



AUTUMN 2016

Significance

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



The Williamses: Right people, right time

At first glance, Dave and Diana Williams, married 53 years, are a kindly retired couple. About this time of year, you might imagine them hitting the road in their RV headed for Flagstaff in search of milder weather.

Not these two.

Kindly grandparents they are. But deep into their third career, the Williamses are owners and operators of Stillwaters Estates in Centralia, Washington, and as busy as can be. They have transformed 100 acres of dairy farmland into a gated pre-retirement/retirement community for adults 50 years of age or older. In addition to 250 houses and 70 rental units, there are assisted living accommodations for 70 individuals. The friendly community they continue to build offers safe and secure surroundings.

Not bad for what was once pasture for dairy cows.

The year was 1986. Diana drew up the plans and gave the development a name. Dave worked with contractors and watched the finances like a hawk. Both laid sod and counted on God's provision.

The problem with their faith venture, they quickly learned, was that "no one wanted to live here." With a population of just 15,000, Centralia was economically depressed. CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

ABOVE PHOTO
The Williamses enjoy the balcony patio of their new home overlooking Stillwaters Estates. Houses are designed with seniors in mind: no steps, wide doorways, lower light switches, and higher electrical outlets.

A GIFT TO CONSIDER

I've had the privilege of knowing Dave and Diana Williams for several years. Their generosity and thoughtfulness in supporting Seattle Pacific University as well as other worthy



causes is truly inspiring. Yet, they are not alone. In my nearly 16 years at SPU I have known many others who have also shown their support for the University through both current and estate gifts.


Many people like to leave a gift to charity in

their will because they want to continue to support causes that are and have been important in their lives. Are there any causes you would support in this way? Might Seattle Pacific be one of them?

Over the years, SPU has been the beneficiary of many gifts that have come from people's estates. Some have been relatively small and others have been quite large. Many times we have been treated as part of the family, being named as a beneficiary alongside children and grandchildren. In every instance, these gifts have had a major impact on the mission of the University and the lives of our students. In fact, most of the contributions that have funded the University's endowment and annually provided scholarships to students have come from estate gifts.

If you have already included SPU in your will but have not yet notified us, I would encourage you to do so. We would love to include you in our Wellspring Society and invite you to special events on campus. If you have not yet included SPU in your will, but would consider doing so or would like information that may help you in your planning, please contact me at 206-281-2257 or msandlin@spu.edu.

Blessings,



Marlon Sandlin
Director of Endowments and Gift Planning

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Not good news when the heavy equipment is costing you \$300 an hour.

"On April 6, 1987, with just two houses built, I was feeling very concerned," says Dave, who graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 1960. "We couldn't afford to advertise. Though people believed in the idea, nobody wanted to be the first."

So the Williamses did what they always did when life got challenging. They turned to Scripture. Zechariah 2:1-5 inspired them with the Lord's promise of protection around his city of Jerusalem. They took it as a sign that God was with them and would protect their fledgling "Jerusalem."

They persevered. "We've never missed a payment," says Dave, face animated by resolve. "We spent a lot of time on our knees."

Despite lean times, what they had in abundance was reputation. In his second career, Dr. David Williams, M.D., had looked after the health needs of Centralians for 30 years. He came to be his patients' friend, their caregiver and ray of hope. Older patients, often living alone, needed a place where they weren't isolated and had help maintaining their homes. "It became personal," Dave says.

Stillwaters was born. Word of mouth did for the Estates what expensive advertising prohibited. Dave supported area Christian schools, helped with a drug rehabilitation home, and befriended city and county workers who facilitated infrastructure in the new retirement community. The Williamses strove to be good neighbors, thwarting door-to-door scams, creating a park with two ponds. Concerned for the ecology of the area, they recycled water for irrigation.

"And all along, we said, 'Lord, you own this.' We knew he wanted it to succeed," says Dave. "That takes a tremendous burden off." It proved, once again, one of Dave's favorite sayings: "God provides the right people at the right time in the right place."

Construction slowly expanded. Housing expectations changed and people frustrated with growing traffic and crime in the Seattle metro area to the north started taking a second look at Stillwaters Estates.

Hanging tough has been this couple's M.O. since the day they first met in a Free Methodist church. She was in high school; he was student body president in his senior year at Seattle Pacific



College. She eventually studied three years at SPU. The couple married in 1963 during his last year at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

And that's when they embarked on career number one as Free Methodist medical missionaries to Taiwan and India. By faith for seven years Dave delivered babies, performed surgery by kerosene lamp, and honed his "do anything and everything" medical skills. Diana shared the trenches, encouraging her husband and raising their three children. When she came down with severe hepatitis and was near death, they prayed, "Lord, we know you will take care of us." In time, Diana fully recovered. Along the way, the Williamses became surrogate parents to a young Indian named Sunil Sardar, who today works to eradicate the caste system by the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ.

All in all, a colorful, productive, three-career life. And through it all, the Williamses never forgot Seattle Pacific and the doors it opened in their lives. Or that more than 200 members of Dave's extended family graduated from SPU or attended for shorter periods.

"We are strong believers in education and in charitable institutions," says Diana.

"The money is the Lord's and we the stewards of it," agrees Dave. "We learned to live on a dime and to give it as we lived it."

Believing that it is "the highest calling of Christ" to give their assets away, the Williamses have designated half their estate to charity and half to their children, with SPU receiving a percentage of their estate plan. They also gave a major gift to the restoration of Alexander Hall, where Dave's father once roomed as a student. As President's Circle and Wellspring Society members, the Williamses maintain close ties with the school where their vision was given room to grow.

While they may never make it to Flagstaff in winter, Dave and Diana are more than warmed by God's unfolding plan for their lives.

PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT



Bill and Dorie Clancy:

Why We Give to SPU

Seattle natives Bill and Dorie Clancy are closing in on their 60th wedding anniversary. Blessed with four children and five grandchildren, the Clancys are members of Westminster Chapel. Both are alumni of Seattle University and Bill holds a graduate business degree from the University of Washington. A former bank executive, he is a retired client manager with the wealth management firm of Cornerstone Advisors Inc, Bellevue. Dorie is a former docent of the Seattle Art Museum and chaplain for Swedish Hospital. In the early '90s, Bill joined the board of the Seattle Pacific Foundation and is its current chairman. The Clancys are also generous financial supporters of Seattle Pacific. Bill explains why they resonate so deeply with the students and educational vision of SPU:



DYLAN MARASHI:
**Bioethical
Problem-Solver**

If on the one hand you are excited by the possibilities of scientific research, and on the other hand equally concerned about the philosophical implications of that research,

welcome to Dylan Marashi's world. A student at Harvard Medical School, the 2015 Seattle Pacific University biochemistry graduate is focused on a master's degree in bioethics.

"My interest in ethics and biomedical technologies lies at the intersection of the technical and the sacred," says Dylan, who's leaning at the moment toward becoming a cardiologist. In June, he and his pre-professional health adviser and Seattle Pacific Assistant Professor of Biology Max Hunter coauthored an editorial for *Christian Century* titled "Gene editing, race, and the social contract." In it, they cast a wary eye on genetic engineering in a society ruled by social domination and "human enhancement."

Dylan's days at Harvard can be 18 hours long, which he likens to life on a good friend's North Dakota farm where he enjoys bucking hay, harvesting crops, and stewarding cattle. He feels comfortable, too, in chinos, a lab coat, and goggles on the hunt for a molecular vehicle system that would deliver inhibitory devices to destroy cancer cells. He spent countless hours doing just that as a student researcher in the lab of Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Wade Grabow. "Our goal was to add a fluorescent component to this cancer-eliminating vehicle so that it might be tracked more effectively in the human body." Their findings will be submitted for publication in the near future.

"While I really didn't have room for him in my lab at the time," says Wade, "I was impressed with his ability to communicate, especially with respect to the scientific questions he asked. So strong was his impression on me that I agreed to allow him to join on a part-time basis." It wasn't long before Dylan was full-time and a project leader.

He found an unmatched level of interest and involvement by faculty and staff alike in his success as a student. "Students should seek out mentors and professors should be encouraged to know that their efforts do make a meaningful impact on students."

Dylan's ability to pursue his "fascination with medicine" has been fueled by scholarships that relieved much of the pressure to hold down several jobs to pay for his education. Instead, he could afford to work those long hours in the lab where so much learning took place. For him, these scholarships included the \$18,000 President's Scholar Award for academic achievement.

"Scholarships enabled me to spend more time studying and learning," says Dylan, who with less economic pressure was able to earn better grades and retain the knowledge that earned him one of the prized slots at Harvard. He calls the scholarship support made possible by donors "a



partnership with up-and-coming students with a similar passion for learning and vigor for Christ." As well, he is grateful to his parents, who assumed a big bite of the bills.

While Boston "lacks a Mt. Rainier," Dylan says it is a vibrant city for exploring. A favorite head-clearing activity is to delve into old buildings, "especially at Harvard, where there are many!" Exercise is key, as are other healthy pastimes such as game nights with friends and classmates, local concerts and cuisine, and trips to take in the colors of fall.

Dylan appreciates the foundation of spiritual fervor and knowledge of Scripture that SPU provided him. "The domain of emergent gene editing technologies doesn't have a lot of the truth of the gospel in it, but I get to be a part of that conversation."



**VIEW MORE ABOUT DYLAN'S STORY
AT [SPU.EDU/DYLANVIDEO](https://www.spu.edu/dylanvideo)**

Dorie and I believe strongly in the University's mission to graduate students who will engage the culture and change the world for Jesus Christ. We have witnessed many examples of that in students who have graduated from SPU and have displayed what it means to have a servant's heart. At Cornerstone Advisors we worked with several of them, one of whom is now the CEO, Ken Hart, Seattle Pacific Class of 1993.

Our initial contact with the school came in the 1970s. As president of Junior Achievement Puget Sound, I welcomed Joe Hope, first dean

of SPU's School of Business and Economics, to the J.A. Board of Trustees. Joe's interest was to connect students with executives and thereby provide the students with practical business experience. Many companies hired these young people as interns. We were exposed to SPU students who were not only good workers, but who distinguished themselves with high moral character.

In the late 1980s, I worked with SPU grad Gordon Nygard in the banking business. He subsequently became treasurer and chief investment officer of SPU's Foundation, a position he

still holds. Gordon, like Joe, cares deeply for students. He invited me to join the Foundation board and I accepted. During my time with the Foundation, and in my two terms as an SPU trustee, Dorie and I have met many more from the University who clearly believe in the school's mission.

In short, we support SPU and its endowment for scholarships with our time and resources because we observe administrators, faculty members, and students who consistently demonstrate that their Christian faith is an integral element of their work ethic.



Engaging the culture, changing the world®

Seattle Pacific UNIVERSITY

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SPU IS NATIONALLY RANKED BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT —
the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make its 2017 Best National Universities list.

SPU NAMED AMONG Best National Universities

Have you heard the electrifying news? Seattle Pacific University is the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make the *U.S. News & World Report* 2017 Best National Universities* list. Seattle Pacific joins the University of Washington and Washington State University as the only three institutions from Washington to make the list (of 220 institutions).

To take a closer look at the accomplishments and events that helped make the University a standout in the 2015-16 academic year, have a look at our "Year in Review" [spu.edu/yearinreview]. From academics to athletics, and alumni milestones to community service, you will discover what makes Seattle Pacific a star among national universities.

Among the highlights you'll discover:

- SPU now offers Film Studies, Urban Studies, and Asian Studies.
- SPU faculty published important works on reconciliation, how the periodic table shaped life as we know it, and lessons from the life of Joseph, overseer of Egypt.
- SPU received a \$600,000 Lily Endowment grant to establish the Seattle Pacific University Youth Discipleship Academy, called Immerse.
- SPU hosted world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin, keynote speaker at the University's annual Downtown Business Breakfast.
- Michael McCarthy, *Wall Street Journal* reporter and graduate of the SPU MFA in Creative Writing program, made *The New York Times* Bestseller List with *Ashes Under Water: The SS Eastland and the Shipwreck That Shook America*.

*US News defines national universities as those institutions offering a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and committed to producing groundbreaking research.



spu.edu/yearinreview

Five myths about wills

There are many reasons why people don't create a will. Perhaps the real problem is that they believe they know things about wills that are simply not true. Here are some myths and facts about wills:

MYTH. 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. 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. Only people with troublesome relatives need wills.

FACT. In the absence of a will, even family members with the best intentions can be confused as to what your wishes may have been.

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

FACT. State law will 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. Only the wealthy or those without close relatives make charitable gifts through their wills.

FACT. More and more people with modest estates, and loved ones they wish to provide for, also decide to make meaningful charitable gifts through their estate plans. This is especially true as recent changes in tax laws have made estate taxes less of a consideration for many and have freed more assets to provide for others.

For more information on will planning, contact Marlon Sandlin, director of endowments and gift planning, at 206-281-2257 or msandlin@spu.edu.



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