Ruth and Bill Scott

There are eight founding benefactors to the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education. Ruth and Bill Scott made the largest gift. The Scotts are deeply rooted and invested in the Omaha community, contributing to its progress, health and vitality in a quiet but exceptional way.

Bill Scott is a 1953 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business Administration. The Ashland, Neb., native was vice president of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. from 1959 until the early 1990s. Prior to that, he was with the trust department at U.S. National Bank’s Investment Division; a money manager in Detroit, Mich.; with the investment department at Banker’s Life in Des Moines; and a state bank examiner with the Nebraska Department of Banking.

Ruth Scott earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1952. A professional bridge player, she owns and operates the Omaha Bridge Studio.

This marks the second major donation that Ruth and Bill Scott have made to a UNMC building project. In 2003, they were among eight major donors to the Durham Research Center on the UNMC campus. Their gift established the Ruth and Bill Scott Neuroscience Research Laboratories on the third floor of the Durham Research Center. In addition, Ruth and Bill Scott also recently funded a major research project at UNMC under the direction of Kevin Garvin, M.D., professor and chairman of orthopaedic surgery, and James O’Dell, M.D., professor, internal medicine, and chief of the rheumatology & immunology section. The project will establish the Ruth and Bill Scott Center for Outcomes Research, a center that will analyze the various treatments for people suffering from arthritis and requiring a joint replacement.

Michael F. Sorrell, M.D.

A 1959 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine and a UNMC faculty member since 1971, Dr. Michael Sorrell has held several key leadership positions at both UNMC and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. For the VA, he served as chief of the section of gastroenterology-liver disease from 1973 to 1976 and as associate chief of staff/research from 1974 to 1982. In 1981, he was named chairman of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, a post that he held for 10 years. When he decided to step down from the chairman’s position, he became medical director for the liver transplant program and chief of the section of gastroenterology/hepatology.

As a distinguished scientist and physician, Dr. Sorrell continues to work diligently for UNMC and is sought after by people from around the world for his expertise in gastroenterology. He has been selected by two leading publications – America’s Top Doctors and Best Doctors in America – as one of the top physicians in the country.

During his career, Dr. Sorrell has been an invited lecturer at nearly 200 national and international universities, organizations, institutes, symposia and conferences. He has published more than 200 articles in peer reviewed journals and book chapters in a majority of the major medical text books in his specialty. In addition, he has co-authored five medical textbooks.