

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Linda Fiore  
Director of College Relations & External Affairs  
linda.fiore@temple.edu/215.204.8307  
www.temple.edu/boyer

---



Philadelphia, PA -- August 22, 2007 -- She was a field hockey player and coach, a US Postal Service nominee for Federal Woman of the Year and a graduate student at MIT, but it is her fond memories of Temple University that will soon benefit voice and opera students preparing for careers in music.

Ann McKernan Robinson, a 1958 Temple graduate, and her husband Armand I. Robinson have pledged \$900,000 to create a fund for graduate scholarships in voice and opera at Temple's Boyer College of Music and Dance. A separate fund has been established in support of Temple's women's field hockey program. The Ann McK. and Armand I. Robinson Opera Scholarship Fund marks three milestones for Boyer College -- the first full graduate scholarship, the highest gift to the Department of Voice and Opera and the second highest single gift to the College.

"Temple is forever grateful to the Robinsons," said Temple President Ann Weaver Hart. "Athletics and the performing arts have always been a source of energy, enrichment and joy for the university. To impact one realm for generations of future Temple students is a great achievement; to impact both is extraordinary."

Hailing from Swedeland, Pennsylvania, Ann McKernan Robinson claims her intention to create two separate funds in support of opera and field hockey at Temple "happened innocently, but was a conscious decision." Looking back on a long and successful career, she cited the University's founder Russell Conwell and his *Acres of Diamonds* speech and thoughtfully considered the question many never ask, but should: "What kind of legacy can I leave behind?"

After graduating in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in physical education from Temple's College of Education, Ann taught and coached field hockey at the University of Pennsylvania and Chestnut Hill College and held positions as an executive assistant at McCall Corporation and Lever Bros., Inc. In 1973, she took a job at the United States Postal Service's Management Intern Program. Nearly 30 years later, she retired from the USPS as vice president and consumer advocate.

Ann was first introduced to Boyer's award-winning Temple University Opera Theater program in 2004 when she attended a performance of Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*. She and her husband, Armand, considered what they could leave to Boyer College, and realized they could take their "biggest asset and give it to Temple."

"Christine Anderson gave such an informative talk prior to the opera and I was very impressed with the level of the performance and the professional grade of the students' voices. It blew my socks off. I come back to campus each fall to see a new production," Ann said.

"I attribute my love of books and opera to my mother," said Ann who, when living in New York, had an opportunity to take her mother to her first performance at the Metropolitan Opera. She and her husband Armand, both opera devotees are regular subscribers to the Washington National Opera and attend at least one performance at the Met each year.

When asked what she thinks this historical gift will mean to Boyer College and the opera department, Ann said she "hopes to be sitting in the audience when another Temple voice and opera graduate performs at the Met. "But most of all," she said, "I hope that our gift will get other Temple alums to think about the assets they have and the legacies they could leave."

On behalf of Temple's future opera stars, thank you Ann Robinson, for helping to make that possible.