

PAYING IT FORWARD

THE DR. THOM AND TERRY FLAMBOE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Thom and Terry Flamboe first met at the Buckhorn Bar in downtown Laramie in 1972.

Thom was awarded a graduate assistantship in communication disorders and Terry was finishing her liberal arts degree in education at the University of Wyoming. Thom came from Detroit, Michigan, and Terry was from Casper even though she lived in several Wyoming and Montana communities because her dad was oil field roughneck.

Thom, wanting to stay in Wyoming, took a job with Head Start in Guernsey and Terry worked for St. Joseph's Children's Home in Torrington. She eventually took a job with the Goshen County attorney. Thom taught classes on child development at Eastern Wyoming College and received a grant to purchase an impedance audiometer for the Torrington Jaycees. The Torrington Free Hearing Screening Project received awards from the Wyoming Jaycees and Thom performed numerous hearing screenings around the region.

Thom and Terry married (unofficially at their ranch outside of Guernsey and officially at St. Anthony's Church in Casper) and soon after, moved back to Laramie. Thom coordinated the Wyoming Infant Stimulation Program, a federal grant directed by Dr. Jan Jelinek at the UW Communication Disorders department. Terry was employed at First Wyoming Bank, working her way up from executive secretary to assistant vice president. Thom travelled the country working with parents and children as well as conducting workshops and presentations for teachers and nurses, and eventually for lawyers, corporations, first responders, school boards, and university and college staff.





When the grant was completed, Thom and Terry moved with their young daughter, Reagan, to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where Thom worked at both hospitals as a child developmental specialist establishing programs for parents, siblings, and day care preschools. Terry was initially employed by First National Bank (which eventually became Norwest Bank) as a vice president. She was then asked to run several Home Federal Banks as a market manager and eventually completed an almost 30-year career in banking.

Thom was then asked to join a Family Medicine Group in Aberdeen as a mental health provider and worked within that group for 20 years. He earned additional degrees in elementary special education, a master's degree in communication disorders, a master's degree in counseling, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. He has

assisted in the training of D.A.R.E. officers for 20 years and has provided psychological testing for law enforcement candidates in patrol and corrections. He is a trained hostage/crisis negotiator and was part of the special response team for the Aberdeen Police Department. He has also assisted with training crisis intervention teams to successfully interact with people with mental disorders. Thom currently volunteers as a mental strength and conditioning coach for the athletes at Black Hills State University and Terry is happily living her retirement.

THE FLAMBOE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

The Dr. Thom and Terry Flamboe Graduate Fellowship in Speech-Language Pathology will be awarded to graduate students who have an interest in working with children post-graduation. Preference shall be given first to students who have unmet financial need. Student applicants must be graduate students admitted to the MS SLP program and have a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

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“The purpose of this scholarship is to give back to the UW Department of Communication Disorders who gave me a chance to pursue my career paths. They gave me the opportunity and encouragement to complete my educational goals. In essence, they saw something in me—an ability or talent to carry on my belief and work with people. This is my chance to say thank you to the department and to give someone else the good fortune that I had—to grow and develop into the person, professional, and Cowboy that I am. Paying it forward is everything!”

—THOM FLAMBOE, PH.D.