

Distaso Memorial Fund Honors M Technology Leaders— Past, Present, and Future

by Sandra Reynolds

Established to honor an international leader in M Technology, the Michael Distaso Memorial Fund provides an excellent opportunity for the M community to acknowledge outstanding colleagues and to instill enthusiasm for M in college students preparing for computer careers.

The Fund was organized in 1990 and named for Mr. Distaso, a Board member and active participant in M Technology activities. Michael was best known for his work with FileMan at the Department of Veterans Affairs' San Francisco Information Services Center (ISC). He also was an acclaimed teacher, inspiring others to learn and excel. In Michael's name, the Fund awards outstanding student research in M Technology.

Distaso Colleagues Honored

In the spirit of commitment to advancing M Technology, the Fund also offers a befitting way for the M community to honor other exceptional members. Many contributors to the Fund feel they are able to honor Mr. Distaso and extend appreciation to others who similarly enhance M Technology.

Each issue of *M Computing* carries a record of gifts to the Fund (see page 47). Now donations are arriving in memory of two of the late Mr. Distaso's colleagues, David B. Van Hooser and Ingeborg M. Kuhn.

David B. Van Hooser began his Veterans Administration career in 1970 as a computer systems analyst. In 1986, he became director of the Medical Information Resources Management Office (MIRMO) of the Veterans Health Administration. Mr. Van Hooser was instrumental in creating and implementing the M-based Decentralized Hospital Computer Program (DHCP), the largest single health-care computer system implementation in the United States. He also played a role in ensuring VA funding for the MUMPS Development Committee (MDC). Mr. Van Hooser died in January.

... the Fund awards outstanding student research ...

Ingeborg M. Kuhn, Ph.D., died in February. As director of the San Francisco Information Systems Center of the Veterans Health Administration, she was a well-respected advocate of DHCP. Dr. Kuhn began her career with the Center in 1983 as a program analyst, became deputy director in 1984, and moved to the director's position in 1985. Under her management, the San Francisco ISC became a leader in DHCP with its high-quality field support and development of national packages. The quality of the M-based software greatly improved under her direction.

Student Research Competition

Contributions to the Fund support a competition for the best research paper on an innovative use of M Technology. Full-time college students from all fifty states and abroad compete for a cash award and an expense-paid trip to the M Technology Association's Annual Meeting. The paper also is published in the meeting's Proceedings. Other entries, if deemed to be of interest to the M community, also may be published. This award is designed to generate advances in M Technology by attracting academia's attention to M, encouraging computer students to devote special effort to our language, and rewarding important research.

Those individuals wishing to donate to the Fund may do so by sending a check, payable to the Michael Distaso Memorial Fund, to the M Technology Association, Suite 205, 1738 Elton Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20903-1725. Contributions in honor or memory of particular individuals should include a notation to that effect on the check. Members may contribute as they renew their dues annually by so indicating on their renewal applications. **M**

Sandra Reynolds is the associate director of the M Technology Association. She has helped administer the Fund and the award since their inception.
