

## **Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Fund Request for Contributions**

*History of the Scholarship:* Mary Fran Myers was the Co-Director of the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder from 1988 through her retirement in the fall of 2003. During her time at the Center, she was a major guiding force, both within the Center itself and among the broader hazards community. Reducing disaster losses, both nationally and internationally, was her life's work. By the time of her death in April 2004, her numerous contributions to the field were recognized by thousands of individuals and organizations throughout the world.

The idea for the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship was first introduced in the summer of 2003 at the Gender and Disaster Roundtable at the annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, Colorado. On the occasion of Mary Fran's retirement, members of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) worked with Hazards Center staff to officially establish the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was publicly announced at Mary Fran's retirement party in December 2003.

*Intent of the Scholarship:* One of Mary Fran's primary concerns during her many years of service was ensuring that those from all sectors of the hazards community would be represented at the annual Hazards Workshop. She was particularly concerned that many who can greatly benefit from and contribute to Workshop activities – including in particular local practitioners, students, and international participants – are also among the least likely to be able to afford to attend. Based on Mary Fran's explicit request, the award will be used to support scholarships to enable such individuals to attend the annual Hazards Workshop or be disbursed at the discretion of the Director of the Natural Hazards Center. The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship will be awarded annually, and each year the scholarship recipient will be recognized at the Hazards Workshop. The recipient may also be invited to serve as a discussant on a panel, highlighting his or her research or practical experiences in the hazards and disaster field.

*Benefits of the Scholarship:* This scholarship will benefit the individual recipients by making it possible for them to attend and participate in the annual Hazards Workshop in Boulder and further their research or professional career paths. Equally important, it will have positive impacts for the larger hazards community, in that it will bring new and fresh perspectives – and otherwise unheard voices – to the Workshop. Mary Fran always sought to broaden the participation of local practitioners, young scholars, and international researchers and practitioners in the hazards community, and this scholarship will enable the Center to honor her wishes and efforts.

A gift account has been established with the University of Colorado Foundation, which will administer the scholarship funds. Checks should be written to the "University of Colorado Foundation" and sent to:

Mary Fran Myers Scholarship  
Natural Hazards Center  
University of Colorado  
482 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309-0482