Marking a Special Occasion

“I've always loved Yale,” says Barbara Guss ’74. “My brothers had attended before me, and when I came I had a marvelous time. There weren’t many women undergraduates at Yale then, and I’m still very good friends with those I knew.” Barbara has kept her connection to Yale through her friendships, her lifelong learning through Yale Alumni College, where she serves on the board, and with a recent charitable gift annuity (CGA) created in honor of her son’s marriage.

“As I write this note, I think of all that has transpired in our world this year. We have faced challenges of varied sorts—from the pandemic and natural disasters to a cry for social change—and we have come together in new ways to connect with friends and family. I hope you are faring well and benefiting from those connections.

Here at Yale, our students, faculty, and staff have shown resolve, creativity, and resilience as they continue the important work of learning, teaching, and research to improve our world.

I have heard from many of you about your desire to sustain those areas of the university that are most significant to you. You have expressed a renewed sense of appreciation for your Yale experiences and for Yale’s role in shaping your lives.

In this issue, you’ll read about those who have expressed their gratitude through life income gifts and bequest intentions. To quote one Yale couple:

“Watching our attending physicians and seeing their approach to patient care gave us ideal models for grace, kindness, and empathy. We both cherish our time at Yale, and we made our bequest intention in thanks for that profound experience.”

—Eon Shin ’01 MD and Nara Shin ’02 MD

My colleagues and I in the Yale’s Office of Planned Giving are prepared to help you strengthen an area of the university that you value and provide for your loved ones at the same time. As you reflect on what is important to you today, please reach out to us. Your support is more vital than ever for Yale’s current and future students and faculty.

I wish you the same sentiment that so many of you have graciously offered me in recent days, “Stay safe and be well.”

Mary Beth Congdon
University Director of Planned Giving
Showing Support with a Bequest

“Our time at Yale School of Medicine (YSM) set the tone for our careers,” says Nara Shin ’02 M.D. Nara and her husband, Eon Shin ’01 M.D., became engaged and married while students there.

“YSM does an amazing job training future clinical educators,” says Eon, an orthopedic surgeon. “As students, we learned from everyone, including attending physicians, chief residents, and resident physicians. That kind of integration is rare in medical education. It really impressed upon us the responsibility that all physicians have to train the next generation of doctors.”

“I train residents and Eon works with surgery fellows,” explains Nara, a specialist in emergency medicine. “The fact that we’re both practicing physicians and medical educators comes directly from our years at Yale.”

Together the Shins have included a bequest intention to benefit YSM in their estate plans. Their bequest is a convenient way to show support for Yale at this time in their lives. “We were surprised at all the ways you can contribute, such as gifts of stock or bequests. It never hurts to ask about the options available for showing your support,” Eon says. “For where we are in our careers and with family considerations, a bequest intention was a great way to make a donation. It allowed us to plan for a larger donation than we otherwise could provide right now.”

“Our experiences at YSM were critical to our identities as physicians and to our livelihoods,” reflects Eon. “The curriculum emphasizes respect, patient care, and a collaborative approach to medicine. It’s a real team effort.”

“Watching our attending physicians and seeing their approach to patient care gave us ideal models for grace, kindness, and empathy,” Nara says. “Those examples shaped how we practice medicine. We both cherish our time at Yale, and we made our bequest intention in thanks for that profound experience.”

“We made our bequest unrestricted,” Nara adds. “We wanted to give this gift for YSM to use where the need is greatest. The school succeeds at so many different elements of medical education. We’re confident our gift will help YSM and its future students.”
Paying it Forward

As Ralph Folsom ’72 JD and Ruth “Pixie” Haughwout were considering ways to fulfill both their charitable giving and retirement income goals, they discovered that a Yale charitable gift annuity (CGA) was their best option. “We considered several different plans,” Ralph says. “Yale’s CGA is administered with an unusually flexible range of payment and tax benefit options. Plus, the CARES Act makes charitable deductions more attractive than ever this year.”

Ralph and Pixie have established several CGAs with the satisfaction of knowing that ultimately the annuities will be directed to areas of the university they designate. “We feel very strongly about education for women and public health,” says Pixie, a physical therapist. The couple’s CGAs will eventually support legal clinics at the Yale Law School, pandemic studies at the Yale School of Public Health, and work on climate change at the Yale School of the Environment, as well as establish scholarships for women at Yale Law School and Yale College.

“My class at Yale Law School had the most women ever enrolled up to that point,” notes Ralph, who went on to study international law at the London School of Economics and teach at the University of San Diego Law School for forty-seven years. “I saw their struggles and the difficulties they faced. Some professors had never had a woman in their class before. Since a scholarship helped me attend Yale, Pixie and I wanted to pay that forward for others.”

The couple, who love to travel and have written cruising guides on the South of France and the North Channel of Lake Huron, credit Ralph’s formative years at Yale for many of the joys in their life. “Yale is the bedrock of our relationship,” Pixie says. “Between the times we spent there, the doors Yale opened, and the wonderful benefits of giving, the CGA was a very easy choice.”
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attended business school and then married Lani last year. She and David are perfect together and I wanted to mark their first anniversary with this CGA.”

Barbara’s CGA will provide her with tax and financial benefits now, and later it will create the David and Lani Kemp Scholarship Fund. “Veterans have a special place in my heart. They put their lives on the line for our country,” Barbara says. “I was so glad I could indicate a preference for veterans and ROTC students to receive this scholarship. Veterans are from all walks of life and carry distinct perspectives and ways of thinking. David and I both believe strongly in supporting that diversity on campus.”

For Barbara, the decision to create a CGA was an easy one. “It was just a smart move!” she says with laughter. “If you’re thinking about doing a CGA, you should. It’s always better to give when you can see the results and honor a place like Yale and the people who mean the most to you.”

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