Tough Lessons for Life

With 55 years of teaching experience between them, Associate Professor Emerita of Spanish Joanna L. Reynolds and Professor Emeritus of Computer Science John H. Reynolds each developed a reputation for being rigorous and demanding. In fact, John says his nickname at Mary Washington was “the Weedeater.”

“We felt there was more to learn in a classroom than just a particular subject,” says Joanna. “We taught our students to be self-disciplined and how to deal with hard work. We thought they should learn rigor and critical thinking skills that could be carried on to anything and everything they did in life.”

Both professors received the Grellet C. Simpson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Joanna in 1988 and John in 2004. Now retired, they stay in touch with former students and co-workers, and they enjoy attending Great Lives lectures and UMW Philharmonic concerts. Recently, the couple made a pledge to establish a scholarship and to include the University in their estate plans.

“We have talked for some time about starting an endowed scholarship,” explains Joanna. “We love Mary Washington – the campus, the beauty, and the traditions. We want to see it preserved with traditions in place so that it will remain a strong Virginia school to attract the best students of a high academic caliber.”

(continued on page 6)
Educated in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina, Joanna began teaching at Mary Washington in 1968 when it was still part of the University of Virginia. “I just fell in love with the school from the start,” she says. “I first taught Spanish and French, and then later focused on Spanish language, literature, and composition. During my career, I received a Ph.D. from George Washington University, served as chair of the Mary Washington Department of Modern Foreign Languages, and was instrumental in starting the intensive writing program for students across all departments. I just really dedicated myself to teaching, and I thoroughly enjoyed my 32 years at Mary Washington.”

John came to Mary Washington in 1981 “on loan” from the naval weapons lab in Dahlgren. As a former aviation electrician in the Navy and an active employee at Dahlgren, he was assigned to help Mary Washington professors enhance the computer science program. “After two years, I fell in love with teaching and decided to stay to see the program come to fruition. It was really an exciting time, and computer science was a hot major,” says John. “Our students were motivated, and they knew they were gaining experience that could be applied to the real world. In fact, the Navy base at Dahlgren loved to hire our graduates, and many alumni are now working there in high-level management positions.”

In addition to their teaching legacy, they also have multiple family connections to Mary Washington. “My son John graduated from Mary Washington in 1985 and married one of my former computer science students,” says John. “Now, my granddaughter Rachel is a UMW freshman.”

John and Joanna enjoy the extra time they have these days for travel, puzzles, reading, gardening, hiking, and attending Mary Washington events. They retain happy memories of their days as “tough” Mary Washington professors, and they are proud of their individual and combined accomplishments. “John loved his department, and I loved mine,” says Joanna. “We are interested in seeing them both stay strong along with the University’s focus on liberal arts.”

John adds, “As a professor, I have to say it’s truly gratifying to get to someone — to really open their eyes so they see the world.”
A History of Service

Nanalou West Sauder ’56 first set foot on the Mary Washington campus in the fall of 1952, when her parents helped her move into Willard Hall, Room 315. “I liked the way Mary Washington sounded, and I liked the fact that it was the women’s college of the University of Virginia,” says Nanalou. “I chose Mary Washington, I applied, and I got in.”

For a no-nonsense girl from Onley, Va., that was just the beginning of a relationship that would span more than six decades and include multiple roles as student, alumna, volunteer leader, legacy parent, and donor.

In 2008, Nanalou received the Frances Liebenow Armstrong ’36 Service Award for her many volunteer roles, including service on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Board of Visitors. Overall, she served three four-year terms on the Mary Washington Board of Visitors, serving as BOV rector from 2007-2009.

In 1955, she married William Conrad Sauder, a Virginia Military Institute alumnus. He became a professor of physics at VMI; she taught history for a year and then worked at home rearing their two children. Nanalou returned to teaching in Rockbridge County in 1969, working to open the eyes of thousands of students to the importance of social studies, history, and government. “With my good grounding from Mary Washington, I was able to pass on to my students the way to learn,” she says. “I always taught them how to find the facts so they could back up and prove their judgments.”

Nanalou carried these same fact-finding skills into the political arena, volunteering with the League of Women Voters. In 1979, she became the first woman elected to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors. She remained an active member of the 6th District and State Democratic committees and ran for and served in various public offices for more than 20 years.

Thanks to her daughter, Anne E. Sauder ’80, Nanalou shares another special connection with her alma mater. “At the time Anne was considering colleges, she went on tours in North Carolina and Virginia,” says Nanalou. “When she

Through her estate plans, Nanalou West Sauder ’56 has arranged to leave Mary Washington a specified percentage of her IRA.

I knew about finances and fundraising,” says Nanalou. “It seemed that often, particularly with women of my generation, the spouses always made larger contributions to their alma maters. So, I just felt it was important for me to do what I could by leaving Mary Washington a specified percentage of my IRA. I think it’s a really significant thing to do.”

In talking about her 26-year teaching career and her drive to serve, Nanalou unabashedly credits her coursework and relationships from Mary Washington. She says she originally considered becoming a physical education teacher but soon discovered a love for history, especially as taught by Dr. Carrol Quenzel. “Dr. Q was my faculty advisor, and I dearly loved history and everything about it. I learned the methods of historical research and how to learn so that I could discern and make good judgments,” she says. Nanalou also worked in the library, served as assistant editor of The Battlefield, and was selected to Cap and Gown.

During her senior year, Nanalou was the assistant editor of The Battlefield.

I knew about finances and fundraising,” says Nanalou. “It seemed that often, particularly with women of my generation, the spouses always made larger contributions to their alma maters. So, I just felt it was important for me to do what I could by leaving Mary Washington a specified percentage of my IRA. I think it’s a really significant thing to do.”

In talking about her 26-year teaching career and her drive to serve, Nanalou unabashedly credits her coursework and relationships from Mary Washington. She says she originally considered becoming a physical education teacher but soon discovered a love for history, especially as taught by Dr. Carrol Quenzel. “Dr. Q was my faculty advisor, and I dearly loved history and everything about it. I learned the methods of historical research and how to learn so that I could discern and make good judgments,” she says. Nanalou also worked in the library, served as assistant editor of The Battlefield, and was selected to Cap and Gown.

In 1955, she married William Conrad Sauder, a Virginia Military Institute alumnus. He became a professor of physics at VMI; she taught history for a year and then worked at home rearing their two children. Nanalou returned to teaching in Rockbridge County in 1969, working to open the eyes of thousands of students to the importance of social studies, history, and government. “With my good grounding from Mary Washington, I was able to pass on to my students the way to learn,” she says. “I always taught them how to find the facts so they could back up and prove their judgments.”

Nanalou carried these same fact-finding skills into the political arena, volunteering with the League of Women Voters. In 1979, she became the first woman elected to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors. She remained an active member of the 6th District and State Democratic committees and ran for and served in various public offices for more than 20 years.

Thanks to her daughter, Anne E. Sauder ’80, Nanalou shares another special connection with her alma mater. “At the time Anne was considering colleges, she went on tours in North Carolina and Virginia,” says Nanalou. “When she

Through her estate plans, Nanalou West Sauder ’56 has arranged to leave Mary Washington a specified percentage of her IRA.
chose to attend Mary Washington, she told me it was not because of me, but in spite of me.”

Nanalou says both children and her beloved cocker spaniel, Layla, know of her love for Mary Washington. “Anne and Lee were with me when I received the alumni award, and Layla tags along whenever I come to campus. I’ve enjoyed all my associations, and Mary Washington has been a big part of two segments of my life — as a student, and then as a volunteer,” says Nanalou. “To this day, I have long-standing, far-reaching contacts with former roommates, fellow board members, and lifelong friends. Whenever I pick up the phone or email any of them, it’s as if no time has passed.”

Supporting Fulbright Scholars

In a recent issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the University of Mary Washington was recognized as one of the top producers of U.S. Fulbright scholars. Currently, three UMW graduates are teaching abroad through their Fulbright grants. In addition to sharing a common alma mater, all three Fulbright scholars previously received scholarships created by Mary Washington donors.

Aubrey Elliott ’12 was the 2012-2013 recipient of the Lester D. Crow Scholarship and the 2011-2012 recipient of the Oscar H. Darter Scholarship in History by the Class of 1940.

Peter Hawes ’12 was a four-year recipient of the Mary Janes Ahern ’46 – Washington Scholarship and the 2011-2012 recipient of the LaVergne Tuck Woody ’48 Scholarship in English.

Michaela Sands ’12, M.Ed. ’13 was the 2013 recipient of the Barbara Bishop Mann ’66 Virginia Educator Award and the 2012-2013 recipient of the Dorothy Dougherty and William Benedict Ross Scholarship in Education, established by Dolores Ross ’49 and her late sister Anne Ross Parks ’46. For the 2011-2012 academic year, Michaela also was the recipient of both the Cora Lee Kaufmann Scholarship and the Mary Jo Kleiner-Phillips Scholarship.

Scholarships are an important factor in helping to attract talented, high-ability, and intellectually curious undergraduate and graduate students. Scholarships also enable students to focus on their studies as they develop into critical thinkers with the confidence to explore challenges and adapt and thrive in a complex, fast-changing world. These three Fulbright scholars are just a few examples of the many ways Mary Washington scholarships can have incredible impact.

If you are planning your estate now, consider creating an endowed scholarship for future students. If you know of a friend or family member applying for colleges this fall, be sure to tell them all about the University of Mary Washington. Supporting UMW and offering referrals is a great way to continue the Mary Washington tradition of excellence. Visit umw.edu or call 540/654-1024 for more information.
I think of Irene almost every day, and I am very glad I got to know her,” Robert says. “I’m grateful for the opportunity that she and UMW gave me. Without the scholarship, I can say with certainty that I wouldn’t have gotten the chance to do what I do now.”

Irene funded the first of eight Washington Scholarships, each of which provides full tuition for the most qualified Virginia residents attending Mary Washington. During her lifetime, Irene served in numerous leadership roles at UMW, including service on the Board of Visitors and the Foundation Board of Directors. She also received the Distinguished Alumna award, the Alumni Association’s service award, and an honorary degree in humane letters.

Irene was extremely proud of her scholarship, and she enjoyed meeting its recipients. She passed away in 2006, but her legacy as a scholarship donor and member of the Heritage Society continues through the lives of each and every student recipient.

Robert graduated from UMW in 2008 with a major in studio art, and he spent an extra semester at UMW preparing his art portfolio and finalizing a second major in art history. But then he seemingly switched career paths. “I started applying to various graduate schools, and I eventually chose to attend law school at the University of Virginia,” says Robert.

While switching from art to the study of law may sound dramatic, Robert says it’s all related. “At UMW, I learned to write strongly and to research interesting issues. I also learned how to be a self-starter and take on a project and make it as big as needed while thinking outside of the box.”

He gives a lot of credit to his UMW professors and the work ethic he developed for success in the art programs. “The classes for my majors in studio art and art history were demanding and time-consuming,” he says. “I was passionate about my work, so — while I didn’t know it at the time — this turned out to be great preparation for law school.”

After receiving a juris doctor degree from U.Va., Robert passed the bar exam in Virginia and Massachusetts, and he is now a corporate attorney at Cooley LLP in Washington, D.C. He says he continues to paint, write, and do woodworking on the side, but his legal work is creative as well.

“Cooley is a technology law firm, and my practice area is emerging companies and venture capital,” says Robert. “This means every day I get to work with creative startups trying to change the world.”

Washington Scholarships for in-state students may be established with gifts or pledges of $600,000. Alvey Scholarships for out-of-state students may be established with gifts or pledges of $1 million. Presidential Scholarships and other named, endowed scholarships may also be established for future students.
Secrets to Success (continued from page 1)

- Make a gift of real estate. This can offer certain tax and income advantages.
- Arrange to make a gift of stock. This can help others while enabling you to avoid capital gains tax.

All of the above options can help you both give and receive, especially at the end of the calendar year. To learn more about the various ways you can make a planned gift, contact the UMW Office of Gift Planning today.

---

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

Whatever the size of your gift, you immediately will become a member of the Heritage Society. Additionally, all estate pledges are counted when determining eligibility for induction and recognition within the Washington Society. Various levels within the Washington Society recognize cumulative giving and written pledges of $100,000 and more.

Giving, especially at this time of year, can be heart-warming and inspirational.