

Robert Town's impact on Wichita State's cultural fabric continues even in death with an estate gift to the WSU Foundation that will support the Robert Town Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship in Organ.

Town died Dec. 10 after a long illness.

During his lifetime, he played an invaluable role in orchestrating gifts to Wichita State that brought prestige and distinction to its College of Fine Arts.

His relationship with Gladys Wiedemann led to a decision by the Wiedemann Foundation to purchase the Great Marcussen Organ and house it in the acoustically pristine concert hall named for the Wiedemanns. And his friendship with Rie Bloomfield resulted in a gift from the Sam and Rie Bloomfield Foundation to fund the Rie Bloomfield Organ Series, which draws some of the finest organists from around the world.

"Very few faculty are as engaged with our patrons as Professor Town was," said Russ Widener, chair of the WSU School of Music. "His relationship with Mrs. Wiedemann has given us one of the finest buildings on campus and one of the finest instruments of its kind in our country. The Rie Bloomfield Organ Series continues to give our community an outstanding concert series. And now Professor Town has given of himself to leave an enduring legacy to Wichita State University and our community."

In addition to being an associate professor of organ at Wichita State, Town was an