



MIKE DILL
DAVE RADER

Notable Pursuit

Giving back to fellow members of the Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity is nothing new for NSU alumni Mike Dill and Dave Rader. The college friends, both trumpet players, started donating their time to raise dollars as students, and nearly 30 years later, they're fulfilling a long ago dream—to fund the education of KKP students through the NSU Foundation.

“We thought it was a good idea to offer scholarships for band students, and it also provides a vehicle for us as alumni to get together and discuss fundraising projects,” explains Dill.

Dill and Rader owe their friendship to the band fraternity. They met during a pledge party in 1976 and built lasting friendships with their frat brothers and members of Tau Beta Sigma, the band sorority at Northeastern, while playing in the marching band, brass choir, concert band, jazz band and wind ensemble.

“Being in band was just a blast. The talent pool was so much deeper than anything I had experienced in high school,” notes Dill.

“A lot of the guys from our fraternity are still playing professionally,” adds Rader.

The duo credits Lowell Lehman, former band director affectionately known as “Chief,” with making the experience fun. “After football games

and concerts, he opened his house and made us feel like we had a home away from home,” Rader shares.

They also cite the band with helping to keep them in school. Band scholarships offset the cost of college, but the camaraderie with fellow bandmates kept them returning year after year. Their favorite memories include winning the coveted Founders Award, which honors the top chapter of KKP, and marching in a Claremore parade for the 100th birthday of Will Rogers.

“We didn't realize it at the time, but the members of the band were a big support group for each other,” says Dill.

The idea of a scholarship fund dates back to the pair's senior year, when fraternity members were trying to decide how to utilize excess dollars from a lucrative year of fundraising. With the help of Foundation staff, Dill and Rader recently established the scholarship fund, which other KKP members can donate to as well.

“Our frat brothers gave of their time even when they didn't have money to give,” Dill comments. “We hope people are as excited about a scholarship fund now as they were about fundraising back then.”