



Significance

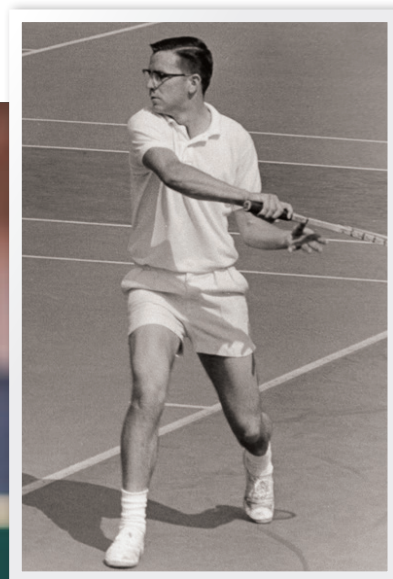
CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING

Bob Thompson: Serving as God leads

Bob Thompson was bound for Oregon State University in 1965. How could he not be? OSU had offered him a full-ride tennis scholarship. Though it wasn't his first-choice school — that was Seattle Pacific College, where siblings Iley and Shirley had attended — he couldn't turn down a scholarship. And then the phone rang.

It was SPC coach Wes Lingren calling. "Wes said, 'Hey, we've got a scholarship.' And I said, 'Sign me up,'" Bob recalls. An alum had funded a tennis scholarship for him. "I called the OSU coach and told him I wasn't coming. It was the best decision I could have made."

From practically his first serve, Bob played in the No. 1 singles position and cemented his place as a standout athlete. In his senior season, he reached the quarterfinal round of the NCAA championships in both singles and doubles (with partner Wilbert Look '71). He finished with a career record of 66-20 in singles and 56-23 in doubles — the most of any player in school history. Bob was inducted into SPU's Falcon Hall of Fame in 2004. CONTINUED



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



When most people think about their legacy, they think of creating a will that leaves their possessions to their family. Occasionally, other people and favorite charities may also be remembered.

But what is a legacy? Certainly, it

does include the possessions that we leave to others. But it may also include things such as our values and our spiritual beliefs. Usually, our legacy is about who we are and how we touch people's lives.

Planning ahead is an important part of leaving a legacy. Even a simple will can communicate our values and leave our possessions to our loved ones. But did you know that, on average, almost 60 percent of people don't have a will? They simply leave it up to the state where they live to decide who will receive their possessions.

Older adults are more likely to have done some planning. Recent studies indicate that about 80 percent of those age 72 or older and 58 percent of "baby boomers" ages 53–71 have some form of an estate plan. Still, many do not have any plan. And, if they do, it may be outdated and not accurately reflect their current desires.

If I can assist you in planning your legacy, please contact me at 206-281-2257 or at msandlin@spu.edu.

Blessings,

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CONTINUED FROM COVER

Though tennis dominated his college years, he still found time to be part of the Centurions and to be an officer in the Associated Men Students, a social organization that did some fundraising for local charities and put on activities like hayrides, dinners, and movie nights.

"In high school, there was a line I didn't cross — as a Christian, there were activities I didn't get involved with. SPC put me in place where I could participate in any of the activities going on. At Seattle Pacific, I was all in," he said. "The caliber and quality of the students was great. I liked the smaller size. It was like a subculture of the city that was unique. You got to know people well, and the professors and the quality of the education was very good."

The friendships formed — including with roommate Denny Rydberg '67, who led Young Life for many years — have remained strong despite the decades. Bob is serving on the Class of 1969 reunion committee and hopes to see many of his former classmates at their 50-year celebration in June.

Never forgetting the generous alum who changed his own collegiate path, Bob also maintains his ties with his alma mater through giving. "I've been an annual donor forever, and I've included SPU in my estate plans," he said.

"I believe in the value of a Christian education," Bob said, "and it feels good that my help could help other students decide to come to SPU."

After leaving SPC, Bob headed to Portland State University for an MBA, then took a breather to work and recharge before heading to law school. He started in sales at Yakima Valley Grape Producers, a farmer co-op his father ran, and found he really liked it. "I never thought about law school again," he said.

He eventually switched from grapes to cherries, working for The Dalles Cherry Growers. When a larger co-op, Willamette Cherry Growers, asked him to run their operation, Bob saw an opportunity to put the two entities together and form the Oregon Cherry Growers. He was CEO of the new organization for 20 years.

As one might expect from a lifelong athlete, retirement doesn't find the 72-year-old sitting still. He plays tennis four or five times a week,



though admits he gets sidelined by injuries more often these days. He and his wife of 25 years, Joan, often play in doubles tournaments.

While home is Salem, Oregon, Bob and Joan live at the Deep Canyon Tennis Club in Palm Desert, California, from fall through spring. There, Bob leads a weekly Bible study for residents. In Salem, he started a Bible study at their golf club. "The Lord opened up new avenues for service in my retirement," he said. "It's been exciting."

The Thompsons are involved with a new church in their California community. At Church at the Red Door, Bob is part of the leadership team and represents the interests of "snowbirds" like himself, working to maintain congregational connections even when the winter attendees migrate home during the hottest months in the desert.

His church involvement is part of Bob's desire to be a witness and make an impact wherever he goes. "You can't do better than being where God wants you to be and doing what He wants you to do," he said.

Tennis has taught him that winning or losing is not as important as maintaining relationships. "When I'm parting company with somebody, no matter our connection — tennis, business, or otherwise — I should be comfortable asking that person to go to church with me on Sunday. If not, I've done something incorrect in my own behavior. The most important thing is how I conduct myself as a Christian." Spoken like a winner.

PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT

Edith Holmes: The unexpected gift



Four miles south of the Canadian border off Highway 97 lies tiny Oroville, Washington. The picturesque valley, dotted with green pastures, fruit orchards, and vineyards, is home to about 2,000 people. Two of them, Stuart and Edith Holmes, looked after a good share of the folks in town through their family medical practice. The couple did not have children of their own, but they stayed active in their church and community. Edith also loved to garden and pick huckleberries.



Joseph Pham: Inspired to a life of service

The lunchtime chatter in Seattle Pacific’s Student Union Building quiets as Joseph Pham blows into a pitch pipe. Suddenly, the room is filled with the harmonies and vocal percussion of the undergrads who form SPU’s a cappella group, Cry of the

Falcon. It’s an ensemble Joseph founded last year. “I love many kinds of music, but I primarily like to perform jazz, barbershop, pop, choral, and recently, gospel,” he said. He hopes the group will continue long after he graduates this June with a biochemistry degree.

The skills he’s learned from leading a group that succeeds when perfectly attuned to one another — careful interaction, close collaboration, good listening — will likely serve Joseph well as he pursues a medical career. “I hope to be a humble, empathetic doctor and promote patient-centered care,” he said, a dream born in part by his childhood experiences of serving as a translator for his Vietnamese mother and grandparents at doctor visits.

“Growing up in Boise, Idaho, there was a deficit of resources for Vietnamese people,” Joseph said. “As many first-generation students feel called to do, I hope to bridge this gap.” Despite the miles separating them, Joseph remains close with his parents, Peter and Loan, and younger brother Jacob. He often calls each of them three times daily: “It keeps me feeling like I’m right there.” But that hasn’t stopped him from jumping into SPU life and forming deep ties in Seattle.

In addition to his musical pursuits, he’s volunteered at Seattle’s Bailey-Boushay House and Swedish Medical Center, served as a leader for SPU’s Minority Association of Pre-Health Students and the Pre-Professional Health Students club, and is active with Centurions, a men’s service club founded in 1959 by former professor Roy Swanstrom. Joseph receives a scholarship funded by the Swanstrom endowment. “Dr. Swanstrom was such a pivotal figure for many of the men I’ve interacted with and an example of faith,” he said. “I am both honored and inspired to live a life of service as Dr. Swanstrom did. “Receiving a scholarship in his name not only gives me the monetary means to pursue my studies, but it motivates me and is a constant reminder for me to pursue a life beyond myself. I hear of Dr. Swanstrom’s work, and I think, ‘That is a man for Christ.’ I hope that can be me someday.”

Joseph is especially close with many of his science professors at SPU: “It is more than just developing a relationship for a letter of recommendation — quite the opposite. I feel like I need to write one for each of them! My biggest fear is disappointing them. They make students see their potential. I’ve been able to talk to them about stresses and family struggles, and I felt heard and genuinely cared for.”

Joseph even found an advocate in SPU’s president. “President Martin connected me with physicians to shadow, is an advocate for Centurions, and has been a great supporter of my a cappella group,” he said.

After graduation, Joseph plans to move back to Boise and work as a medical scribe while studying for the MCAT and applying to medical schools.

While he’s not completely certain how his future will unfold, he is sure of one thing: “My time at SPU has taught me that life is not about me. Everything we do is pointless if it is not for a greater purpose. I’ve been challenged here to learn about my faith to understand and defend what I believe. It has been a huge blessing and a source of peace in my life.”

Stuart and Edith were graduates of Seattle Pacific College in 1940, and they had big hearts for their alma mater. They gave generously and faithfully to Seattle Pacific. Stuart served more than 30 years on the Board of Trustees, and when he stepped down in 1986 he was designated “trustee emeritus.”

When Stuart died in 1993, University Advancement staff members continued to visit Edith in the house that she and her husband had built together. For decades, SPU friends

stopped in, shared meals, admired her garden, and occasionally dropped a fishing line in alongside hers. She gave friendship, conversation, and at the end of the day, an envelope with another generous gift for SPU. It was Edith’s way.

Edith died in 2013 at the age of 94. As part of her estate, she left \$377,000 to the University, naming SPU the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Much gratitude turned into surprised astonishment more recently when

another gift arrived from the Holmes’ estate: more than \$1.1 million.

“This additional gift — completely unexpected — illustrates for me the work and faithfulness of those who have gone before us,” said Louise Furrow, vice president for University Advancement. “It reflects SPU’s impact on Edith and Stuart, and their decades of generosity. It also illustrates the importance of our interactions today as we serve our students and their families.”

NATIONALLY RANKED — SPU is the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 “Best National University” list.



June brings the joy and excitement of Ivy Cutting and Commencement at SPU.

Five estate-planning myths

MYTH #1: Only those with children and others who depend on them need wills.

FACT: Even people with no dependents need wills if they want to determine who eventually receives their property.

MYTH #2: Only the wealthy need wills.

FACT: If you have any assets at all, you need a will, even if your estate is modest, your heirs few, and your wishes simple.

MYTH #3: When someone passes away without a will, the law usually distributes their property in about the same way they would have.

FACT: State laws distribute property according to strict rules. Spouses and children may receive equal amounts regardless of need, and no provision is made for distributions to friends or charitable interests.

MYTH #4: State laws about wills are the same throughout the United States.

FACT: Laws that govern estate settlement vary by state. That's why you should always carefully review your will with the help of an attorney in the state where you live.

MYTH #5: A good will rarely needs revision.

FACT: Even the best wills may need to be changed depending on your wealth, as the needs of loved ones differ, or as personal representatives pass away or otherwise become unable to serve.

Join us for a free estate-planning seminar on April 24 at SPU

Enjoy a light meal while attorney Ryan Rehberg of Rehberg Law Group, PLLC, offers estate-planning advice to secure your legacy.

Wednesday, April 24, Noon–1:30 p.m. or 6–7:30 p.m.

RSVP to Courtney Hollander, 206-281-2451 or hollanderc@spu.edu.



Let our complimentary guide help you through the will-planning process.

Request your copy today at legacy.spu.edu/estateplanningguide.

Roy Swanstrom and the Swanstrom Endowment



Those who knew Roy Swanstrom described him as one of the most influential teachers and mentors at Seattle Pacific. The late history professor's passion for Christian discipleship and service was perhaps most evident in his founding 60 years ago of Centurions, a men's service and discipleship club for junior and senior students. For 20 of the 26 years he served at Seattle Pacific, Swanstrom took great joy in advising the

club and mentoring its members, who gathered each Tuesday night in his basement for fellowship and to plan service projects, always closing with *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. To this day, the club still meets on Tuesday nights, serves the campus and greater Seattle area, and closes each meeting by singing their emblematic hymn. The club celebrated its 60th anniversary at Homecoming Weekend in February.

Swanstrom also understood the great value of Christian higher education and the financial challenge it presents for many students. To honor him for the “outstanding professor, friend, and Christian gentleman” he was, three of his friends and colleagues, Alec Hill, Ed Smyth, and Bill Woodward, founded the Swanstrom Centurion Scholarship Endowment to provide scholarship aid annually to a deserving Centurion with financial need.

Today, many alumni credit Swanstrom and Centurions with playing a pivotal role in helping them hear and understand God's call on their lives and how they can serve as Christians in the world. “Roy believed in me, inspired me, and showed great care and concern for me, and I know I would not be where or who I am today without his influence on my life,” said Rev. Greg Asimakoupoulos '74, a regular contributor to the Swanstrom Endowment.

Through investment growth and continued donations, Roy's endowment and legacy continues to grow, helping students afford an SPU education while they continue to ask the Great Jehovah to guide them.