Creating a Legacy

"Sarah Lawrence opened up the world!"

When Diane (Dee) Stinchfield Klingenstein ’47’s mother told her she could select the college of her choice, Dee immediately named Sarah Lawrence College because, after a traditional college preparatory school, it provided the academic freedom she longed for. A natural athlete, she enjoyed the tennis and equestrian opportunities at the College, as well as the prospect to explore the academic offerings freely. “Sarah Lawrence opened up the world!” she wrote. “Literature professor Marc Slonim in particular influenced me, as a teacher, as a philosopher, as a human being. Sarah Lawrence gave me the freedom to be an adult when I thought I was ready. It opened up a career choice when women didn’t have as many.” Her lifelong passion was “reading, reading, reading.”

Dee loved Sarah Lawrence so much, she wrote to the College, asking to take additional classes that she had been unable to schedule during her four years. Unfortunately, that was not feasible. Her solution: She took those courses in a summer program.

Dee’s graduate study at the New York School of Social Work (Columbia University) was an extension of the wonderful experiences she had studying psychology and early childhood education at Sarah Lawrence. But she also wrote of her love of poetry and writing and—“practically every course I took was fascinating.”

Dee was raised in a family where hard work, dedication, and a love for learning and culture were paramount values. No wonder her philanthropic interest was to provide scholarships to deserving students at the college she loved. She created the Charles Stinchfield Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of the grandfather who instilled those values and whose hard work ultimately made her gift possible, in order to encourage
those values among deserving students who dream of a Sarah Lawrence education. Dee was thrilled to receive reports of the students who benefited from this gift, because she was so pleased to share her Sarah Lawrence experience and also believed in treating everyone with respect, regardless of their circumstances.

Dee and her husband, Bernard, settled and raised their children in New York and Massachusetts; then, in retirement, they moved to Georgia and finally to Maine. Bernard, Dee’s husband of 62 years, predeceased her.

When Dee passed away in May of 2016, the College learned that she had left a bequest that doubled the size of the Charles Stinchfield Endowed Scholarship Fund. Sarah Lawrence is deeply gratified to know that more students will be able to take advantage of Dee’s extraordinary generosity—and that Dee’s three children will continue to take an interest in the Stinchfield Scholars’ interests and accomplishments.

Charitable IRA Rollovers Help Fund Student Scholarships

Caroline studied psychology and creative writing at Sarah Lawrence but says it took her years to get over being intimidated by her now-famous classmates. After graduate school, Caroline taught at the Dalton School before moving with her husband and two young sons to New Jersey. In Ridgewood, Caroline worked on a child study team for 25 years, testing children with learning differences. In the summers, she wrote books to inspire kids with learning and attentional challenges to persevere. After her agent quit, Caroline became her own agent—racking up 56 rejection letters for her first book, Josh: A Boy With Dyslexia (which now has had multiple printings) and 48 rejections for her second novel, The Worst Speller In Jr. High (awarded a prize by young adult librarians). While a career in special education, publishing four books, and raising two sons—a percussionist (with ADHD) and a marketing expert (with dyslexia)—has “turned her hair gray,” Caroline is still strong and healthy. Her sense of humor is most refreshing.

In 2004, Caroline “retired” and moved with her husband, Andrew, to a small, sunny house in Damariscotta, Maine. Sadly, Andrew died of lung cancer in 2008. Feeling lonely, Caroline rescued a dog named Hanna, but changed her name to Hannaford (the name of the local supermarket), in recognition of the fact that her dog thought only about food. Caroline currently teaches memoir writing at Coastal Senior College and commutes monthly to Manhattan to do consulting work at St. David’s School. Visits to her sons and grandsons in California provide a welcome relief from the “wicked cold” winters in Maine.

Caroline is one of Sarah Lawrence’s most loyal alumni. She has attended several reunions, including her 50th in 2016, and pronounces them inspiring opportunities to get together with friends, both new and old. Her financial advisor’s suggestion to use an IRA Rollover for her reunion gift was perfectly timed: It permitted her to make a much larger gift than she otherwise would have thought possible, at a time when she felt that special recognition of her alma mater was most appropriate.

"What better gift than the privilege of a Sarah Lawrence education?"

“My grandparents helped pay my whopping $3,000 tuition to SLC in the 1960s,” says Caroline Janover ’66. “When my financial advisor suggested a smart way to use my IRA, the thought of being a “grandmother” for a worthy student in need pleased me no end. What better gift than the privilege of a Sarah Lawrence education?”

When Congress permanently authorized the Charitable IRA Rollover in 2015, it opened up new opportunities for philanthropic people like Caroline. Charitable IRA Rollovers permit those age 70½ and older to send a gift from their IRA, up to $100,000, directly to charity without incurring federal income-tax liability. The gift even counts toward the required minimum distribution.
Her Bequest Plans Made More Possible

Executive Recruitment, which she developed into a major player in the book, magazine, and academic worlds before taking even one college course.

Growing up in New York City, Lynne left high school after sophomore year to help support her mother and ailing father. After a variety of careers, she found her niche in personnel placement, starting her own firm before she turned 40. She sold the firm to her employees when she retired, earned her high-school diploma, and sought a college experience that would satisfy her interest in writing. Sarah Lawrence College was the obvious choice.

“I only took credit courses,” she told an interviewer in 2002. “I took mostly English literature and writing courses. I got wonderful assessments. I left a scholarship fund at Sarah Lawrence, after having such a wonderful experience there.”

Lynne remained fully aware of the financial circumstances that prevented her from attending college on a traditional timetable. As a retiree, she began to consider her legacy. She decided her greatest joy would be to help others who, like herself years before, had been unable to attend college without substantial financial assistance.

In 1998, Lynne notified the college that she had set aside funds in her bequest plans that would create The Lynne Palmer Scholarship Fund at Sarah Lawrence. She signed an agreement with the college that spelled out the terms of the gift, qualifications of the student recipients, and her willingness to permit her name to be used in college materials mentioning the scholarship fund. By writing a gift agreement with the college, Lynne ensured that her intentions were clear and achievable, and that her wish to help future generations of students would be realized.

SARAH LAWRENCE WELCOMES PRESIDENT CRISTLE COLLINS JUDD

Cristle Collins Judd joined Sarah Lawrence College from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where she served as a senior program officer responsible for grants and initiatives supporting colleges and universities, the arts, civic engagement, and the public humanities.

An award-winning scholar and teacher, Judd previously served as dean for academic affairs and professor of music at Bowdoin College, and as a tenured faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds degrees in music performance, musicology, and music theory from Rice University and King’s College, University of London.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES ON CAMPUS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH.

For details, and to RSVP, please email inauguration@sarahlawrence.edu or call 914.395.2412.
Making the Most of IRA Rollover Gifts

Holly Cratsley ’65 and her husband, John, are enthusiastic supporters of Sarah Lawrence. Holly hasn’t missed a gift in years. “Every time I make a gift to Sarah Lawrence College, I think of my unparalleled education, the variety of courses and intellectual stimulation, and how well Sarah Lawrence prepared me for the future. As someone fortunate enough to transfer into Sarah Lawrence, I have always said that Sarah Lawrence saved my life—at least my intellectual life. I’m very lucky to have had the chance to go to Sarah Lawrence and am thrilled to help make a Sarah Lawrence education available to the next generation.”

When Holly learned of the newly permanent Charitable IRA Rollover, she realized that this new technique for making charitable gifts could be a real benefit to her. The Charitable IRA Rollover permits philanthropic people age 70½ and over to make gifts to charity, up to a total of $100,000, directly from their retirement account and avoiding federal income tax on the withdrawal. It even counts for the Minimum Required Distribution!

Holly did discover that while this new technique offers attractive tax advantages to donors, some financial institutions don’t advise the charity that the gift is an IRA Rollover or share with them the name of the actual donor of the funds. This prevents the charity from acknowledging the gift and from crediting the donor with his or her support. “It is important to ask the institution managing your IRA to add your name on the comment line on the check as the donor of the funds. Sarah Lawrence provides a helpful guide to IRA Rollover gifts on its website,” says Holly. “If you prefer to speak to someone personally, you can call the number mentioned in this newsletter and get answers to your questions quickly.”

Holly is founder and principal of Nashawtuc Architects, Inc. The producers of PBS’s The New This Old House Hour selected Holly as their first woman architect for the project entitled, “The Concord Cottage.” Her work has been featured on NECN’s New England Dream House and HGTV’s Curb Appeal and highlighted in numerous trade publications. She has been cited by readers of Women’s Business Boston as one of the region’s “Top Ten Female Architects”.

Holly earned her MA in history from the University of Maryland in 1972, followed by a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1984 from Boston Architectural Center. “Architecture was a natural for me after my Sarah Lawrence education,” she says. “Creative yet disciplined, the field had intense appeal. When John and I decided to move to the Boston area, the Boston Architectural Center was my dream come true.”

A dedicated alum, Holly is a member of the William & Sarah Lawrence Society. She participates in the local Faculty on the Road programs and holiday parties and attends her class reunions, maintaining her Sarah Lawrence spirit.

If Sarah Lawrence is in your estate plan, let us know. We would be honored to include you in the William & Sarah Lawrence Society.
PASSION + PURPOSE: Internships Help Students Focus on Careers

Internships provide insight into fields and organizations that may prove to be an entrée into the meaningful career of a student’s dreams. Internships are the 21st-century path to a career. The Office of Career Services at Sarah Lawrence often taps into the alumni network to provide internship opportunities for students. Since many internships are unpaid, some students find them inaccessible. Alumni-funded internships can make a world of difference. Stipends can lead to a life-changing opportunity, giving students a career-focused summer experience. Paid internship opportunities—such as the ones Paul and Rhoda Redleaf ’54 offer—enable students with limited resources to accept coveted unpaid internships in their chosen field.

In 2015, the Redleafs established a funded summer internship plan to enable Sarah Lawrence students of all backgrounds to access the life- and career-changing opportunities that internships offer. The Redleaf internships target social action nonprofits, while other alumni internship funding focuses on the arts and sciences. The Redleaf Family Internship Program provides $4,000 stipends each to as many as 10 students to intern at participating organizations, chosen by the Redleafs for their impact on society.

Mansuda Arora ’19 wrote from the American Civil Liberties Union in St. Paul, Minnesota: “My internship could not have come at a more important time. With the upcoming presidential election, the tumultuous political climate, and the recent shooting death of Philando Castile just 10 minutes from where I was living in St. Paul, I feel as if the work I have done has real, tangible impact.”

Moises Serrano-Cruz ’18 wrote to us from Washington, DC: “As the summer field intern for Americans United, I take away critical knowledge about the nonprofit world, relationship-building in DC, and professional development and camaraderie in a business setting.”

The Redleafs have taken an unusual approach to their internship fund, identifying the organizations for internship opportunities as well as providing funding for student interns. The Office of Career Services at Sarah Lawrence has relationships with hundreds of employers who love hiring Sarah Lawrence interns, for summer or school-year internships. Encouraging interns by offering openings or by providing financial support that permits students to accept internships is always welcome.

Paul Redleaf explains: “Rhoda and I enjoy the feeling that we’ve made something happen that wouldn’t have happened without us. The Sarah Lawrence internships are a perfect example, offering us the satisfaction of helping Sarah Lawrence College, and individual students, while helping organizations we strongly believe in at the same time. It means we are having a wonderful time and killing not two but three birds with the proverbial one stone. And above and beyond that, we’ve had a blast of fun and pleasure meeting the interns! Hopefully, our efforts will encourage others to support internships at the College.”

Rhoda Redleaf has been a longtime, enthusiastic supporter of Sarah Lawrence and recently celebrated her 60th reunion. She has decades of experience in early childhood education as a trainer, child-care center director, public school teacher, and author of several books and articles. She has served on the board of Resources for Child Caring, the partner company of Redleaf Press and a nationally recognized organization working to advance quality child care and education. She has served on reunion committees in 2009 and 2014, hosted several Faculty on the Road programs in St. Paul, and received the Alumni Citation for Achievement at her 60th reunion. Paul Redleaf is a retired physician and an amateur cellist.

The Redleafs hoped to support organizations in their local Minneapolis-St. Paul community, as well as national organizations where they felt they could have impact. Their dream worked for the organizations as well as for the students, because the Minneapolis-St. Paul area has been a stronghold of Sarah Lawrence activity for generations. Paul says, “What gives us the greatest satisfaction is the knowledge that the internships, which otherwise would not have occurred, have made a difference in the life of so many talented Sarah Lawrence students.”
NOW'S THE TIME TO BEGIN SERIOUS YEAR-END TAX PLANNING. ENOUGH OF THE YEAR HAS PASSED TO ESTIMATE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME, YET THERE IS STILL TIME TO TAKE TAX-SAVING STEPS BEFORE THE END OF THE TAX YEAR.

CONTACT US AT GIFTPLANNING@SARAHLAWRENCE.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION.

- **IRA ROLLOVERS:** If you or your spouse are age 70½ or older and must take distributions from your IRA, you likely know that Congress has passed permanent legislation allowing philanthropic members of the Sarah Lawrence community to distribute up to $100,000 directly to the college while incurring no income-tax liability on the distribution. If you use an IRA Rollover to make your gift to Sarah Lawrence, please let us know! This will ensure that you receive proper recognition for your gift.

- **IRA DISTRIBUTIONS:** Not yet 70½? Your IRA can still be a source of funds for your gift to Sarah Lawrence. After age 59½, withdrawals from retirement plans are no longer subject to an early withdrawal penalty. You may want to consider the use of retirement funds for your charitable giving.

- **USE APPRECIATED ASSETS:** You can take advantage of extra tax benefits if you use long-term appreciated assets (e.g., financial securities, real estate) to make an outright gift. You get gift credit for the full current value of the gift, yet you are not liable for federal capital-gains tax on any increase in the value of the assets.

- **GIFT ANNUITIES:** Sarah Lawrence charitable gift annuities pay fixed payments to one or two income beneficiaries age 60 or over, based on the age and number of income beneficiaries and the value of the gift.

Alumni find that making a tax-deductible gift to Sarah Lawrence College is a wonderful way to demonstrate their commitment to the College and its programs while having a positive impact on their tax situation. Charitable gifts made by December 31st apply to the current tax year. Talk to your professional advisers. Your tax adviser, attorney, or other financial professional can best explain the impact of your gift on your personal tax situation.