



BRUCE M. JEWETT

The History of Donors Jones and Jewett, and Cal Poly Pomona's Ink & Clay

More about Donor, Bruce M. Jewett & Cal Poly Pomona

Kellogg University Art Gallery's annual competitive exhibition of ceramics, prints and drawings, known as *Ink & Clay* is made possible through sponsorship by the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery of Cal Poly Pomona, and is underwritten by the generosity of the late Mr. Bruce M. Jewett, the late Col. James "Jim" H. Jones, and the Office of the University President.

Bruce Jewett's generous support has been essential to the running of *Ink & Clay* each year. His contributions, as well as the endowments set up by himself and the late great Col. James Jones, make this campus tradition happen. "It is very important to support the arts," Jewett often said. "Anything students can do outside of their specific major makes them a broader person." Bruce Jewett always felt at home when he was at Cal Poly Pomona, especially when it's time for the annual *Ink & Clay* art exhibition.

His partner, the late Lt. Col. James "Jim" H. Jones (alum from class of 1951, citrus fruit production), funded an endowment in 1971 for the initial *Ink & Clay* exhibitions. Jones was a U.S. Air Force officer who was stationed at posts across the Middle East during the Cold War. "Every time Jim changed stations, he would buy some new art to decorate his quarters," Jewett commented. "When he changed stations on several tours, he would take all the [previously purchased] artwork to Cal Poly Pomona [for exhibitions], and started a collection."

Jewett's own passion for art blossomed through association. "I hadn't really been into visual art until sort of by osmosis from Jim's interest and activities," recalls Jewett, who also is a devotee of the performing arts. Jewett witnessed the exhibition grow from a small show of works by art department faculty members to a regional showcase to a juried competition that attracts artists from across the nation. He began providing support to the exhibition after witnessing the passion of those who have made the show a success year after year. "I was really impressed by the staff and faculty. Everyone seemed to be enjoying their job," says Jewett. "The whole atmosphere at Cal Poly Pomona is like a family. They enjoy what they are doing." Affirming his belief in the university, Jewett issued his bequest to Cal Poly Pomona. He gave annually to *Ink & Clay* for the "James H. Jones Memorial Purchase Award" for the *Ink & Clay* exhibition, and supported other art-related programs in the College of Environmental Design.

Born in Highland Park, Michigan in 1928 as the only child of Merle and Edna Jewett, Bruce Jewett's introduction to the arts was as a saxophone student while in elementary school and his passion for the arts continued throughout his life. While pursuing his degree in Nuclear Physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Class of 1950), Jewett played his tenor saxophone in the marching band and was active in student drama group, Drama Tech, where he performed in several productions. Among his professional accomplishments was his role as a civilian contractor for the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor for eight years in the 1950s and 1960s where he was part of developing nuclear powered submarines.

After his retirement from the professional world, Jewett was a docent with the San Francisco Opera and appeared as a supernumerary in several of their productions. Upon moving to Southern California Bruce played in the band at Irvine Valley College where he was later recognized for his contributions to their programs. Until his "retirement" from performing live music at age 88, Bruce played for the Desert Winds Orchestra where he also served as treasurer.

Bruce Merle Jewett was preceded in death by his partner, Col. James "Jim" Jones and is survived by his three daughters, Sharon Behm, Marilyn Jewett and Lisa Little; four grandchildren, Heidi Pettigrew, Kristen Welch, Hillary Jewett, and Nate Jewett; and seven great-grandchildren. Bruce Jewett passed on June 21, 2020 and will be sorely missed. Upon his passing, Bruce Jewett had generously and preemptively secured a trust with the university with funds to support the Ink & Clay Endowment, the annual *Col. James Jones Memorial Award*, and his bequeathed *Beatrice Wood Ceramics Collection*.

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In the early 1970s, University donor, Col. James Jones, realized there were many emerging artists in Southern California who needed an opportunity to exhibit at a professional level. He approached the University and offered financial support for establishing an exhibition for those artists. In 1971, the Art Department faculty put together a show of ceramicware and prints, and *Ink & Clay* was born. The format was so successful that the next exhibit in 1972 marked the beginning of a time-honored tradition that continues through today. In its early years, *Ink & Clay's* focus was on inviting artists from the Southwestern region of the United States, and was held in the ASI Gallery and in the University Library. That changed, however, when the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery opened in 1988, and became the new home of *Ink & Clay*. The annual competition was opened up to artists working across the Western U.S. With the support of ASI, the gallery expanded in the late 1990s to include the "Back Gallery", and in 2013, the competition was opened up nationally. It now mounts larger exhibits within its 4000 square foot space that include as many as 70 to 100+ artworks each year as part of the tradition that is *Ink & Clay*.

The
**Bruce
Jewett**
Collection of
BEATRICE WOOD CERAMICS

INK & CLAY COLLECTION

Sapphire Anniversary

INK & CLAY 45

A National Competition