

The Christa Kunkel Smith Language Endowed Scholarship

The Christa Kunkel Smith Modern Language Endowed Scholarship was established by family and friends to benefit a student studying any of the languages within the division. Christa Kunkel Smith was born in Vietz, Germany, and grew up in Vietz and Landsberg, Germany. In 1949, at age 16, she came to Ohio as part of the first wave of foreign exchange high school students in the U.S. She entered Wayland as a freshman in 1959 and graduated in 1963 with a degree in English, German, and French. She taught two years in public school and then earned master's degrees in English and German from Texas Tech in 1967 and 1969. For more than 40 years, she has been a mentor and model to students in her classes and across campus. Christa Smith is unwaveringly partisan when it comes to the study of foreign language and continues to be one of Wayland's most passionate alums and faculty members. In addition to teaching on the Plainview campus, Mrs. Smith has taught at Wayland centers in Lubbock, Anchorage, and at the Kenya Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Don, have three children – Caren, Danny, and Derek – and three grandchildren. Don and the children are all Wayland graduates.