

The William & Sarah Lawrence Society

recognizes the many alumni and friends who have informed the College that they have included Sarah Lawrence in their estate planning. It is named for William Van Duzer Lawrence and his wife, Sarah Bates Lawrence, in whose memory he created the College.



Legacy News

A Lifelong Learner Honors His Mother's Memory With a Gift from His Retirement Plan



Layton Sanders

"The first time I stepped on campus, I felt like I had come home," Layton Sanders says of his introduction to Sarah Lawrence. "It was like a breath of fresh air."

In the 1980s, Sanders started making regular evening commutes to Bronxville from his office in Midtown Manhattan. He already had a bachelor's degree from Rhodes College in Memphis, a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Dartmouth, and a successful career as a paralegal, and was eager to enrich his creative life by taking writing classes with great teachers in an inspirational setting. On the advice of friends who were Sarah Lawrence alumni, he headed to Grand Central, bought a series of round-trip tickets, and followed his dream.

"Education has always been important to my family," Sanders says, adding that those weeknight rides on Metro-North were hardly the first time he'd traveled a substantial distance for the best possible learning experience. He grew up in an isolated part of the Mississippi Delta, and throughout his childhood, he explains, "My mother drove 45 miles to take me to school each day in Memphis, Tennessee, to ensure that I had a good education. We left in the dark every morning and came back in the dark every night."

His mother's name was Sarah, and Sanders wonders today if his initial interest in Sarah Lawrence was sparked by the echo of that cherished name. What's most important now is that he is eternally grateful to both Sarahs, and has decided to honor his mother and the school together by endowing the Sarah Perkins Sanders Scholarship at Sarah Lawrence College.

"The first time I stepped on campus, I felt like I had come home."

That future scholarship, part of Sanders' estate, will be funded by the entire balance of his 401K retirement plan. The plan is presently growing tax-free, with regular contri-

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butions and income, and as a charitable gift will eventually pass in full to the College—avoiding the substantial taxes that would fall on an individual heir to such an account.

Sanders' careful planning ensures that every dollar of those savings will fund the planned scholarship. And every year, that well-funded scholarship will support a talented student in the Sarah Lawrence graduate theatre program.

Sanders has loved the theatre since he played Uncle Remus in a kindergarten play. He calls Sarah Lawrence faculty members Shirley Kaplan and Doug MacHugh his "mentors and guiding lights" in the study of playwriting, which was also his focus when he earned an MA at Dart-

mouth in 1992. Among the other subjects he has studied at Sarah Lawrence are essay writing and screenwriting.

Today, as he continues to work as a paralegal, Sanders volunteers with New York City's 91-year-old Blue Hill Troupe, which presents modern and Gilbert & Sullivan musicals and donates the proceeds to a charitable cause. A craftsman of materials as well as words, Sanders works backstage making costumes, props, and scenery.

And as he takes pride in knowing he will help young theatre artists train at Sarah Lawrence, he is looking forward to his own future studies.

"I want to go back," he says, plotting many more walks to Grand Central Terminal.

Choosing the Estate Gift to Sarah Lawrence That Helps Her Family Most



Mildred Marshall '84

When Bronxville resident Mildred (Milly) Marshall (MA '84) enrolled as a graduate student at Sarah Lawrence, she was already in her early 60s. After a childhood in Depression-era Memphis, she had majored in economics on a scholarship at Vassar, married, raised a son and two daughters, and studied at Union Theological Seminary. Because she had also cared for a terminally ill sister and joined the board of one of the first groups to promote living wills, she was attracted by Sarah Lawrence's groundbreaking Master of Arts in Health Advocacy. Milly became one of the program's first degree holders. She also became a good friend of Sarah Lawrence's then-president Alice Ilchman and a deeply involved member of the campus community.

"My mother was a lifelong learner, an intellectual," says Bob Marshall, the eldest of her three children.

He also remembers his mother as a quiet philanthropist—one who didn't broadcast her beliefs or push her principles on others. Instead she regularly supported other learners, from the youngsters she championed by building the East Harlem Tutorial Program to the college students she subsidized by giving generously and consistently to Sarah Lawrence.

Milly had long been a loyal supporter of Sarah Lawrence when she notified us not only that she had planned a bequest to Sarah Lawrence, but that she had also made the College the beneficiary of a retirement plan that had increased significantly in value over the decades. Thus, Milly planned wisely in considering not only the best interests of the neighboring College she valued and loved, but also the economic interests of her children and other heirs. Looking ahead, she knew that as her charitable gifts boosted the College's assets, they would reduce her taxable estate and minimize the costs to her family. She was particularly aware that an heir inheriting funds from a traditional IRA would have to pay income taxes on the full amount—but that Sarah Lawrence, as a charitable institution, would receive the full value, tax-free.

Milly's friends in the College's Office of Gift Planning routinely welcomed her insights and advice. Her understanding of economics and commitment to service remained as strong in the 1990s as they had been during World War II when, as a young college graduate, she moved to Washington to do essential work for the Office of Price Administration.

Yet, her survivors recalled in a moving eulogy published on Christmas Eve 2013, she was "never one to flaunt her accomplishments or intelligence." That remembrance went on to pay tribute to Milly's "sincere empathy for everyone she met. She loved people, and they loved her."

For This Doctor, a Sarah Lawrence Charitable Gift Annuity Was the Best Medicine

"Sarah Lawrence opened my world to art and music, beauty and fun. It was a fabulous, life-changing experience," says Ann Barnet '51, who has never forgotten that scholarships made it all possible. "My father was a minister who never made more than \$10,000 a year, and the College was very generous in its financial support. That's one reason why I want to give back."

From Sarah Lawrence, Ann went directly to Harvard Medical School, where, as one of only a handful of women, she found that she was better prepared than many of her classmates for the program's rigors. She specialized in neurology, she says, because she saw the field as central to the meaning and understanding of life: "I was interested in behavior and human development, what makes us who we are—how the brain works and causes us to behave the way we do."

Ann went on to have an extraordinary career, a long happy marriage, and three children. After studying brain electrophysiology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, she spent more than two decades at Washington Children's National Medical Research Center, developing tests of children's hearing and vision. Her research on the brain's responses to sounds led to a test that is now routinely performed on virtually all US newborns so that hearing problems can be diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

For decades, Ann's life was rich with personal and professional fulfillment. But by the time she returned to Sarah Lawrence for a summer workshop several years ago, she was in need of another life-changing experience. Her husband Dick, co-founder of the Institute for Policy Studies, had suffered from a protracted illness, and she was the caregiver during his long, painful decline. Following his death in 2004, she wanted to write about the struggles, triumphs, and losses they had shared. A Sarah Lawrence mailing about the summer workshop "Writing the Medical Experience" spoke directly to her.

Ann returned to her alma mater that summer and began writing her memoir, later titled *Border Crossings*. The workshop was "like a miracle, just perfect," she says. "Sarah Lawrence was a safe place for me. It brought me back to life."

Ann has long been a loyal donor to the Fund for Sarah Lawrence, and after benefiting so much from that summer course, she wanted to increase her support. In an issue of the College's *Legacy News*, she read about the many benefits of Charitable Gift Annuities and decided to create one in celebration of her 85th birthday. While the College is the ultimate beneficiary, the annuity income Ann receives is helping to pay for her grandchildren's college education.

Today, Ann is professor emeritus of pediatrics and neurology at the George Washington University School of Medicine. She is deeply committed to The Family Place, the organization she founded in 1979 to provide educational and social services to the disadvantaged children and parents she was seeing in her medical practice. Ann was recently named the 2015 "Woman of Washington" by the DC Mayoral Commission on Women. She was recognized for her role as an advocate for low-income women and children.

"Much of my practice was with the low birth weight children of teenage mothers and children living in poverty. We'd save the babies' lives and send them home to undesirable situations," she says. "I'm happy that now there is greater public understanding of the need to support parents in their role as their baby's first and most important caregiver and teacher. Education, enrichment, social supports—that's what The Family Place is all about."



Ann Barnet '51

Your Bequest to Sarah Lawrence: *The Foundation of a Strong Future*

When you include Sarah Lawrence in your estate plan, you not only confirm the value of this unique education model; you help build a strong foundation for Sarah Lawrence's future. If you've included Sarah Lawrence in your estate plan, please let us know! The William & Sarah Lawrence Society was designed to permit us to thank you properly.

Office of Community Partnerships:

Uniting Formal Academic Study with Experiential Learning, a Unique Sarah Lawrence Experience



Sarah Lawrence College has a rich history of education for social responsibility and a commitment to the integration of community-based work and academic learning that cultivates lifelong skills and values.

The Office of Community Partnerships introduced a unique, interdisciplinary semester-long program, Intensive Semester in Yonkers (ISY), in the fall of 2014. It was designed to provide students, both in the classroom and through partnering and working with local agencies, the chance to explore some of the social, historical, economic, and environmental issues that face contemporary urban America and young people in particular.

Yonkers, the fourth largest city in New York state, provides students an extraordinary opportunity, in close proximity to Sarah Lawrence's campus, to learn about

a broad range of urban issues in much of the country, including the social geography of inequality, segregation and urban race relations, environmental and educational inequalities, and urban economic development. Students work with and learn from faculty members and professionals who have been thinking about and addressing key local issues over an extended period of time.

For the 2014 school year, the overarching theme for the Intensive Semester in Yonkers was "Inequalities and Opportunities in Yonkers." Faculty members from three disciplines—psychology, writing, and politics—taught three complementary courses that incorporated fieldwork.

SLC students describe their ISY experiences:

"It helped to structure everything I loved about a school like SLC that prides itself on an experiential hands-on learning model. To me, it meant taking the relationships I'd already developed working with the Greyston Community Garden Project and critically reflecting upon them with nine other students also developing such worthwhile relationships at their respective work sites. Had I not committed my studies to ISY, I'd have a far less realized understanding of how theory can most effectively connect to practice." —Brady

"Theories of community-based research have informed my ideas of work practically and academically, especially who the work benefits and how to make sure work is relevant and meaningful." —Jacob

"In all classes, we all made an effort to bring our community work into the discussion. ... I truly believe that this was the greatest way we were able to understand the more theoretical texts, and it was obvious how much passion and care we poured into each discussion—seeing how much our community work affected each of us. —Augusta

Reunion Estate Planning Seminar: Full of Great Ideas

Alumni enthusiastically welcomed seminar leader Blanche Lark Christerson '77, Managing Director at Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management, at Reunion 2015 and praised her ability to address the wide range of state and federal tax and planning issues that affect alumni all around the country.

Blanche welcomes all questions! The Reunion 2016 Estate Planning Seminar promises to be bigger and better than ever. There is never any cost or obligation to attend.

"I've heard Blanche speak to many groups on estate planning. She's very knowledgeable and makes even the most obscure topics accessible to her audience." — Hugh M. Williams '75, Gift Planning Officer, American Red Cross

An Extraordinary Legacy

Mary Griggs Burke '38 was an extraordinarily generous woman. Sarah Lawrence College is fortunate to be able to count her among our alumni.

When Mary died at 96 in December 2012, she was lauded in *The New York Times* for her knowledge and insightfulness in collecting a comprehensive array of the arts of Japan. She left transformative gifts of her art collection to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, honoring the two metropolitan areas where she spent her life. Mary had served on the boards of many institutions, including Sarah Lawrence's where she was Honorary Trustee to the end of her life.

At Sarah Lawrence, she studied literature with Joseph Campbell and painting with Bradley Walker Tomlin, a member of the New York School of Abstract Expressionists. Tomlin introduced her to the calligraphic line of the American Action Painters, whose brushstrokes resemble Chinese and Japanese calligraphy. On graduating, she earned a master's in clinical psychology at Columbia.

Mary's first trip to Japan came in 1954. Walter Gropius, a renowned architect of the Bauhaus school, recommended the

Mary Griggs Burke '38

trip to permit her to experience the clean spare lines of the Japanese aesthetic firsthand. She became entranced by the country and its art, and over the years returned many times. She and her husband Jackson Burke, whom she married in 1955, began collecting Japanese art and artifacts seriously in 1963. In 1987, the Japanese government honored her with the Order of the Sacred Treasure for distinguished contributions to research, industry, and other fields.

Sadly, Mr. Burke died in 1975, and Mary had no heirs. The Board of Directors of the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation ensured that her legacy will live on by making a gift of 10 Presidential Scholarships to be known as the Mary Griggs Burke Endowed Presidential Scholarships, thus ensuring that deserving students will be able to achieve a Sarah Lawrence education, regardless of their financial situation.



Sarah Lawrence Is Most Grateful to Our William & Sarah Lawrence Society Members

Sarah Lawrence offers its heartfelt appreciation to all members of The William & Sarah Lawrence Society. By including us in your legacy, you are building a lasting connection to future generations of Sarah Lawrence students. Your generosity helps ensure that a transformational Sarah Lawrence education will be available to tomorrow's independent and creative thinkers.

Newly registered:

Elizabeth W. Christenson '47
Monica M. de Hellerman '60
Jennifer Feeley '64
Rodi Franco '81

Gregg Horowitz '81
Carol G. Maxym '70
John M. Nelson IV
William F. Plume

Layton P. Sanders
Arlene K. Schwartz '03
Anonymous

If Sarah Lawrence is in your estate plan, please let us know. We would be honored to thank you for your commitment to your alma mater.



DOREA FERRIS, Director of Gift Planning
New Phone Number! (914) 813-9251
New Fax Number! (914) 813-9205
New Location! 45 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville, NY
(next to the Bronxville Metro-North station)

giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu

Come visit our new website at <http://www.slc.edu/giftplanning>

Looking to boost future income? Consider a Sarah Lawrence Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity:

Great rates and lifetime payments for you ...
a gift to Sarah Lawrence, too!

Charitable Gift Annuities turn your gift into a fixed income stream for life and offer tax benefits as well. By deferring payments, say for five years, you earn a bonus rate! Contact Dorea Ferris, Director of Gift Planning, (914) 813-9251 or giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu, to learn how a Sarah Lawrence Deferred Gift Annuity would work in your own situation.

Note: Sarah Lawrence Gift Annuity obligations are backed by segregated assets, which, by New York State law, can only be used to satisfy gift annuity obligations.

Sarah Lawrence Receptions at Your Vacation Destination!

Sarah Lawrence often holds receptions in popular vacation destinations, summer and winter. Martha's Vineyard? Palm Beach? Please e-mail your vacation address to alum@sarahlawrence.edu so we can get your printed invitation to you. Or, if you prefer, simply let us know the area you visit and we'll e-mail you an invitation to the appropriate reception.

Hope to see you there!