Hastings College is pleased to award the Professor Roger Doerr Excellence Scholarship to a student majoring in a program offered by the department of Business and Economics. This scholarship was established by Willie Wallace, a 1983 Hastings College graduate and one of Doerr’s many former students.

Wallace, a Scottsbluff, Nebraska native, said making the decision to attend Hastings College was difficult for him; however, upon visiting campus with a friend who was interested in attending and had an older brother on campus, Wallace vividly remembers meeting Roger Doerr for the first time and liked the way he was able to relate to him. While Wallace admits he wasn’t a stellar high school student, it was Doerr who made him feel like he had a lot of potential, and that he would really like a guy like him on campus. Wallace enrolled as a Business Administration and Economics major and was also actively involved with football, tennis, forensics, Business Club, Kappa Tau Phi fraternity, and the Election Board.

Wallace recalls letting Doerr down following the fall semester of his sophomore year, when his social life took precedence over his studies. Doerr, also the dorm supervisor of Bronc Hall at the time, paid a visit to Wallace’s third-floor room, where a “direction-changing lecture” gave new meaning for Wallace to continue his college education on a better path.

“I was underachieving in the classroom and was headed down the wrong path,” Wallace said. “Roger’s visit was [one of] a few very memorable moments in my life that I can point to that have truly shaped me as a person. His passion for shaping lives and educating is heartfelt, authentic, and very genuine. Thirty years later, as I face challenges with young teammates with strong potential, I ask myself, ‘How would Professor Doerr handle this?’”

During Doerr’s tenure at Hastings College, his impact was felt among hundreds, if not thousands of students. Wallace is among those who have carried that positive impact along his career path as a successful businessman.

*Top Left: Willie Wallace, a 1983 Hastings College graduate, credits much of his growth and success during his time at Hastings College to Professor Roger Doerr. Wallace and Doerr (back row, side by side) are pictured with members of the Hastings College Inter-Fraternity Council. (’83 Bronco Yearbook)*