

SPRING
2021

Planning MATTERS

A CHARITABLE PLANNING GUIDE FOR **MARY WASHINGTON** ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Choreographing a Career

Scholarship recipient aspires to combine love of dance with psychology degree

Dancing since the age of three, **Nicole Altenberg '23** from Mount Laurel, New Jersey, was thrilled to discover a way to continue performing while pursuing a double major in psychology and women's and gender studies at Mary Washington.

"I chose to attend UMW because I felt it would provide the deepest connections with professors and fellow students for academic success," says Nicole. "However, the connections I have made outside the classroom in the Performing Arts Company, the Jewish Student Association, and as a Student Alumni Ambassador have enhanced my whole college experience."

These extracurricular activities are possible in part due to the **Virginia Lee Miller '64 Scholarship**. "The award is extremely inspiring and has been motivation for me to work even harder," says Nicole. "In addition to helping my mom and me financially after my father's death in 2019, the scholarship also serves as recognition for what I have accomplished."

See inside for tax-saving tips about giving from your IRA.

Nicole met Virginia Lee virtually during the recent Donor Appreciation Celebration. "She lives in New Hampshire, but I was able to chat with her in a Zoom breakout room," says

Nicole. "She told me she had never been able to attend the donor event, so she was excited to see me 'up-close.' We had a good connection, and she is looking forward to virtually attending my upcoming dance performance."

Nicole's future plans include graduate school to pursue a master's degree and possibly a Doctor of Psychology degree. "My main goal is to work in non-profit as a counselor to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault," she says. "One of my dreams is to eventually open a private practice that could combine dance therapy and counseling, which helps connect the body and mind through music."

Virginia Lee created this need-based scholarship in 2000 – ironically, the same year in which Nicole was born. As a UMW Heritage Society member, Virginia Lee has made arrangements in her estate plans for additional scholarship support.

For information about creating scholarships for students, contact the Office of Gift Planning at jclarke@umw.edu or 540-654-2064.



Nicole Altenberg '23 is grateful for the scholarship that enables her to participate in extracurricular activities while pursuing her degree.



Rollovers that Stand Out

UMW students benefit from IRA gifts while donors save taxes

In the last five years, 120 donors have made IRA rollover gifts to UMW totaling more than \$450,000.

These gifts from alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and staff have been in support of the Fund for Mary Washington, named endowed scholarships, Arts & Culture, and various departments and special programs. The largest gift was \$50,000 – the smallest was \$100. All are important and appreciated.

These gifts – directly from an IRA to UMW – have enabled donors 70½ or older to make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). If applicable, a QCD also counted toward a donor's required minimum distribution (RMD). Overall, these gifts reduced donors' annual tax liabilities, while supporting UMW students and programs.

For more information about IRA rollovers, contact your program custodian and the UMW Office of Gift Planning at jclarke@umw.edu or 540-654-2064.

The IRA charitable rollover gift is a simple way to support Mary Washington without increasing your taxable income or paying additional tax.



Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 per person directly from your IRA to Mary Washington.



Save money on taxes.*



If you are 72 or older,** this charitable gift can also count as your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).



Support UMW students and programs.

*While IRA distributions are not considered tax deductible, they do reduce income tax liability.

**The 2020 SECURE Act revised the RMD age requirement to 72. For those who turned 70½ before 2020, previous rules apply. Check with your IRA plan custodian and financial advisor for complete details regarding your individual situation.

A Serendipitous Path

Former scholarship recipient increases estate pledge to pay it forward

Janet L. Hedrick '73 is grateful for the liberal arts education she received from Mary Washington and the flexibility it has provided in her multifaceted career. Positions as a teacher, fundraising professional, consultant, author, speaker, and compassionate volunteer have taken her across the country and around the world – something that was hard to imagine as a girl growing up in Southern Virginia.

“I was the first in my family to go to college,” says Janet. “I applied to Mary Washington sight-unseen and was accepted through early decision. Once I set foot on campus, I knew it was small enough to feel comfortable, yet large enough to provide opportunities to expand my world.”

While in college, Janet had several scholarships. She also took out loans and worked in the library – all while pursuing a math major and participating in academic clubs and other organizations.

“I remember how hard it can be to finance an education,” says Janet. That is one reason she included UMW in her will several years ago.

“Mary Washington put me on a path where I found happiness and fulfillment.”

Anticipating her 50th reunion, Janet recently increased her bequest and added UMW as a beneficiary of her retirement plan and bank accounts. These future gifts will support a need-based scholarship for UMW students from areas near her hometown of Chatham in Pittsylvania County.

Janet admits her life plan and career path have not exactly followed a straight line. After graduation, she received a master’s degree from the University of Virginia and taught math and physics in Buena Vista, Virginia.



Janet L. Hedrick '73 signs copies of her book in 2009.

One day “out of the blue,” she received a phone call from the superintendent with a job lead that kicked off an unexpected fundraising career in education and healthcare. Today, Janet is the Director of Development for the Radiation Oncology Institute in Arlington, Virginia.

With this background in philanthropy, Janet recognizes the intrinsic value of paying it forward. “Mary Washington put me on a path where I found happiness and fulfillment,” she says. “I hope this scholarship will allow future UMW students to do the same.”

Read more of Janet’s story at bit.ly/umwhedrick

For more information about bequests or designating Mary Washington as a beneficiary of your retirement or banking accounts, contact Jan Clarke at jclarke@umw.edu or 540-654-2064.

Opportunities



A Message from President Troy D. Paino

Dear Alumni and Friends: Recently I participated in UMW’s annual Donor Appreciation Celebration with more than 180 guests joining virtually from across the country. The event gives scholarship and programmatic endowment donors an opportunity to meet their student recipients and to develop a personal connection. I was inspired to see how dedicated our donors are in their philanthropy and advocacy for UMW students and how appreciative our students are for this generosity.

Interestingly, the use of the word “philanthropy” goes back several centuries and means “love of humanity or mankind.” Today, we use philanthropy to refer to the act of giving to a purpose, or to people who can benefit from improvement of the human condition – people like UMW students seeking knowledge in the pursuit of personal growth and learning to serve the greater good for our society and the world at large.

Every day, your philanthropic gifts serve as an investment in the present *and* future. You are an example of impact and what a difference one person can make. What a remarkable legacy to know that you both live out your values and give so that others can do the same. Our students know you care about their success and that they MATTER, today and tomorrow. Thank you for remaining true to Mary Washington.



A Sign of Pride

UMW education students, alumni, faculty, and staff put their mark on Seacobeck Hall

In late March, Heritage Society member **Gayle Weinberger Petro '79** gleefully navigated I-95 traffic toward campus. As a longtime educator, she had an appointment to add her name to the final beam before its placement on top of the College of Education’s future home.



Gayle Weinberger Petro '79

Read more about Seacobeck at bit.ly/umwseaco

“I’m so proud of Mary Washington and the repurposing of Seacobeck to house UMW’s teacher education program,” says Gayle. “I literally was ‘beaming with joy’ to sign my name.”

The signature beam will be placed during a “topping off” ceremony. Construction is expected to be complete later this fall, and Seacobeck will open for classes in January 2022.

For information about naming opportunities in Seacobeck Hall, contact the Office of Advancement at advance@umw.edu or 540-846-0470.



Photo by Cedric Rucker '81



where great minds get to work

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