On October 13, 2013, Peter Salovey was formally inaugurated as Yale University’s twenty-third president. Our new president, who assumed office on July 1, reached out to faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends early in his tenure, writing, “I look forward to years of listening to you, being inspired by you, serving you, and collaborating with you to continue to ensure that Yale is a model of higher learning and scholarship, a source of leadership in every sector of society, and an inspiration to the world.”

As we welcome the university’s first new president in two decades, you can participate in this exciting moment in Yale’s history by considering your own legacy at Yale.

In my conversations with countless alumni and friends, I have repeatedly heard the same sentiment, “Yale changed my life…Yale gave me boundless opportunities in ways I had never imagined.” You can help create similar transformative experiences for tomorrow’s students with a gift plan that fulfills both your personal and philanthropic goals.

The stories in this issue feature donors who, while inspired by different aspects of the university, all share a desire to use innovative and tax-efficient ways to accomplish their charitable objectives. We hope you will enjoy learning more about creative ways to leave your own legacy at Yale and, as always, invite you to contact me or one of my colleagues in the Office of Planned Giving.

With warmest thanks for your generosity and loyalty,

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

Our family’s home…and Yale’s

“How Jet Age Transportation and Communication Will Speed World Peace,” was the topic of a Boeing-sponsored national high school writing competition in 1958. Toby Berger ’62 credits his prize winning essay as a key reason for his admission to Yale College. “While I came to Yale to major in electrical engineering, I also loved writing and literature and had a strong interest in the humanities. Yale provided the opportunity to pursue both passions.” On Class Day in 1962, Toby again received top honors, this time as the outstanding engineering student in his class.

Toby married his high school sweetheart, Florence Cohen, and spent the next years in the Boston area where they studied at Harvard. Toby completed his Ph.D. in applied mathematics and received an offer to join the faculty of Cornell University. They were in Ithaca for the next thirty-seven years and Toby was named the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Professor of Engineering.

Both of their children, Elizabeth ’84 and Lawrence ’90, chose to study at Yale. A third-generation Yale, Elizabeth’s eldest son, Joshua ’16, is considering a major in history or classics and is excited about being a Yale Daily News staff reporter.

Several years ago, the Ber- gers moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to be near Elizabeth and their four grandchildren. Currently, Toby is a professor of electrical and computer engineering in the University of Virginia’s School of Engineering & Applied Science.

In April of 2012, while thinking about his upcoming 50th Yale College reunion, Toby read a story in this newsletter about a life estate agreement through which a couple gave the remainder interest in

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Gift plans that benefit you...and Yale

Educating future spiritual leaders

Bradford E. Ableson ’85 M.Div. was a career Navy chaplain who took part in most major United States military operations in the past two decades. He also served as chaplain at Camp David during the Clinton administration, providing pastoral care to the president and his family.

Captain Ableson was revered by those in his care and considered one of the most gifted and inspirational chaplains in the country by some of the highest-ranking members of the military. Brad emerged as an expert on providing service members with the knowledge and understanding that would help them be respectful visitors in Muslim countries. Exposure to different faiths made him determined to build bridges between religious traditions. He was also a primary architect behind one of the most significant shifts in the history of American military chaplaincy: the transformation of an institution which focused almost wholly on the pastoral needs of personnel, to one that employs senior chaplains as agents of reconciliation with religious leaders around the globe.

Although he held degrees from several institutions, Brad selected Yale Divinity School for his charitable giving. He credited the school with giving him the academic foundation and spiritual vision to be an effective pastor to sailors and marines of many faith traditions. “I loved Yale from my first moment on campus. It is a place with remarkable people exploring faith through critical thinking in a diverse environment. The school enriched every single day of my life, and I wanted to give that experience to bright students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to study at Yale.”

Brad retired from active duty in early 2009 after serving nearly twenty-five years in the Navy. As he struggled with a terminal illness, he considered how to provide for his wife, Julia, and for Yale. The couple discussed creating a scholarship for Divinity School students. Early in his career, Brad had purchased a life insurance policy and made Julia the beneficiary. Upon his death in 2009, Julia received the proceeds from the policy. She approached Yale to ask how she could donate these assets and receive income back during her lifetime.

After consulting with her financial advisor, Julia established a charitable remainder unitrust with Yale as trustee. Yale’s professional investment management combined with low administrative fees, made the option very attractive. During the unitrust’s term, Yale invests the trust’s assets. Each year, a fixed percentage of the unitrust’s current value, as revalued annually, is distributed to Julia as income beneficiary. As her trust grows, so does her income. She also received a large charitable income tax deduction for her contribution.

When the unitrust term ends, the remaining assets pass to Yale to establish The Bradford E. Ableson Endowed Scholarship at Yale Divinity School. It was Brad’s wish that the fund in his name offer financial aid to students who demonstrate superior promise for pastoral ministry. Endorsing the strategy, Julia’s advisor commented, “This plan has worked out to be an extraordinary way to support Julia and honor Brad.”
Preserving the past and looking toward the future

Stanley Simbonis ’53, ’57 M.D. is the epitome of a Yale scholar. With interests spanning zoology, music, baseball, pathology, international relations, and Greek language and culture, it is no surprise that Dr. Simbonis, son of Greek immigrants, is a lifelong learner. Whether it is Athens’ Gennadius Library at the American School of Classical Studies, or Yale’s Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, you will find Dr. Simbonis there, immersed in his studies, when he isn’t traveling the globe. His youthful and energetic mindset and countless interests belie his age of 85.

It was the public library on Washington Avenue near his childhood home in the Bronx that helped develop young Stan’s intellectual curiosity and enduring appreciation of libraries. Later, he ventured to the library at Fordham University, where a chemistry professor allowed him to sit in on classes. After two years at The Bronx High School of Science, he entered the Marine Corps, served in World War II, and earned his high school equivalency diploma. He pursued his dreams of becoming a center fielder for the Yankees and then a Broadway musician, before eventually entering Yale College in 1950. He graduated in three years, and was accepted to Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Simbonis spent his medical career as a laboratory pathologist. He claims that his teaching was his greatest contribution to the discipline. “I hope I was able to convey to students how to examine slides and specimens, and then think fiercely about how to synthesize the material at hand to arrive at reasonable conclusions,” he recalled. “My challenge to my students wasn’t an easy task but it was worth their effort.”

His devotion to the medical library at Yale includes many years on its advisory board. In 2010, the board voted him emeriti status. The Stanley Simbonis Conference Room in the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library was dedicated this year in recognition of his ardent service.

“The library is the heart and soul of the university,” said Simbonis, “It’s the crown jewel. How can you do without it? It’s been a storehouse of knowledge throughout the ages.”

Over the years, he has made several generous gifts which will ultimately provide funds for his beloved library. One significant gift was his donation of the remainder interest in his summer home on Fire Island. He retains life use of the property, and continues to pay all maintenance and insurance costs. Eventually, the proceeds from the sale of his home will come to Yale to support the medical library.

More recently, Dr. Simbonis established a Yale charitable gift annuity. Pleased with the attractive annuity rate and tax advantages from his first gift annuity, Dr. Simbonis created a second gift annuity, also designated for the library. In addition to secure lifetime payments, his charitable gift annuities offer other benefits including substantial charitable income tax deductions and partially tax-free payments. He comments, “It is a good deal for me financially. I was able to include the name of the library in the agreement so I know my funds will go where I have designated.”

With his gifts to the Yale Medical Library, Dr. Simbonis is not only paying homage to one of his favorite places, he is preserving the lifeblood of the university and the research for which it is recognized.
their home to Yale. The example struck just the right note for Toby.

“My 50th reunion seemed an auspicious time to give back to Yale, which has given our family so much. Our financial situation was such that we could benefit appreciably from the tax advantages that accompany deeding one’s home to Yale. We could continue to live in our house and maintain the property just as we always have. But we, my 50th reunion class, and eventually Yale would benefit from our life estate agreement. Our gift is unrestricted as to purpose. I am confident the university will ultimately use the proceeds from the sale of our home in a meaningful way. By deeding our home now, we gained important tax savings and affirmed our multi-generational family commitment to Yale.”