When Frank Perdue passed away on March 31, the business world lost a giant and the University mourned an alumnus, benefactor and friend.

In 1986, he created a multimillion-dollar endowment for SU’s School of Business. In gratitude, the University named the school in his honor. The first such gift for the campus, his generosity became a model that led to other major bequests by Eastern Shore business leaders. In a little over a decade all of the University’s four schools were endowed, a rarity among public institutions nationwide.

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach and Perdue School Dean William Moore shared some of their thoughts on Mr. Perdue at the time of his passing:

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach:
Frank and I hit it off the moment we first met, which was the time of my coming to campus to interview for the presidency. He and Sam Seidel were the only two major donors who had come to “check out” the finalists who were being considered for the position. The three of us had lively, easy-flowing conversation.

I was, from this first meeting, very impressed with Mr. Perdue’s business acumen and straightforward assessment of issues. He did not mince words. Unfortunately, it was right after that meeting in 2000 that Frank had a car accident. As I was driving back to West Virginia, I got a phone call that Mr. Perdue was in a “halo.” I thought, “Well, he’s a good man, but I didn’t notice any halo around his head!”

Happily, Frank recovered from the incident and the halo mechanism which assured there would be no head trauma following the accident was removed. For me, though, Frank Perdue will always have a sort of halo presence—he did so much good for the Eastern Shore and SU.

Perdue School Dean William M. Moore:
Mr. Perdue and Perdue Farms provided the financial resources to establish the Perdue School of Business, support the successful accreditation of the school by AACSB International, maintain accreditation, and create and sustain student and faculty development initiatives. Mr. Perdue’s overall contributions are almost beyond measure. Through the years the Perdue School has benefitted not only from his vision and financial support, but also his advice and council, and countless sharing of his time with our students and faculty.

The Perdue School is dedicated to maintaining the vision and ever enhancing the foundation established by Mr. Perdue and Perdue Farms. Former students of the Perdue School were especially fortunate to interact directly with the legend and being part of the legacy in the making. We will certainly miss the legend. The Franklin P. Perdue School of Business affirms—through its current and future students, faculty and staff—that it will continue with its commitment to the legacy.