



Staff of the Office of University Relations on July 1, 2019

AND FOR OUR ENCORE, WE PRESENT ...

On the last official working day of Sewanee's fiscal year (June 28), the Sewanee Fund staff was working like public radio producers on pledge week, hashing out final appeals, answering phones, making calls, and sending texts. Elsewhere in the building, gift officers called potential donors, and gifts were processed—tagged with designation codes to ensure contributions follow donor intent.

On Monday, July 1, fundraising took a temporary pause, and the University Relations team gathered for a celebratory lunch hosted by Vice-Chancellor John McCardell and his wife, Bonnie. There was much to celebrate.

The *Stronger Truer Sewanee* campaign, publicly launched three years before, had topped \$265 million on a \$250 million goal.

McCardell celebrated not only the hard work of the advancement staff, but also the thousands of campaign contributions from alumni, parents, current students, foundations, churches, dioceses, and other friends—all of whom subscribed to the notion that Sewanee

can be stronger than it has been and truer to its mission of preparing men and women for productive lives of leadership and service.

"The *Stronger Truer Sewanee* campaign has been remarkably successful not only in meeting an overall goal but in funding major priorities," McCardell said. Sewanee raised 99% of the \$59.5 million goal for scholarships and internships, about 98% of the \$50 million hoped for new academic programs and faculty support, and \$30+ million for new and enhanced facilities such as the Sewanee Inn, a commons project, and enhancement to athletic facilities. Fundraising for the School of Theology also surpassed established goals.

While the original fundraising goals have been met, *Stronger Truer Sewanee* will enjoy a bit of an encore. The Board of Regents passed a resolution that new gifts made until June 30, 2020 (with payment of pledges by June 30, 2022) will be added to the campaign total and celebrated next year.

Campaigns have a shelf life, but the urgency of maintaining excitement for

funding identified priorities remains high. We are still working hard on Sewanee's behalf because new financial aid resources are existentially important, innovative refinements of the liberal arts excite today's students, and our facilities must respond to students' needs and point them toward their future. Each year a new class of Sewanee students arrives on campus. They are ever fresh-faced, ever facing challenges that many of us cannot comprehend. Their ability to afford a Sewanee education diminishes even as the promise of what one recent donor calls "a more interesting life and hope for a brighter future" beckons them to the Mountain.

We continue to seek your interest in (and contributions to) a stronger, truer Sewanee—a Sewanee fit for the challenges that the coming years will bring.

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Stronger Truer Sewanee surpasses \$265 million—\$15 million in excess of goal. New advancement goals focus on financial aid, 21st century programs, and the facilities to house them.

STRONGER TRUER SEWANEE: \$265 MILLION ON JUNE 30, 2019

\$250M

AND BEYOND

As of June 30, 2019, *Stronger Truer Sewanee* had raised over \$265 million, well above the monetary goal originally set for the campaign. Now we are tooling up for an encore: expanding the financial aid endowment, building endowment to support new programs created by the campaign, and completing fundraising for new

facilities to enrich the Sewanee experience. Your gift to make Sewanee a stronger and truer version of itself can still have an impact on the future of Sewanee. Join us.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE

Together, we have worked hard to increase access and opportunity, build academic programs that respond to the challenges of the 21st century, build a student-centered campus, and enhance education for tomorrow's church leaders. In addition to working toward those important ends, we have raised over \$89 million for current operations and needs that are not yet designated.



Ensuring Access, Value, and Opportunity

With over \$58 million raised, we hope to expand the financial aid endowment to increase access and hold the line on costs to new Sewanee families. We will also support the Sewanee Pledge, ensuring that students have the financial aid needed for a study away experience and a guaranteed paid internship. **This work is urgent in times of unparalleled challenges to the liberal arts college sector.**



Reinforcing Academic Distinction

With over \$49 million raised, we have created a new learning commons in Jessie Ball duPont Library, bolstered pre-business and pre-health programs and built the Office of Civic Engagement. **Sustaining these new assets will require substantial new endowment (\$12 million in all) or the equivalent in annual gifts.**



Enriching the Sewanee Experience

With over \$29 million raised, we have upgraded athletic facilities, built the striking and welcoming Sewanee Inn, and taken the first steps toward building a learner-centered campus with renewed student life facilities. In the coming year, we will look to fulfill the promise we have made to students by **completing funding for a distributed commons that puts student needs first.**



Educating Tomorrow's Church Leaders

With over \$26 million raised, we have made great progress on funding a new facility for the School of Theology, and we've created innovative new programs and increased our resources for financial aid. In the coming months, **we will continue to seek funds for an enhanced home for the seminary and build financial aid resources to ensure that seminarians graduate with as little debt as possible.**



From left, Marguerite Gray Morris, Mason Morris, Caroline Gray, Sam Gray, Margie Harbert Gray, Sam Gray, Jr.

A NEW GIFT HELPS BUILD NEW SEWanee EXPERIENCES

A new gift from Margie Harbert Gray, C'83, of Birmingham, Alabama, is moving the renovation of Thompson Union closer to launch. The project is part of the distributed commons approach the University has adopted to build new spaces that meet the needs of today's students. As a loyal alumna of Sewanee, Gray is happy to give back to ensure the project's success, knowing that its completion will make Sewanee a stronger place.

"I like to give quietly, but education is really important to me," Gray says. "One reason I wanted to support Sewanee was to be involved with an educational institution that can give people a more interesting life and hope for a brighter future. While my gift is going to support a capital project, I know that by making Sewanee stronger the institution will be prepared to educate today's Sewanee students, and it will enhance the student experience by creating a center for the variety of student activities and demands now found on college campuses."

Gray is an avid hiker and Sewanee's setting was definitely a part of her reason for attending the University of

the South. "Since I am from Birmingham, I might have been expected to go to Alabama or Auburn, but I wanted something different. I liked the outdoorsy feel to the campus," she says. Gray also had a family connection with Sewanee, with her mother's brother-in-law, Lee McGriff, C'41, and a host of other relatives attending the College. That her gift would go toward a student center is a good parallel with the McGriff gift to the alumni house, and it also has resonance with her own life. "As a parent, it has been really important to me that my children were focused on their education. I tried to instill in them that love of learning and engagement with education."

Gray's other philanthropic interest has been in helping people who are dealing with disabilities, either as individuals or as caregivers. "I have a brother with Williams Syndrome, which affects his health and gives him some intellectual challenges. He has been a blessing to our lives, but as his caretaker and guardian, I know that it can be a full-time and stressful job to be in such a situation. Part of my philanthropy has been to help organizations that help others in similar situations."

A VIBRANT COMMONS RESPONDS TO STUDENTS' NEEDS AND POINTS THEM TOWARD THEIR FUTURE

One priority established near the beginning of the campaign was to create a magnificent new commons, the kind of all-in-one edifice that was common on college campuses a decade ago. As we looked more carefully, we decided that "gargantuan" was not quite as good as "distributed" and "responsive." The new plan is both responsive and more achievable, with phase one of a Learning Commons complete, a Wellness Commons now under construction, and two new assets in the planning stages: a new home for integrated advising and the Babson Center and a student center conveniently located on University Avenue in a renovation of Thompson Union. In addition, Sewanee will be building new homes for academic departments and programs displaced by the commons effort—with plans to make the new homes better than the old ones.

Why do we need these capital projects? In short, they are designed to respond to how today's students encounter the world. Like the Learning Commons, which focuses on interconnectivity, skills development, and group learning, the Wellness Commons focuses on the dynamic interactions between physical, mental, and spiritual health. The new home for the Career Center and Babson Center in Carnegie Hall will highlight the increasingly important role of integrative advising and career orientation to connect life goals both to their academic progress and how students prepare themselves for life after college.

With the cost of education exploding in the 21st century, its value must be made explicit, the case made to parents, students, and the public at large. Integrated advising and career development can be the connective tissue that ties academics, co-curricular experiences, hopes, and dreams together. And it starts with an appropriate home in the center of campus.

For information about naming opportunities in Carnegie Hall or the other projects in the distributed commons project, contact strongertruergifts@sewanee.edu

"An educational institution like Sewanee can give people a more interesting life and hope for a brighter future."



A FRIENDLY RIVALRY BENEFITS THE SEWANEE EXPERIENCE

In June, the Class of 1969 celebrated a brilliant fundraising campaign to complete not one but two class projects: funding and naming a space in the new Wellness Commons and establishing a named endowed scholarship. Together the class donated over \$700,000 to the two projects, a combination of current giving and estate commitments. While the two goals have been met, new commitments can raise the totals even higher.

In part, the success of this 50th reunion class project can be attributed

to a friendly rivalry between two classmates, Henry Vruwink, of Asheboro, North Carolina, and Harvey Johnston, of Bowling Green, Kentucky. After the class had raised the funds required for the capital project, Johnston committed to a challenge gift of half the minimum needed for an endowed scholarship. Vruwink did not wait for classmates, but matched the Johnston Challenge almost immediately.

Vruwink was unable to attend the reunion, where the class gift totals were announced, but he wrote in an email,

tantalizingly, “I would love to meet with you personally as there is a story to my compelling desire to match Harvey’s challenge to donate that amount of challenging money to our Class of ’69. I love Sewanee as it positioned me to be where I am today.”

What was that compelling reason, people wanted to know. It turned out to be a long-remembered tennis intramural challenge. “For two years, I met Henry twice in the championship of the intramural tennis tournament, and I came out on the short end both times,” Vruwink remembers. “Now with this gift, I don’t want to beat him, necessarily, but I at least want to tie him.”

While Johnston made a generous gift to the Wellness Commons, building a scholarship endowment was always a priority. “When our committee got together to vote on the reunion project, I think the vote was 12-10 in favor of a brick and mortar project over a scholarship. I went along with the vote, but then, when we met our goal for naming the store in the Commons, I decided to issue a 1:1 challenge to my classmates for the scholarship, hoping to raise enough for the \$150,000 minimum for naming privileges. I wasn’t sure we could do two projects, but then, right away, Henry matched my challenge.”

Johnston’s contributions don’t stop with the financial ones. He often hosts a Sewanee student as an intern, and he always has a high school co-op student or two, and some of them end up as Sewanee students. But Johnston has a long history of philanthropy that started when he was first married not long after graduating. The way he tells it, a representative from the church stewardship campaign stopped by his house to ask for a pledge, and Johnston made a \$10 commitment. “When he left, my wife asked me what it was about, and when I told her how much I pledged, she was furious. She and my father-in-law proceeded to instill in me the idea that ‘to whom much is given, much is expected.’ I have been fortunate to have success in my career, and I know much is expected of me.”

In addition to being a faithful contributor to Sewanee, Johnston has served in leadership positions with the Kentucky Bar Foundation, which has a strong program of helping others, from marginalized youth to refugees. “At



Top: Harvey Johnston’s gifts to both the Class of 1969 Scholarship and the Wellness Commons helped put both projects on a trajectory for success. Above: Class members attending Reunion 2019 gathered in front of the construction site.



Henry Vruwink, C'69, seized the chance to meet the giving challenge put forward by his classmate, Harvey Johnston, and contributed to the Class of 1969 Scholarship.

Sewanee, I was taught to think and write and taught to care about others,” he says. “Those lessons have stayed with me.”

For Vruwink, a dentist who still maintains an active private practice, giving to Sewanee honors the important role a Sewanee education has in his life. “I am really grateful to Sewanee for the education it gave me—not just the academic education that allowed me to go to the dental school of my choice, but also the manners, the gentlemanly arts, how to get along with people and promote teamwork.”

Vruwink’s professional school of choice was at the University of Tennessee, which he preferred because the school was so clinically strong, and as a student, his Sewanee education did not go unnoticed. “When I got there, because I had gone to Sewanee, which was known for its Honor Code, they asked me to become head of the honor system there.”

This class’s gift comes as a result of a compelling story—how a group of men decided on the projects they wanted to support, how their gifts not only met but exceeded expectations, and how a friendly rivalry and bonds of friendship propelled the effort. Teamwork and honor—and its fruits—are the hallmark of this reunion gift.

NEW AND UPCYCLED FACILITIES FOR A 21ST CENTURY CAMPUS

The Class of 1969 raised money for naming rights in the Wellness Commons, the most visible new construction project on campus. But that project, scheduled to be completed along with a new University Bookstore by the end of 2019, is only part of a larger project to create a “distributed commons,” with linked facilities for advising, career preparation, wellness, the outing program, and responsive student services. Over the next two years, several projects will be launched or completed, and naming opportunities are available for all of them. While each project will have naming opportunities based on the size of the facility being named and that facility’s prominence in the project, in general, naming rights are given to individuals who make gifts at the following levels:

- Offices and study spaces: \$50,000 and above
- Seminar rooms and similar spaces: \$125,000 and above
- Classrooms and laboratories: \$250,000 to \$350,000 and above (depending on equipment needed)
- Large public spaces: \$350,000 and above

WHAT’S PLANNED?

Wiggins Hall will be the new home of the photography program. At Wiggins, students and professors will be located physically closer to their colleagues in studio art in next-door Nabit Art Building. Construction start date is in early fall with completion by January 2020.

Renovation of the historic **Lines House** will house some of Sewanee’s most distinctive assets—its creative writing programs. Construction start date is also in early fall with completion by January 2020.

With the completion of Wiggins and Lines, construction can begin on a **renovation of Carnegie Hall** to house politics, economics, business, philosophy, the Career Center, and the Babson Center for Global Commerce.

The Thompson Union renovation and expansion project will commence with architectural programming this summer with an anticipated construction start date of December 2020. Please see page 10 for more on these projects.



A new historical marker proclaims this house to be “Saints’ Rest,” one of the oldest structures on campus. Soon it will be the home of the Sewanee Review, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and Young Writers’ Conference and the Sewanee School of Letters, bringing much of Sewanee’s literary action under one roof.

HELPING SEWANEE KEEP ITS PLEDGE



Jay Williams, C'94, with his wife, Katherine, and son, Oliver

Sewanee has recently deepened its commitment to students through the Sewanee Pledge.

- We pledge—to help Sewanee graduates secure good jobs and spots at top graduate programs by providing funding for a summer internship or research fellowship.
- We pledge—to help Sewanee graduates find their place in an increasingly interconnected world by providing access to a semester-long study-abroad program at no additional tuition cost.
- We pledge—students will graduate in four consecutive years (with one major).

To keep that pledge will require new resources for scholarships and internships. Alumni like Jay Williams, C'94, Lee and Bess Allen (both C'05), Cissy Zhang, C'11, and John Scovil, C'77, are helping Sewanee meet its pledge, through gifts to Cornerstone internships, support of internship programs, and establishment of internship endowment.

REPRESENTING (AND ADVOCATING FOR) SEWANEE STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

In a phone interview to discuss his philanthropy, Jay Williams, C'94, of Nashville, is not quite ready to talk about himself. Instead, he is excited about a band with a Sewanee pedigree called Boy Named Banjo, which, according to Williams, will soon sign a contract with Universal. “Universal is a huge label in Nashville. I think there is a lane for Boy Named Banjo, with their acoustic bluegrass roots that mixes in well with country.” In his role with WME, Williams is part of a management team for the band, serving as a booking agent. “They’ve done a really good job of DIY booking,” he says, “and we are looking forward to great things from the band over the next couple of years.”

While the professional relationship between Williams and Boy Named Banjo is relatively new (the band signed with WME in 2017), the Sewanee connection is longstanding. “I first became aware of them when I heard one of their songs on a video produced by Stephen Alvarez that was put out by the University. I thought they were terrific, but I had never heard them before. I wrote Susan Askew to see who they were, and she told me they were incoming freshmen. Later, I heard them in concert at the American Legion building in Sewanee. I took my dad, and we both recognized them as the real deal.”

When William Reames, C'16, a mainstay of the band, was looking for a summer internship, Williams was glad to help, arranging for an internship with the music publisher Arturo Buenahora, now of Little Louder Music, who Williams describes as a friend of 20 years.

That internship fit well with how Williams was beginning to see both his philanthropy and his role as a friend of Sewanee and Sewanee students. Williams thinks more Sewanee students could get work in the music industry. “What you are exposed to at Sewanee you can use in this industry. Sewanee graduates are well suited to solving problems and dealing with a variety of people with a variety of temperaments.”

Describing himself as “tired of seeing Belmont kids gobbling up all the internships,” Williams began thinking strategically about these career-shaping

experiences. For the past six years, he and his wife, Katherine, have made gifts to support internships (along with a Sewanee Fund gift), and they now have made a pledge to fund three Cornerstone Internships annually through 2022.

Internships are a key part of a new Sewanee Pledge (a guaranteed internship, portability of financial aid for study abroad, and four-year graduation with one major), and the Williamses' support will help Sewanee cover the cost of this fundamental promise to students. "The Sewanee Pledge is fantastic," says Williams. "Nothing like that existed in the 1990s, and graduates of my era struggled to find our footing in life after college. Having the opportunity to work an internship, to get a sense of an industry is really valuable. In college, I did a lot of booking of bands in my role with my fraternity and the student activities board. I wanted to work in music, but didn't know how to do it. I had no sense of business."

Williams famously took a job with WME in the mailroom. While the WME mailroom is part of the corporate strategy for agent training, now, thanks to Williams' energy, the agency has a dedicated internship for Sewanee students, some of whom follow Williams' footsteps in the mailroom. Among these, Williams is proud to say, is the agency's most recently hired agent, Spencer Foote, C'13.

CREATING A CORNERSTONE INTERNSHIP

Bess Caughran Allen and Lee Allen (both C'05), from Charleston, South Carolina, are well into a multi-year commitment to fund a Cornerstone Internship, a \$3,000 annual commitment each year that supports a student's summer internship. Those internships are a critical piece of a Sewanee education, especially in the 21st century, as the practical, applied experience a student gains both positions and orients them for postgraduate success.

"We knew we wanted to make a gift to Sewanee because we wanted to give back. But as we learned more about the needs of the school and of students, we began to focus in on financial aid and internship support," says Bess. Ultimately, the couple decided on a Cornerstone Internship because they could identify with the plight of a student who



Lee and Bess Caughran Allen, both C'05, are funding a Cornerstone Internship through 2022. "Our intern sent us a letter, with his photo, and my daughter saw it and said, 'Who is that?'" Bess reported. "It caught her attention, and that's part of our goal, too, giving an example to our children about how to give back, to be a positive force in the world."

knows he or she needs a career stepping stone but also has to earn money in the summer. "I was in the exact position of students getting an unpaid internship to help with career preparation and I know how it feels to have to do waitressing or babysitting on the side to make it work financially," says Bess.

Lee did not have an internship during the summer, but his work during each summer also propelled his career. "I was selling books door to door as a summer job, and that really laid the foundation for a desire to succeed in business."

Lee gives a lot of credit to his advisor, Virginia Craighill, for his success at Sewanee. "She was more than patient with me and made sure that I succeeded. My relationship with her let me know that I could be myself without judgment." Craighill also recognized his skills. "At one point the *Sewanee Purple* ran out of money, and I asked who was selling advertising. It turned out no one was, so I thought, well, that's something I can do. I went to the Smokehouse in Monteagle and three or four other places and came

back with \$400 or \$500. It was the easiest sales I ever did."

Lee used some of his hard earned funds selling books to travel broadly around the world: "Southeast Asia, Alaska, Europe, Hawaii—all over. That inspired me to want to live in a developing country, not as a tourist, but as a citizen." After serving in the Peace Corps in Cameroon for two years, he returned to the states for a career in commercial real estate. His business success is tied directly to his philanthropic generosity. "I realized that everything I became involved with in the Peace Corps, all the challenges that people were facing, needed money to solve them, and I thought, well, I can make money."

For her part, following Sewanee, Bess moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Congressional Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, before joining the staff of Senator Kay Hagan. "It was an incredible experience," says Bess. "I was there for about six years and had the opportunity to learn so much, travel the world,



As a first-year student, Cissy Zhang, C'11, knew her options for a paid summer internship were limited. She applied for a Tonya public affairs internship, and used her network to secure an opportunity in her native Chong Qing. The experience put her on the road to success, and she has given back to the Tonya program ever since.

meet interesting and passionate people, and felt like the work we were doing was making a difference.” Bess credits Sewanee professors McKeen, Wilson, and others with instilling in her a love of political theory, policy, and governance. Studying abroad in Spain with Professor Spaccarelli solidified her interest in international relations, paving the way for her work with the Committee. In 2016, she earned a J.D. from the University of South Carolina.

The Allens are deeply involved with other philanthropic causes, particularly the Carolina Youth Development Center, where Bess serves on the board and Lee was instrumental in raising funds for a new transitional center for youth who are aging out of care.

A Cornerstone gift gives donors the opportunity to get to know the student beneficiary, and while the Allens, with three children under four years old, have not been able to attend a Fairbanks luncheon, they have received correspondence from the Allen Intern. “Our intern sent us a letter, with his photo, and my daughter saw it and said, ‘who is that?’” Bess reported. “It caught her attention, and that’s part of our goal, too, giving an

example to our children about how to give back, to be a positive force in the world.”

GIVING BACK TO TONYA

Every year since the year after her graduation, Cissy Zhang, C’11, has made a gift to the Tonya Recipients Internship Endowment. The rising level of that gift reflects Cissy’s growing success as an investment banking analyst, working for UBS and then Dowling Hales in New York, and now Raymond James in Chicago as an investment banking associate in the Financial Institutions Group. She looks at the business fundamentals exhibited by her clients who are insurance companies, banks, asset managers and specialty finance firms. Along the way, the Phi Beta Kappa graduate and Carey Fellow has worked in mergers and acquisitions and raising debt and equity. She has also gained valuable skills in financial modeling.

Cissy is grateful for the Tonya internship she received early in her Sewanee career. She applied for a Tonya as a freshman, realizing that that early in her education she would have fewer internship opportunities than a more experienced student. The Tonya allowed her to get good experience early in her college career when she worked for the Chamber of Commerce in her native Chong Qing in China to market a local high tech development zone to potential foreign investors.

Life in Chicago is great, according to Cissy, who has just moved to the Second City from New York for a job with Raymond James. It is affordable and

reasonable and she has greater purchasing power. “I’m very grateful for the Sewanee network,” she says. “At various moments in my career, I have been able to reach out to fellow alumni to learn more about opportunities or just learn more about the work I am doing.”

ESTABLISHING AN INTERNSHIP ENDOWMENT

When John Scovil, C’77 agreed to an interview about his Sewanee-related philanthropy, he had conditions. “1. If we talk about my business, you have to make me look as successful as Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, or Mark Zuckerberg, and 2. If there are any photos of me for this article, I have to look as handsome as Brad Pitt, George Clooney or Tom Cruise—unfortunately that may require a great deal of Photoshop work.” But when the conversation started, the first thing on his mind was his professor and advisor Willie Cocke, C’51. “I wish I could have had more professors like him,” says Scovil. “Everyone looked up to him. He was an outstanding person and the Sewanee ideal wrapped up in one package. We called him Uncle Willie, and whenever I had a problem, I just went to Uncle Willie to talk it through. I hope every student has the opportunity to experience the special relationship I had with a professor like Dr. Cocke.”

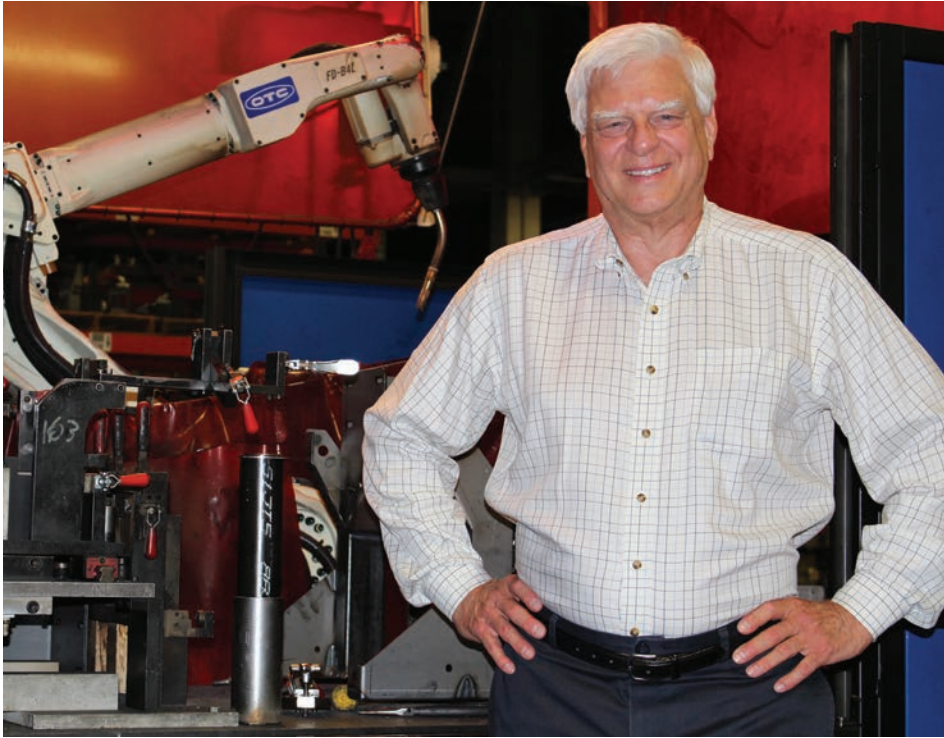
A few years ago, Scovil made a gift to establish a faculty support fund that honored Dr. Cocke. More recently, he established an endowed internship that is one tool that will enable the institution to meet the Sewanee Pledge: a guarantee

NEW FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES ARE EXISTENTIALLY IMPORTANT

Last year 60% of operating revenue at Sewanee came from tuition. Ten years ago the number was 46%. In the face of the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the University, Sewanee today is more tuition dependent, and by a significant factor, than it was when the campaign began.

Our deeply held ambition is that we can provide a quality Sewanee education to all students who successfully complete the admission process, providing it at a cost they and their families can afford. Sewanee has taken strategic steps toward that end through a tuition cut and subsequent freeze, which cut the cost for some students, but to make that goal for even a fraction of the student body, in the face of nationally exploding costs of higher education, **will require an outpouring of open-hearted support.** Today’s students need more than ever the help of the generous lovers of humanity who can help provide financial aid, and through the campaign, we have opened channels like Cornerstone Scholarships and internships (which match donors and students) to make that possible.

To establish a Cornerstone Scholarship or internship, contact strongertruergifts@sewanee.edu.



Believing the liberal arts could prepare him to succeed in many arenas, John Scovil, C'77, parlayed his Sewanee English major into business success that has given him resources to establish a new endowed internship and make gifts in honor his mentor, Willie Cocke, C'51.

that students will enjoy a paid internship, be able to use their financial aid package for study abroad, and graduate in four years.

Reflecting on the impact of an internship, Scovil said "We didn't have the internship opportunities that today's students have. I actually had a summer job with the company that first employed me, but it was in no way a management position. You learn so much just being in a business setting, no matter what you are doing." Despite the dearth of internship experiences for Sewanee students in the 1970s, Scovil is convinced that a Sewanee education was critical to his success in business. "Looking back, going to Sewanee prepared me to pivot into whatever it was I wanted to do," he says. "I could have gone into law or banking or business. The big, broad education I received, and the mentorship from people like Willie Cocke, gave me confidence I could do it." And about that business—Scovil's first job after Sewanee was with American Equipment Company, which provided everything to construction sites from screwdrivers to cranes. In 1986 he launched his own business, General Equipment and Supply. He would purchase equipment from job sites where the work had been

completed and sell it to clients who were starting new projects.

"John would go to a construction site in someplace like Albuquerque, purchase the used equipment and materials, fix it up, and then sell it to another contractor in someplace like Brazil," says Rhea Bowden, C'76, a Sewanee friend and a roommate after college.

In 1983, Scovil launched a second business, Contractors Choice, with a partner in Cincinnati. In 1999 he sold his stake in those companies and started three new ones: Current Tools, which manufactures equipment and sells to electrical contractors; Jackson Tool, also a manufacturer that sells to mechanical contractors; and U.S. Tool, which buys and sells used construction equipment and supplies.

Giving to Sewanee is a core value for Scovil, and he explains his motivation simply. "You know, I've raised money for different causes, and a person can have a million reasons not to give. For me, I give because I need to. I wouldn't be where I am today if it had not been for Sewanee. I feel that I received the gift of a great education from Sewanee and I am fortunate to be able to give back to the university that has given so much to me."

SCHOLARSHIP OR INTERNSHIP?

The Cornerstone Program offers opportunities for donors to support Sewanee and make a direct connection with a student recipient. The University's financial aid budget is over \$32 million annually, and these gifts are critical to the success of the Sewanee enterprise and to the University's ability to continue to provide generous the financial aid that makes a Sewanee education possible. **A Cornerstone Scholarship is a great way to help Sewanee and a particular Sewanee student.**

Every student who receives financial aid is expected to have a self-help component of their financial aid package. Self-help can include a federally guaranteed loan, but it also includes having a summer job. We think it is important that all students, regardless of their financial situation, have the opportunity to have a career-shaping internship, and often these internships, like a summer job, pay a fair value for work. **But the reality is that many internship opportunities are unpaid.** The work experience can be invaluable, but if a student needs to earn money, then **a Cornerstone Internship is a great way to help cover a student's self-help obligation while pointing them toward post-college success.**

Sewanee's internship program is not part of the University's budget, and it is entirely dependent on gifts to make the pledge. So giving to internships is good. **Sewanee's financial aid program is a significant part of the University's budget (a little less than one-third of the total operating revenue). So giving to Cornerstone Scholarships is also a great way of helping Sewanee.**

Either way, a gift to the Cornerstone Scholarship and Internship Program helps Sewanee and helps Sewanee students. *To make a gift to the Cornerstone program, please contact strongertruergifts@sewanee.edu*

REFINEMENTS OF THE LIBERAL ARTS EXCITE TODAY'S STUDENTS

The original liberal arts of grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music theory, and astronomy are firmly embedded in the Sewanee curriculum, yet the 21st century presents challenges that were unanticipated when Cicero coined the term *artes liberales*. Donors to the *Stronger Truer Sewanee* campaign contributed nearly \$50 million for reinforcing academic distinction. Along with that success, however, three central priorities remain underfunded that respond to admitted students' interest in hands-on learning, global opportunities, and pre-professional education.

- **Civic Engagement.** A new civic engagement program was generously funded by a grant from a family foundation. At its heart, civic engagement is an antidote to the polarization that characterizes much of contemporary discourse. Through hands-on opportunities, students learn to understand themselves and others, and work across differences to change the world. A sustaining endowment is critical for this work, and we still need to raise **\$3 to \$5 million** in endowment for full program implementation.
- **The Babson Center for Global Commerce and the Wm. Polk Carey Business Program.** The Babson Center and Wm. Polk Carey Business Program make strategic connections across campus to prepare students for success in an increasingly global world. We've raised over 60% of the \$12 million goal, which still gives donors a lot of room to make an enormous impact on the future of this educational asset.
- **Pre-professional programs.** A little over \$2 million was donated in the *Stronger Truer Sewanee* campaign for support of pre-professional programs, and those funds have led to an overhaul of how Sewanee prepares students for success in professional schools. Funds are still needed to grow the Pre-Health Endowment, which ensures students can successfully train for health-related careers.



Gifts from Jay (C'65) and John (C'66) Scott help shape the experiences of Sewanee students like this year's Carey Fellows, who are preparing for careers in business.

PLANTING SEEDS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

John Scott, C'66, has been out among the flowers in his garden and steps in to take a call. Gardening has been a passion for Scott since his retirement 20 years ago—and even before that. Now Scott and his wife, Darlene, are selling their home in Chicago and moving full-time to Florida. “The new owner will be stepping into a mature garden,” John says.

Scott and his brother Jay, C'65, of Rancho Mirage, California, have long been generous donors to Sewanee, in part based on the good experience they had as students. “Jay and I were at Sewanee at a great time,” says Scott. “In a four-year period, Sewanee had three Rhodes Scholars,” he remembers. Scott was also able to get business experience as a Kemper Scholar, a program run by the Kemper insurance organization that Sewanee participated in for several years. In his first summer, Scott traveled with a claims adjuster; the next year, he was a file clerk. “I was able to read many, many claim files and learned about the insurance company from the bottom up.”

Still, when Scott went to work full-time for Kemper after graduation, he felt “woefully unprepared for business,” and attended night school at Loyola to earn his MBA. Eventually, he rose to be CEO

of what was then the Chicago-based Kemper Life Insurance Companies.

After serving in the Navy and a tour of duty in Vietnam, Jay Scott also went back to school for a degree in hotel management from Cornell. He built on that and eventually formed his own highly successful consulting business.

The brothers' personal history has bearing on the Sewanee philanthropy on which they have collaborated over the last several decades, including a previous endowment for children of Episcopal clergy. Now the Scotts have established three new funds for business education to which they continue to contribute: a scholarship for students in the business minor, a fund to support international exposure for work overseas, and a fund to support what Jay Scott termed “transformational change to the Sewanee approach to business education.”

Having attended a liberal arts college that boasted three Rhodes Scholars in four years, the Scotts are convinced of the value of the liberal arts. That said, the Scotts are also convinced that Sewanee can do more for business education. “It's a global economy and will continue to move in that direction. It is essential that men and women who want to go into business be exposed to the rest of the world.”

Two of the endowments the brothers have established are directly connected to that international experience, with a summer internship abroad and a semester international business study abroad scholarship. The third is a more general endowment to which they will continue to contribute and which really has an eye to Sewanee's future. "The endowment for transformational change is hard to define because we do not know what Sewanee will look like in 5, 10, or 15 years," explains Scott. "We do not have restrictions into how business education will transform at Sewanee, but we know that business education can have a stronger presence within the liberal arts."

For now, these brothers are taking the long view for thinking about a 21st century program in business at Sewanee. "We know universities don't change overnight, and we are okay with that," says Scott. "Our fund will be there when the time comes to support a meaningful change."

Scott has been gardening for some time now and understands the value of planting some seeds.

LISTEN MORE

Two grants from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund of Jacksonville, Florida, over the last two years have helped Sewanee establish a new program with the ambition to teach Sewanee students (and faculty and staff) how to thrive in an increasingly polarized society. The Dialogue Across Difference Program is part of multifaceted and ambitious attempts by the Office of Civic Engagement to address how to best actualize the Sewanee mission of educating people to "serve God and humanity."

Cassie Meyer, director of the program, tells a story that captures the need for the program. "Last spring after one of our events, a student came up to me and said, 'we are hungry for what you are serving.'" Dialogue Across Difference has had a slow rollout over the last three years, beginning with a course called Intergroup Dialogue, and moving into a fully articulated pilot in 2019. With a new grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the program will build a core group of Dialogue Fellows in 2019-2020, adding to programming that has included reading groups, guest speakers like

Usra Ghazi, who considered dialogue across religion and race and Dylan Mar-ron, host of a podcast, "Conversations with People Who Hate Me."

"This work is really important not just on our campus but for our students when they leave here," says Meyer. "It is so obvious that our national conversation has become polarized across all kinds of fault lines—politics, religion, race, and class. At Sewanee, we're preparing students to have skills to negotiate with people with whom they disagree—to reach common understanding."

The program brings together all sectors of the Sewanee campus—faculty, staff, and students. In 2019, members of those groups came together to participate in reading groups, considering texts about diversity and inclusion in higher education. In the 2019-20 iteration of the program, some will dive more deeply from those free-to-all groups to become dialogue fellows.

"We hope to affect the way people talk very broadly through this program" says Meyer. "You know, some students may not want to attend a public dialogue event, but if a faculty member has incorporated dialogue methodology

in his or her classroom, then they will be exposed to how to manage difficult conversations. By extension, staff can include dialogue in programs they run, and students can bring dialogue into student organizations, including Greek organizations.

Not only does Dialogue Across Difference respond to a national need, Meyer and Jim Peterman, who directs the Office of Civic Engagement, where the program resides, have found striking evidence for the need on the Sewanee campus. "We participated in a national survey developed by Campus Compact, and our students' responses let us know that they were quite uncomfortable with engaging in difficult conversations; they don't want to offend," Peterman says. "In fact, Sewanee students were so articulate about this discomfort in some of the narrative portions of the survey, that researchers started to look at responses from other schools more closely and began to see the same patterns."

If Meyer and Peterman have their way, Dialogue Across Difference will build an exceptional campus, which builds out the EQB ethic (see Sewanee motto) in a time when internet trolls are shaping the national conversation.



The Office of Civic Engagement offers educational opportunities ranging from a certificate program in civic and global leadership to internships to service-learning courses. The Dialogue Across Difference program affects all those aspects of civic engagement and also offers students opportunities to learn how to build understanding and dialogue among people who disagree. The work takes place through coursework, training of faculty and students, and public forums.

STRONGER TRUER SEWANEE

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MAKING THE GOAL WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM FRIENDS

“C an we put in a story about Joe McMahon Jr., P’16,” wrote Ally Hollis, C’16, to the editors of *Impact* recently. “His challenge gift put the senior gift campaign over the top.”

In the spring, Hollis happened to be sitting with McMahon, father of one of her classmates, at a Sewanee leaders weekend. At the time, the end of the senior gift campaign was three days away, and the class was about 30 donors short of its goal of 60% of the class participating. At stake was a prom, a fun event the class campaign’s leadership thought would inspire their classmates to give.

“When I told Joe just how close we were, he said, ‘What if I make a challenge gift?’”

says Hollis. He agreed to match 30 donors’ contributions with a gift of \$300, but only if the participation goal was met.

Hollis sent the challenge to the class, and three days later, seniors had met and surpassed the class goal with almost 74% participation. McMahon’s challenge made all the difference.

Every year, the senior gift campaign introduces students to the importance of philanthropy to the Sewanee project. This year’s campaign attempted to educate seniors about the Sewanee Fund. “We encouraged the seniors to designate their gifts to something that interested them or impacted their time at Sewanee,” says Hollis. The leading designations were general support and financial aid, with 68 donors to the former and 67 to the latter.



The Class of 2019 earned its prom with gifts from nearly 300 seniors totaling over \$4,000. The class met its goal just before the end of the campaign, thanks to a matching gift challenge from the father of a former student.

To make a gift to the campaign, visit
www.sewanee.edu/stronger-truer
or email strongertruergifts@sewanee.edu
