

Arthur D. and Florence S. Graffam Engineering Technology Scholarship Fund

The purpose of this award is to provide scholarship support for students at Northern Illinois University who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in **Engineering Technology**.

THE AWARD

The scholarship is valued at \$1,000 for one academic year and is not renewable. The award may be applied to tuition, enrollment and course-related fees, or required bookstore charges assessed to the student's university account.

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidate must be admitted to NIU's College of Engineering and Engineering Technology as either a:
 - First semester **freshmen**, possessing a minimum grade point average of **3.00/4.00**
 - OR, a **transfer student**, possessing a minimum cumulative grade point average of **3.00/4.00** at the secondary level **and** in undergraduate coursework completed prior to transferring to Northern Illinois University.
- Candidates must be a declared major in **Engineering Technology**.

REQUIREMENTS

- Recipients must remain a declared Engineering Technology major.
- Recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

ABOUT THE DONOR AND HONOREE

Arthur D. Graffam, born and raised in DeKalb, Illinois, graduated in 1941 from Northern Illinois State Teachers College, as Northern Illinois University was then known. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and then taught at Morris High School in Morris, Illinois from 1941-42. Following this first year of teaching, Mr. Graffam went to work for the Civil Service in Norman, Oklahoma teaching metal fabrication skills to military personnel, then went on to serve his nation as a commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy from 1943-44.

While he was still serving in the Navy, Arthur's cousin, Stella Hummel, introduced him to Mr. Nehring, owner of Nehring Electrical in DeKalb, Illinois where she was employed. During that visit Arthur observed Miss Florence Shemansky, a native of DeKalb, who was also employed in the office. He did not speak to her that day, but after he left the service he contacted Florence and they began a courtship which led to their marriage on January 17, 1948.

Before her employment at the Nehring Company, Florence attended the Bryant Stratton Business College in Chicago, Illinois. Arthur described his late wife as very conscientious in her work; she believed in doing things the right way, not half-way. She was diligent about getting a good education and completing what she set out to do. She was very generous and "would give you the shirt off her back."

In 1946 Arthur began attending Colorado State College of Education (now the University of Northern Colorado) in Greeley, Colorado during the summer. He earned his Master of Arts degree in Education in 1950. Because Florence was such an excellent typist — over 60 words per minute — she was an invaluable aid to Arthur during the last three years of his study. Arthur also attended summer courses at the University of Iowa and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Arthur taught at Elgin High School in Elgin, Illinois for 39 years. Among the courses he taught, were wood-working and drafting. Florence worked in the offices at Block and Kuhl's Department Store and became a homemaker in 1952 when their son David was born.

Florence Graffam died on December 31, 2002. This scholarship is meant to hold her memory, and honor the life, marriage and family that she shared with her husband and son. Arthur Graffam passed away October 29, 2012 at home surrounded by his loved ones.