

DONOR STORIES

JON AND GUYLA VOLKERT “Jon and Guyla Volkert Family Fund”

The school a person attends and the experiences they have there can make a huge impact on an individual's life. For Jon Volkert, Wartburg College was an excellent match. The opportunities and experiences he had there shaped him and helped propel his professional and personal successes. Years after his graduation, Jon Volkert and Guyla Volkert's appreciation of the school is as strong as ever.

Jon Volkert was born in Cushing, Iowa, on April 24, 1945. His parents, William (Bill) and Lois, raised Jon and his younger brother and sister on the family farm near Cushing. In 1963, Jon graduated from Cushing Consolidated High School, where he was active in basketball, baseball, track and the school band. A few years after graduating, he met his future wife.

Jon attributes his many successes to the education, knowledge and skills he gained while at Wartburg.

Guyla Volkert was born August 26, 1949, to Guy and Edna Vincent in Centerville, Iowa. She had an older brother, Gene, and two older sisters, Joyann and Kaylee. The family lived in Moravia, Iowa, and Guyla graduated from Moravia High School in 1967. Shortly after graduation, she relocated to Des Moines, which is where Jon and Guyla met. The couple married in October of 1976, and on September 11, 1978, the couple was blessed with a daughter, Brooke, who is now an aspiring actress living in Greenwich Village in New York City.

Growing up, it was expected that Jon would attend college. His father did not attend college, but his mother did. Together, they had this goal for their son to attend college. As Lutherans, it only seemed natural that Jon would enroll at Wartburg.

Jon graduated from Wartburg in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Business Administration. After serving two years with the United States Army, he joined Postal Finance in Sioux City, where he eventually became Vice President, Director of Operations before the company's sale in 1982. After that, he joined All State Insurance Company. He then moved to an affiliated company, Sears Consumer Finance, where he became Vice President in charge of marketing and second mortgage lending. In 1989, Jon joined Security Pacific Financial Services in San Diego, California, as Senior Vice President, Executive and Professional Lending Services. The family moved back to West Des Moines in 1993 when Jon became Senior Vice President of Consumer Lending at John Deere Credit. He became President of the company in 1998, and retired from that position in January of 2006. Since his retirement, Jon and Guyla have relocated to Hoffman Estates, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago (their favorite city in the world), where they hold season tickets for the Chicago Cubs and Bulls.

Jon attributes his many successes to the education, knowledge and skills he gained while at Wartburg. “I had a wonderful experience there and have always believed that that experience was instrumental in helping me achieve whatever success I have had in my professional and personal life,” said Jon. This positive experience

has cultivated in Jon a desire to give back to the university that helped shape him and his future. Jon Volkert has shown his appreciation for Wartburg by giving back financially and by having served on the Board of Regents for the last seven years.

Jon and Guyla's loyalty to the college where Jon laid the foundation for his future has not subsided. The couple has established the Jon and Guyla Volkert Family Fund with the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa. This fund distributes grants to support operational efforts of Wartburg College so that other students can continue to have the same positive experience Jon Volkert had.

*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.