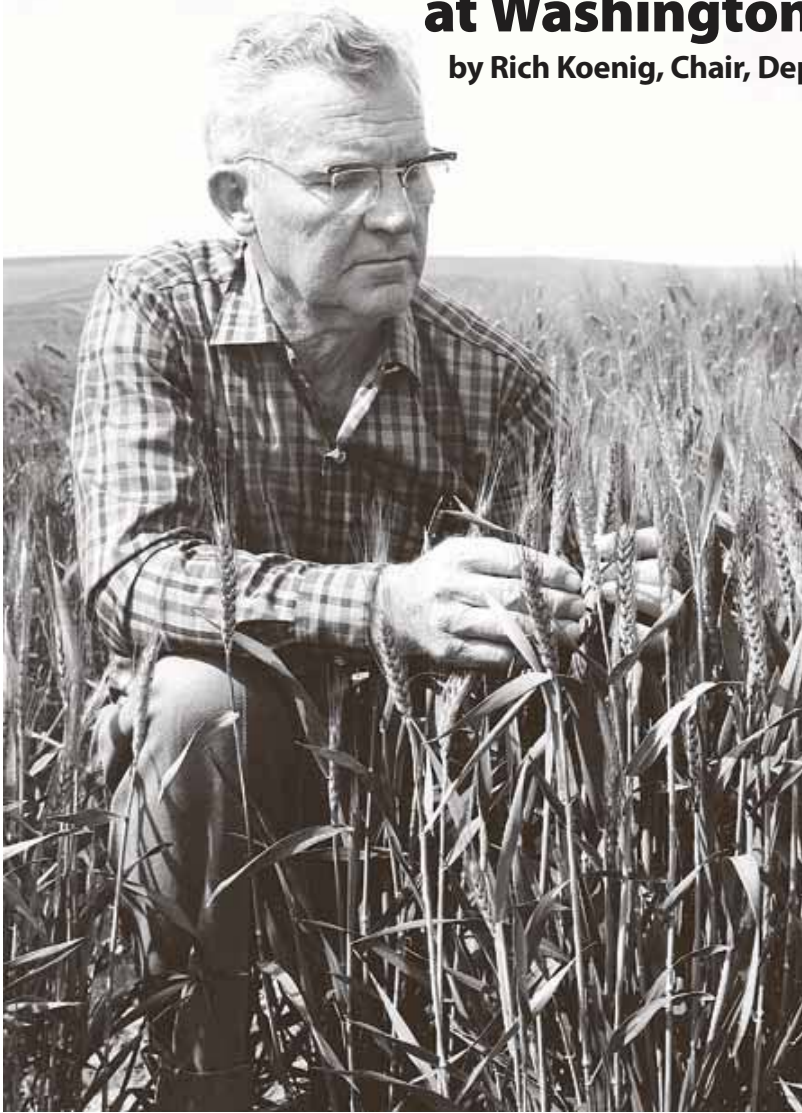


Orville A. Vogel—One name, three endowments at Washington State University

by Rich Koenig, Chair, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences



Dr. Orville A. Vogel was a renowned research scientist and wheat breeder with the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) from 1931 to 1972. He was the first breeder to develop commercial semi-dwarf cultivars of wheat (*Gaines* and *Nugaines*) in North America. He shared his germplasm with other breeding programs around the world and was publicly acknowledged by Dr. Norman Borlaug, recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for accomplishments that led to the green revolution, for his contributions to worldwide crop improvement. Locally, Dr. Vogel was known throughout the Pacific Northwest for the many improved wheat cultivars he developed which increased grain yields and profitability of farmers in the area. Dr. Vogel was also widely recognized for being a knowledgeable agronomist and engineer, inventing several versions of research plot-sized equipment such as the Vogel stationary thresher still used by wheat breeding programs around the world.

The Washington State University Foundation administers three separate endowments honoring the achievements of Dr. Vogel: i) the O.A. Vogel Wheat Research Fund; ii) the O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair in Wheat Breeding and Genetics; and iii) the O.A. Vogel-Washington State Crop Improvement Association Scholarships and Faculty Awards. For each of these endowments, income from investment of the principal is

distributed according to terms outlined in the gift use agreement between Washington State University and the endowment donor. The principal of each endowment is protected. In times of economic downturn, funds are not distributed if the market value drops below the original endowment amount or a value specified in the gift use agreement. Managed this way, the O.A. Vogel endowments provide permanent funding to support the priorities described below.

The O.A. Vogel Wheat Research Fund was established by Dr. Vogel and his wife, Bertha, in 1972. The Vogels contributed extensively to this fund during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Over 1500 other individuals, businesses, and wheat associations have donated to the fund in the 35 years since it was created. The endowment is dedicated to production-oriented wheat research and encourages basic and applied research in the areas of biological limitations on yield, conservation practices, and variety

development. The O.A. Vogel Wheat Research Fund is administered by the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) in the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. The endowment has a current market value of approximately \$2.5 million. Annual distributions over the last five years have averaged \$113,000 (Figure 1). Progress reports for recently funded projects are available on the ARC web site under 'Vogel Wheat Progress Reports' at <http://arc.wsu.edu/Links/08wheatprogreps.html>.

The O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair in Wheat Breeding and Genetics was established with a generous \$500,000 gift from the Washington Wheat Commission and \$500,000 in matching funds from the State of Washington. Subsequent contributions and investment income have increased the endowment market value to approximately \$2 million. Distributions from this endowment are used by the Vogel Chair faculty member in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences to coordinate multi-disciplinary wheat research efforts and use the latest techniques in science to enhance variety development research at Washington State University. Dr. Kulvinder Gill is the O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair in Wheat Breeding and Genetics. Recent accomplishments of Dr. Gill's program can be found on the web at <http://vogelchair.wsu.edu/>. Annual distributions from this endow-

ment over the last five years have averaged \$74,000 (Figure 2).

The O.A. Vogel-Washington State Crop Improvement Association Scholarships and Faculty Awards endowment was established in 1973 to honor Dr. Vogel's achievements and contributions to agriculture in the Pacific Northwest. The endowment was funded by generous donations from the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, individuals, and the seed industry companies. The endowment has a market value of approximately \$90,000. A portion of the endowment earnings supports scholarships and education travel grants for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in agronomy or soils. In 2009, distributions for scholarships from this endowment exceeded \$4,000. The remainder of the endowment honors one faculty or staff member annually with a \$1,000 award for significant contributions to the pure seed program and/or crop production in Washington. Recent recipients of this award include Stephen Clement (2008), Steve Lyon (2007), Roland Schirman (2006), John Burns (2005) and R. James Cook (2004).

Each of the Vogel endowments is open to receiving further donations. If you would like more information on contributing to one of the Vogel endowments, or establishing a separate endowment at Washington State University, please contact Caroline Troy, Senior Director of Development, WSU Alumni and Friends, at 509-335-4166 or ctroy@wsu.edu. ■

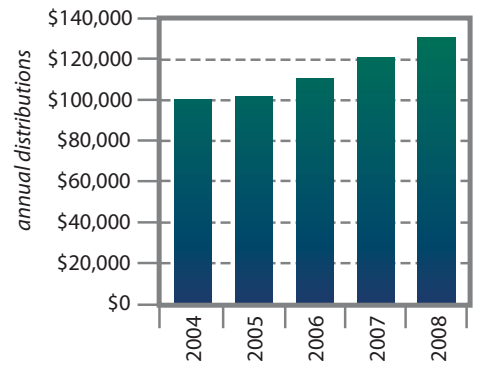


Figure 1. Annual distributions from the O.A. Vogel Wheat Research Fund Endowment.

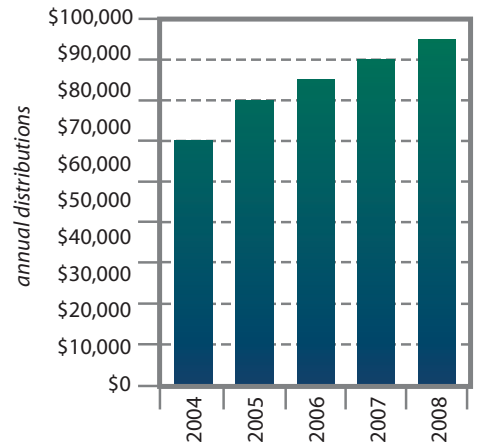


Figure 2. Annual distributions from the O.A. Vogel Chair in Wheat Breeding and Genetics Endowment.

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