

Dale Pond

Dale Pond was born in Spokane, Washington and resided briefly in Seattle and San Diego before settling in Prairie Village, Kansas. Pond received his bachelor of business administration in 1969 from Washburn University. He is a graduate of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business Executive Program.

After graduating from Washburn, he served as a regional director of sales for an NBC affiliate in Topeka and formed a Topeka advertising company, Peabody and Pond. Pond enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served six months active duty, remained in the USMC Reserves and was Honorably Discharged in 1975.

Pond excelled in the field of merchandising, marketing and strategy development. He is credited with creating the McDonald's Happy Meal concept, in use since 1979, during his tenure with Bernstein/Rein Advertising Inc., where he managed the agency's McDonald's nine regional offices. In 1981, Pond joined Payless Cashways in Kansas City as vice president of advertising and marketing and in 1986, he was promoted to senior vice president of chief merchandising and marketing.

In 1989, Pond was invited to join a management-led buyout of the Montgomery Ward Company and moved to Ward's Chicago headquarters as chief marketing officer and member of the company's Executive Committee.

He served 12 years with Lowe's Co. Inc., retiring in 2005 as senior executive vice president, merchandising and marketing. During his tenure with Lowe's, Pond served on the Executive Management Committee, the Real Estate Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Board of Directors for Lowe's Educational & Charitable Foundation.

After his retirement, Pond remained an active member on the public company board as lead director of Family Dollar Stores; Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. chairman of Organization, Compensation & Nomination; Scripps Network (HGTV, The Food Network, Travel Channel, etc.); and consulted with Hendrick Motorsports and Hendrick Automotive Group. He has served on the following boards: Home Safety Council, Harvard MIT Joint Center for Housing, Kansas City Arts Council, State Ballet of Missouri, Texas A&M Center for Retailing Studies, Colorado Special Olympics, The National Center for Small Communities and the Home Improvement Research Institute.

In 2005, Pond received a Washburn Alumni Fellow award and was a Wake up with Washburn speaker in April 2001. Pond endowed the Dale & Susan Pond Scholarship. The large bronze sculpture in front of Morgan Hall, *Confluence of Love and Learning*, by Rita Blitt, was made possible through his generous support.