bering Sea. He loved to cook, entertain and read.

Norma and Simon had a beautiful marriage in which God was always the center of their home. Simon was a quiet Godly man of faith, integrity and prayer, beginning each day at 5am in prayer for his children and 21 grandchildren. Each day ended with God's Word. He and Norma read through the Bible each year together. Both Norma and Simon were full of fun and were enthusiastic about life. They both loved the Lord and were an inspiration to their family and friends. Simon passed away October 18, 2001, and Norma passed away March 6, 2005.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.
2. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.
3. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years.
4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.
Gifts to NNU'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 Office of University Advancement, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.
Northwest Nazarene University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.