

Wagner College has scholarship money for neighborhood chemists

GRYMES HILL — Wagner College has received a bequest of more than \$168,000 from the estate of 1948 graduate **Benjamin A. Certo**, through the **Rose Certo Trust**, to establish the Rose and Ben Certo Science Scholarship.

The scholarship will be awarded annually, with a preference for incoming Wagner students who come from Rosebank, who will graduate from Curtis High School with an interest in chemistry.

Certo was born and raised in Rosebank. He graduated from Curtis, where he played varsity football on the 1935 city championship team. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II.

He graduated from Wagner in 1948 (where he also played football) with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He enjoyed a 31-year-career as a research chemist with the Chevron Oil Co., where he obtained the first patent for an oil container made of plastic. He retired in 1979.

Certo and his wife, the former Rose Nitti, were married in 1942. They moved to New Jersey in 1950, where Certo was a volunteer for several charitable organizations, including the St. Boniface Food Bank, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and Deborah Hospital.

Certo's wife, Rose, died in 2007. Certo died last November, at the age of 93.

For more information about the scholarship and qualifications, the person to contact is **Frank Young**, Wagner's director of major gifts, at 718-420-4494, or frank.young@wagner.edu.

— Diane Lore