

LEGACY Giving

NEWSLETTER

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“I always think of legacy gifts as the most personal kind of gifts a person could give. You think of your life and your values, what’s most important to you and how would you like that to continue on. That’s what a legacy is about.”

Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.
President Emeritus

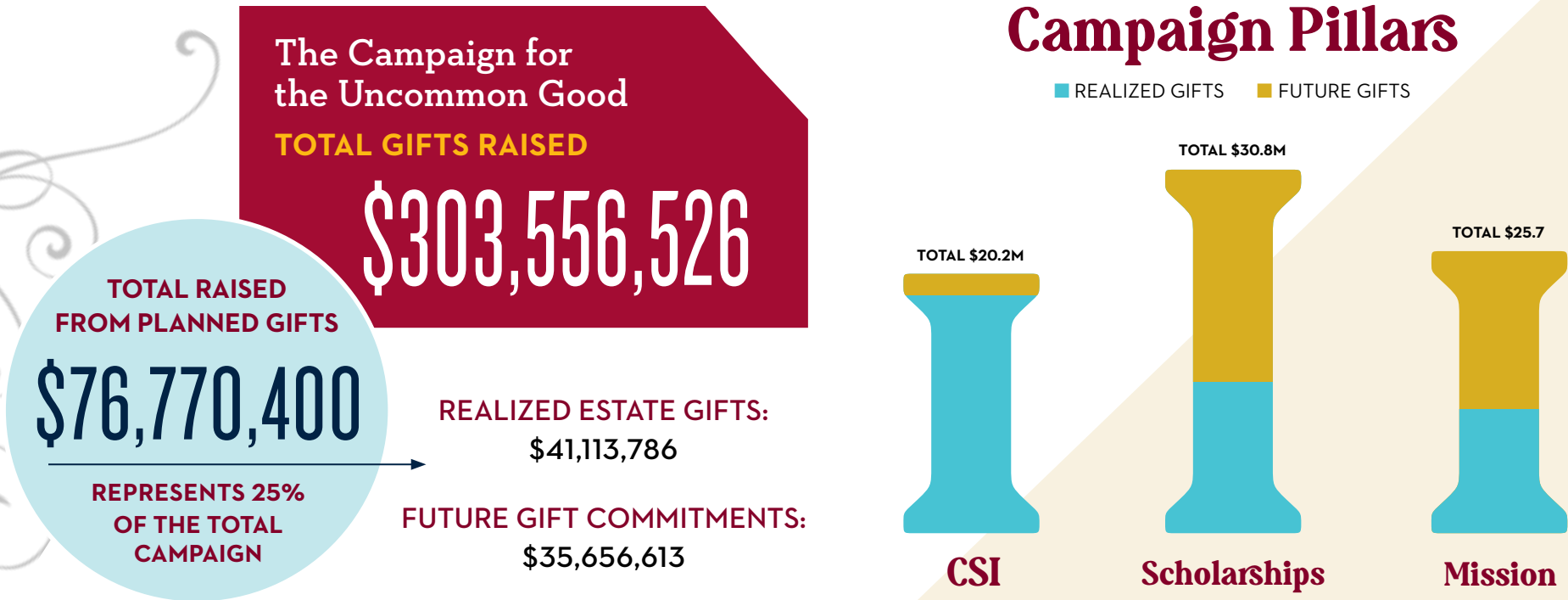


MAKING A LEGACY PLAN FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST

In his 24th and final year as university president, Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J. was delighted to have the opportunity to connect virtually with so many Legacy Society donors, alumni and friends from near and far. His leadership has positioned Seattle U for an exciting future as he hands off the presidency to Eduardo Peñalver, with confidence in the intelligence and humility his leadership will bring. Our gratitude overflows to Father Steve for his vision and faithfulness and to the hundreds of Legacy Society members committed to supporting the future of Jesuit education and empowering Seattle U to fulfill all of the promise the future holds.

SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY

IN THIS ISSUE
Donor stories reflecting the impact of legacy planning during The Campaign for the Uncommon Good.





Lift Others As You Climb

**For Judge Anita Crawford-Willis,
BA '82, JD '86 and Pervis Willis,
the mission of Seattle U exemplifies
their guiding principle**

*Pervis Willis, Taylor Willis and
Anita Crawford-Willis, holding
a photo of Theodore R. Crawford
and Nannie M. Crawford.*

The mission of Seattle University resonates deeply and purposefully in the lives Judge Anita Crawford-Willis, BA '82, JD '86 and Pervis Willis.

Hon. Anita Crawford-Willis has served in volunteer leadership roles at Seattle University for more than 25 years. First with the Alumni Board of Governors, then the Board of Regents and currently as a Trustee, the mission of Seattle U has been part of her purpose for as long as she can remember.

Crawford-Willis grew up in the Central District and always felt drawn to Seattle U—even before she knew anything about Jesuit education. “It was God drawing me there. I do believe God directs us on our path,” she says. When she finally made it to Seattle U as a student, she loved it. She explained, “My parents, who both worked at Boeing, didn’t complete college. My mother started college in Louisiana, but didn’t finish. They were supportive, but they couldn’t guide me. At Seattle U, I had professors like Sister Mary C. Querin, Dr. Ronald Peterson, Frank Case, S.J. and Dr. C.B. Scharf who saw me, validated my goals and showed me exactly what I needed to do to pursue my dream of becoming an attorney.”

Crawford-Willis added that her mother did go back to school years later and completed a certificate in alcohol counseling at Seattle U.

Asked why she has always been so passionate about Seattle U, Crawford-Willis says, “It was my time at Seattle U that has allowed

me to walk in my destiny. When you are given such a gift, you have no choice but to lift others as you climb. Pervis and I really believe that.”

This guiding principle is why volunteering and mentorship are so important to the couple. As Crawford-Willis put it, “Education is the key, especially for Black students. Belief in the mission of Seattle U is what sustains me as a volunteer and seeing young people walking in their purpose gives me joy.”

During The Campaign for the Uncommon Good, Crawford-Willis and Pervis confirmed their legacy commitment to Seattle U. Their estate plans include a bequest to support scholarships for Black undergrad and law students. When thinking about their estate planning, they already knew what they were passionate about. A gift to Seattle U was the logical conclusion. Even though their daughter has probably attended more Seattle U basketball games than any other 6-year-old, they want Taylor Willis to know how important the university is to them.

Crawford-Willis recalled that there were many Black students on campus and a strong Black Student Union during her time as an undergrad. However, the student-driven scholarship created by BSU last year is providing even more inspiration and confirmation that they are making the right plans.

When asked if she had any advice for others who may be thinking of leaving a legacy gift to Seattle U, she says, “If you want your legacy to lift the next generation, just look at the education happening here at Seattle U—tomorrow’s leaders for a just and humane world are being created here.”

Legacy in Action

We honor the memory of the following [Legacy Society donors](#) who generously created a lasting impact for students, faculty and programs at Seattle University through realized estate gifts. The list below recognizes gifts and notifications received between April 2020 and June 2021.

- ▶ A bequest from the Morford estate has created the **JERENE & JOHN MORFORD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** for students with financial need.
- ▶ Gifts from the trust of Jeanne Marie Lee, '51, and Rhoady Lee, Jr., '50, are supporting the **SULLIVAN SCHOLARS ENDOWMENT**, the **PETER B. ELY, S.J., ENDOWMENT FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT AND CULTURE**, as well as the **STEPHEN V. SUNDBORG, S.J., ENDOWMENT FOR JESUIT TEACHING AND MINISTRY**.
- ▶ An estate gift from Dr. Katherine C. Christensen, '78, is supporting the **JOSEPH P. DONOVAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**.
- ▶ A bequest from Sharon L. Green, '69, was designated for the **BLACK STUDENT UNION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**.
- ▶ Brenda Hallquist, '66, '70, named Seattle University as the beneficiary of two charitable gift annuities. Her gifts created an endowed scholarship in the **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**.
- ▶ A gift from the estate of Bernadine T. Carr, '53, will provide support for students with financial need in the **COLLEGE OF NURSING**.
- ▶ Deena McClain, '91, left a bequest to the **MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY FUND** in the **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**.
- ▶ A gift from the McKellar Charitable Remainder Unitrust created the **CHARLES WILLIAM & MARIE BESLOW MCKELLAR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** in memory of Edward J. and Lena M. Beslow, for students with financial need.
- ▶ Donald J. Sommer, '68, left a bequest to support the **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**.
- ▶ The estates of Robert and Clodagh Ash included a bequest to the **SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**.
- ▶ Susan Heckard Geise, '64, left a bequest through the Geise Family Trust in support of student scholarships to be awarded through **FOSTERING SCHOLARS**.
- ▶ Gifts from the estates of John R. Kerschner, '68, Patricia M. Goffette, '68, and Jack Goffette will support the **SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND**.
- ▶ Unrestricted gifts to support the **SEATTLE UNIVERSITY GENERAL ENDOWMENT** have been received from the estates of Terrence Callaghan, '62, Floren J. VandePutte, '54, and Ruth E. Shipp-Dart, '51.



Photo by Yosef Chaim Kalinko

Tech Industry Trail Blazer

Sylvia Shiroyama, '88, '92,
Pays It Forward for Women
Who Follow in Her Path

Sylvia Shiroyama knows what it's like to be the only woman in the classroom and in the meeting room. Her love of science and math put her at odds with her female peers in high school and at Rice University, where she majored in math and took computer programming classes in the late 1960s.

"Math was the family business," Shiroyama says. "Both of my parents have math degrees and my brother earned a PhD in math. I received encouragement from my family to pursue math and science that other girls didn't. My family provided role models, but my career path did not."

Shiroyama's experience as a female pioneer in the tech industry informs and guides her charitable giving today. She knows the frustration of applying for tech positions and being offered secretarial work, of having to prove herself in roles traditionally held by men, of a lack of role models. And she knows the loneliness of being one of few females in the room from her early days as a technical specialist in the Bell system to later positions including acting Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and director of the Department of IT for the City of Seattle. She is passionate about getting more women into STEM-related careers.

"Because I've experienced some good situations and some very painful situations throughout my career, I know that women need to be encouraged and I try to do that through my giving."

As a Seattle U double alumna with master's degrees in software engineering and business administration, Shiroyama stays connected with the university through her involvement with Women of SU, an alumnae affinity group with a mission to lead, empower, serve and grow and the first alumni group to fund a student scholarship. The Women of SU scholarship feeds Shiroyama's passion, supporting undergraduate students enrolled in a STEM-related major, with special consideration given to underrepresented students, especially women, provided that this consideration supports the educational benefit of diversity.

"The Women of SU want to encourage the scholarship recipients and convey the message that other women support them," Shiroyama explains.

The first scholarship recipient will be announced this fall, aligning with the opening of Seattle University's new Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation and the university's enhanced focus on STEM disciplines.

Now retired, Shiroyama wisely takes advantage of the [IRA charitable distribution option](#) for their annual giving. Shiroyama and her husband are contemplating charitable estate planning and what their legacy will be.

"To me, legacy giving means paying it forward," Shiroyama explains. "It's about finding and funding what you're passionate about so your passion lives on through others."



Photo by @Kevin Scott

OPENING FALL 2021

The Jim and Janet Sinegal Center for Science and Innovation opens this fall 2021. Realized estates gifts and the advancement of a bequest comprise 20 percent of the total \$100 million raised for this transformative new STEM hub at Seattle U. Generous donors include the estates of Edward, '50, '65, and Marjorie Billodue, John and Judy Harding, Aileen M. and Theodore Miholovich, as well as an anonymous benefactor.

The Emotional Intelligence of Generosity

FACULTY DONOR

EXEMPLIFIES SUPPORT

FOR SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S

MISSION AND PROGRAMS

Bill Weis, PhD

Professor of Management
Albers School of Business and Economics

Photo by Yosef Chaim Kalinko

Empathy, caring, understanding and “getting behind the eyes of the other person” are key tenets of emotional intelligence, a concept Bill Weis, PhD, professor of management in Seattle University’s Albers School of Business and Economics, has been teaching MBA students since 2003. Beyond its value to an organization in facilitating open, authentic communication, Weis sees an inherent connection between emotional intelligence and generosity.

“Caring, genuine understanding and empathic listening are the ingredients that make a generous person,” he says. “I’m not sure generosity can exist in someone who lacks these capacities.”

Digging deeper, leading with emotional intelligence is the art of living consciously. It’s about speaking our truth regardless of the circumstances and controlling our emotions when we choose how to interact with others.

We seek to understand and practice empathy in making conscious decisions about how we give of our time and treasure, too. Weis does so through the programs he’s chosen to support at Seattle U.

“My motivation is to acknowledge people on campus who I know are giving far beyond reasonable expectations to the mission of Seattle University,” he explains. “I want them to be recognized, so I put money into their programs.”

For years Weis has supported programs within the Albers School and across campus, including men’s and women’s soccer, the Seattle

University Choirs, the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability and Campus Ministry.

“I don’t think soccer is going to save the world, but I support the men’s and women’s soccer teams because the people heading those teams are enormously inspirational people,” Weis says. “They bring humanity and morality into the athletic experience and develop student athletes who are whole people. I want to support that.”

Recently, Weis and his wife, Marilyn Roy, chose to make a [legacy bequest](#) to Seattle University. The couple built their estate through a lifetime of simple, conscious living, supporting their genuine shared belief in sustainability.

“I realized I’m likely to leave this world with unspent money and I want to have some say in where that money goes,” Weis says. “SU will be the largest beneficiary, which was always my intent. Part of the fund will go to the Albers School and the rest is currently undesignated. We want to support different university programs we believe in with our annual giving awhile longer and then will formalize the remainder of the bequest based on where we believe it will make the biggest impact.”

Weis emphasizes that he doesn’t support SU because it’s a perfect institution, but because its mission underwrites his truth and he’s seen the university’s impact on people and the community throughout his 48 years on the faculty.

“I would have given anything for the Seattle U student experience,” he says. “It would have changed my life. And I want to support that.”

Thank you for your generous support of Seattle University now and in the future. We are glad to be of assistance with your charitable gift planning.

Sarah B. Finney, '08, CAP®
Senior Director
Gift Planning
sfinney@seattleu.edu
206-296-6962



Heather E. Williams, JD, '07
Director, Gift Planning
williamh@seattleu.edu
206-296-6103

[JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY TODAY!](#)

[CONTACT US OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

WWW.SEATTLEU.EDU/GIFTPLANNING

“Working with the Gift Planning staff has been wonderful. It helps to have a relationship with someone to contact with questions. Our conversations ultimately inspired us to take action to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of my mother in gratitude for her support of my Seattle U education.”

FRANK DE BERNARDI, '66