

HERITAGE



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARY WASHINGTON HERITAGE SOCIETY AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

IN THIS ISSUE



- Make your Wishes Known 2
- Plan Now 3
- Analyzing Success 4
- Campus Snapshot 4
- Personal Connections 5



Helen Davenport Smith 1919 and Joyce Lee Smith '58 pose for a mother/daughter photo in 1955.

A Legacy of Education

In the fall of 1916, a red-haired, hazel-eyed girl boarded a steamboat in Lancaster County, Virginia, to embark upon an adventure of discovery. Helen Davenport’s journey led her to the State Normal School for Women at Fredericksburg, where she enthusiastically explored music, history, and other activities that led to completion of a teaching certificate.

Along with her trunk and high hopes for the future, Helen then caught a train headed to Richmond to accept a teaching job in Chesterfield County for \$55 a month. She had to budget carefully – paying \$20 a month for room, board, and use of a horse and buggy – but the move paid off as she continued her teaching career for the next 50 years.

Recently, Helen’s daughter, **Joyce Lee Smith '58**, arranged a generous bequest to the University of Mary Washington to create the **Helen Davenport Smith 1919** Scholarship in History. While the name of the school has changed, Joyce says she is proud of the Mary Washington connection she and her mother share.

“Mother was a great woman in her time. She came through two world wars, married, had a child, worked through the Great Depression, was widowed, and continued working to pay for her own daughter to go to Mary Washington,” says Joyce. “Through

(continued on page 2)

Name and Update Your Beneficiaries

Failing to plan can result in unintended consequences such as accidental disinheritance of your loved ones or even loss of your estate through excess taxes.

If you own life insurance or a retirement plan, you have the ability to name beneficiaries for your assets. Be sure to complete a beneficiary designation form to name your loved ones or provide for causes that mean the most to you.

A Legacy of Education *(continued from page 1)*

it all, Mother never went in debt. It was lean goings at time, but we made it.”

Joyce’s own journey was a bit more circuitous. She didn’t plan to attend Mary Washington but, after visiting other possible sites, she reluctantly enrolled at her mother’s alma mater. She majored in foods and nutrition and minored in biology. “I quickly came to love Mary Washington as much as my mother did,” says Joyce. “It was one of the best times of my life, and I still stay in contact with many friends.”

Helen visited campus often, and Joyce fondly remembers the words her mother spoke in 1958 after Commencement in George Washington Hall. “She put her arms around me and said, ‘I’ve given you this, now the rest is up to you,’” says Joyce. “I knew how hard she worked, and I valued what that sacrifice meant.”

After graduation, Joyce took a position in Richmond as a dietician. Feeling her career advancement was stalled, she utilized her liberal arts background and biology minor to become a science teacher in Chesterfield County. “For a time, Mother and I even taught at the same school,” says Joyce.

Helen retired from teaching history in 1969 with 50 years of service; she passed away in 1993. Joyce taught for 31 years, 20 of which she also served as department chair at Midlothian High School.

In April 2017, Joyce returned to Mary Washington to attend her first Donor Appreciation Lunch. As a member of the UMW Heritage Society, she visited with students, chatted with fellow alumni, and met President Paino. She says the whole



At the 2017 Donor Appreciation Luncheon, President Troy Paino thanks Joyce Lee Smith '58 for her commitment to Mary Washington.

experience confirmed her decision to continue her family legacy at Mary Washington.

“I was looking for a way to honor Mother in a manner that connects the two of us,” says Joyce. “It started at Mary Washington when she received her teaching certificate; and my Mary Washington degree and biology minor carried me through life. Now that I have completed my estate plans to create this scholarship, I feel that everything is just right.”

If you would like more information about bequests or scholarships, please contact the UMW Office of Gift Planning.



Make Your Wishes Known

As you finalize your estate plans, be very clear about your gift and what you wish it to support.

“All too often, we receive notification that someone has remembered Mary Washington in their estate plans, but we have no knowledge of their interests or what they wished to support,” says UMW Assistant Vice President for Gift Planning Jan Clarke. “We also miss the opportunity to properly thank them for this most special gift.”

If you have already made plans to include Mary Washington in your estate, thank you. If possible, please contact the Office of Gift Planning to provide details about the amount and the intent of your gift. If your planned gift will be \$25,000 or more, UMW staff can help create an agreement for the establishment of a scholarship or other endowment. You can name the endowment now and even identify specific award criteria, including majors or certain career paths.

If you have not yet made plans to include Mary Washington in your estate, here are a few ways to communicate your gift intent:

- Include information about your gift to Mary Washington in your will, trust, or codicil.
- Name Mary Washington as beneficiary of your life insurance, retirement account, or bank account.
- Name Mary Washington as the remainder interest beneficiary of your real property.
- Contact the UMW Office of Gift Planning to communicate about your gift and intent.

Please note that all communications and gift planning arrangements can be kept private and/or anonymous per your request.

Photo courtesy of Joyce Lee Smith '58



Helen Davenport Smith 1919 captures a photo of students gardening in front of Monroe Hall.

Plan Now for Optimum Benefits

Estate planning is a lot like gardening. With good seeds, a little fertilizer, and strategic cultivation, you can expect a bountiful harvest that will help sustain your family.

A will or trust that provides for family and loved ones can serve the same function. It lets those you love know how much you truly care. It also gives you an opportunity to continue to support the causes and organizations, like Mary Washington, that are most important to you.

Including a gift to Mary Washington in your estate plan is easier than you might think. You can make a gift to support UMW students and programs through various means:

- Cash
- Personal items – such as jewelry or collectibles
- Stocks or other securities
- Real estate, partnership interest, or other investments
- Life insurance or retirement plan residuals



Analyzing Success

Phyllis Quinn '77 jokingly tells people her Mary Washington background led her to “do drugs” for 33 years. In fact, 28 of those years were with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where she worked as a forensic chemist and supervisor. Her assignment was to analyze materials that agents confiscated and prove whether or not they were controlled substances. As part of the job, she accompanied agents when they shut down clandestine laboratories, and she routinely testified in court.

Phyllis' foray into crime began with a brochure from a chemistry professor. “I wasn't exactly sure where my career was headed,” says Phyllis. “Then one day, out of the blue, Dr. Mahoney gave me a brochure about a forensic chemistry master's program at the University of Pittsburgh. It just clicked with me.”

After graduation from Mary Washington, Phyllis completed the suggested master's program. She worked three years at the state crime lab in Richmond, two years at Naval Intelligence Service (NIS then – now NCIS) in Pearl Harbor, and then headed to San Francisco for her long-term career with the DEA. “Through the years, the field of forensic science has come a long way,” says Phyllis. “With my training and the proper tools, I was always confident that if I called it – I knew I was right. I don't think I ever lost a case.”

Earlier this year, Phyllis returned to the scene of the crime – the Mary Washington campus, that is – to discuss career options with chemistry students. She also attended a banquet in the University Center, where she was inducted into the UMW Athletic Hall of Fame for her record-breaking swimming.

How does swimming and chemistry go together? “During my freshman year, I played one season of basketball and then was asked to swim with the team for a few meets,” says Phyllis. “I ended up swimming the next three years, competing against women's teams at schools like University of Virginia, William and Mary, and Sweetbriar.”

All in all, Phyllis credits her involvement in Mary Washington academics, swimming, and student government for the development of valuable time management and leadership skills that buoyed her throughout life. In June, she plans to celebrate her 40th reunion with members of the Class of 1977. To support giving efforts, Phyllis recently announced a bequest pledge for the chemistry department and women's swimming.

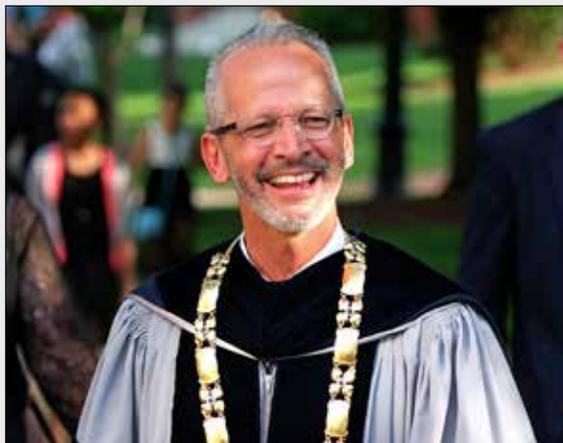
“My husband and I just went through the whole process with trusts and wills, and it seemed the perfect time to let Mary Washington know of our estate plans,” says Phyllis. “Chemistry and swimming are my two loves, and they have served me well through life.”



In February 2017, Phyllis Quinn '77 is inducted into the UMW Athletic Hall of Fame.



INAUGURATION MAKES IT OFFICIAL



The University of Mary Washington marked a milestone occasion Friday, April 21, with the inauguration of its 10th president, Troy D. Paino. A crowd of nearly 1,000 students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members packed Dodd Auditorium for the momentous event.

“Mary Washington is at its best when it is reminded of its mission to serve,” President Paino told the audience. “Mary Washington thrives when it understands that its very existence is an investment in hope – a hope in the students we educate and a hope in our Republic's future. Mary Wash is Mary Wash when it engages the whole person – head, heart, and soul – and creates an intimacy that is born out of our sense of common purpose.”

Personal Connections



Elizabeth "Betty" Fischer Gore '49 (center) and her daughter Carolyn Gore-Ashe view exhibits in the Student Showcase at the 2017 Donor Appreciation Luncheon.

For thirty years, Elizabeth "Betty" Fischer Gore '49 has supported scholarship students at Mary Washington. She says she enjoys meeting student recipients at the annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon and receiving letters and notes about their successes at Mary Washington and beyond.

Betty created the Martha Fischer Leighton '47 Memorial Scholarship in 1987 to support students from Virginia with financial need. "I did this in memory of my sister, Martha, who died from acute leukemia just two years after her graduation," says Betty. "When we attended Mary Washington, it was right after World War II. We didn't have a car then, so we took the

bus or the train from Alexandria to campus, and then back home for visits. Money was tight, but things were also cheaper."

Betty majored in art and taught school in Fairfax and Charlottesville before her husband's career as a physician with the United States Public Health Service put them on a path to frequent travel. When they settled back in Fairfax, she worked as a docent for 14 years at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., and for 17 years at the Robert E. Lee Boyhood Home in Alexandria. "These two positions furthered my interest in art and history and allowed for plenty of time with my four children and six grandchildren."

As a member of the Heritage Society, Betty has made arrangements to increase the endowment for the Martha Fischer Leighton '47 Memorial Scholarship. "One of my recipients had the scholarship for three years, and she went on to attend law school," says Betty. "I want recipients to continue to receive awards that truly make a difference in their education and in their lives."



Elizabeth "Betty" Fischer Gore '49 and Paola A. Maldonado-Torres '13 enjoy visiting at the 2011 Donor Appreciation Luncheon.

Spotlight on Paola A. Maldonado-Torres '13

Paola Alexandra Maldonado-Torres received the Martha Fischer Leighton '47 Memorial Scholarship from 2010-2013. She completed three majors: philosophy, classics, and religion. In 2013, she received a Mary Washington bachelor's degree summa cum laude with departmental honors in religion.

"I'm very grateful to Mrs. Gore for her support of the scholarship," says Paola. "Overall, scholarships helped me avoid student loans by covering the difference between tuition and my family's contributions toward my education."

In 2016, Paola received a juris doctor degree from the University of Richmond School of Law. She currently is an attorney and legal analyst in the state of Virginia and is considering applying for admission to the Washington, D.C., Bar as well.

"I've found my Mary Washington education has opened doors, including significant internships and a staff position in the British Parliament," says Paola. "The speaking-intensive and writing-intensive courses at Mary Washington were especially helpful, and my majors gave me background in a variety of subjects which allow me to more fully appreciate foreign cultures."



Photo by Norm Schaefer



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. The UMW Heritage Society has more than 500 members. If you have already made arrangements to include the University in your will or other estate plans, please contact the Office of Gift Planning so that you can become a member of the Mary Washington Heritage Society today.



where great minds get to work

Jan G. Clarke
Assistant V.P. for Gift Planning
jclarke@umw.edu
540-654-2064

Michele Cushman Collins
Associate Director of Planned
& Reunion Giving
mcushman@umw.edu
540-654-2067

University of Mary Washington
Office of Gift Planning
1119 Hanover Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401-5412
www.umwheritage.org

Writer/Editor: Donna Harter Raab
©2017 University of Mary Washington