

ALLAN SCHERLEN

## Legacy in the Library

### ABSTRACT

*The following poem celebrates Appalachian State University Library Advisory Board member Barbara Freiman, whose generosity to the university and the library are deeply appreciated. Mrs. Freiman and her family have supported the university's Appalachian Summer Festival and the Hayes School of Music, and established 3 endowments for student scholarships. Their contributions to the library include equipment for the makerspace, a study room, and the Freiman Endowment for Library Student Employees, which awards scholarships to library students. On December 12, 2025, Barbara Foard Freiman received an Honorary Doctorate Degree.*

Passing by the library's makerspace  
she hears the hum of creation,  
students coaxing masks from molten plastic,  
bones from filaments,  
costumes stitched with quiet resolve.

In corners, circuits spark to life,  
soldered with care,  
ideas leaping from mind to hand,  
each invention a whisper  
of what might come next.

Some gifts are not loud—  
they arrive as open doors,  
as scholarships for students,  
as rooms where silence  
becomes sanctuary.

In the Freiman Family Study Room,  
its hush is a kind welcome.  
Here, solitude is not loneliness,  
but a place to begin again,  
to imagine, to write, to rest.

It takes her belief in futures unseen,  
in the slow bloom of learning,  
to build such spaces—  
to leave behind  
a legacy that nurtures.



Left to right: Dr. James Douthit, Barbara Freiman, Allan Scherlen, and Dean Sue Polanka

### Author Note

**Allan Scherlen** is a poet and librarian at Appalachian State University for over 20 years. The mountains and music of the region have inspired his poetry. They appear in many journals including *The Appalachian Journal*, *As the Crow Flies*, *Progenitor*, *Vermilion* of the Catholic University of America, *The Hong Kong Review*, and *Galway Review* in Ireland. See his poetry and videos at <https://scherlen.squarespace.com/>.  
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