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Astrologers explained events by examining the convergence and relationships of stars. Not a provable scientific method. Yet it must have been the stars that brought the interests of the Scientech Club and the interests of Grand Valley State University together. For an 80-year-old club in Indianapolis and a 37-year-old University in Allendale, Michigan are not likely partners. The possibility of such a partnership goes back to the early part of the century before each existed. It goes back to the time when John James and May Angus moved from Wisconsin to Grand Haven, Michigan, when he took a job as a pattern-maker in a company that still exists. With parents in Grand Haven, it was inevitable that their son Donald, known to most as D.J., and talented in installing anything electric, would find his way to his parent’s home. There his parents stayed and there, during a successful manufacturing career, he berthed his boat the ANGUS in 1939 when it was just launched. A star was shining over Grand Haven.

You know the history of D.J. Angus who was an Indianapolis resident in 1914 when he became a founder of the Radio Club and in 1918 when he, along with Eli Lilly and others, established your organization, The Scientech
Club. It was in this venue that the friendship between the older D.J. Angus and the younger Robert Annis was nurtured and grew, permeating their professional and personal lives. A star was shining over Indianapolis.

Bob often cruised with D.J. on the Angus during Michigan summers and spent time in Spring Lake near Grand Haven where D.J. had a house he had purchased for his mother, a house lived in now by D.J.'s nephew Chuck and his family. The stars began to converge when D.J. could no longer use his boat. Chuck was authorized to give it to the University of Michigan, which fortunately for our University, sometimes declines gifts. Chuck was directed to James Zumberge, Grand Valley's first President, a distinguished research geologist, who upon examining the vessel, was convinced it could become a floating classroom and research laboratory. And so it did.

Shortly thereafter, D.J. passed away and Bob Annis arranged for the Scientech Club to establish the D.J. Angus-Scientech Educational Foundation as a memorial to his life long friend. The Foundation, for years, has supported students from the Indianapolis area in an annual scientific cruise on the Angus, and in the funding of an endowment to maintain the boat and the program it sustains for elementary, high school and university students. Bob himself transcends the Foundation in his support. Together through the years both he and the Scientech Foundation have been a
mainstay in a unique program on the Great Lakes that has come to educate over 7,000 students this year in the ways of the lakes, the rivers that flow into them, their estuaries, and the life that lives in their depths and on their shores. The stars have come together.

I first met Bob Annis at the dedication of the D.J. Angus II, launched in 1985. The 1939 boat had served its time. On its decks and in its cabin the most comprehensive water education program for middle and high school students on the Great Lakes had been initiated. Now it was time for a new boat to take the program to a new level of achievement. Bob helped Ron Ward, the Director, do that. At the dedication, he presented Ron a compass, formerly used on the D.J. Angus I to be installed on the new boat, a link to the past and continuity for the present and future. Bob’s commitment to student is pervasive and he continued to lead a group of young, budding Indiana scientists to the D.J. Angus each year to learn on Lake Michigan.

At the same time the education program developed, Dr. Ron Ward was conducting applied water research. He worked with communities in their water treatment plants. He received federal grants. He received grants from the Kellogg Foundation for ground water research. In 1985 the education a research were joined together in a Grand Valley Water Resources Institute. Since then five major events have occurred in the
continuing story of the Institute. Just as the old boat could no longer accommodate what needed to be done on the water, the laboratories could no longer provide adequate space for the work of the scientists and technicians. A frame building was hastily constructed to relieve the pressure, and then under the leadership of Richard DeVos, one of Amway's founders and then Chairman of the Grand Valley University Foundation, a drive for $5,000,000 was successfully subscribed to take the Water Resources Institute to a new level of sophistication and accomplishment. The Indianapolis connection was with us all the way, supporting the drive.

Soon the frame building was bursting with the work of the Institute. We were successful in persuading the Governor and Legislature of Michigan to invest 39 million dollars in science facilities for Grand Valley. Included in that investment were the laboratories, equipment, and offices for the expanding Institute. Finally "the home was large enough for the family." In that new home was an analytical research laboratory named for Bob Annis who for so many years had quietly and consistently supported the Institute's program. Industries were seeking help on environmental issues; so were the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Citizens interested in watersheds and municipalities with their water run-off problems were at the
door of the institute. The Institute had become a force in environmental education and research in the upper Midwest.

You, by now, can guess the next major factor. Just as a new vessel was needed to replace the old in 1985, two vessels are better than one. There were not enough days in the sailing season for the D.J. Angus to meet the demand. Between 3,500 and 4,000 students and teachers boarded her each year, but many more wanted to. Guided by two Muskegon businessmen, Roger Andersen and Bill Schroeder, a drive for $1,600,000 surpassed its goal for money to build and endow a second boat. A lead gift by William Jackson, a retired Muskegon industrialist, was recognized by giving his name to the new craft. So now we have a navy cruising the Great Lakes, the D. J. Angus and the W. J. Jackson.

The Water Resources Institute is one of Grand Valley’s success stories and when we look to its origin it leads to Indianapolis. I doubt if the intense interest in water and its environment would exist at our university if the D.J. Angus had ground its way to the University of Michigan, not to Grand Valley. With that gift came the interest and support of Robert Annis and the Scientech Foundation. Like the watering and fertilizing of a seedling, that support brought about growth and blossoming.
The person who tended the seedling and cared for it as it grew is Ron Ward, a Johns Hopkins Ph.D. who has been at Grand Valley for nearly 30 years. I will interrupt my narrative at this point to let the man who really knows tell you about the Institute and his life in the water.
The interest at Grand Valley in the opportunities and quality of science education in the high schools and grade schools has its origin in the early cruises on the D.J. Angus. We are proud that the interest spread. We have people working full time and part time assisting the teachers of our area and throughout the state of Michigan to improve science education for school children and youth in a variety of ways. Our university was one of the first to sponsor a Science Olympiad for high school students. Schools from our area who won regional competition have gone on to become national winners. To see the creativity of young science students restores one’s faith in our future. As we at the university have engaged in the Science Olympiad, Bob Annis has become engaged too. This year the National Science Olympiad competition will be held on our campus. A committee of citizens is assisting in the planning. Bob, true to his interest and belief in students, is with us on this one too. Dean Doug Kindschi of our Science and Mathematics Division, is the person on the point, and I thought Doug should tell you about the Olympiad, which in a way is the culmination of a concern for the science education of high school students which began on a boat built in 1939.
You have listened to a story about fresh water, how to use it, how to treat it, how care for it, and you have listened to a story about the education of students in matters of environment and science generally. This is an unfinished story. It will be a long story, and I will tell you what I believe some future chapters will hold. On the East Coast and the Atlantic stands Woods Hole, a great center for Marine research. On the West Coast stands another great oceanic research center, Scripps. Though significant research and education goes on in the universities of the upper Midwest, no center for fresh water research developed concurrently with those on the two oceans. We at Grand Valley believe the one we established in 1985 will fill that void. It is important to Michigan. It is becoming useful in the upper Midwest, and it can become truly a national resource and model for fresh water research and education.

Who was with us from the beginning even before the greater vision I have shared with you took form? Who contributed to the formation of the greater vision because of his determined commitment that young people should be given creative opportunities to become scientific thinkers? Who gave time and money as each major event in the life of the Institute lifted it to higher levels of service and achievement? Of course, it is Robert B. Annis.
Some of you accompanied him to Grand Valley when he was awarded an honorary doctors degree in 1993. He was recognized then for his outstanding achievements as an applied scientist. Now we come here to recognize his long time service to the Water Resources Institute and the education of students. If you have counted, I have elaborated on four of five major events in the Institute since its 1985 founding. We are here today to celebrate the fifth, the naming of the Institute, the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University. In the years to come, it can take its place among Wood Hole, Scripps, the Kettering, and the Rockefeller Institutes. If we dream, have the right objectives, and work hard we can make it happen. The Indianapolis connection continues. The stars remain in the right position. Bob will you come forward as we unfurl the banner for the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute and say, a word to us?