Leaving a legacy

LINDA, ’73, (VORLOP) & TOM TEMPLIN

Second chances

Life is an adventure. We try hard to write our own script through the choices we make, but even the best-laid plans can change in an instant. Linda (Vorlop) and Tom Templin know firsthand how life can throw you a curve.

“We were in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Linda says. “I could see it coming, almost in slow motion. There was nothing we could do.”

Linda and Tom were enjoying an afternoon motorcycle ride when they were struck by an emergency vehicle that ran a stop sign at high speed without its siren on. After undergoing multiple surgeries and therapy, both consider themselves blessed to be alive.

“The whole ordeal allowed us to reassess our lives and plans for the future,” Linda explains. “We take nothing for granted anymore and we decided we wanted to help those things that mean the most to us.”

The retired educator and firefighter changed their estate plans. One change was to include a scholarship fund at UW-L to benefit future educators.

“We love the idea of being able to give back to the students at my alma mater,” notes Linda. “We know our gift will one day make a huge difference for those who follow in our footsteps.”