

Dear Friends:

This special issue of Giftwise highlights and celebrates gifts from faculty. Your remarkable professors no doubt left a lasting impression that you carry with you to this day. We hope the variety of ways they have structured their gifts to invest in what matters most to them might be instructive to you as you consider your personal philanthropy and financial and estate plans.

—Margaret McComish
Director of Gift Planning

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JOHN HYDE'S TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

WHEN JOHN HYDE MATRICULATED AT Williams, he found himself in a quandary familiar to generations of Williams students: how to fulfill requirements in the division(s) outside his wheelhouse. A passionate historian who was self-conscious about his math skills and not interested in spending time in a lab, he was sure he had hit the jackpot when he encountered a science course with history in the title: The History and Method of Science taught by Donald Richmond.

He found in Don, not just an engaging science class but, more importantly, lifelong inspiration. Don recognized introductory courses were designed for science majors and that non-scientists were looking for something different. Don's course, created outside of his regular teaching responsibilities, explored

how scientists go about gathering and evaluating evidence.

John's college career was interrupted by a stint in the navy during the Korean War but ultimately he returned to Williams graduating in 1952. Graduate school at the University of Minnesota was followed by doctoral work at Harvard and before he even finished his dissertation he landed back in Williamstown, this time as a member of the faculty.

A distinguished professor of history, John also served as the Dean of Freshman and the Dean of the College, and Don's example stuck with him throughout his four decade career. In retirement he proposed a fellowship that would allow select faculty to expand their teaching in new directions.

John's vision resonated with President Adam Falk and with



John Hyde '52

encouragement from Adam and the Dean of Faculty's Office The John Hyde Teaching Fellowship was launched. The Hyde Teaching Fellowship supports versatility in teaching as well as the careful development of courses which promote broad-based learning. Hyde Fellowship recipients are encouraged to stretch beyond their specific areas of expertise in order to teach broadly within their own discipline. Or as John sums it up, "At the heart of what I'm trying to do is recognize really good teachers."

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Professor of Geosciences Ronadh Cox is the first Hyde Fellow. Two years into her three year fellowship, Ronadh is working to highlight the societal relevance of geosciences in the modern world, and to attract to geosciences a wider diversity of students. The second fellow is Professor of Philosophy Steve Gerrard whose work began this year focusing on Plato's question: can virtue be taught?

John Hyde embodies the Teach It Forward Campaign's focus on great teaching. By making initial fellowship gifts today and then using his future estate to fully fund it with a bequest, he is able to see his vision in action and create an endowed fund that will last in perpetuity. Inspired by John's lifelong service to the college and this new fellowship, several other alumni have made Teach It Forward campaign gifts to this fund in his honor.

THE HYDE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION

Geosciences Professor Ronadh Cox saw a problem in her field—a lack of diversity in geosciences. Her concern was twofold: students of color are very under-represented in the geosciences and they often come from populations that are marginalized in geoscience-related public policy decisions. Her goal for the fellowship was to attract more students of color and first generation students into geoscience courses and retain in the major a higher proportion of those students.

As Ronadh explains “Increasing their representation in the community of geoscientists (or simply increasing the number of geoscientificalliterate citizens) helps boost the voice of those

communities, which is especially important in this age of climate change, increased coastal erosion, and growing competition for scarce natural resources.”

Ronadh anticipated reaching her goals would require lots of one-on-one conversations and mentoring and indeed she's done a great deal of individual work guiding students of color in their geoscience choices over the past two years. As more of these students major in geosciences, they provide peer support to each other, and serve as role models for others. The fellowship has also given her the chance to bring more students from under-represented groups into the field with her as well as send them to conferences to present research.



Susan Dunn and Jim Burns '39

“Williams is also a place of moral education that is fostered by friendships and teams and the affection we all share for the Williams community.”

—Susan Dunn

SUSAN DUNN

The Importance of the Liberal Arts

MASSACHUSETTS PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES SUSAN DUNN has taught at Williams since the early 1970s; she is the author of a dozen books and is a regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books*. Her work focuses on the revolutionary generation and Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and her most recent book is *1940: FDR, Willkie, Lindbergh, Hitler—the Election Amid the Storm*. Her new book, *A Blueprint for War: FDR's Hundred Days That Mobilized America*, will be published this spring by Yale. She and her late companion and Williams colleague, the Pulitzer Prize-winning political scientist James MacGregor Burns '39, wrote two books together: *The Three Roosevelts: Patrician Leaders Who Transformed America* and *George Washington*.

When planning her estate and the impact she would like it to have at

Williams, Susan worked with the Williams Gift Planning team to create an endowed professorship to honor and continue the work to which she and Jim devoted their lives. The Susan Dunn and James MacGregor Burns Professorship is for a professor specializing in American political science or American history.

Susan considers Williams a “sacred institution.” She and Jim Burns believed that liberal arts colleges like Williams keep history, culture, science, and Enlightenment values alive and pass this precious legacy on to new generations.

Susan agrees with Edmund Burke who wrote in the 18th century that our love for our “little platoon” leads us toward a love for country and mankind. Williams is indeed Susan’s “little platoon.”

Williams
TEACH IT FORWARD

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IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

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AND

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Did you know you can use up to \$100,000 of your IRA assets, per tax year, to make a gift to Williams?

The gift:

▶ Is not treated as federally-taxable income (no federal income tax charitable deduction)

▶ Reduces your adjustable gross income

▶ Thereby may provide you with tax benefits.

Use your IRA gift to make your annual donation, to pay off an outstanding pledge, to enhance an existing endowed scholarship fund, or support other Teach It Forward campaign priorities. Your generosity will benefit you and Williams!



Williams College does not provide legal or tax advice. We advise you to seek your own legal and tax advice in connection with gift and planning matters.

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