

A Year to Celebrate

By Olivia Garrett and Angie Stucker

For 13 years in a row, Doug and JoAnne Fraunfelder have attended the University Gala. The Gala, a premiere scholarship fundraising event, will take place October 10 on the SMSU campus.

The Fraunfelders have been residents of Marshall for 22 years. During that time, their careers have been tied to education.

Doug worked at SMSU for 18 years in various roles, most recently being VP Finance and Administration. He retired four years ago. For three years, he has proudly served on the Gala committee. JoAnne worked at Schwans and in the Marshall Public School system. For five years, she has been with the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

The couple met in Brookings, S.D. and were married on October 7, 1989. Now 25 years later, they are unable to attend this year's Gala because they are going on a dream getaway for their wedding anniversary. Coincidentally, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the University Gala as well.

Even though the Fraunfelders will be away this year, they have, and always will, support SMSU and the Gala. There are four reasons why the event is important according to Doug:

“One, we believe in education. Our whole careers have been in education. Many students need help financially. Education gives a better chance at a better life.

“Two, it's important to support the university. The university supports the region and has a huge economic impact, brings entertainment (plays, concerts, athletic events), culture, and

provides a venue for other community events. We are fortunate to have such a place in our region of Minnesota.”

“Third, [SMSU] gave me and other employees a nice career, and we want to give back to where we were treated so well.”

“And four, the Gala is a nice time with auctions [live and silent], excellent food, student involvement and a dance.”

JoAnne smiled in agreement and added, “The Gala is fun to meet people, have a good time and get dressed up.”

Doug did not agree with the “dressed up” comment, but he did with everything else. It’s easy to see the Fraunfelders are a happy couple, full of life, who are committed to SMSU. Southwest Minnesota is lucky to have them as a part of the community.

And even though the Fraunfelders will not be present at the Gala this year, it’s obvious they will be sorely missed.

Tickets are still available for the 2014 Gala. For more information, go to www.smsufoundation.org/gala