



Faced with a drop in the value of our endowment and the lowest interest rates in four decades; in 2003 the Foundation Board made the decision to continue to fund our scholarships and continuing obligations but not undertake new projects.

This seemed to be true to our mission statement: "The Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge Foundation shall through charitable grants provide means whereby individuals can improve their lives; and, by attaining their fullest potential, help to improve the community where they live."

These are the scholarships being funded:

**University of Oklahoma - \$20,000.**

**Tom & Marye Kate Aldridge Scholarships in Business - \$11,000**

Funding one Junior and one Senior since 1996

This year's recipients:

Senior: **Jessica Bramlet** - International Business

Junior: **Michael Bishop Jr.** - Energy Management

**LaVerne Aldridge Nursing Scholarship - \$ 9,000**

Funding (1) Junior and (1) Senior since 1998.

This year's recipients:

Senior: **Amy Bullock**

Junior: **Amanda Watson**

**University of Central Oklahoma - \$8,000**

**Homer Coker Scholarships** - honoring retired Dean of School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Funding one Junior and one Senior since 1996.

This year's recipients:

Junior: **James Fraser** - Spring 2006

Junior/ Senior: **Alan Peters** - Fall 2005/Spring 2006

Senior: **Tyler Knoblock** Fall 2005

**College of Education: Special Education \$1,000** - Since 1996 funding one or more students

This year's recipients:

**Summer Moore**

**Vicky Tatum**

**President's Partner Award \$ 500**

This year's recipients:

**Jessica Pettit**

**Bob E. Palmer Awards \$ 300**

This year's recipients:  
Samantha Olsen (See Below)

**Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City - \$9,000** - LaVerne Aldridge Nursing Scholarships  
Funding the second, third and fourth semester of Nursing studies since 1999.

This year's recipients:  
Second Semester: Edward Komer  
Third Semester: Amber Jones  
Fourth Semester: Kari Harky

**Rogers State University - \$6,000** - Aldridge scholarships in Information Technology

This year's recipients:  
Alex Kolosha, Jr.  
Kimberly Trahan  
Nicholas Pranger  
Bradley Marshall  
Michelle Jinks

Aldridge Foundation makes the Scholarship grants to each University, allowing each to select the recipients according to their established criteria.

**Aldridge Foundation Scholarship recipients:**

**Samantha Olson**

This was a special award. The young woman has stage 4 ovarian cancer. However, she continued to come to class and do her classwork. Dr. Palmer requested that he be permitted to use a portion of the \$500 per year that goes for Palmer scholarships to give her a special award. I agreed and offered a \$200 prize for a presentation piece to accompany the cash award. The result was an iron sculpture, the iron rose, to symbolize courage and beauty entwined together .



**Jessica Pettit** and her mother, Pam, recipient of the Foundation sponsored President's Partners award in Kinesiology.



*The Iron Rose" the first annual Samantha Olson courage award. This award, bringing together the beauty of a rose with the strength of iron, honors a young woman who refused to allow stage four cancer to prevent her from continuing her education. It will be awarded annually to the University of Central Oklahoma School of Art and Design Student who best exhibits the strength of character that Samantha embodied.*