Living Life as a Journey

Lisa Rae Campbell Walker ’77 and her husband, Andrew, believe in having fun. They bike, hike, kayak, and enjoy travel as much as possible. “I believe that life is meant to be lived joyously,” says Lisa Rae. “And, it’s more important what good you do on earth, than worrying about what happens afterward.”

That philosophy has guided her life. Born in an Army hospital in Puerto Rico, Lisa Rae grew up in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The fifth child in her family, she was the only one to enter college directly after high school. “I was just 16 when I graduated from high school, but I knew where I wanted to go to college,” says Lisa Rae. “Mary Washington was the only school I applied to, and I immediately fell in love with it.”

She says her entire Mary Washington experience was great, from the small classes, to the extracurricular activities, to the wonderful support from all the professors. “They all knew our names, and some of our professors would invite us to their homes. I remember one great trip to Niagara Falls with Professor Marshall Bowen for a geomorphology class to study the geology of the Great Lakes region. I learned a lot and made great memories.”

With her Mary Washington diploma and a major in geography, Lisa Rae took a few graduate courses and then began working for the Hertz Corporation. Her journey detoured slightly as she developed an interest in human resources and then earned a master’s degree in human resource development from George Washington University.
Get a Head Start on the New Year

New Year’s Eve is just around the corner. Before the holiday parties begin, take time now to enhance your savings and lower your taxes.

✓ Review your income tax deductions and make strategic adjustments before the New Year.

✓ To reduce taxes, consider funding a charitable gift annuity. The annuity may give you an income tax deduction this year and provide a reliable stream of payments to you for life. Annuity rates are fixed – some as high as nine percent. If you fund the annuity by transferring an appreciated asset like stock, you also may receive capital gains tax benefits.

✓ If you have a Certificate of Deposit coming due before January or stock that has appreciated in value, consider transferring the CD or stock to a charitable remainder trust. You may receive an income tax deduction this year and avoid capital gains tax. You can customize the trust to meet your needs and goals for payments and rates. After the life of the trust, the remainder can support UMW or another designated charity.

✓ If you have stocks that are highly appreciated, transfer those to a nonprofit organization this holiday season rather than giving cash. You won’t pay capital gains, and you still receive the tax deduction.

✓ You also may make outright gifts to charitable organizations and optimize your 2014 tax deductions. Be sure gifts are received before the end of the calendar year. For more information, visit umwheritage.org.

Living Life as a Journey (continued from page 1)

At the age of 40, Lisa Rae changed course again. This time she earned a master’s of teaching at Virginia Commonwealth University and began teaching history, civics, and economics in a Richmond middle school.

“I’m truly thankful for the liberal arts background I received at Mary Washington,” says Lisa Rae. “That strong foundation gave me the flexibility to make these career changes and choices. I enjoyed each and every experience.”

Lisa Rae retired in 2008 to spend time with her husband, Andy, a graduate of University of Virginia and a retiree from Capital One. They keep busy with their many activities, enjoy helping others, and take time to travel.

Recently, the couple became members of the Heritage Society when they shared their plans to bequeath a significant gift to the Fund for Mary Washington. “It was an easy process,” says Lisa Rae. “We both updated our wills and made provisions now so that our wishes are clearly known. Supporting the Fund for Mary Washington was an easy decision because we always hear President Hurley talk about how unrestricted funds provide flexibility to do things that are most needed.”

Andy and Lisa Rae Campbell Walker ’77 made arrangements in their estate plans to support the Fund for Mary Washington.

Lisa Rae Campbell Walker ’77, her niece, Alyssa Best ’02; and Andy Walker attend the annual Legacy Breakfast at Mary Washington.

Lisa Rae and Andy visit Mary Washington often for reunions, Heritage Society events, and family legacy events. “We love meeting and talking to students,” says Lisa Rae. “It’s also really exciting to keep up with changes on campus, including evolving technology in the study of geography.”

Lisa Rae offers one bit of advice for Mary Washington alumni and friends who are considering estate planning options. “Do it now,” she says. “Then go have fun.”
Searching for Direction

In the fall of 1964, Betty Dobbins left her home in Louisa County, Virginia, and arrived at Mary Washington with high hopes and a bit of apprehension. “As the first in my family to go to college, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do,” she says. “And, coming from a small high school, the rigorous academic experience at Mary Washington was a bit of a shock.”

Betty’s major was undeclared, so she took classes in various fields while seeking advice from advisors and professors. “I always knew I wanted to do something to help people; I just wasn’t sure what that was going to be,” she says. She eventually chose to major in sociology, received her diploma from Mary Washington, and then continued her search for purpose.

She was working as a substitute teacher in Florida when a principal suggested she pursue a career in counseling. With newfound clarity, she enrolled in graduate school, received a master’s degree in education, and accepted her first counseling position in Broward County, Florida.

With more than 40 years of service in the counseling profession, Betty Dobbins Talley has brought her experience back to Mary Washington. She recently made a significant contribution to the Mary Washington First Campaign to create an endowment and to rename the decades-old Center for Counseling and Psychological Services.

Approved by the UMW Board of Visitors, the program and office space in Lee Hall is now called the Talley Center for Counseling Services. “I strongly feel that counseling centers on college campuses should have an aura of easy access and warmth without any stigma that can be caused by certain labels, such as those referring to psychological services,” says Betty. “Not every issue requires medication or deep therapy. Sometimes, students just need to talk to someone and to receive a little guidance or direction.”

The Talley Center for Counseling Services is staffed by licensed mental health professionals. Their goal is to help students effectively meet the demands of college, and they offer support for personal, social, and intellectual growth and development. Betty’s campaign gift will establish an endowment to enhance existing student counseling services and outreach.

As a member of the UMW Heritage Society, Betty also has included a gift to UMW in her estate plans. “We have a long family history in counseling and education,” says Betty. “My late husband, Page, was a lifelong counselor and educator. When we began planning our estates, we decided to support the two institutions that had given each of us our initial starts – Mary Washington and his alma mater, Western Kentucky University.”

When in Virginia, Betty stops by campus to visit with the Talley Center staff and to share her experiences. “I hope this is just the beginning of an extensive outreach from the counseling staff and that they make their services widely known and utilized by those who need them,” says Betty. “I know firsthand how rewarding it is when students come back years later to acknowledge your guidance and to thank you for making a real difference in their lives.”

The licensed mental health professionals at the Talley Center for Counseling Services are committed to furthering student development.
Leave a Legacy  (continued from page 1)

WITH A WILL...

- You can provide for your family, friends, and the causes that mean the most to you.
- Probate is made easier because your intentions are clear.
- You write your legacy and story by which to be remembered.

WITHOUT A WILL...

- Everyone must guess what you intended with your estate.
- Probate can be burdensome, if not contentious, for family and friends.
- Your legacy is written by others or not written at all.

If you do not yet have a will, or if your current will needs updating, please return the enclosed card to request a free will planning guide and book from the UMW Office of Gift Planning. The guide offers specific information to help you consider your options.

If you have already included the University of Mary Washington in your estate plans, please make sure the Office of Gift Planning is aware of your wishes. Feel free to contact Jan Clarke at 540/654-2064 for more information.

Think of Mary Washington first

The $50-million Mary Washington First Campaign began July 1, 2011, and went public April 26, 2014. As of September 30, 2014, Mary Washington alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, and businesses have committed more than $30 million in gifts and pledges. Campaign contributions are actively being solicited to support the three colleges, scholarships, the Fund for Mary Washington, program initiatives, and restoration of the historic amphitheater.

The Campaign is scheduled to conclude June 30, 2016. If you would like information about ways you can support students and programs through the Campaign, visit http://umw.edu/marywashingtonfirst or call 540/654-1024. Outright gifts of cash and transferred securities, multi-year pledges, and documented estate pledges all count toward the Campaign goal.
“At first, it was challenging to be in a new country with a language barrier and cultural differences,” says Marjahn. “I had studied Arabic and was in the UMW Arabic language club, but it’s different when you’re actually living with a Jordanian family and none of them speak any English.”

With support from the Carlos and Carol Muldoon Martel ’68 Scholarship for International Studies, a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State, and guidance from the UMW Center for International Education — Marjahn was able to participate in a special program in Jordan with 50 other American students. “We met at AMIDEAST every day for classes and also visited each other’s host families to learn more about the language and culture,” she says.

In addition to her classes, Marjahn served as an intern at the Jordanian Friends of the Environment Society, a non-profit organization specializing in raising environmental awareness among youth, the industrial sector, and in rural communities. She also helped conduct a census, created a social media platform, and translated materials for the Women’s Empowerment for Solar Electrification of Rural Villages project (known as Solar Mamas).

Overall, she says it was surprising to see the contrast in the way people lived. “I visited villages near the Iraqi border and saw people living in tents and shacks — some with electricity and some without,” says Marjahn. “Then I would see areas with extravagant shopping centers selling Louis Vuitton® and Apple® products. Regardless of what people had, though, they were always giving and hospitable.”

Preparing to receive her Mary Washington diploma this December, Marjahn already is looking for a professional position in the government or the Peace Corps that will enable her to help educate and empower women in the Middle East. “If you can help women, you can help the whole society,” she says.

As the first person in her family to graduate from college, Marjahn remains thankful for the financial support she received. “The entire study abroad program was very expensive, and I could not afford it on my own,” she says. “I applied for several scholarships and was happy to receive two, including the UMW scholarship from the Martels.”

Carlos and Carol Muldoon Martel ’68 funded their current endowed scholarship and made additional estate plans to enable UMW students to study abroad.

Note: Louis Vuitton is a registered trademark of Louis Vuitton Malletier S.A.; Apple is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.
Heritage Society Recognition

There are many ways to plan your estate so that your legacy continues in a manner that pays tribute to you and your loved ones, while supporting the next generation of students at Mary Washington.

If you have already made arrangements to include Mary Washington in your will or through other estate plans, please contact the Office of Gift Planning so that the University can acknowledge you and ensure your wishes are honored.

The new Information and Technology Convergence Center (ITCC) was dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September. The four-story, 77,000-square-foot building is adjacent to Simpson Library and features flexible classrooms, collaboration spaces, communal furniture, and multiple student work centers.