



THE LIBERAL ART OF GIVING

Dr. Rose Deal compares the CBU School of Arts to Cinderella waiting for a prince. With her latest act of generosity, she'll become a fairy godmother to deserving liberal arts students... BY LISA BELL

On December 27, 2005, Dr. Rose G. Deal, AFSC, presented a \$500,000 check to Christian Brothers University. Designated for the School of Arts, the majority of Deal's gift was used to establish the Dr. Rose G. Deal and L. Anthony Deal Endowed Scholarship. This full tuition and residence life scholarship, renewable until graduation, will be awarded to a freshman student who intends to pursue a liberal arts major, preferably in English or History.

Part of Deal's gift also established the Dr. Rose G. Deal and L. Anthony Deal Discretionary Fund for the School of Arts. The dean of the School of Arts will be able to use these funds for needed improvements, such as upgrading tapes in the Language Lab.

Originally funded many years ago with a Title III grant, the Language Lab holds a special place in Deal's heart. She started the foreign language program in 1965 and became its first coordinator, a position she held 15 years. During her tenure at CBU, the university offered several languages, including Latin, French, German, Spanish, and Italian. She says one of her best students was Dr. Bill Busler, now a chemistry professor at CBU, who won the annual Latin Tournament at Memphis State University thanks to her tutelage.

Remaining funds provided support for two annual scholarships already established by Deal: the Dr. Rose G. Deal Scholarship in Memory of L. Anthony Deal and the Dr. Rose G. Deal Scholarship in Memory of Brother Anthony Pisano, FSC. These scholarships are awarded annually to outstanding students majoring in history or English.

According to Dr. Frank Buscher, dean of the School of Arts and a long-time friend and colleague of Dr. Deal, news of her gift gave a tremendous boost to faculty morale: "Rose has been a faithful supporter and friend of CBU and of the School of Arts. Her gift will help deserving students receive a first class education and will go a long way toward helping the School of Arts achieve its mission: to encourage our students to develop a zest for intellectual challenges, a love of beauty, an awareness of their own culture and moral convictions, an understanding of self, empathy and compassion for others, an appreciation of cultural diversity, and a sense of their relationship with and responsibility to the larger community."

Deal says her decision to help the liberal arts program was an easy one: "I love CBU very much and the Brothers have always been very kind to me. The School of Arts has not gotten much attention the past

Pictured above in 1965, Dr. Rose Deal was the only female faculty member at Christian Brothers College. In 2002, she was made an affiliate member of the Christian Brothers.

Not even knowing exactly what a registrar did, Dr. Deal agreed to take the job and to teach a few Latin classes. By doing so, she became the first female faculty member hired by the university.



few years—it was always like Cinderella, waiting for the prince to come! Now, it's the School of Art's turn for good news, and I hope my gift will help CBU recruit more liberal arts students."

THE DR. ROSE G. Deal and L. Anthony Deal Endowed Scholarship will award its first scholarship this fall. Deal wanted the scholarship to honor the memory of her son, Anthony "Tony" Deal, who died in 2002.

A prominent Memphis attorney, Tony Deal founded the law firm of Deal, Cooper, Holton, PLLC and built a successful practice representing clients in personal injury, medical negligence, and product liability lawsuits. Always representing his clients on a contingency basis, Deal won over 40 settlements and verdicts in excess of \$1 million. He was only the second lawyer in Tennessee to be inducted into the Inner Circle of Advocates, a prestigious national organization of one hundred personal injury trial attorneys. Other recognitions included being a life member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA) and serving on its board; being a member of the President's Club of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), and being given the ATLA "Stalwart Award" for his extraordinary dedication to the civil justice system and long term commitment to ATLA.

Married briefly when he was younger and just starting to practice law, Tony never had children. His father, George, died in 1986, leaving him and his mother as the only survivors. Rose knew his practice was flourishing and wondered what Tony would do with his assets. Variations on this question sometimes arose during their weekly Tuesday night dinners at Rose's house, when she would ask his advice on legal and personal issues.

Rose never pushed the limits with her son, but was curious about Tony's future plans: "Like every mother, I wanted my son to marry, be happy, and have a family. When I would ask Tony about these things, he would say, 'Mother, you want to know too much.' When I asked him what he would do with all his money, he said he wanted it all to go to charity." Of course, mother and son never dreamed that Tony would suffer a fatal heart attack, three years ago, at age 55, leaving Rose to handle his affairs.

Dr. Deal knew that Tony supported many charities during his lifetime, including an annual gift to CBU. Yet, as she went through his papers, she was surprised at the depth of Tony's generosity. Tony supported many more charities than she realized, including mailing a monthly check to the Monastery of St. Clare to pay the Poor Clares' utility bill.

During the next three years, Rose began thinking about how to keep her son's memory and philanthropic legacy alive. Working with the staff of the CBU Office of Advancement, Dr. Deal began thinking about an endowed scholarship for a liberal arts student. After wrapping up her son's estate in December, she decided it was time to honor Tony's memory and generosity. On December 27, she drove to the CBU campus, quietly presented her gift, and started to make her dream come true.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY is 5,580 miles from Rose Deal's hometown in Bari, Italy. So how did this Italian woman meet the Brothers and decide to leave such a generous gift for the School of Arts? A brief glimpse of her extraordinary life follows.

For as long as she can remember, Deal has always loved and been surrounded by the arts. Born to Andrea Cannone and Maria Antonietta Selvaggi, Rose was immersed in music, art, literature, and languages at an early age. Her father was a professor of music and an accomplished musician who played piano and mandolin. On weekends, her uncle would take the

“I enjoyed my time at CBU, working with the Brothers and my colleagues, and teaching my students. I want my gift to help the School of Arts recruit bright young men and women...”

family to the theatre or opera. As they strolled the piazza on these weekend outings, Deal recalls the beauty around them: “Everywhere you looked or walked, there was such wonderful architecture and magnificent churches, some of the world’s finest museums, and you would hear glorious music.”

Deal loved opera, and it became a game between father and daughter to test her musical knowledge. Andrea would play a few selections, and Rose would quickly identify the composer and the opera. Like her father, she became an accomplished pianist who played by ear. She was so gifted that her father dreamed of her becoming a concert pianist. However, like most of her friends, the teenage Rose was more interested at the time in the popular songs American soldiers were introducing in World War II Italy.

With her classical training, Deal could easily play Glenn Miller tunes and “boogie woogie” music, and spent many afternoons playing the piano and dancing with friends.

Wanting to follow in her father’s steps as a college professor, Deal entered the University of Naples. She completed her master’s degree in four years and transferred to the University of Bari for her Ph.D., majoring in Latin and Ancient Greek. While studying there, she made extra money by giving Italian lessons to a handsome soldier, George W. Deal, who was an attaché with the U.S. Embassy in Rome and a consultant with the Corps of Engineers. Knowing Rose’s passion for Glenn Miller tunes, George would often bring the bandleader’s latest album when he arrived for his lessons. The student-teacher relationship blossomed into love.

Married in December 1945, the couple remained in Italy three more years, while George completed his assignment. During that time, Tony was born in an American hospital in Foggia, Italy. When the Deal family prepared to move to the United States in 1948, Rose reluctantly left her Glenn Miller albums behind, because the albums were considered property of the government and could not be taken out of Italy.

When they arrived in America, the Deal family lived in Ohio, then briefly in Norfolk, VA, before selecting Memphis as the site for George’s next Corps assignment.

Deal spent the next few years raising Tony. In 1955, she joined Sacred Heart High School where she taught Latin and French until 1961. In 1961, when Tony enrolled at Christian Brothers High School, Deal met

with CBHS principal Brother Stephen O’Malley to discuss her son’s education. Impressed with Deal’s classical background and knowledge of five languages, Brother Stephen called Brother Lambert Thomas, president of Christian Brothers College, and told him about her. Brother Lambert immediately invited her for an interview and asked her to serve as registrar in addition to teaching a few Latin classes.

Not even knowing exactly what a registrar did, Deal agreed to the job and became the first female faculty member hired by the university. She served as registrar for two years, gradually teaching more classes. “I never really enjoyed being the registrar,” she admitted. “I have always loved teaching, being in the classroom with the students, and working with the Brothers.” Deal became an associate professor of Latin, French, Italian, and European history. In 1979, she retired from her full-time position to help care for her mother and was named professor emerita of CBU’s School of Arts. She continued to teach French and Italian part time until her final retirement in 1994.

DURING HER TENURE at CBU, Deal enthusiastically supported the university with her time, talent, and treasure—all hallmarks of a good donor. Over the years, she has also supported many organizations that she’s involved with including Holy Rosary Catholic Church where she is a parishioner. She was a charter member of CBU’s Founder’s Circle Club, helped the Brothers acquire a grand piano for Lambert Hall, and gave gifts each year for annual scholarships.

In 2001, Dr. Deal donated 33 years of papers to the CBU Archives. These papers, carefully collected during her career at CBU, depict academic life from 1961 to 1994. Most recently, she has donated personal collections of crystal, artwork, books, and clocks to the university gallery.

Deal’s latest gift represents 45 years of friendship with the Christian Brothers and CBU. Her gift also reflects her love of the arts. “I enjoyed my time at CBU, working with the Brothers and my colleagues, and teaching my students,” she said. “I want my gift to help the School of Arts recruit bright young men and women, who want to study English and history and who enjoy the liberal arts.” ■

For more information on the Dr. Rose G. Deal and L. Anthony Deal Endowment Scholarship, contact the CBU Admissions Office at 901-321-4213.



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