The James J. and Dorothy T. Hanks Memorial Award in Geophysics

Thomas C. Hanks

The James J. and Dorothy T. Hanks Memorial Fund has been established by James J. Hanks, Jr., Thomas C. Hanks, and John B. Hanks in memory of their parents and the deep and enduring value they placed on quality education. This fund supports a Memorial Award in Corporate Law, a Memorial Award in Geophysics, and the Medical School Library, the chosen fields, respectively, of their three sons.

James Judge Hanks graduated in the class of 1929 from the University of Wisconsin. He was the son of Stanley Charles Hanks, class of 1894, and Ina Judge Hanks, class of 1895, and the grandson of Lucien Stanley Hanks, who served two terms on the Board of Regents of the university between the years of 1889 and 1911. Dorothy Teeple Hanks graduated in the class of 1937 from the University of Wisconsin and was distinguished by being both prom queen and Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year. She was also elected to The Daily Cardinal Board of Control.

Clyde Kluckhohn, class of 1927, initiated his pioneering archeological/anthropological investigations of the indigenous cultures of the American Southwest during the 1920's. James Hanks, together with Lauriston Sharp, also class of 1929, accompanied Kluckhohn on the 1927 and 1928 trips. The 1928 trip was especially notable for its discovery of abundant, significant, and previously unknown Anasazi artifacts on the Kaiparowits Plateau, across the Colorado River from Navajo Mountain which straddles the Utah-Arizona border. This trip was described in Madison newspapers both before (Wisconsin State Journal, May 23, 1928) and after (The Daily Cardinal, Oct. 7, 1928; Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 8, 1928) it occurred. Their discoveries, together with many other adventures of the 1927 and 1928 trips, are also recounted in Kluckhohn's book, Beyond the Rainbow, published in 1933. Hanks took most of the photographs that illustrate this book. Kluckhohn and Sharp went on to become famous anthropologists at Harvard and Cornell, respectively. Kluckhohn was also a Rhodes Scholar, 1928-1930.

In 1992, Hanks' son and granddaughter, Tom and Molly, followed the path of the 1927 trip from the northeast flank of Navajo Mountain to Rainbow Bridge, the largest natural bridge in the world, now at the edge of Lake Powell but then several miles south of the Colorado River. Their discovery was abundant Quaternary gravels that dot the Rainbow Plateau at several different levels and stand as much as 1300 feet above adjacent drainages. These gravels speak to significant and episodic downcutting of the Colorado River in its Glen Canyon reach during the Quaternary, with the modern slot of Glen Canyon, typically 200 meters or so in depth, being less than half a million years old.

The James J. and Dorothy T. Hanks Memorial Award in Geophysics is presented annually to a student in the Department of Geology and Geophysics of the University of Wisconsin-Madison for outstanding contributions to understanding the physical character, nature, and processes of the principal constituents of the Earth.

Allissa Naymark, right, was awarded a T.C. Chamberlin Scholarship at the Spring Banquet, May 2001.

Ryan Clark, right, won the Carl and Val Dutton Scholarship.

Mary Anderson, left, Department Chair, presented the awards.