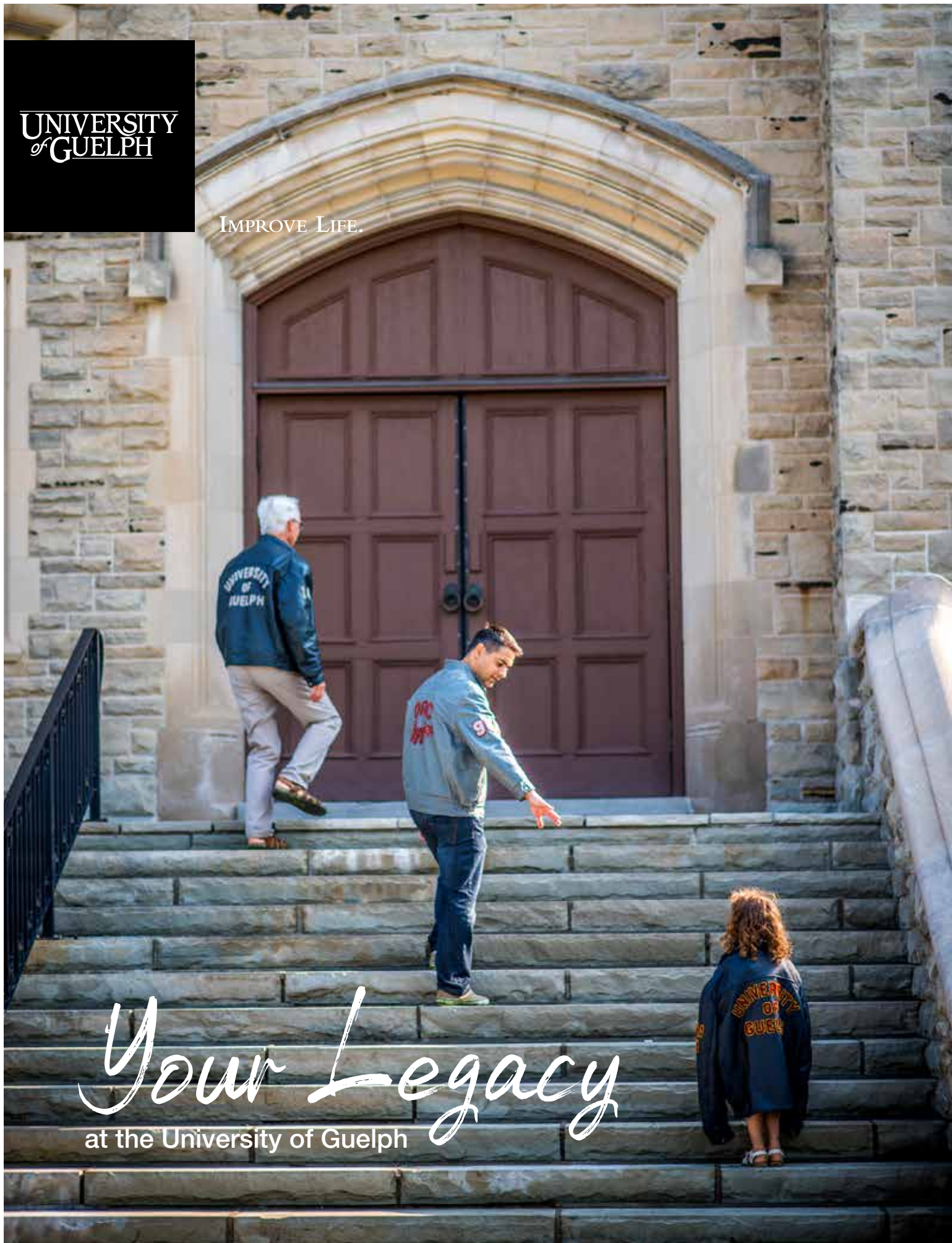



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

IMPROVE LIFE.

Your Legacy
at the University of Guelph



One gift has the power to change the course of a lifetime...



Dear Mrs. MacKinnon,

I was walking my dog recently and began thinking about people who profoundly influenced my life. Your husband came to mind and I realized I never thanked him for the great gift he gave me.

I was a mature student at the University of Guelph in the mid-1960s. I was a single mother with three children, ages five to ten. I was working to support my family and going to school full-time. After five semesters I was tired, and I was tired of being poor, so I decided to take a semester off. I needed permission from the Dean and was called to his office. Dean MacKinnon had a copy of my grades — I had an A average. He said that I couldn't drop out...if I did, I wouldn't come back and I wouldn't have anything. He advised me to "just coast" for a term and get a passing grade. He got me a \$500 bursary and offered me money out of petty cash if I needed it to get through the weekend.

I didn't take the money from petty cash. I didn't coast, either. I received an A in my sixth term and went on to finish an Honour's Bachelor of Arts.

Just before graduation, my employer asked me about my plans. I thought I would continue working there, but that was not an option. I should go to Graduate School. I completed a Master of Arts at the University of Toronto, and then went to work for Ontario Hydro. I took early retirement from Ontario Hydro when I was 50 years old and went to Law School. I graduated and was called to the bar in 1995.

I am 77 years old now, and still work at a job that has a profound effect on people's lives. None of this would have happened, if not for your husband refusing to let me drop out, his encouragement and that \$500 bursary.

One more thing. I am leaving one quarter of my estate to the University of Guelph to establish a bursary in Dr. MacKinnon's name. The purpose of that fund will be to help single parents who have returned to school.

I regret the fact that I didn't thank Dr. MacKinnon during his lifetime. Thank you for letting me tell you about the incredible gift he gave me.

Yours very truly,

Sara J. Sutherland

Inspired to Give

When I heard Sara's story about what inspired her to leave a gift in her will, I was so moved by the impact one helping hand can have on a person's life. I had the privilege of arranging a lovely lunch between Sara and Mrs. MacKinnon, and it was a special time that I'll always remember. Sara shared with me:

"As I look back, I realize that every time I was at a roadblock or a crossroad in life, there was someone saying 'You can do this, and I'll help.'"

She also asked to have this message shared with the future students who receive the bursary she created.

Each day, I am inspired by treasured stories like Sara's and those featured here about the inspiration to include the University in estate plans. I would be so pleased to hear your story and have a confidential discussion about ways to create a meaningful legacy for you at U of G.



Jayne Whitfield

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The perpetual nature of learning creates special meaning in legacy gifts at the University of Guelph.

Each year, a new group of Gryphons explore their path and find their way, creating memories and friendships along the way. By choosing to include the University in your estate plans, you become an important part of this enduring legacy.



"I remember my parents bringing me to Guelph as a child, for Farm and Home Week. It's where I first learned about OAC."



Giving with Gratitude

Growing up in Dufferin County, my family had a mixed farm and we were very community minded. We supported the church and community projects, and both my parents emphasized the value of a good education. I got involved in 4-H at age 12 and we had wonderful 4-H leaders who had gone to the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. That's where I started to learn about all that agriculture and OAC had to offer.

I remember travelling to Guelph when I was around ten for Farm and Home Week. My parents and many farmers from around Ontario would attend, and it was hosted at OAC, so I started to become interested in this place I had heard so much about. We even got to have lunch at Creelman Hall and they always served us bagged lunches under a tree — I remember what was inside the bag — it was always a sandwich, chocolate milk and a dixie cup. Later on, my 4-H group would go to Guelph each October for a day of judging, and we got to tour all the OAC buildings and see what they were doing.

A lot of us 4-H members ended up at OAC and I can only describe my experience as "phenomenal." We had incredible professors and instructors, and so many of the people I met there have become friends for life. I know that so much of the opportunity I received in my life stemmed from OAC, so it was a natural decision to give back to a place that changed the course of my life. I've supported class projects and other fundraising activities over the years. My wife Margaret and I decided to bequest a gift to OAC in our will. The fund will be utilized to increase enrollment in the studies of agriculture and food thereby sustaining the growth of the Ontario Agricultural College. We felt confident it would fill a permanent need.

I am as impressed with OAC today as I was as a ten-year-old. Leaving a gift to OAC is our way of ensuring that others benefit from the incredible learning and world of opportunities which I experienced. OAC has been such a big part of my life and I feel so fortunate for the wonderful journey I've been on.

– Brian Little



Brian Little

B.Sc.(Agr)'72, Dip.Agr '67, MSc.'78

Jim Bell

Dip. '51



Hope for the Future

My dad (Jim Bell, Dip. '51) had to make a commitment to farming when he was just 15 years old, when his own father couldn't take care of the farm in Elora anymore. He left high school and went to OAC for a two-year diploma — and what he came out with was a wealth of knowledge, and more importantly, lifelong connections and friendships. He was a proud Aggie from the Class of 1951.

I wasn't surprised to learn that my dad wanted to include the University of Guelph in his will.

For him, the time spent at OAC was life-changing. While he was very mechanically inclined, he needed to learn about crop rotation, animal nutrition and husbandry. He soaked up everything he could at OAC, and because of that, he prospered. He was so grateful for the knowledge and OAC always held a special place in his heart.

My dad's dedication to farming was everything. If there were fireworks or an event, he would really like to go, but....he had to plow, or milk the cows. It wasn't just a job for him, it was a way of life...a passion. Farmers of my dad's generation, and his classmates at OAC, they really had a bond — they even kept in touch with some of their professors through the years.

He also had a passion for helping others — bailing at a neighbours farm if someone was sick — and he wanted to help young people with opportunities and help them go forward in life. That's why he set up a scholarship when my brother passed, in his honour. He loved tinkering and fixing things on the farm. It made sense to me that he left a gift in his will that would help with maintenance at the Elora Dairy Barn. He loved watching it go up in his later years...we would drive by just to check out the progress. I am so happy he got to see it.

– Donna Bell-Sears

'My dad had a passion for helping others.'





A Helping Hand

Growing up in Toronto, I didn't know anything about the University of Guelph, but when I arrived, it was such a beautiful place, and I met many likeminded people there. There was a great feeling of collegiality and support between professors and students, and the whole experience of training, extra-curricular activities and volunteer opportunities, was a great preparation for medical school.

I was really blessed to receive support along the way, and being in medicine, I have an internal drive to help others. I see costs for students ballooning and if I can help in some way to recreate my experience for someone else — that fuels my desire to give back. I also have four children who are approaching post secondary decisions...I hope one of them will choose U of G! Having people around you who want to see you succeed is one of the most important things you can have. A gift in my will to U of G is one way I can help a student be their best, unhindered by financial constraints.

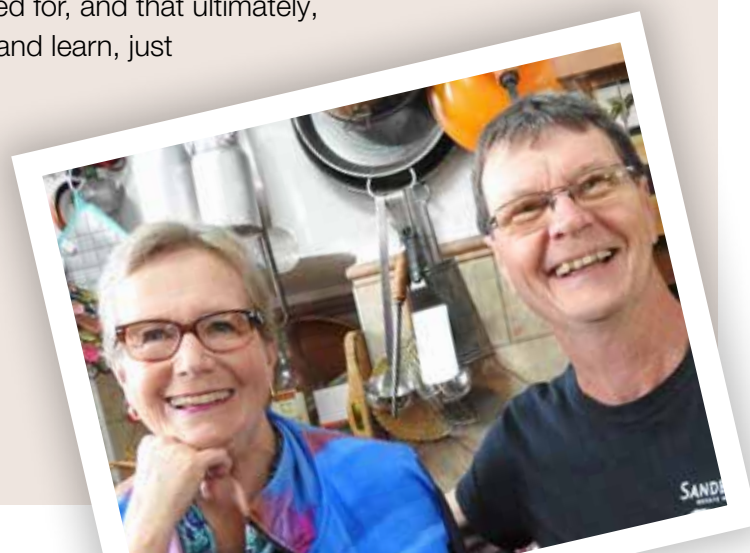
– Karima Khamisa, B.Sc. '97

Giving Feels Good

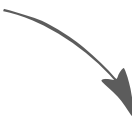
We met at the University of Guelph in the 1970s and were married in 1976. Our experience at U of G was so enriching — we started giving back what we could after graduation to help young students have the same kind of opportunities that we did.

Throughout our lives, we have benefitted from the kindness of others, so we feel it is important to repay that kindness. Our hearts are warmed knowing that we have been able to help out when there is a need, and a gift in our will is a way for us to keep that going. We have great trust in the University of Guelph that our donations are well cared for, and that ultimately, students who need assistance will be able to grow and learn, just as we did. Giving feels good.

– Bruce Waddell, B.Sc. (Agr.) '76, and
Carolyn Waddell (nee Pinkham),
BA '75



When I speak with donors like you these are the questions I hear most often. When you're ready, I'd be delighted to speak with you and have a confidential conversation to discuss creating a meaningful legacy at the University. - *Jayne Whitfield*



Your Questions Answered

Why is it important to leave a gift to charity?

Many of us assume that leaving a gift to charity is only for the elite. In reality, ordinary people from all walks of life decide to leave gifts to causes they care about.

Any gift, small or big, can really make a difference. Many people choose to leave their gifts as a percentage rather than a fixed amount.

You can also establish an endowment through an estate gift to provide long-term support for the University. The endowment could be named according to your wishes to provide enduring recognition for your gift.

What about my loved ones?

Many people find they have enough in their estate to care for family members and allocate a share of their estate to causes that are most important to them.

What if I want to help more than one charity?

You may hold several causes close to your heart and want to remember more than one of them in your estate plans. This is entirely possible.

Isn't it better to help now and not later?

We certainly need help today and are grateful for all support. Many people find they can make a larger gift through their estate than they could during their lifetime.

Later in life, many people have equity tied up in their home or want to make sure there is enough money available for unforeseen circumstances such as the need for long-term care. By leaving a percentage of your total estate to a charity, you continue to protect your assets during your lifetime.

I've decided to leave a gift in my will. What's next?

Your bequest to the University of Guelph is an investment in the future and through your legacy you'll enable future generations to improve life.

If you're considering a legacy gift, it's important to discuss your plans with your financial or legal advisor, and family members. A will ensures that your loved ones are provided for in the future, and also makes it possible for you to provide a meaningful donation to your favourite charities.

There are two primary types of bequests. A **residual** gift is a share of your estate after loved ones have been looked after. A **specific** gift is a set amount.

We recommend you speak with your lawyer and financial advisors about the best way to ensure your will reflects your wishes.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Jayne Whitfield, at bequests@uoguelph.ca or call 519-824-4120 ext. 56196.

Legal name: University of Guelph

Address: 50 Stone Road E, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1

Charitable registrations number: # 10816 1829 RR0001



The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under
whose shade you do not expect to sit.

– Nelson Henderson

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