



CAMPAIGN ILLINOIS

Building on Tradition · Shaping Tomorrow

CBA, Uni High to Benefit from Alum's Generosity



Merle "Bud" Boren moved with his family from rural western Illinois to Champaign in 1927 for its educational opportunities. His opportunities taken included the University of Illinois, marriage, a family, the military, and a successful business career.

Bud Boren has decided to thank his late wife, Virginia, his parents and parents-in-law through a commitment of nearly \$4 million that will create the Merle H. and Virginia Downs Boren Endowment Fund which will benefit the College of Commerce and Business Administration and the University Laboratory High School, both at Urbana-Champaign. About \$3.6 million of his gift will go to the College of Commerce and Business Administration to create an endowed professorship and provide unrestricted funding. The University Laboratory High School will receive \$250,000 for students whose family income is not derived from the University itself. This gift doubles the size of Uni's endowment.

In his freshman year at the U of I, Bud married Virginia Ellen Downs, a graduate of Uni High. He earned his bachelor's degree in accountancy and banking and finance from the U of I in 1934. After graduate work and employment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he joined the Kroger Company in 1937 as an internal auditor. Five years later, he became the branch accountant for Kroger at the Terre Haute, Ind., branch.

His career with Kroger was interrupted in 1942 when he joined the Navy as an air gunnery officer. After three years, he returned to Kroger. His career with the grocery giant spanned 38 years, the last 28 in the real estate program. He retired in 1975 as a director of property, and resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Virginia, his wife of more than 60 years, died in 1992.

"I owe so very much to my late wife Virginia, my parents and Virginia's parents for their encouragement to seek higher education; and it was with them in mind that I made the decision to remember the U of I in planning my estate gifting," said Bud.

For more information, call the University of Illinois Foundation's Office of Trust Relations and Planned Giving, 217-333-6346.