I am delighted to be writing to you in my new role as university director of planned giving here at Yale. Although I’ve gotten to know many of you during my years as deputy director, I look forward to meeting and consulting with many more of you as I take on leadership of our dedicated team. And I am happy to note that my predecessor, Eileen Donahue, has agreed to stay on as senior philanthropic advisor until her planned retirement next spring. We will all be very grateful for her continued counsel.

We often use the phrase “strengthen your future and Yale’s” to describe an important component of the university’s planned giving program. Gifts that provide lifetime income, including charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, are ideal examples of gifts that do precisely that; they help to ensure a strong financial future for you and for Yale.

You have great flexibility when you establish a Yale life income gift. You may direct your gift to any area of the university. You may begin to receive income now or defer payments until a later date. You may select fixed payments or ones that vary. In fact, you may choose to make a gift now and decide in the future when you wish your payments to start.

In this issue, we share several stories of how alumni have used life income gifts to meet their personal, financial, and philanthropic goals.

If you would like to learn more about how a life income gift could be an effective vehicle for meeting your own goals, my colleagues and I are here to help. We can tailor illustrations for your specific circumstances to show how a life income gift can provide you with meaningful tax and income benefits and strengthen Yale for years to come.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Beth Congdon
University Director of Planned Giving
Making Gratitude Tangible

“I had just left a lab on Science Hill with a friend during my senior year,” Liana Leung ’97 remembers. “Snow was falling in a quiet hush all over campus. I felt a profound sense of appreciation for all that Yale had done—for the way it had changed me and for the special friends it had brought into my life.”

Now a physician, administrator, and medical educator at New York Health+Hospital/Queens in Jamaica, NY, Dr. Leung had that feeling in mind when she recently created a charitable gift annuity (CGA).

“There are many ways to show gratitude for Yale,” Dr. Leung says. “I give back by interviewing applicants to Yale and by letting Yale students shadow me in my professional life.” To ease the transition of incoming Yale College students, Dr. Leung also recently participated in a 1stGenYale alumni panel for First-Year Scholars at Yale. “When a friend told me about CGAs,” she adds, “I was immediately intrigued by this way of donating to Yale.”

Dr. Leung has set up a flexible deferred CGA for general university purposes. She is deferring the income from the annuity to maximize her payments later. “I was happy to learn about the many benefits of planned giving for someone in the middle of their career,” Dr. Leung notes. “I like that the flexible CGA lets me choose when I can begin receiving payments, and that the longer I wait, the greater the payments become.”

“Yale has done so much for us all,” she continues. “The faculty, for instance, really care about and nurture their students. Jane Levin ’75 PH.D. taught me how to read critically and express myself in writing, which has been invaluable. Through giving, we can show our gratitude for the amazing support of Yale faculty like Ms. Levin and the wonderful opportunities in life that Yale has given to us.”

Gifts that Go Further

When Bobby Gibbs ’10 was a Yale student, he was an active member of his residential college, Jonathan Edwards (JE). “I worked in the head of college’s office, served on the college council, sang in the JE a cappella group, worked in the buttery, and played string bass for orchestras and shows around campus,” he says, adding with a laugh “Everybody always needs a bass player.”

He would also attend fellows’ dinners at JE, and it was during one such gathering that he first became aware of the crucial role giving plays at Yale.

“A deputy provost gave us a presentation on Yale’s overall budget and why Alumni Fund gifts are so essential to the budget,” Bobby continues. “That stuck with me, through my time as a student and ever since.”

“When I learned about charitable gift annuities, I saw the benefits for both Yale and myself immediately,” Bobby says. He recently made a gift of stock for a deferred CGA, ultimately designated for the Alumni Fund to use for financial aid.

“Yale is better at investing than I am,” he notes. “The CGA creates an opportunity for the money I gave to grow. Years from now, I hope my gift will provide a similar amount of income I would draw from a comparable retirement account, but the overall baseline of the gift may be greater than if I had placed it in a retirement fund or invested it myself to donate later. This way, more of the money goes to Yale and not taxes or management fees.”

Bobby is passionate about Yale and the importance of giving. “Every dollar helps, and it’s very important that young alums who are thinking about retirement take advantage of what Yale does to make these kinds of gifts go further.”
Dr. Stephen A. Cushner ’71 and Mary Schiavo

Why I Give

“It’s very easy to fall in love with Yale. What stood out for me was the people: not just fellow students, but also the faculty and staff. The people I met at Yale are lifelong friends, especially my crew teammates and their families.

“One of the ways I stay connected to Yale is through sports. Our football team just had a phenomenal year—any time we beat Harvard is a fond memory! We are also in a great place with our lacrosse and hockey championships, and I am proud of our recent crew successes. Our current crew coach, Steve Gladstone, is the epitome of a smart coach at the helm of a great team.

“I also stay connected through giving. I’ve been fortunate in my investments and in my career as a physician and lawyer, and I want to share that success with Yale. I wouldn’t be where I am today without my Yale education, and I believe in giving back.

“Most of my giving is in the form of charitable gift annuities and a charitable remainder trust, all in support of athletics and the crew program. These arrangements help me reduce capital gains taxes and receive sizable income tax deductions. I am secure knowing that Yale’s great investment team is taking care of my money. Working with the Yale development office is a joy, and the planned giving staff always make me feel right at home.

“It makes a lot of sense to give. The more I give, the better I feel—and the more Yale can support its students. Yale has done so much for us, it’s important that we step up for Yale when we can.”

Sample Rates for Yale Charitable Gift Annuities

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Gift annuity minimum is $10,000. These rates are for illustration purposes only and may vary depending on the timing of your gift. Annuity rates for two individuals are also available.
Yale Legacy Partners Luncheon
May 2, 2019 | Yale Campus

Mark your calendars for the fourteenth annual gathering of the Yale Legacy Partners.

We hope to see you there!

Partners Through Giving is published by the Yale Office of Planned Giving. Please direct any comments to Mary Beth Congdon, editor, at marybeth.congdon@yale.edu.

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Celebrating Yale Legacy Partners

This year, 156 new Yale Legacy Partners joined the community of alumni, family, and friends who have included Yale in their estate plans or have made other planned gifts to the university.

On May 3, 2018, members gathered on campus at the Greenberg Conference Center for an annual event honoring their foresight and generosity. The group enjoyed tours of the new Benjamin Franklin and Pauli Murray residential colleges, led by current students, and heard an engaging luncheon keynote address by Sten Vermund, dean of the School of Public Health.

The day was an opportunity for the university to express deep appreciation to Yale Legacy Partners for their vision and commitment to Yale’s future.

Handsome Dan also made a surprise visit and gave several guests an especially warm welcome!

Photo credits: Robert DeSanto, Katie Goodridge, Devin Maloney, Yale Office of Public Affairs and Communications, donor contributed photos

Benjamin Gertz ’59 with Handsome Dan

Photo credits: Robert DeSanto, Katie Goodridge, Devin Maloney, Yale Office of Public Affairs and Communications, donor contributed photos