



Alumnus Establishes \$50,000 Scholarship

Through a \$50,000 commitment, John Cataldo '75 BArch created the John G. Cataldo Scholarship in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) to assist fifth-year architecture students, as well as to serve as a recruiting tool for freshmen architecture students.

“When I was in school, I was recognized for the work I did in my later academic years,” Cataldo said. “School helped my attitude and confidence. The College made an enormous contribution to my life and I, in turn, believe in giving something back.”

Born in San Mango, Italy, Cataldo immigrated with his family to the United States at age 10. “Architecture has always fascinated me and as a young man it led me to The University of Arizona,” Cataldo said. “I was welcomed at the school. What really helped was that I was able to get scholarship assistance.” His graduation from CALA prepared Cataldo for his move to California to teach architecture at the University of Southern California. “The fundamental quality that I gained from my experience at the U of A was resourcefulness,” Cataldo said. “It’s the idea that you can use your creative abilities to produce something extraordinary. This has been ingrained in all members of our firm. It enables us to exceed on clients’ expectations and produce excellent architecture.”

After an internship and obtaining his license, he began work for a real estate developer as manager of its development and construction unit. The developer, Cadillac Fairview, was at the time the largest real estate developer in the U.S. While in this professional capacity, Cataldo received his master’s in business from Pepperdine University.

“As a faculty member, I used to have John in class,” Dean Chuck Albanese said. “It’s no surprise to me that John went on to positively impact the world of development in a myriad of ways. His work has become well-known throughout Southern California and the U.S. The College is proud of John’s success and thankful that he understands how important scholarship support is to CALA students amid an era of drastically declining state resources.”

In 1986, Cataldo established Cataldo Architects and Engineers (www.johncataldo.com), a 20-person firm in South Pasadena, Calif. The firm has distinguished itself in the design of more than 2,500 architectural projects representing 20 million square feet of commercial, industrial and institutional development. With numerous awards to its credit, the firm also specializes in historical preservation and seismic renovations. The firm's historic restoration project of the Paseo Building in Westwood, Calif., set precedence for future efforts in the area. The firm is also notably responsible for the Los Angeles Industrial Center, Pacific Gateway Commerce Center and numerous other industrial and business centers.

“As I reflect on my life, the thing which motivates me the most is my sense of awe and wonder about people's expressions,” Cataldo said. “The late CALA professor, Doug Macneil, once quoted Louis Kahn when he said, ‘All things are good and we need to be in gratitude for everyone's sense of expression.’ It can be as simple as an elderly lady planting roses in her garden.”

Today, Cataldo and his wife, Ileana, a fine arts graduate of University of California—Irvine and an accomplished pianist, knows how important it is to give back to those in need. In fact, Cataldo was recently named Goodwill of Southern California's Champion of the Year for outstanding contributions to the community. Along with volunteering in California, Cataldo knows that architecture students at his alma mater are just as deserving. It's Cataldo's hope that his scholarship support inspires others to reach out to CALA in similar ways. “I think students want to know they are acknowledged,” Cataldo said. “There's no bigger contribution to anyone than being acknowledged.”

The University of Arizona's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) has a long tradition of preparing students for the challenges of professional practice. The College's foundation of excellence has been fashioned from its respect for the characteristics of place and its involvement with communities. The Sonoran setting of the University offers CALA students and faculty inspiration and guidance in the study of delicate and unique environments worldwide. In the spirit of experimentation and inquiry, students, faculty and the community collectively learn, discover and benefit. For more information about CALA, visit <http://cala.arizona.edu>, e-mail cala@u.arizona.edu or phone (520) 621-6751.