A Worthwhile Investment

A lifetime of savvy financial decisions has positioned Claude (E 1956) and Verna Gibble to share their hard-earned savings with the next generation of CMU students.

Claude and Verna Gibble are loyal Carnegie Mellon University donors, and their gifts provide scholarship support.
Throughout his entire 85 years, Claude Gibble has taken out only two loans.

In 1956, he borrowed $2,700 to purchase his first car — a blue and white Pontiac fresh from the factory — and, in 1964, a $26,000 loan allowed he and his wife, Verna, to purchase their first home — a three-bedroom ranch with a one-car garage, stone façade and basement air raid shelter.

“That was it,” Claude says proudly. “We never borrowed money again after that. Over the years, we operated very conservatively. We never bought anything unless we had the money to buy it with cash. To this day, we have never carried a balance on a credit card.”

Decades later, this same financial frugalness has positioned the couple to support the next generation of Carnegie Mellon University students. For many years, the Gibbles have been loyal donors, and they’ve decided to make a lasting impact at CMU by permanently endowing a scholarship fund.

They started with establishing a customized endowment fund to provide scholarship support to students. Next, working with the university’s Office of Gift Planning, they established a series of charitable gift annuities that pay them income during their retirement years. After engaging with the students who received their scholarship, they were able to see the direct impact of their gift.

“I feel that Carnegie Mellon supplied a good education for me ... so I’m quite willing to give back to CMU.”

This inspired them to plan their will and provide another gift to their scholarship fund in order to help even more CMU students in the future.
During his CMU years, Claude received scholarship support for multiple years, which made all the difference in earning his degree.

“I feel that Carnegie Mellon supplied a good education for me, and I was able to make use of that, so I'm quite willing to give back to CMU,” he reflects.

Claude graduated in 1956 from Carnegie Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. A friend from Carnegie Tech landed him an interview at IBM in Kingston, New York, and also introduced Claude to his girlfriend's pal, Verna. That trip to New York would be a life-changing one that altered his future path forever. He took the position at IBM, and his first steps toward a 60-year marriage to Verna.

He started his IBM career working on a military computer system that occupied a four-story building with windowless walls of three-foot thick concrete and was designed to withstand a near-atomic blast. Eventually, he became a computer programmer, and over the next three decades, he programmed in too many languages to count, he jokes. When presented with an early retirement option in 1989, the couple made the leap.

“They made me an offer I couldn't refuse,” Claude recalls. “Over the years, we traveled all over the U.S., and we've been to all 50 states and taken two incredible trips abroad.”

A CMU education allows students to explore experiences and secure skills across many areas, and this diversity in interests is important to Claude and Verna, who have enjoyed the sciences as well as the fine and performing arts throughout their marriage.

“Everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from a solid education.”

“Everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from a solid education. I encourage anyone who is considering giving to seriously think about it,” Claude says.

“Education is the best way to move our world forward.”
5 Simple Strategies to Maximize Your Giving

1. **Establish a gift** that pays you income, some of which might be tax-free.
2. **Give gifts of stock, marketable securities, real estate** or other appreciated assets to maximize the impact and tax benefits of your gift.
3. **Evaluate donor advised fund options** as you may be able to name CMU as the remainder beneficiary of your fund.
4. **Review your IRA and 401(k) accounts** to ensure your family, Carnegie Mellon University and your other favorite charities are appropriately noted as beneficiaries.
5. **Make a gift today** to make a difference in 2020 and beyond. If you are 70 1/2 or older, a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA may be the best way to support innovation and ingenuity at CMU, while also reducing your tax obligation.

For more information, contact us at **412-268-5634** or **askjoebull@andrew.cmu.edu**.
Support Today, Legacy for Tomorrow

**STEP 1:**
Get Started

Contact the Office of Gift Planning at askjoebull@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-5346 to explore options to establish a gift for scholarships, faculty research support or another area you're passionate about.

**STEP 2:**
Establish and Contribute to a Fund

For example, you might start with an annual $2,500 commitment to create an Andrew Carnegie Society scholarship — a gift that immediately changes the life of a CMU student — and later customize your giving to meet other specific priorities.

**STEP 3:**
Celebrate the Impact of Your Gift

Discover the difference you make to the CMU community as you engage with students and faculty members directly supported by your fund.

**STEP 4:**
Establish an Enduring Legacy

Extend and increase your impact by permanently endowing your fund through forward-thinking estate planning and other creative gift options.