



## *The Norman James and Ethel Jenisch Rose Endowed Scholarship: A Commitment to Rural Health*

### THE ROSES: PIONEERS IN MEDICINE AND SCHOLARSHIP

Ethel Jenisch Rose was a Chicago girl born and raised, a graduate of Northwestern University, and employed in business. She met and married another Chicagoan, Norman James Rose, just completing his internship at West Suburban Hospital. In a dramatic shift from city streets to windswept plains, the couple moved to Finley, North Dakota during the long, hard years of the Great Depression.



**Dr. Norman James Rose and Ethel Jenisch Rose, pictured above, understood the importance of rural health. Their scholarship supports students interested in practicing family medicine in rural areas.**

“That was a very tough place to live,” says their son, University of Washington Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus Norman J. Rose, Ph.D. Rose remembers hearing about the locusts, the drought, and the hail that afflicted farmers’ crops. He also recalls his mother’s stories about the dust storms and about the cistern that collected every precious drop of soft water that ran off the roof in heavy rains. And he remembers hearing about his father in winter, following the snowplows to treat patients at remote farms.

Physicians were few and far between in Steele County, and patients had little or no money. The result was that Dr. Rose was very busy, but didn’t always get paid, at least not with cash. “It was a barter society,” says his son. Setting a broken arm or delivering a baby translated into groceries, furniture, or other goods, like chickens and hay. The Roses moved seven years later — so that Dr. Rose could pursue a master’s degree in public health from the University of Minnesota — but their time in North Dakota had left its mark. The Roses took away the sense, says the younger Rose, “that rural medicine was very, very important.”

### **Norm Rose’s interest in the scholarship is rooted in remembering his parents’ selflessness.**

When Dr. Rose died in 1993, the family, led by Ethel Rose, decided to recognize his long, illustrious career in private practice, public health, and epidemiology by creating an endowment to support rural medicine. The fund, named the Norman James and Ethel Jenisch Rose Endowed Scholarship, provides scholarships to medical students, particularly American Indian and Alaskan Native students, who are interested in practicing family medicine in rural areas.

When Dr. Rose died in 1993, the family, led by Ethel Rose, decided to recognize his long, illustrious

While Norm Rose's interest in the scholarship is rooted in remembering his parents' selflessness, and in a portion of a Depression-era childhood spent in a rural area, it reflects a present-day need. More than a half-century after Dr. Rose's sojourn in North Dakota, rural areas still desperately need doctors. Rose knows that his family's scholarship makes a difference not only to medical students, but also to the people living in remote areas in the five-state WWAMI region of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. These are the places some of our most committed graduates, like Rose Scholarship recipient Jennifer Esquiro Edwards, M.D., go on to serve.

Before her death in 2003, Ethel Rose contributed to the Rose Scholarship on a regular basis. She knew that every gift helped scholarship students. In turn, Norm and his wife, Louise, have built on the family's tradition of generosity to student scholarship through giving and volunteering; Norm Rose is also an active member of UW Medicine's Scholarship and Student Support Committee.

Life is uncertain, says Rose; so are finances. In his parents, who left the comfort of friends and family to provide medical care in the Dust Bowl, Rose saw the spirit and commitment that inspires his family's involvement in medical education. As for personal assets? Rose knows what his parents thought about that, too. "You share them," he says.

## FINDING THE RIGHT STUDENTS: EMILY R. VAN DYKE

It is clear that Emily R. Van Dyke, a first-year student at the UW School of Medicine, is just the sort of person the Norman James and Ethel Jenisch Rose Endowed Scholarship Fund was created to support.



**Norman J. Rose, Ph.D., scholarship supporter, is pictured with Emily R. Van Dyke, scholarship recipient. Van Dyke is finding the Rose Scholarship enormously helpful during her first year of medical school.**

Van Dyke was attracted to the School for a number of reasons, including the School's focus on underserved populations and the work done by its Office of Multicultural Affairs. These efforts mirror Van Dyke's interests in health-care disparities and Native American health issues. Some of the special opportunities afforded by the UW also influenced her decision. "The School recognizes that there are underserved American Indian and Alaskan Native communities within its own region," says Van Dyke. "And students have a huge range of opportunities to do rotations in all the WWAMI states."

Van Dyke lost no time in translating her interests and commitments into action. In the midst of her first, hectic year of medical school, she is working with both the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Native American-focused Medicine Wheel program to organize activities for students from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Many medical students are inspired to become doctors after meeting an exemplary, empathic physician. Van Dyke's story has a few more twists. As a youth growing up in Mendocino, California, Van Dyke had serious medical problems, including a bone tumor and collapsed lungs. While she encountered some truly dedicated and gifted physicians, she also found some unsympathetic doctors. "I've been misdiagnosed, have had legitimate worries scoffed at, and have had doctors who showed me true respect and kindness," says Van Dyke. In short, she says, "I've seen medicine at its best and at its worst."

While Van Dyke's illnesses gave her a sense of medicine's promise and limitations, and a corresponding interest in medical research, it left her with no specific interest in patient care. As is also true of many medical students, however, Van Dyke found great mentors who changed her mind about medical practice.

These included a husband-and-wife team of pediatricians who served as housemasters at Harvard, where Van Dyke received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry. Other mentors included several doctors at the National Institutes of Health, where Van Dyke spent a year after graduation, and at a legislative

**"It's as though someone is saying, 'We believe in you and we want you to succeed.'"**

— **Emily R. Van Dyke**  
Rose Scholarship recipient, on the power of scholarships

planning meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics. After these experiences, Van Dyke came to the conclusion that she was interested in hands-on patient care as well as

public health policy. "I realized that I would feel more inspired and useful working with patients, knowing that my efforts were making real differences in people's lives," she says.

Van Dyke expects to pursue a master's degree in public health as well as a career in pediatrics. For now, she is focusing on her first-year studies. "Anatomy was amazing," says Van Dyke, "like learning a new language." She was impressed that professors not only teach a great number of the classes, but also make themselves available outside of class. And she liked the School's clinical focus, which begins in the first year. Van Dyke has just begun a preceptorship at Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center.

The Rose Scholarship, says Van Dyke, is very helpful. After graduating from college, the prospect of medical school debt was daunting. While the scholarship will play a significant role in reducing her debt, scholarships also have a powerful psychological impact on their recipients. "You get a lot of feedback in life," says Van Dyke, "both positive and negative. Having a scholarship is the very best kind of feedback."

## RETURNING TO RURAL MEDICINE: JENNIFER E. EDWARDS, M.D., CLASS OF '96

When Jennifer Esquiro Edwards entered the School of Medicine, she seemed tailor-made for the Rose Scholarship. Ethel Jenisch Rose always knew Edwards was special, says Norm Rose. "My mother took great satisfaction in thinking about the scholarship, reading the letters from the students, and meeting the students," he says. Edwards was one of his mother's favorites.

Shared interests helped spark this connection. Having grown up in Sitka, and of Native Alaskan descent, Edwards (like the Roses) has a strong interest in Alaskan Native communities. After college, she spent a year at Sitka's local tribal health clinic, helping establish a satellite program for the UW's MEDEX Northwest physician assistant program. This experience exposed her to medical care and inspired her to attend the UW School of Medicine.

The scholarship made Edwards's life as a student much simpler. With the financial support, she says, it was easier for her to focus on her studies. She didn't have to work. She could buy books, and she could go home for holidays. Maintaining strong ties with people at home proved quite beneficial. As a family-practice physician for the Southcentral Foundation at the Alaska Native Medical Center, Edwards is a reassuring beacon for Southeast Alaska patients who travel or relocate to Anchorage for medical care.



**Dr. Jennifer E. Edwards benefited from the Rose Scholarship when she was at the School of Medicine. Edwards, who now practices in Alaska, is shown here examining her patient, Esther Grosdidier.**

Personal connections are key to Edwards's practice. She spends much of her time in the family practice center in Anchorage, where she has a full-spectrum practice, including obstetrics and gynecology, prenatal care, pediatrics, and geriatrics. In addition, Edwards and other clinic doctors are assigned to several remote Alaska Native villages — nearly two hours away by small plane — for one to two weeks at a time, two times a year.

Edwards loves working in small towns, and she enjoys feeling needed. And given the scarcity of medical resources in rural Alaska, she is sorely needed. On these visits, Edwards sets up six-month treatment plans for chronic medical conditions, treats trauma patients, and works closely with local health-care providers. "People's concerns are very different in small villages," she says. What these rural patients don't have to worry about, however, is continuity. If and when they become ill, her patients know that, if they need further medical care, they have a doctor in the city.

**"One day, I'd like to help students in the way that the Roses have chosen to do."**

— Jennifer Esquiro Edwards, M.D.  
Class of '96 and Rose Scholarship recipient

Edwards is grateful for the Rose family's help during medical school, but there is more to it than that. The story of Dr. Rose's work and career, and his family's support of scholarship,

have left an impression. "I get the sense that the whole family is following in Dr. Rose's footsteps," she says. And the scholarship has left something else: a lasting friendship. "Aside from the monetary support," says Edwards, "I'm most happy with the long-term relationship with the family." Norm Rose and his older daughter, Linda, who visited Edwards a few years ago at the Alaska Native Medical Center, would agree. "We couldn't be more thrilled that Jennifer was a scholarship recipient," says Rose.

For now, Edwards is balancing a demanding career with family, and considering getting a master's in public health. She does know, though, that Native Alaskan health issues will remain her top priority. "There's so much you can do," says Edwards, with a commitment reminiscent of Dr. and Mrs. Rose's. "There's so much more *to* do."