



John Hofley

Fellowship in United College

John Hofley knows that education can change lives.

"Education is about transformation," says Hofley, who has witnessed generations of students grow, change, and take on productive roles in their communities. He also knows it to be true in his own life.

The son of working class parents, Hofley was the first in his family to attend university. "But I had wonderful teachers in high school who encouraged me to go on to university," recalls Hofley, who graduated from The University of Winnipeg (then United College) in 1960 with a double major in English and Philosophy. He went on to complete both an MA and PhD in Sociology at the University of North Carolina. After teaching four years at Carleton University, and a year in India as a Shastri Fellow, he joined The University of Winnipeg in 1971 as Chair of Sociology department.

In addition to his teaching and research, Hofley served in a number of administrative posts, culminating in a term as Dean of Arts and Science. In 1998 John received the Farquhar Award for contributions to self-governance.

But no matter what his role, Hofley has strived to live out the University's mandate of both excellence and access.

Hofley has been the champion of student access on a variety of fronts, instituting groundbreaking policies including the forgiveness clause, providing students who experience a rocky transition to university with a clean slate on their academic record following a five-year break in their studies. He also launched the 50-60 program under which students who underperform in high school may enter university on "conditional status" despite marginal grades. "There are many students who may not do well in high school, but are very capable," says Hofley. "They come to university and thrive—I'm very proud of that."

Hofley has also been a supporter of the College and University Bound program (CUB) for more than a decade. CUB is a program designed to introduce high school students to post-secondary education who may never have considered it an option, whether for reasons of money, culture, or circumstance. "Last year, 75 percent of the graduating class went on to post-secondary education," reports Hofley.

He has also made significant contributions to the university on other fronts, including serving on The University of Winnipeg Faculty Association, President of the UWinnipeg Retirees Association, and member of the Board's Pension Committee. Following his retirement, Hofley was asked to become Acting Coordinator of the Women's Studies Program, of which he has long been a supporter. He continues to teach courses and participate in University affairs, and is a government appointee on the Council that is establishing the University College of the North.

"After he retired, he did just as much or more than before," says Neil Besner, Dean of Humanities. "John personifies devotion to the University and service in every imaginable sector."

For these reasons, and many more, The University is proud to name Dr. John Hofley to fellowship in United College.