

Non Incautus Futuri

Class of 1959 Overcomes Tough Economy to Support W&L

When all the news about the U.S. economy seemed to be negative, the 50th Reunion Committee for the Class of 1959 looked for the positive. Despite great odds, they managed to rally their classmates and pull out a win, handing Washington and Lee President Ken Ruscio '76 a ceremonial check for more than \$3.7 million last May.

"We were obviously very concerned about the economy, so we were thrilled that our class did so well," said Royce Hough '59, chairman of the Class of 1959 reunion committee and an emeritus trustee from Winston-Salem, N.C. "Participation was more important to us than a financial goal, and I think we did well in both areas. We had such a good time renewing friendships during the planning for the reunion, and everyone on the committee was so enthusiastic."

The committee's efforts to encourage classmates to attend the 50th reunion paid off as the Class of 1959 won the Reunion Bowl, presented by the Alumni Association to the class that has the highest percentage of members return for their reunion.

More than a year before the reunion, Hough and a few other volunteers recruited a committee that represented all of the fraternities on campus in the 1950s, as well as men who were independent. The group met twice and worked tirelessly on their own time calling old friends and classmates to encourage their support of the reunion gift and of course, their return to campus.

The committee chose to focus its fundraising efforts on supporting the Annual Fund, construction of the University's new Hillel House, the renewal and renovation of W&L's historic Colonnade, and enhancing the endowment of a class scholarship

they established 10 years earlier. Nearly \$500,000 was added to the scholarship, which was renamed the Class of 1959 Francis Pendleton Gaines Scholarship.

"Ours was the last class to graduate under Dr. Gaines and it was important to us to mark this special relationship with a great University president," said Hough. "The Colonnade project is a school priority, and supporting the renovation of Payne Hall and President Robert E. Lee's first office seemed in keeping with what we wanted to do."

The Class of 1959 raised more than \$500,000 in outright gifts, pledges and planned gifts that will provide funding for the Colonnade project, as well as the endowment that will help sustain these buildings in the future. Once work on Payne Hall is complete, the Class of 1959's support will be recognized in the second-floor office that Lee used prior to the completion of Lee Chapel.

Washington and Lee trustee emeritus and Houston resident Steve Marks '59, worked with his classmates and brothers of Zeta Beta Tau to raise funds for the construction of the University's Hillel House, an effort that generated nearly \$540,000 as part of

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Reunion committee members, from left, A.C. Hubbard, Royce Hough, Steve Marks and David Meese helped make their 50th reunion last May a success.



Speaking of Bequests

There are many good reasons for preparing a will but did you know that only 64 percent of Americans over 40 have created one? If you are among that group, we applaud you. If you are in the other 36 percent, perhaps now is the time to move this item to the top of your to-do list.



Following is a conversation between Hank Humphreys, W&L's director of planned giving, and Louise Wasserott, assistant director of planned giving, that provides their advice on why creating a will is important and how to go about it.

LOUISE: It appears to be common for people to put off making their will because they don't think they need one, don't want to confront the idea that their time may come at any moment, or they really believe it is too arduous a task and just never get around to it.

HANK: Yes, but completing your will can be comforting because then you know your house is in order and that you have done what you can to make your passing easier on your heirs. You also will have the knowledge that your legacy will be disposed of as you would like it to be. If you die intestate, that is without a will, state laws provide formulas for allocating your assets among your family. Those formulas often do not reflect a decedent's wishes.

LOUISE: Often people dread the process and hassle of seeing an attorney. Attorneys may be the frequent object of jokes, but they are worth every dollar you will spend in this circumstance.

HANK: Yes, given the federal and state laws governing estates, it seems that good estate planning with the help of an attorney can be beneficial and will ensure that your property is distributed to your heirs and chosen charities in the most tax-wise way. A trust and estate attorney can effectively advise you and your spouse

about which assets should be directed to your family and how best to do this so that they receive the greatest possible benefit while also aiding the charity of your choice.

LOUISE: About half of the states do recognize holographic wills, which are those written in the individual's longhand and signed and dated in the presence of a witness, or two, who then signs and dates the document, too. So if you want to be certain your will, if contested, will be judged valid, it is best to seek counsel from an attorney who knows the laws of your state.

HANK: If you don't have an attorney, a listing of estate attorneys by state can be found at www.actec.org, the website of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. We in W&L's planned giving office maintain a registry of professional advisors on file, too, and this listing includes trust and estate attorneys, plus CPAs, Certified Financial Planners, wealth advisors and trust officers.

LOUISE: How to dispose of your property isn't the only reason to have a will. Your will also is a directive for other issues such as who will become the guardian of your minor children, or caretaker or fiduciary of a handicapped relative. Of course it also can prevent many family squabbles over who gets Grandma's dining room table or Grandpa's prized stamp collection.

HANK: Your visit to an attorney will be easier if you prepare a few things in advance: a list of family members or friends for

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Class of 1959 Overcomes Tough Economy *from page 1*

the class gift. Construction has begun on the \$4 million project that will create a physical home for Jewish life on the Washington and Lee campus. It will be constructed on Washington Street just east of the R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church.

"The members of my fraternity hit upon support of Hillel House because we recognized the thread that bound us was the Jewish fraternity system," said Marks. "That anchor had gone away, and for Washington and Lee to regain any semblance of interest to Jewish students, there needs to be something for them. Hopefully the new Hillel House will be the tool needed to increase the diversity of the Washington and Lee student body."

The planned giving portion of the Class of 1959's total gift

amounted to more than \$1.9 million. Seventeen members of the class made planned gift commitments designated for a variety of purposes including the class scholarship and Colonnade project.

"I was deeply honored to represent the class and had a tear in my eye when we presented our gift to President Ken Ruscio," said A.C. Hubbard '59, a trustee emeritus and Baltimore resident who served as gift chairman for the committee. "He is a true leader in my mind and just what Washington and Lee needs at this stage in our history. By focusing on the Colonnade renovation, construction of Hillel House, the Annual Fund and our class scholarship, we are doing what we can to help strengthen Washington and Lee's future, too."

whom you wish to provide, and a list of the property that will comprise your estate, such as your home, furnishings, jewelry, life insurance policies, retirement plans, cars, boats and investments. Don't forget that stamp collection either. Then begin to see how you will match up the property to the people.

LOUISE: This also is the time to remember your alma mater. Our Doremus Society is named after Robert and Jessie Doremus, two of our most famous and generous benefactors who made a planned gift to Washington and Lee. Many people have followed in their footsteps, making far simpler but just as personally satisfying gifts by including the University in their wills. Bequests are by far the most common planned gifts because creating one is as easy as inserting a few sentences in your will.

HANK: Yes, you may make a specific gift to W&L through your will by stating, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, the sum of _____."

LOUISE: Or many people find it easier to divide their estate by percentages. Then you would include the language, "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, _____% of my estate."

HANK: A frequently used method is to give specific bequests to your loved ones and then leave the "rest and remainder" to charity, such as "I hereby give, devise and bequest to The Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, my residuary estate (or _____% of my residuary estate)."

If you are contemplating adding Washington and Lee to your will, please call Hank or Louise at 540-458-8421. They will be glad to assist you with questions regarding including the University in your will and with designating your legacy for a specific purpose in keeping with the University's mission. If you will be celebrating your 50th Reunion, your bequest may be counted as part of your class' reunion gift. Every planned giving donor will be included in the Doremus Society, and we can keep your gift anonymous, if you so choose.

The following donors have made a planned gift to Washington and Lee University since July 1, 2008. The University is grateful for their support and welcomes them as members of the Doremus Society.

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Bohan '59
- Mr. and Mrs. William M. Bowen '61
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For more information, contact:

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is a periodic financial and charitable planning newsletter published by the Office of Planned Giving at Washington and Lee University. "Non incautus futuri," not unmindful of the future, is the University's motto. The information in this newsletter should not be considered legal, accounting or other professional advice. We at Washington and Lee recommend that you consult with your attorney, accountant and/or other professional advisor(s) about the applicability of the information in this publication to your personal situation.

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Lee Changes Course Of College's History

The meeting of the Washington College trustees on Aug. 4, 1865, began as a dismal affair. The Civil War had left the campus in a state of disrepair, only some 40 students were enrolled for the fall, the institution's coffers were nearly empty and a new president was needed. While several men were nominated for the position of president, the mention of another possibility lifted the gloom.

Col. Bolivar Christian shared a conversation a friend of his in Staunton had with Mary Lee, the daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee. She said the people of the South were prepared to give her father everything he might need, but no offer had been made by which he could earn a living. Was it possible that a little-known college in great need of leadership and resources could recruit such a renowned and well-respected military leader? A discussion ensued that lifted the trustees' spirits. They withdrew all other nominations and unanimously elected Lee as Washington College's new president.

This monumental decision was followed by a monumental challenge. Lee might need a job, but would he accept the offer? All Washington College had to give was an annual salary of \$1,500, a house and garden, and one-fifth of the students' tuition fees.

Judge John W. Brockenbrough, rector of Washington College and the founder of the Lexington Law School, was deemed the best man to make the offer; however, he initially declined to make the journey because he thought his thread-bare clothes weren't suitable to wear in calling on a man of Lee's stature not to mention the fact that he couldn't afford the journey. The trustees pooled their resources, and wearing a borrowed suit, riding a borrowed horse and with borrowed funds for the journey, Brockenbrough traveled east to Lee's home in Powhatan County on a task that would change the course of Washington College's history.

After considerable contemplation, Lee accepted the position on the condition that he would not teach as was typical for a college president of the time. His focus would be on the administration and supervision of the College.

News of the Confederate hero's acceptance spread quickly throughout the South, and many in the Washington College community prepared for a grand inaugural affair. It was suggested that Lee's inauguration should be held in the College's chapel and that invitations be sent throughout the nation. Visions of dignitaries, a brass band, young girls robed in white singing songs of welcome, and congratulatory speeches excited planners, but Lee would have none of it.

Instead, on the morning of Oct. 2, 1865, Lee was sworn in as president in a private, brief, simple ceremony in a second-floor classroom of South Hall, now Payne Hall. A prayer was offered, Lee signed his oath and Brockenbrough handed him the keys to the College's buildings. At the end of the ceremony, Lee, the

trustees and the faculty moved into the next room, which would serve as his office until the completion of Lee Chapel.

It was from this office—a good-sized room, but very plainly and tastefully furnished—that Lee would steer the course of Washington College's future. It was a challenge he gave his all and with conviction and a sense of great duty. In that first office he made many decisions that not only helped rebuild the College but continue to affect the lives of Washington and Lee students today.

During the 1859-1860 academic year, the last before the Civil War, less than 100 students attended Washington College and only one was from a state other than Virginia. Eight faculty members taught courses in Latin, Greek, mathematics, the natural sciences and philosophy. By the last year of Lee's presidency, the faculty had nearly tripled in size, and the student body, which had more than tripled, included students from 22 states, the Idaho Territory, Canada and France. Lee and members of the faculty were planning schools of commerce, agriculture and medicine, he incorporated the Lexington Law School into the College and had established the nation's first school of journalism.

It is safe to say that the expectations of the trustees who met in 1865 were more than met after Lee's arrival on campus, and that the respect he earned from his Confederate troops and fellow officers could only be matched by the students who came to Lexington seeking a brighter future.

Judge Robert Ewing of Nashville, Tenn., a student from 1867 to 1868, was drawn to Washington College by Lee's fame and reputation.

"Simply to have met General Lee and to have watched so noble a hero daily performing such high duties, was almost equivalent to the beginning, at least, of acquiring a liberal education," wrote Ewing. "Though the General himself had expressed some doubt as to his suitability to serve as president, no one else, I am sure, ever had occasion to feel that he was other than the ideal executive."

Members of the Washington and Lee Class of 1959 celebrated the legacy of Robert E. Lee by providing funding for the renovation and renewal of the Colonnade, and their support will be recognized in Lee's first office in Payne Hall. To learn more about how you can help invest in Washington and Lee's treasured Colonnade, contact Hank Humphreys or Louise Wasserrott at (540) 458-8421, or by e-mail at ahumphreys@wlu.edu or lwasserrott@wlu.edu.