



*Dr. Ted Mims, a native of Many, and Bill Hoffman on the big screen behind him -*

Dr. Ted Mims, a native of Many, has been honored with the Ted Mims Scholarship in his honor by Bill Hoffman, who studied under him. The scholarship is at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS), where Dr. Mims, now retired, is Professor Emeritus.

Bill was farming prior to his job at Microsoft, but then a drought resulted in \$50 of bottom-line income, and he decided to use his military training in computers to get a job. He became an electronic technician which led to an upper-level management position with Microsoft. He eventually managed over 100 people in four states. He realized that continuing his education would further his success, so he went to UIS for a master's degree. He could only take two classes a semester because of other commitments. Nevertheless, he progressed rapidly through the program, but when it came time to write a thesis, he hit a roadblock.

"I just ran out of steam and literally did not type one word or attend one class for 18 months," he recalled. That's when Dr. Mims

stepped in. "Look," Bill recalls him saying, "You're so close to finish... knuckle down and get it done!"

Finishing his master's allowed Bill to land the job at Microsoft in Franklin, TN, where he rose to consulting practice manager and went on to become a senior director.

"My master's degree in computer science made such a difference to me at Microsoft," Bill stated. "I'm happy to fund this scholarship with appreciated securities at Microsoft and continue to add to it."

"Ted could have just let me drift away, but he didn't," Bill recalled. "He grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and shamed me into continuing and then made sure I had the help I needed to finish."

