

FALL 2025

giftwise

Financial and Charitable Strategies
for Alumni, Parents, and Friends
of Williams College



The ideal college is Mark Hopkins on one end of a log
and a student on the other.



JAMES A. GARFIELD
CLASS OF 1856

THESE FAMOUS WORDS, ALLEGEDLY SPOKEN by the future President of the United States at an alumni dinner in 1871, have served as a metaphor for the distinctiveness of a Williams education for over 150 years. The central image of a mentor and a student engaged in a face-to-face interaction has remained a source of pride for the Williams community for decades.

The power of this mythos lies in its endless availability for reinterpretation and reconfiguration. The log can bear the weight of high expectations and scathing critique.

Dialogue is at the center of everything we do at Williams. The log puts us in conversation with each other and with the objects of our inquiries, making tangible our constant search for vital intellectual and creative communality amid principled difference and disagreement.

On the Log

The On the Log initiative for 2025–2026 invites the entire Williams community to explore and play with ideas around face-to-face conversation, the power of place, and the enduring impact of direct and sustained interaction in every facet of a Williams education.

For alumni in particular, this is an opportunity both to reflect on your own time on the log and to share the wisdom you have gained from carrying the lessons of the log out into the world. Legacy gifts and bequests are particularly valuable ways of returning that wisdom to its roots and help nurture conversations on the log between mentors and students for future generations. We hope this year of exploration will encourage you to support the college's long-term prospects and help nurture conversations on the log between teachers and students for many years to come. ●

The On the Log initiative is led by EDAN DEKEL, Garfield Professor of Ancient Languages and CHRISTOPHER NUGENT, John W. Chandler Professor of Chinese.

Giftwise Snapshot

STORIES OF ALUMNI GIVING THROUGH FUTURE BEQUESTS

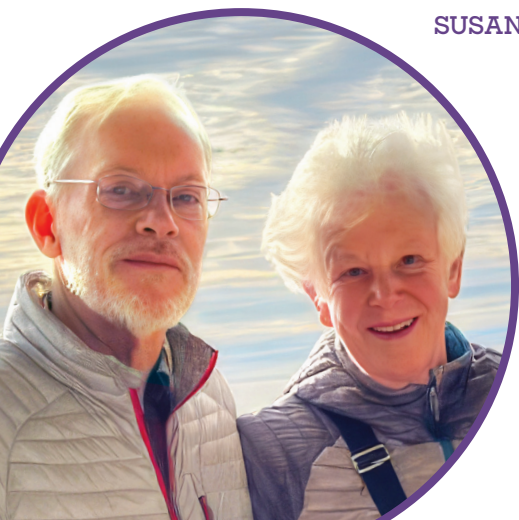
A closer look into how three alumni are making bequest gifts to Williams as a way of being “On the Log” with future generations of students.



We already had Williams in our will and were interested in the tutorial program. This was a way of structuring our gift to support this uniquely Williams tradition in perpetuity.



**GEORGE '76 AND
SUSAN '76 EVANS**



Susan and George Evans have a long history of supporting Williams, specifically through their family fund for admissions outreach to recruit and retain students from low-income populations. In celebration of their 50th Reunion, they've structured their existing bequest gift to fund the new Susan '76 and George '76 Evans tutorial fund to help sustain this unique program.

Can you tell us a little bit about your experiences at Williams?

GEORGE: When I got to college, I was not terribly mature and Williams gave me the opportunity (or forced me) to grow up. And obviously I met my wife there.

SUSAN: I always felt that if I hadn't gone to Williams, I wouldn't have had the life I had. We wouldn't have the resources that we have to be able to give back. It all comes back to Williams for me.

What prompted your decision to support the tutorial program?

GEORGE: Tutorials are something I am very interested in. They're consistent with Williams's long-term vision, and from a business perspective, they're something that Williams can do that not many other places can. They're a tremendous competitive advantage for the college. And they're a good educational tool for the students—it's a completely different beast than other types of classes.

What impact do you hope your gift will have on future Williams students?

SUSAN: Ideally the same impact that the tutorial program has on students today! Tutorials offer close contact with a professor and force you to think in a different way. The value of those skills will not change.

Can you share your experience in creating a planned gift for anyone considering the process?

SUSAN: We already had Williams in our will and were interested in the tutorial program. This was a way of structuring our gift to support this uniquely Williams tradition in perpetuity.

GEORGE: The single most important thing is supporting something that you think is really important and that you truly believe in. This planned gift was a way of doing that for us, and the purpose makes the process worthwhile. And bequest giving allows you to think about slightly bigger numbers, too.

If you could have that conversation with your current self on one end of the log and your first year self on the other, what would you say?

SUSAN: I wish someone had told me at the time to go with the professor, and not to restrict yourself to a particular area of study. When I think about Williams, I don't think about courses. I think about professors.

GEORGE: I think people get too wrapped up in what they expect is going to happen—life just doesn't work out that way. All you can do is your best; if you're a Williams student, you're a competent person, you're going to be fine. That's the whole point of the liberal arts, to force yourself into something a little different, a little uncomfy, and then learn from that. ●



The first mountaineering organization in the United States was begun in Williamstown under the leadership of Albert Hopkins (brother of Mark Hopkins). That Williams College laid the groundwork for all mountaineering organizations to follow has been a key motivator in my leaving the collection to the Chapin Library.



PETER GREEN '78



Peter Green '78 has been collecting mountaineering literature since 1985, amassing an impressive collection. He and his wife, Mary, have carefully worked with Chapin Library Special Collections to give the books to Williams via bequest so that others can learn about the rich history of mountaineering.

Can you tell us a bit about your experience at Williams?

My first sight of the campus was pulling my foot locker up to the door of Sage E in September 1974. I have many good memories: working with Mark Taylor and Dean Chris Rosenraad to coeducate Perry and Bascom House, running the Milham Planetarium and working with Jay Pasachoff for more than three years. I enjoyed doing a radio show at WCFM. I worked hard academically and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

I made some good friends (including Phil Smith '55 who was my admissions director) who have stayed with me over the years, which is very rewarding.

Can you tell us a little more about what inspired you to collect these books?

I began the collection after reading a few expedition narratives and absolutely falling in love with these true adventures. Soon I shifted to looking for rare books, which provided a new type of excitement—swapping dramatic stories with other collectors about “the one that got away” or about unscrupulous book dealers. It is one of the most complete private collections in the country, and I love sharing it with others. My goal was to keep the collection together and to for it to be housed at an institution that will respect its relevance and encourage its use. I am grateful for the years of work with the directors of

the Chapin Library to make Williams the future home for my collection.

What impact do you hope your gift will have?

My fervent hope is that future students and local scholars will use the collection to understand mountaineering, to learn about the times in which these climbers lived, and to research their early efforts. Mountaineering has a finite history: it began about 1810 and writing about it started almost right away. It is possible to weave together a fairly complete tapestry of the sport, using its extensive literature.

If you could have that conversation with your current self on one end of the log and your freshman self on the other, what would you say?

I think I would tell him to just say “yes” whenever someone offers you an opportunity to go do something. ●

GIFT PLANNING OFFICE

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Interested in making a bequest to Williams College?

The Gift Planning Office is happy to provide sample bequest language for your will, trust, or beneficiary designation (e.g. retirement plan) and details about how you can support specific areas of interest at the college through your legacy gift.



SCAN HERE FOR
SAMPLE BEQUEST
LANGUAGE!

Helpful info for any charitable gift to Williams:

LEGAL NAME

President and Trustees of Williams College

FEDERAL TAX ID

04-2104847

Charitable Gift Annuities

Want to create a gift that supports tutorials, scholarship, your class reunion fund, or another purpose of your choosing while receiving fixed income for life?

- Consider a charitable gift annuity (CGA)! Contact the Williams Gift Planning Office for a personalized illustration and to learn more how you can:
- » Receive lifetime payments for up to two beneficiaries, with the remainder of your gift going to Williams.
 - » Lock in market gains: give securities and save capital gains tax.
 - » Defer payments for an even higher annuity rate.

- » Qualify for an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction if you itemize and fund with a cash or stock gift.
- » Establish a one-time charitable gift annuity with a qualified distribution from your IRA (up to \$54,000 in 2025—indexed for inflation), benefitting you and/or your spouse during their lifetime.
- » Become a member of The Ephraim Williams Legacy Society.

SAMPLE 2025 CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY \$25,000 gift			
AGE	ANNUITY RATE	ANNUAL PAYMENT	MAXIMUM DEDUCTIONS
60	5.2%	\$1,300	\$7,881
65	5.7%	\$1,425	\$8,238
70	6.3%	\$1,575	\$8,908
75	7%	\$1,750	\$10,008
80	8.1%	\$2,025	\$11,071
85	9.1%	\$2,275	\$13,054
90	10.1%	\$2,525	\$15,271

Restrictions apply. Not available in all states.
Gift minimum: \$20,000

