

# SHARE Notes

SEPTEMBER 2006

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## SHARE Walk-A-Thon 2006 to Honor Founder Richard Walder

**A**t SHARE Walk-A-Thon 2006, we invite you to join us in remembering our friend and colleague, Professor Richard Walder, who was a driving force behind SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering until his death this past July.

Now in its 21st year, the SHARE Walk will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2006 at its traditional site, the campus of UMass Dartmouth. Rick Walder participated in every one of SHARE's Fun Walks over the past 20 years, and this year's walk will include a brief tribute to Rick as part of the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. Many of his family and friends are expected to attend, as they have since the very first Fun Walk was held in 1986.

The walk starts and ends at the Tripp Athletic Center, with parking available in Lots 8 and 9. The official starting time for the walk is 9 a.m., but you can start any time you choose between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

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*Walkers team up to support SHARE at one of our many Fun Walks held during the past 20 years.*

**SHARE**  
truly needs your help to make this special fundraiser a major success!  
**PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!**

### Rick Walder...Mourning His Loss, Celebrating His Life

This past July, SHARE lost a very important member of its family when Professor Richard Walder passed away at the age of 83. A Professor Emeritus at UMass Dartmouth, Walder and fellow professors Les Cory and Phil Viall founded the SHARE Foundation in 1982. Professor Walder served as Vice President, Clerk and Resident Engineer for SHARE until his death. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

Walder joined the Electrical Engineering Department at New Bedford Institute of Textiles and Technology in 1956 and served continuously until his retirement in



January of 1995. He began his Engineering studies at URI in 1942, but took time out to serve his country as a volunteer in World War II from 1943 to 1946. He served with the 84th Army Division as a Combat Infantryman in Europe and was awarded three battle and campaign stars for his exemplary service.

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# Grants from The Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation and Verizon to Fund Computer Refurbishment Program at UMass Dartmouth

A \$10,000 grant from The Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from Verizon will fund a computer refurbishment program to benefit SHARE clients. Through the program, UMass Dartmouth engineering students will work in conjunction with the UMD Center for Rehabilitation Engineering to refurbish previously donated computer equipment to provide means of communication for people with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, ALS, multiple sclerosis, and a host of other conditions.

“We are thrilled to receive these grants,” said Professor Les Cory, SHARE president. “The funds will allow us to design and adapt equipment tailored specifically to meet the unique needs of the people who seek our help.”

The program’s innovative educational partnership promises to streamline the delivery of computer equipment and related services to the many children and adults currently on SHARE’s waiting list.

“The students at UMass Dartmouth will increase their

knowledge about how to build a computer for a specific population, and SHARE’s clients will receive their computers quickly with more students on hand to modify the equipment,” said Robert F. Stoico. “We are proud to support SHARE and help them achieve their goals.”

“We truly value this opportunity to partner with SHARE in support of technology applications aimed at improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities,” said Robert B. Colon, Verizon’s regional director for external affairs. ■

## Annual Fundraisers Brighten the Summer in Support of SHARE

Thanks to SHARE’s dedicated supporters, two annual fundraisers generated funding vitally needed to provide services and equipment to children and adults with disabilities.

We would like to express our appreciation to Bill Pimental, Ron Kostyla, Bob Bjorklund, the Sunday Morning Golfers, and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club for organizing the 23rd Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic this past July.

Held at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the tournament raised more than \$5,000 to benefit SHARE.

On August 12, the UMass Dartmouth campus was the place to be if you’re a car lover—more than 100 classic and antique cars were on display at the 12th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day to benefit SHARE.

The car show and flea market raised over \$4,000 to support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. SHARE extends our gratitude to event organizers Dave



*This 1950 Chevrolet, owned by Paul Bruneau of Dartmouth, Mass., was one of the many vintage cars on display at the 12th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day.*

Martin and the Bristol County Street Rod Association for sponsoring this entertaining summer fundraiser again this year!

As always, our heartfelt thanks go out to the many golfers, businesses, organizations, and individuals that participated in each of these events—your support continues to make this important work possible. ■

## A Client Shares His Thanks

*First I must thank you for the use of the scooter this past year! It had really helped in getting things done and helping my deteriorating body to continue life in a quality way.*

*Now that I’ve received the Power Jazzy Wheelchair 1120, I have resumed going to places I couldn’t go with the scooter. My disability is progressively getting worse, but I’ve learned with this wheelchair that going to the store, to the mall, or even to Boston and beyond is possible. So now I’ll be able to see a movie or shop when I want, or ride for several hours and have no problem!*

*Certainly you have proven once again that you as SHARE’s representatives go beyond the call of duty to help the disabled in their needs for computers and/or devices in helping to get places and communicate better!*

*Fred Pacheco*

## SHARE Walk 2006

*Continued from page 1*

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready at 8:30 a.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and other munchies will be featured at our cookout starting at 11 a.m.

Anyone who turns in \$50 or more will receive a free T-shirt or coffee mug and get to select an item from the Treasure Chest. Thanks to the generosity of local merchants, our most successful walkers will be treated to meals at local restaurants and win other valuable gift certificates. We'll also have games, a raffle, and treats along the route for the young and young-at-heart.

Of course, the best prize is realizing you are doing something meaningful to help very special individuals with disabilities. Hundreds of times over this past year, SHARE has reached out to help



*A young participant enjoys painting a pumpkin at a recent walk-a-thon.*

people with conditions such as blindness, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), and spinal cord injuries. Thanks to your past support, we've been able to provide non-speaking children with the means to participate in

classroom discussions, to open the Internet to adults isolated in their homes or hospitals, and to give people with very limited physical ability the opportunity to continue their education and communicate with others.

Recruit a walk team or come as you are, but please sign up for SHARE Walk 2006—we truly need your help to make this fundraiser a major success! If you cannot attend, please consider supporting this fundraising effort by sponsoring a SHARE client participating in the Walk—see the enclosed registration form for details!

**To register, mail the enclosed registration form as soon as possible, or call (508) 999-8482 to register by phone. You also can e-mail your registration information to [SHARE@umassd.edu](mailto:SHARE@umassd.edu).**

## Richard Walder

*Continued from page 1*

Following graduation from URI in 1948 with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering, he went to work for NACA (now NASA) at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

During his nearly 40 years of service to UMass Dartmouth and its predecessor schools, he taught a number of courses, including Physics, Circuit Analysis, Energy Conversion, Power Systems, Electromagnetics and Electronics.

Prior to his retirement, he served as Associate Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department.

He was active in a number of professional engineering societies, including the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, which he served at various

times as Section Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman.

Another highlight of his university service was his six years as Director of Upward Bound, a high-intensity project designed to help disadvantaged students succeed in high school, college, and life.

Rick will be best remembered for his quick wit, his unassuming smile, his sincere love of people, and his absolute joy of life. The UMass Dartmouth community has lost a great friend indeed.

We at SHARE and the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Nonie, his family, and all those who knew and loved him. We salute his tireless dedication to enriching the lives of others through his work at SHARE and the Rehabilitation Engineering Center. For his wisdom, generosity, and kindness, we will remember and miss Rick always. ■

## Thanks to your generosity, this summer SHARE was able to:

- > Provide a talking computer system for a non-speaking child with cerebral palsy.
- > Provide a head switch-controlled computer to enable a woman with multiple sclerosis who cannot use her hands to continue work on her family genealogy.
- > Provide some adapted toys for a youngster who is unable to use her hands.
- > Provide a talking word processing system for a blind college student.
- > Provide a large-screen computer system for a Rhode Island man with macular degeneration.
- > And meet the needs of about 140 other people with disabilities who came our way this summer.

***We pledge that with your ongoing support, we will continue to improve the quality of life for people who turn to us for help.***

**With Our Thanks.** We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many supporters who have donated to SHARE over the past several months. Your generous gifts are making it possible for us to provide the opportunity for independent communication to more children and adults with disabilities.

*The following donations were received from April 1, 2006 through September 13, 2006.*

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