Bill Rogers has a simple answer when asked why he made a gift to Yale in his will. “My opportunity to study at Yale School of Forestry was a major influence in my life, leading to a great career and lifelong friendships. So, at the end of my cruise line, I look forward to being able to share a bit of life’s harvest. It’s as simple as that.

I graduated from the University of Georgia in 1955 with a degree in forestry, and wasn’t quite sure what to do with it. I had some time to figure it out, though, because I immediately headed out for active duty in the Naval Reserve. I was stationed in the Pacific when one of my former professors encouraged me to apply to graduate school when I returned. He told me that Yale had scholarships available for veterans and that New Haven was perfectly enjoyable for Southerners. I applied to the Forestry School and was thrilled when I was accepted. I could not have afforded to attend, however, absent the generous scholarship I received.

“While at the school, I had a pivotal conversation that helped shape my professional future. The dean encouraged me to take an economics class, and made certain I could register for one at Yale College.

Access Yale aims to ensure that financial need does not deter anyone from enrolling at Yale. Your generosity is essential to sustaining this commitment. By including a bequest to Yale in your estate plans or by establishing a planned gift to make lifetime payments to you or a loved one, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of so many young people. My colleagues and I look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest thanks,

Eileen B. Donahue
University Director, Planned Giving
Senior Philanthropic Advisor

Also in this issue:
Expanding Access to a Yale Education page 2
Expanding Access to a Yale Education

Jeffery Scholars Continue a Legacy

DAVID JEFFERY ’60 RECENTLY SHARED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF HIS MOTHER’S BEQUEST

“Education was at the top of the list of the things my mother valued most in life. Coming from modest circumstances and growing up in a copper mining town in Northern Michigan, she was especially proud of the education I received at Yale. When she was crafting her will, she included a bequest to Yale for a significant percentage of her estate to establish an endowed scholarship for undergraduates with financial need.

“Since my mother’s death in 1987, the year her bequest came to Yale, the Jean M. Jeffery Scholarship has been awarded nearly one hundred times to students of diverse backgrounds and varied interests. My mother would be pleased to see so many deserving students provided with the chance to attend Yale. As an alumnus, I share her strong belief that Yale should not be a place available only to those with the ability to pay.

“Her bequest created the scholarship fund which has been invested in Yale’s endowment and has grown significantly over time. As my mother’s next of kin, I have been informed of the scholarship fund’s status through annual reports from the university and have also received remarkable letters from the student scholarship awardees.

“It continues to be my distinct pleasure to hear Jeffery Scholars recount how my mother’s generosity has provided them with the incomparable opportunity of a Yale education. My hope is that those who benefit from my mother’s scholarship over the years will be inspired to give back to Yale once they are in a position to do so.

“I have received correspondence from the three current Jean M. Jeffery Scholars expanding on the thoughtful summary of their activities at Yale I get in the annual reports.

“What a talented and energetic lot! I’d like to share some of the sentiments they recently expressed in their messages to me.”

Laura Garcia PC ’16

“I have once again received news of your role in my financial aid award for this year. It is particularly gratifying to be able to thank you personally for this support,” writes Laura Garcia.

Laura, a three time Jeffery Scholar and Pierson College junior, was born in Cali, Colombia, and is now a permanent resident of the United States whose family lives in Philadelphia. Dedicated to making a difference in the New Haven community during her time at Yale, Laura, a Dwight Hall public school intern, tutors a local elementary school student in English, science, and language arts. In addition, she volunteers as a translator at HAVEN Free Clinic and says that her experience there has been particularly meaningful.

“Being able to ease the anxiety of patients by helping them understand what the doctor is saying is so rewarding.”

James Jiang BS ’15

“Choosing to attend Yale was one of the best decisions of my life, a decision which was guided in large part by the generous financial aid Yale is able to award its students. As a recipient of the Jean M. Jeffery Scholarship, I write to personally thank your family for the tremendous support the scholarship has provided me over my undergraduate career—it has helped me and numerous other students to experience all that Yale has to offer.”
“I have taken time recently to reflect on the countless opportunities Yale has given me. I feel especially fortunate for the perspective-changing, at times challenging, but absolutely worthwhile experiences I’ve had at Yale. Now in my final semester, I feel it is important to appreciate what brought me here in the first place. Without Yale’s generous financial aid, I likely would have developed into an entirely different person.”

Aiste Zalepuga PC ’16

Aiste Zalepuga, a first-generation American of Lithuanian descent from Bradenton, Florida, writes: “Thank you for assisting me to continue my studies. I am very grateful to you for your support and kindness. The Jeffrey Scholarship helps to make my third year at Yale a reality.

“I have narrowed down my interests to major in English literature and also hope to pursue legal studies. Inspired by a course in bioethics and law, I would like a career in advocacy that combines medicine and international relations. While the work is challenging—I take both science and humanities courses—I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here and to learn so much every day.”

Learn more about these three Jeffrey Scholar students by visiting giving.yale.edu/planned-giving/donor-stories/jeffery-scholars-legacy. The Jean M. Jeffrey Scholarship Fund has helped make it possible for Laura, James, and Aiste to share in Yale’s rich traditions, innovative programs, and rewarding extracurricular experiences. As Jeffrey Scholars, these three students have the opportunity to realize their promise and contribute significantly to life at Yale and beyond.

You can help make a Yale education possible for future generations of talented young people of every background:

- By naming Yale in your will or trust, or as beneficiary of your individual retirement account or life insurance policy—a gift which costs you nothing during your lifetime
- By creating a gift that makes fixed payments to you for your lifetime and/or to your spouse, parent, sibling, or friend
- By making a gift that may increase income, save taxes, provide a hedge against inflation, and benefit you and your family

All gifts in support of financial aid made between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2016, will count towards Access Yale (see page 1).

Yale Playwriting Student is “Beyond Grateful” for Financial Support

Jiréh Breon Holder, a second year Master of Fine Arts candidate at Yale School of Drama, is the current recipient of an endowed scholarship established by a bequest from Mark Richard ’57 DRA. Richard’s lifelong devotion to theater and the performing arts motivated him to leave a major portion of his estate to provide financial support for students pursuing a playwriting degree.

Jiréh, a dramaturge, director, and playwright, graduated cum laude from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. As a theater artist with a strong political impulse, Jiréh addresses human rights, the prison system, and environmental sustainability in his writing. His plays have been produced at Yale School of Drama and Yale Cabaret.

“When I decided to follow my heart and pursue a career in the arts, I also came to terms with the fact that great wealth was not likely to be in my future. It means the world to me that a Yale School of Drama alumnus made my education financially feasible and that I can spend three years under world class tutelage worry free. I am so thankful for the opportunity to study at the Drama School, a place filled with outstanding faculty and students, amazing collaboration, and remarkable inspiration.

“The idea that someone decided that my education was a worthwhile investment makes my drive even stronger. The financial support I receive as a result of Mark Richard’s generous bequest makes me feel that my passion is valued. Although I am unable to thank him directly, I feel an overwhelming sense of appreciation that someone believes in me, believes that I matter not just for these three years at Yale, but for my entire career. I am beyond grateful.”

Jiréh Holder ’16 MFA
I have used the skills I learned in that class throughout my career. I am delighted that the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies joint degree program with Yale School of Management is thriving—I wish it had been around when I was a student!

“The next transformative intervention in my life came near the end of my time at Yale. I was given a list of companies that had previously hired Yale foresters and this Yale network led me to an outstanding thirty-year career at United States Plywood and Champion International Corporations prior to their merger with International Paper and Georgia Pacific. I then went to work for the Florida Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry & International Marketing, where I was charged with expanding the export of forest products from Florida to the Caribbean. In semi-retirement, I worked as a consulting forester and arborist and now tend more than 150 bonsai trees at our retirement community in Tallahassee, Florida.

“I urge you to take a look at your own life and assess what a difference your Yale education has made to you. I encourage you to think of your own relationship to Yale as you make your retirement and estate plans and hope you will join me in making a bequest to keep Yale strong long after we’re gone.”