James F. Goff
Geography Graduate Research Endowment

James F. Goff was born September 18, 1936 in Normal, Illinois. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with a major in Geography in 1958 and completed his Masters of Education Degree with a major in Geography only one year later in 1959. He earned both at Illinois State Normal University in his home town, Normal. His Doctor of Philosophy Degree with a major in Geography was obtained at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois in 1970. Professor Goff served on the faculty for 37 years, from 1963 until his retirement to 2000 and was Departmental Chair from 1975 to 1981.

Professor Goff taught Physical Geography, Geomorphology, Soviet Union, Political Geography, War Game Design, and Research and Writing. Hundreds of graduate students in Geography took his course on Research and Writing. He had a profound influence on the completion of students’ theses and their professional growth. He was a recognized expert on the Soviet Union and Military Geography.

The James F. Goff Geography Graduate Research Endowment honors a man who devoted himself to geographic education and students at Minnesota State University, Mankato. A passionate advocate for excellence and clarity in communication, Professor Goff developed and taught the research and writing course that remains a core requirement of the geography graduate program. The Endowment and its scholarships benefit graduate students working on thesis research in geography.

Requirements and Criteria
The endowment supports Minnesota State Mankato graduate students in Geography conducting thesis research. A faculty committee of the Geography Department will review applications and select one or two recipients annually. Research awards may be used for any research-related costs, and up to 25% of the award may be used for indirect costs such as costs of living. Upon completion and submission of the thesis, the student will submit (to the Geography Department Chair) a one-page summary of the research and how funds were used to support their work. A student may receive this award once. These scholarships are valued between $2000 and $4000, depending on the number of finalists chosen.

For information regarding page content, please contact:
Department of Geography
Armstrong Hall 07
507-389-2617