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Conrad B. Fredricks receives scholarship from J. Hart Willis

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Conrad B. Fredricks of Helena, first-year student in the Montana State University Law School, is the first recipient of a scholarship set up this fall by MSU alumnus J. Hart Willis, Dean Robert E. Sullivan announced Monday.

The scholarship established by Willis, a prominent Dallas, Tex., attorney and former MSU athlete, covers full fees for a year of study in the MSU Law School, the dean said.

Willis, a former resident of Plains, addressed MSU law students in May during his first visit to the campus since his student days 55 years ago. As the University did not then have a law school, he left in 1904 to earn a law degree at the University of Washington. He has been in law practice in Dallas since 1912.

Fredricks, who entered the MSU Law School this fall, holds a B. S. degree in chemistry from Montana State College. After his graduation from MSC in 1955, he spent six months as an army lieutenant on active duty at Ft. Devons, Mass. For the past three and a half years he was employed by the Anaconda Aluminum Co. at Columbia Falls as assistant to the superintendent of the general laboratory.

Fredricks received the highest score on the Law School Admission Test, given by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N. J., of any applicant to the MSU Law School in the four years MSU has required the test, Dean Sullivan said. He was an honor student at MSC where he was active in student affairs. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. William H. Fredricks of Helena.

(more)
The Willis scholarship helps to meet a growing need for more scholarship aid to MSU law students, Dean Sullivan commented. Other scholarships available include the Neil S. Wilson scholarships, established in 1955 by a bequest of Mrs. Clara E. Wilson of Butte as a memorial to her son, and the Burton K. Wheeler scholarships, begun in 1957 by contributions from the children and the friends of Sen. Wheeler in honor of his 75th birthday.

More such scholarship aid is needed if the MSU Law School is to meet competition of scholarship inducements held out to the best students by other law schools, the dean said. Noting that it is almost impossible for a student to meet the academic demands of law study and carry a part-time job at the same time, the dean pointed out that the need for increased scholarship aid becomes more urgent as veterans' assistance programs run out.

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