



SPRING 2017

# Significance

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

## The Iversons: A salute to generosity

On Washington's Key Peninsula, a skosh south of the turn-off to Joemma Beach State Park, there is a winding, single lane dirt road which leads to a little bit of wooded heaven.

Welcome to the Iverson place. Come warm yourself by the stone fireplace or stand at the picture window and drink in the million dollar view of Case Inlet. Don't worry about the black lab. Moose is a barker, not a biter.

That's how it was in January when Virgil and Norma Jean Iverson talked about a lifetime of living and giving that is simply how they were raised.

"There were seven of us kids. My parents were poor but generous people always," says Norma Jean, number six in the pecking order. "We kept visiting missionaries in our home and fed whatever people came through. Their parents expected generosity of our parents and our parents, in turn, expected it of us."

Norma Jean was the first in her Baptist family to attend college, "a huge deal." "Back when girls didn't take math," she did, studying engineering and nursing for two years at Seattle Pacific College. She

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## THE MEANING OF A WORD

Words have meaning. They enable us to communicate with one another; to convey thoughts and feelings through a multitude of languages. And some languages are not even audible. I am reminded of this every Sunday morning in church when



an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing relays the words of the worship songs and sermon to those with hearing impairment.

One word that has special meaning to me is “legacy.” As with many words, it

has more than one meaning, depending on how it is used. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* provides a primary definition as “a gift of money or other personal property that’s granted by the terms of a will—often a substantial gift that needs to be properly managed.” But besides this rather narrow meaning, it also defines the word legacy more broadly as “something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.”

It seems to me that when the Iversons and others like them provide current support for an SPU endowment and also plan a future gift to the University through their will, they are providing a legacy in both meanings of the word. Their legacy gifts are, indeed, financial. But they are also expressions of love, hope, and appreciation that they want to pass on to others. Seattle Pacific holds a special place in their hearts, and their desire is to make a difference in the lives of current as well as future generations of Seattle Pacific students. This is a special legacy that we are most grateful for.

If you would like to discuss establishing your own legacy at SPU, please contact me at 206-281-2257 or [msandlin@spu.edu](mailto:msandlin@spu.edu).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marlon Sandlin".

Marlon Sandlin  
Director of Endowments and Gift Planning

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completed a bachelor’s degree in nursing at the University of Washington and a master’s degree in education at Pittsburgh State University. Her career in public health nursing focused on teaching parenting skills to young families. She says, “There was great satisfaction in helping them understand the importance of bonding with their children.”

Married 61 years to “Virg,” she teases how embarrassed she is to admit saying yes to a younger man (by one year). He was raised Free Methodist and fondly remembers the Seattle Pacific students who came to his church promoting the school where both his parents, Victor and Vera, played basketball in the ‘30s and from which his mother eventually graduated four years after Virgil. Younger brother Verlyn graduated in 1958, two years after Virgil, and also played Falcon basketball.

Though Virgil was fortunate to receive an athletic scholarship, he unfortunately landed badly during a game in his sophomore year. The injury ended the biblical studies major’s basketball career. He seized on an opening in the a cappella touring choir, and again received tuition assistance. Suddenly, he was one of those students promoting the virtues of SPC in churches of the Northwest.

Virgil knew early on that he wanted to be a pastor. He met Norma Jean at school and she encouraged him. “He started attending my Baptist church, then applied to be the choir director and was hired and joined the church,” she says. As for Virgil, he was humbled that “she was willing to accept me as I was.”

He worked on the kill floor of a meat packing plant for the funds to attend his first year at Bethel Theological Seminary, then drove a school bus and sold “mosquito protection” to graduate in 1960. Virgil later earned a master’s degree in education from Long Island University and a master’s degree in pastoral psychotherapy from the American Institute of Family Relations.

For seven years, he served as a Baptist pastor, then learned of the military’s need for hundreds of Army chaplains. At age 33, Virgil took basic training at Ft. Hamilton, New York, while Norma Jean and the five kids lived at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Son Paul went on to graduate from SPU in 1985.

Virgil joined the Army’s airborne division and made 43 parachute jumps. His most arduous assignment was in the Vietnam War, counseling and encouraging soldiers who

conducted search and destroy missions. He gets quiet when talking of the 40 men with whom he served who died there.

In 1989, Virgil parted from the Army and joined “the confinement industry” as a prison chaplain. He served four years at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, including assignment to men on death row. Once during an attempted prison break, he was on lockdown for four days with the rest of the prison population. “I got a lot of visitation done that week,” he says.

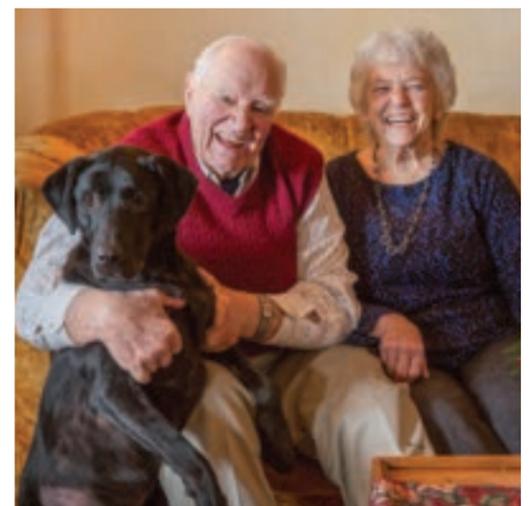
When a chaplaincy opened up at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, Washington, Virgil jumped at it. He’d learned that people anywhere are much the same.

The Iversons chime in together about their dependence upon God to stay the course and their agreement to never spend money without discussing it first. One of their greatest satisfactions has been establishing and growing the Virgil G. and Norma J. Iverson Scholarship Endowment, a tangible expression of their love for Christian higher education and the giving spirit compelling them all the way.

Their endowment provides scholarship assistance to undergraduate students who exemplify competence and character and a deep desire to engage the culture and change the world. Established in 2008, the endowment is now valued at more than \$71,000. Ten students have received awards since 2011, and in 2017–18 the endowment will distribute another \$2,364 in scholarships. The Iversons have also included a bequest to SPU in their will stipulating a final gift to general student scholarships.

By their philanthropy, two lives of unselfish service will continue to inspire and provide long after they pass.

You might say it’s how they were raised.



## PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT



THE LEGACY OF

## Charles and Barbara Anderson

Barbara Anderson died in 2012, followed by her husband, Charles, in 2015. For more than 40 years they had been in the trenches with Seattle Pacific University. Volunteering. Giving. Serving. Promoting. Inspiring. Always enthusiastic; always sharing their business and financial acumen, demonstrating their faith, and as optimistic about Seattle Pacific’s future as anyone.

That the Andersons were invested in numerous other charitable efforts as well is evidenced by their having established the Anderson Family Foundation.

Rarely are any two people as solidly united in their love for Christian higher education as were the Andersons. These two top lifetime givers to the University left their mark. In 2011 named the first recipient of the President’s Award for Philanthropy, Chuck, cofounder of the electronic telecommunications equipment provider Teltone Corporation, had made a lifetime of ensuring a thriving

# Soul Search and Rescue

WITH EMILY MONDAY



The small mountain town of Chester, California, is home to the Monday family. It consists of dad David, a clinical lab scientist; mom Julie, also a clinical lab

scientist and homeschool teacher; six siblings, all homeschooled by Julie but no longer all home; a dog

named Callie; a dog named Schroeder; and somewhere around 40 chickens.

For Emily Monday, home and the local community church — “mountain people, mountain church,” were great places for a naturally shy girl to grow.

When she first learned of Seattle Pacific University, Emily was interested. Study abroad opportunities. Low student to faculty ratio. And wonder of wonders, a degree program in dietetics, one of her strong areas of interest.

Still, it came at a cost. Despite its perfect fit with her career goals, Emily and her family could not pay for the quality Christian higher education on their own. That’s when another wonder kicked in. With the help of financial aid, she saw that “a large chunk” of her costs would be covered. Because of her scholastic record, she received the merit-based Trustees’ Scholar Award, as well as need-based scholarships, including one from the alumni-funded Sigma Rho Scholarship Endowment through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Emily has worked hard each year at her job in Gwinn Commons dining hall, from dish room to pizza station, to help cover expenses. She has also come into her own with intramural sports and is a returning varsity crew member set to row in a number of regattas this spring.

But arguably her most spiritually satisfying decision was to become a facilitator in the Wesleyan small group discipline SoulCare. In weekly one-hour meetings, she gathers with a handful of other students to encourage spiritual introspection.

“We can get so busy that we never sit down to analyze our personal lives in relationship to God,” says Emily. “It’s not just the Christian thing to do but a time to listen for God’s voice.”

“I definitely feel something’s missing when I don’t take that time. I’ve learned that faith is a social thing and not something that I can do by myself. We’re supposed to come alongside and support each other.”

All SPU students take part in a SoulCare group for one quarter of their freshman or sophomore year to fulfill a requirement of the five-credit UFDN 1000 course. At the end of the quarter, each member of the group expresses what they have discovered in answering the question “How goes it with your soul?”

“We SoulCare leaders work together to make presentations or create a work of art to illustrate how our small groups are progressing,” says Emily who is mentored and trained in small group leadership by a graduate student at Seattle Pacific Seminary. “I can empathize with those who find it a challenge to present what they’ve learned. I’m the type who has to write to process how my soul is doing.”

In her quiet and reassuring manner, Emily found the small group setting calmed her reticence for vocal leadership. “I wanted to create a safe place like that for others.”

Her academic diligence and developing appreciation for God’s leading in her life have brought the junior to the threshold of early graduation in December. She knows she did not arrive here alone, but with the financial backing and encouragement of donors. “It means I don’t have to work 40 hours a week to fund my education,” Emily says. “I know people who do and how difficult that makes getting a degree.”

The assistance she received means that she can now contemplate where to specialize as a dietician. She’s leaning towards geriatric nutrition care or nutrition therapy with cancer patients, and has a heart for providing nutrition education for low income mothers and children. It feels good to this once-shy mountain girl to have options. Thanks to the backing of SPU donors, her future is rich with possibilities.

SPU. In addition to generous financial support, he served on the Seattle Pacific Foundation Board of Directors for 23 years; the University’s Board of Trustees for 16 years; and on the School of Business, Government, and Economics Executive Advisory Council for 35 years. He gave hundreds of hours of his time. Three of his children, five of his grandchildren, a daughter-in-law, and a great granddaughter-in-law graduated from SPU.

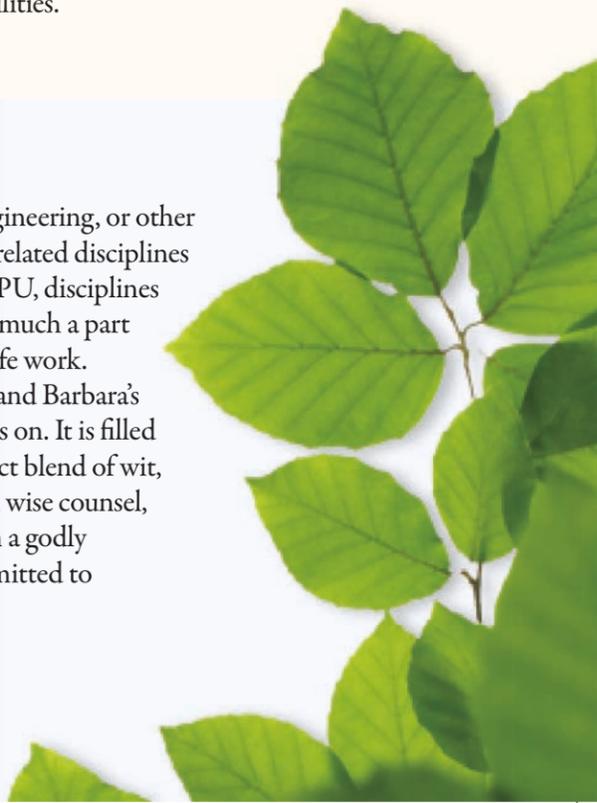
Their passing saddened all who had been touched by Chuck and Barbara’s warmth and wisdom. To honor the Anderson legacy, the SPF

Board in 2015 established the Charles L. and Barbara M. Anderson Memorial Endowment to honor their long-time colleague and friends.

The Anderson endowment grew quickly and was positioned to generate tens of thousands of dollars in student-need scholarships in the following decade. A fitting tribute indeed to a man so long devoted to providing students with financial aid and “endowing the future of Seattle Pacific University.” The Anderson scholarships give special attention to students of need who pursue degrees in business, finance, accounting, entrepreneurship,

electrical engineering, or other technology-related disciplines of study at SPU, disciplines that were so much a part of Chuck’s life work.

Chuck’s and Barbara’s memory lives on. It is filled with a distinct blend of wit, competence, wise counsel, and joy from a godly couple committed to their Lord.





## Support SPU Students With a Gift to Endowment

Gifts identified for endowment help current as well as future generations of SPU students. These funds are set aside for permanent investment in order to produce a dependable stream of annual financial aid. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about giving to the SPU endowment.

### Q. How much is needed to make an endowment gift?

**A.** Any amount can be given to an existing endowment. If you would like to create a new endowment that includes personal information and a specific purpose, the minimum amount is \$30,000. It is also possible to establish a new endowment for an initial gift of \$5,000 and a pledge to fund the balance within five years.

### Q. Once my endowment is fully funded, how much is available for distribution?

**A.** The University distributes 5% each year in scholarships based on the endowment's average value over a 10-year period. This helps to reduce fluctuations in year-to-year distributions due to changing financial market conditions.

### Q. Who manages the endowment?

**A.** The Seattle Pacific Foundation is charged with managing endowment investments. For many years, they have done an exceptional job at growing these funds and protecting them from volatility in the financial marketplace.

### Q. How can an endowment be funded?

**A.** Gifts of cash or publically traded securities can be used to fund an endowment. Since the IRA Charitable Rollover has been made a permanent part of the tax code, many are also making gifts from their IRA accounts to fund existing or new endowments. You can also plan a future gift to endowment through your will.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on giving to endowment, contact Marlon Sandlin, director of endowments and gift planning, at 206-281-2257 or msandlin@spu.edu.

## SPU Endowment Outperforms National Average

Total market value of the SPU endowment (as of 12-31-16)

**\$88,798,483**

**\$21.7 MILLION**

Amount distributed to SPU students from the endowment in past decade

## In a recent study\* of more than **830** major colleges and universities...

SPU ranked  
**12th**  
for 1-year  
investment return of  
**4.7%**

and

SPU ranked in  
**Top 10%**  
for 3-year  
investment return of  
**11.3%**  
5-year return of  
**8.7%**  
10-year return of  
**7.1%**

\*The 2016 Common Fund Study of Endowments was performed by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

