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University benefactor honored with national philanthropy award

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A walk around both the Dodge Street and Pacific Street campuses reveals a few names that recur throughout the campus. Among them are the many namesakes of Walter Scott Jr.

In honor of Scott's many philanthropic works and humanitarian efforts, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans announced Feb. 9 that Scott had been chosen to receive the association's most prestigious prize, the 2009 Norman Vincent Peale Award.

From Scott Hall and Scott Village to those who have earned the coveted Scott Scholarships, Scott's donations to UNO are prevalent parts of the campus.

Being a Scott Scholar means being an honors student, but with a different dimension of yourself, said freshman Josh Wiley, a recipient of the Scott Scholarship. Scott scholars add another dimension to technology, producing well-rounded students for the technology era.

The four-year Scott Scholarships are awarded to a handful of students pursuing careers in information technology and engineering.

"It gives them a way to not only focus on the college," Wiley said, "but, if they wish, to possibly develop as a person."

Scott, a native Nebraskan, was raised during the Great Depression and worked area farms and ranches, once working a ranch in Oregon. He later received a degree in civil engineering at Colorado A&M, now Colorado University.

Receiving this award is a testament to Scott's work, the University of Nebraska Foundation said in a statement congratulating him.

"Over the years, the Scotts have generously supported UNO and particularly its students," according to the foundation. "Their generosity has enabled the university as well as individuals to realize new opportunities and ultimately remarkable dreams. The foundation thanks the Scotts for their commitment not only to the University of Nebraska but to the citizens of Omaha and the state."