

The Melissa Pellegrin Scholarship... Looking Back, Moving Forward

“If Melissa could be here, she would never believe the amount of recognition she is receiving from her professional peers.”

Thus spoke Fred Flesche in addressing the *Trends '97* conference attendees at an emotionally charged dedication ceremony for the Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship Fund, which honors the memory of his daughter.

Melissa, a 1994 graduate of the University of Central Florida and a member of STC's Orlando chapter, died last spring. An exceptional student who earned an STC undergraduate scholarship, Melissa went on to serve on the Orlando Chapter's Education Committee following her graduation.

She was employed as a technical communicator with TRC, Inc., in Tampa.

Melissa's parents, Fred and Margaret Flesche; her fiancé, Victor Chapel; and numerous coworkers from TRC were on hand for the ceremony.

Silence gripped the audience as Dr. Dan Jones, who taught Melissa in several classes at UCF, delivered a touching tribute to her memory.

He and chapter president Dick Hughes then dedicated a permanent plaque that will reside in the UCF English Department, bearing the names of those who receive Pellegrin scholarships each year.

This year's UCF scholarship recipients were undergraduate Sharon Wissert and two graduate students—Michele Damron and Melanie Woods.

Excellence awards, also under the aegis of the Pellegrin Fund, were presented to two community college students—Burton Braman from Seminole C.C. and Luis Perez from Valencia C.C.

Melissa's parents, her employer, and her coworkers all made substantial contributions to the fund, giving it a substantial boost towards the goal of achieving a self-sustaining endowment that will fund scholarships—and continue the memoriam—in perpetuity.

Education Committee manager Dan Voss presented commemorative plaques to TRC, with Victor Chapel accepting, and to the Flesches.

In his acceptance, Fred Flesche stressed how committed Melissa was to the value of education and how appropriate it was that the chapter had chosen this means of honoring her memory. He said it was a great comfort to himself and Melissa's mother that many deserving students would be benefitting over the years from the fund that bears their daughter's name.

Those who wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the endowment may send it to:

Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Treasurer, STC Orlando Chapter
P.O. Box 540444
Orlando, FL 32854-0444

(IRS ID #31-0919557)