

Thomas F. George

1996-2003

Students admired Thomas F. George, UWSP's chancellor from 1996 to 2003, and one of George's top priorities was to interact with the students, listen to their opinions, and serve as their advocate.

A professor of chemistry and physics, George was provost of Washington State University before coming to UWSP. Prior to that, he was dean of natural sciences and mathematics at the State University of New York at Buffalo and a professor of chemistry at the University of Rochester. His degrees in chemistry are from Gettysburg College and Yale University.

A recognized scholar, George has received many awards and has authored hundreds of scientific articles and textbooks on quantum physics. He also is an accomplished jazz pianist. He left UWSP in 2003 to become president of University of Missouri-St. Louis.

During his tenure at UWSP, George supported many advances in technology on campus, instituted Winterim period between fall and spring semesters, and led an aggressive effort to improve performance and the reporting process used by *U.S. News and World Report* to rate universities. As a result, UWSP's rating improved from eighth to fifth in 1999. Under George's leadership, UWSP was ranked among the top 100 best values in public universities by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* in 1998.

George worked with Congressman David R. Obey to secure \$2.15 million in funding for the College of Natural Resources and secured approval to plan for a \$21.5 million project to remodel and expand the Fine Arts Center.

A strong advocate for UWSP athletics, George helped establish a new degree in athletic training, established women's ice hockey as a varsity sport, and worked to ensure the success of athletics in all areas. During that time, the combined grade point averages of student athletes were the highest in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Also, while at UWSP, George maintained an active personal research program and continued to author major research articles, co-author textbooks and present guest lectures at conferences and universities throughout the world.