A Class Legacy

University of Maine Foundation

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When the class of 1958 arrived on campus in the fall of 1954, they might not have realized that 68 years later, some of their grandchildren would be carrying on their University of Maine legacy:

“When I graduate in May, it will have been 100 years since my great-grandfather was a UMaine freshman. My maternal grandparents...were both members of the Class of 1958. I am honored for the opportunity to continue their legacy. The Class of 1958 Scholarship has eased my financial burden and it has allowed me to devote more time to my studies.” -Class of 1958 Scholarship Recipient

Classes endowing scholarships is a long tradition at the University of Maine, with just over 110 endowed class scholarships going back to the Class of 1906. Some classes, like the Class of 1944, have more than one scholarship, each targeting support for students in specific areas of study such as music and theatre. Other class scholarships, like the Class of 1989 give preference to descendants of class members, allowing study at the University of Maine to become a proud family tradition.

Some classes have a second fund in addition to their class scholarship, such as the Class of 1952’s Buchanan Alumni House Fund, dedicated to the upkeep of the "place to call home" for more than 100,000 alumni and friends of the University of Maine. Bill and Harriett Johnson Currie consistently donated to this fund during their lifetime, and because Bill wanted his legacy of exemplary leadership and extensive service to the University of Maine to live in perpetuity, he decided to name the University of Maine Foundation as a beneficiary of an employer-sponsored life insurance policy to benefit this fund, as well as an estate gift.

And some have even renamed their class scholarship to honor a classmate who
gave an estate gift that benefited their class scholarship. The Class of 1960 Sandra J. Page Academic/Athletic Scholarship was renamed in 2017 in honor of their “beloved and generous classmate Sandra J. Page.” Until the end of her life, Sandie Page was an active member of the Class of 1960, playing an instrumental role in creating the Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund and being elected as class president for the celebration of their 50th reunion. When Sandie was asked at a Class of 1960 reunion what her fondest UMaine memory was she replied, “Sorry, I don’t have a fondest - I have so many wonderful memories.” Her planned gift now allows new students to make their own memories.

“Without the money you generously donated the past three years, I would not have had the time to become the involved leader on campus I am because I would have had to work a full-time job. It is also a special scholarship for me as my grandmother was a graduate of the Class of 1960. I like to think she would be very proud of me for what I’ve done at the University of Maine and who I’ve become. You have given me the opportunity to achieve my educational dreams and more and I hope one day I can do the same for others.” - Class of 1960 Scholarship Recipient

Class scholarships endowed at the University of Maine Foundation now total more than $6.3 million, with an additional $562,000 in endowed class funds supporting other needs at the University of Maine. We applaud these classes for their generosity.

As impressive as the big picture is, the real impact of these scholarships is seen and felt by the individual students whose lives are changed when receiving a scholarship allows them to pursue or continue their education at the University of Maine.

Though alumni can give to their class scholarship at any time and for any reason, reunion years provide the best incentive. Each year, a member of each reunion class belonging to the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society at the University of Maine Foundation reaches out to his or her classmates encouraging them to commemorate their reunion with a planned gift to benefit their class scholarship.

There are simple ways to contribute to your class scholarship through a planned gift or to establish your own named fund to benefit the University of Maine,
including:

- Leaving a bequest to the University of Maine Foundation in your will or trust;
- Naming the University of Maine Foundation as a beneficiary to a portion of a retirement account or life insurance policy; or
- Creating a life income through a gift annuity, charitable trust, or pooled fund with the remainder to benefit the University.

Regardless of what you decide to do, we can assist you in planning your legacy.

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