Robert and Patricia Martin and Terrie-Lynne Devonish (BA ’92, LLB ’95) have ties to York University that run two decades deep. Though they joined the York community many years apart, both were struck by York’s irrepressible energy and have committed to the University’s future.

Robert Martin began his association with York in 1991 as part of the dean’s advisory board at what was then the Faculty of Administrative Studies and is now the Schulich School of Business. He is a founding member of York University Foundation’s Board and is an honorary member of York University’s Board.

“When I saw what happens at York, it made me want to give.”

– Robert Martin

York was in “building mode,” as Martin describes it, creating a physical infrastructure to match its vision and the demands of the community. Landmarks such as the Schulich Building and Vari Hall did not yet exist, nor did the Accolade Buildings for the fine arts, to which he and his wife Patricia gave so generously years later.

Captivated by the strong leadership and positive energy resulting from York’s projects, the Martins made a legacy...continued inside

“A bequest is an excellent way to ensure future funding in a cash-effective manner.” – Robert Martin
“People talk about giving near the end of their lives, but I believe that generosity is a starting point, not an ending.”  – Terrie-Lynne Devonish

The Martins’ philosophy is similarly straightforward. They believe if you have the means – whether it be money, time or talent – you have both the right and the obligation to give back. Martin urges people to get involved with an organization they stand behind, as a donor or as a volunteer. “When I saw what happens at York, it made me want to give.” The Martins remain actively involved in their community, devoting time and resources to causes such as the United Way, the Garden Club of Toronto and the Stephen Leacock Foundation for Children – even while balancing time with their 10 active grandchildren.

Devonish encourages others to take a moment to think about how they can help, no matter their age or wealth. “It’s never too early or too late to think about how you can help. Even if you’re just starting out and have little to give, it’s important to keep a philanthropic mindset. People talk about giving near the end of their lives, but I believe that generosity is a starting point, not an ending.”

gift in the form of life insurance in 2002, in addition to their existing cash gifts.

“Planned giving isn’t top of mind for most people,” acknowledges Martin. “There’s often a fixation on making large cash donations. But for those who aren’t prepared to make such a gift, a bequest is an excellent way to ensure future funding in a cash-effective manner.”

Although from a different generation, York had the same impact on Devonish who currently serves as chief counsel at international consultancy firm Aon Canada Inc. and is a 2007 Top 40 Under 40 award winner. Devonish has seen York through many different lenses: first as a student at York’s Glendon campus and Osgoode Hall Law School, and later as an alumna and member of the University’s Board of Governors.

It was a visit to Glendon College as a prospective student that kicked off her relationship with York. Recommended by a high school guidance counsellor, Devonish was instantly taken with the serenity of the campus, the small class sizes and the college’s commitment to providing a bilingual education.

“The diversity of people and ideas that I was exposed to as a student is something I’ve carried with me,” says Devonish. “York has helped to shape me and my career.” It was important to Devonish to leave a legacy at an organization to which she was close, in an area where her generosity would be of great benefit.
One of the driving forces behind Canada’s adoption of official bilingualism, the late Jean Burnet, has left a different kind of mark on future generations.

Before she passed away, the professor emerita and founding Chair of Glendon College’s sociology department willed the residue of her estate to Glendon College.

Now, Burnet’s legacy will live in perpetuity through the creation of an endowment fund valued at approximately $750,000 to support priorities and important developments at Glendon. The college will receive further funds in the future from a $25,000 trust.

“Glendon is honoured to be the recipient of this generous gift,” says Marie-Thérèse Chaput, director, Office of Advancement, Alumni & External Relations at Glendon College. “Jean believed in Glendon’s important and unique work, and through her bequest the college will continue to flourish.”

Burnet, named one of Canada’s 10 pioneering female sociologists, was an expert in ethnic studies and multiculturalism. In 1989, she was named a member of the Order of Canada, largely for her work on the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in the 1960s.

“Jean played a significant role in Glendon’s past. Her bequest has ensured that she’ll have a great impact on Glendon’s future,” says Kenneth McRoberts, principal, Glendon College. “Jean’s perpetual gift will support several ongoing priorities, including expanding our facilities to accommodate the increasing number of students.”

Burnet passed away at age 90 on September 14, 2009. A major space in York Hall on Glendon campus will be named in her memory.

PIONEERING SCHULICH PROFESSOR LEAVES RICH LEGACY

Gordon Charlton Shaw joined York University more than four decades ago as a founding faculty member of the Faculty of Administrative Studies, later renamed the Schulich School of Business. Shaw set up the management science area of the Faculty and developed core courses and many electives.

Before his death on May 7, 2010, Shaw had designated York University as the surviving beneficiary of his life income fund, valued at $800,000. It was his wish that the fund benefit the Schulich School of Business and the Gordon Charlton Shaw Professorship in Management Science, which he endowed in 2003. The professorship has been held since its creation by Wade Cook. Cook is Schulich’s associate dean, research, and holds the honorific title of University Professor.

“Gordon Shaw’s generosity continues to help ensure a bright future for Schulich,” says Deszö J. Horváth, dean, Schulich School of Business. “Endowed professorships allow us to attract and retain world-class faculty who both contribute to our research excellence and, through their teaching, provide our students with an outstanding education.”

Shaw also endowed three awards for BBA/iBBA students, including the Gordon Charlton Shaw Bursary, the Gordon Charlton Shaw Achievement Award for a fourth-year student and the Gordon Charlton Shaw Graduating Achievement Award.
Though many wealthy Canadians have financial flexibility to make a substantial gift(s) during their lifetime, most Canadians are unable to make large gifts today to charities they care about. Gifting through your will, such as a bequest, is an effective way to make a meaningful contribution to a charity or cause you believe in as it often allows a greater gift to be made than could be achieved otherwise. Bequests offer several advantages that make them an attractive option for donors, including:

- **Choice.** After making arrangements to support your loved ones, you can leave a specific dollar amount, a percentage or all of the residue of your estate to one or more charities.

- **Flexibility.** Leaving a bequest in your will includes the flexibility of later changing either the beneficiary or the amount of your gift as your financial situation changes.

- **Tax-effectiveness.** Once your bequest is realized, your estate will receive a tax credit for the value of your gift, offsetting taxes payable at the time of death, which can be significant.

Planned gifts are a powerful investment as you don’t need vast wealth to make a big difference, and government and university-sponsored matching programs may double, triple or quadruple the impact of your gift.

**Seek Advice**

Before you add a bequest to your will, you may want to consult your chosen charity’s planned giving officer, who can assist with common issues that arise in the process, such as:

- **Correct Name of Charity.** Ensure the proper legal name of the charity is used and that it is clear which charity is receiving the amount to avoid conflicts later between similarly named charities.

- **Charitable Status.** Confirm that the charity is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. This way your estate will receive a tax credit for the value of your charitable gift.

- **Acceptability of Bequest or Restrictions.** Determine if the proposed conditions or restrictions in your bequest are within the charity’s objectives, if they are appropriate, and if the charity would accept the gift in the future.

**Lawyers can also help you with:**

- **Clarity.** Ensure the will is clearly drafted to avoid subsequent confusion or conflict.

- **Avoiding the “Disappearing Will”.** Lawyers can keep your will in a “wills safe,” or retain a copy on file. This reduces the likelihood that the will may “disappear” when other beneficiaries would receive a greater benefit if there was no will and one dies intestate.

- **Estate Planning.** Lawyers can assist with will writing, powers of attorney, trusts and other matters. A legacy gift should be properly integrated with your estate plan, which lawyers can develop in consultation with other professionals such as accountants and financial planners.

Bequests don’t just happen. You need a valid will that provides such gifts. If you don’t have a charitable bequest(s) in your will, you may wish to consider adding one. Updating your will to include a bequest may be your most important philanthropic act and your greatest opportunity to leave a meaningful legacy.
York University’s largest fundraising campaign, *York to the Power of 50*, celebrated a successful conclusion on April 30 with $207 million raised after four years – exceeding its goal of $200 million.

The campaign’s success was celebrated at a wrap event on June 3rd at Glendon Manor with students, donors and other campaign supporters in attendance.

More than 30,000 donors supported the campaign with more than 2,400 York faculty, staff and retirees contributing generously as part of the *York to the Power of 50* Family Campaign. The excitement of the campaign also helped drive a 100 per cent increase, over the past three years, among those choosing to make a legacy gift. With an estimated $10 million now on the books in future gifts, legacy giving is an increasingly important part of York’s long-term health and ability to serve its future needs.

“I would like to thank all of our generous donors who supported the *York to the Power of 50* Campaign,” says York University President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri. “This highly successful fundraising effort will continue to support our presence as a leading Canadian university for interdisciplinary research and teaching.”

**CAMPAIGN GIFT DESIGNATION**

- Infrastructure: Create 35%
- Pioneering Programs: Innovate 29%
- Student Access and Achievement: Transform 25%
- Academic Talent: Empower 11%

**Campaign Co-Chairs Bill Hatanaka (BA Hons. ’77) and Tim Price (Hon. LLD ’09)**

**Ron Westray, Oscar Peterson Chair in Jazz Performance**

**President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri with students**
The York Circle is a new membership organization through which alumni, parents of York students, neighbours and friends of the University can participate in York’s vibrant academic and research life. The York Circle hosts several events including a Lecture and Lunch Series and the Prestigious Performances Series.

Up to 700 people have joined since the York Circle’s launch in October 2009. There is no cost for membership.

“The York Circle comes from the goal of making our really marvelous faculty members better known through their ideas and work, and helps the community to better understand the University,” says Lorna Marsden, York University president emerita and co-coordinator of the York Circle. More information may be found at http://www.yorku.ca/yorkcirc/index.html.

YORK WELCOMES NEW DEANS

Two new outstanding academic leaders joined York University on July 1, 2010 for five-year appointments as faculty deans. Lorne Sossin was named dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. Sossin most recently served as an associate dean at the University of Toronto’s law school and replaces Patrick Monahan, who was named vice-president academic & provost in 2009. Janusz Koziński was named dean of the Faculty of Science & Engineering. Koziński comes to York from the University of Saskatchewan, where he served as dean of the College of Engineering from 2007 until his appointment at York. He succeeds Nick Cercone.

“On behalf of York University, I’d like to welcome our new deans and thank interim deans Jinyan Li from Osgoode Hall and Walter Tholen from Science & Engineering for their leadership during our recruitment process,” says York’s President & Vice-Chancellor, Mamdouh Shoukri.

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