Donor Spotlight: Todd Haskell ’90

Todd Haskell ’90 has consistently supported St. Lawrence University each year as an annual fund donor and a volunteer. As a student, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma, president of Thelmo, and a Dana Scholar. As an alumnus, he has served on the Alumni Executive Council, volunteered for Admissions and Career Services, and been a member of his Reunion development and planning committees. Todd has also joined in the Laurentian in Residence program and at career networking events in New York City, where he lives with his wife, Angela. Recently, Todd has become a member of the Major and Planned Gifts Campaign committee.

He knows what it means to be a Laurentian for Life, as he has benefitted from the nationally recognized St. Lawrence alumni network in his own career. He began his career at The New York Times via an internship with John Loughlin ’79, facilitated by former trustee Midge Longley ’47. He has since worked with St. Lawrence alums at The Times, Meredith Corporation, and now as SVP/Chief Revenue Officer at Hearst Magazines Digital Media. As a result, he felt compelled to pay-it-forward by mentoring and providing internships to current students, and last year, establishing the Todd R. Haskell ’90 Scholarship to be funded from his and Angela’s estates. This planned gift that designates St. Lawrence will receive 15% of their assets upon their deaths, is a signal of their confidence in the University. The scholarship will support sophomores or juniors who develop as leaders through their St. Lawrence experience, much like Todd did.

Todd and Angela approached their philanthropy in a creative way by establishing a family foundation to “support and advance philanthropic initiatives... including Todd’s alma mater, St. Lawrence University.”

Continued on page 2
Todd Haskell ’90 continued from page 1

It’s their intent to have the scholarship created through a lump sum distribution either from their foundation or their estate with a minimum bequest of $100,000.

In addition to this wonderful beneficiary designation gift, Todd and Angela recently committed to an outright gift of another $100,000 for endowment and the St. Lawrence Fund. Todd hopes that through his multi-tiered support through a planned gift, a major gift, ongoing annual fund support, and leadership volunteer roles, he can inspire other Laurentians to join him in ensuring the University continues to thrive as a “Candle in the Wilderness” for years to come.
Would you like to help support St. Lawrence’s mission, without changing your will or parting with any assets now? You can do this by naming St. Lawrence University as a beneficiary of certain assets or accounts you own. This “beneficiary designation” is one of the simplest ways to make a gift to St. Lawrence. It is literally as easy as filling out a form.

You can name St. Lawrence University as the sole beneficiary of your assets or as one of several beneficiaries. For example, you can use some of your assets to make a legacy gift and use the rest to provide for family members or other loved ones.

There are many benefits of making a gift by beneficiary designation:

- **Flexibility:** Assets remain in your control should you need them. You can also change your gift designation at any time.
- **Easy to arrange:** It does not require a change to your will.
- **Tax incentives:** Funds passing to St. Lawrence are not subject to income or estate tax. This means 100% of your gift is available for use by St. Lawrence.
- **Family-friendly:** You can name family or other loved ones to benefit from some of the asset value, with St. Lawrence receiving the remaining portion.
- **Support your cause:** Your gift to St. Lawrence helps provide an inspiring and demanding undergraduate education in the liberal arts.

Assets to consider include:

- **Retirement assets:** These include IRAs and most qualified retirement plans, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Request a beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator and designate St. Lawrence University as a beneficiary of a percentage of your plan balance.

Retirement assets can be taxed at rates as high as 50% to 70% if you leave them to someone other than a surviving spouse. This is because distributions* to an individual from an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified retirement plan are subject to income tax and in some cases estate tax.

In contrast, retirement funds that pass by beneficiary designation to charitable organizations, such as St. Lawrence University, are not subject to either of these taxes. From a tax standpoint, a transfer of assets remaining in an IRA or other retirement account can be the best charitable gift.

**Life insurance policies:** Simply complete and return to your insurance company a form designating that St. Lawrence University receive all or a portion of the death benefit associated with your life insurance policy.

**Commercial annuity contracts:** A commercial annuity will sometimes have a remaining value at the end of the annuitant’s lifetime. You can name St. Lawrence University to receive all or part of this amount by designating it as a beneficiary (sole or partial) on the appropriate form from the annuity company.

**Bank account:** You can instruct your bank to pay to St. Lawrence University all or a portion of what remains in your checking or savings account. Your bank can provide you with the appropriate Beneficiary Designation Form.

**Donor advised fund:** You can recommend that St. Lawrence University, an IRS-qualified public non-profit, be the successor charitable beneficiary of your Donor Advised Fund. Typically, your fiduciary will allow this to be done online or by completing a simple form.

**Investment account:** You can instruct your investment company to transfer to St. Lawrence University some or all of the investments held in your account at the time of your passing. Your broker or agent can let you know the process for doing this – it may be as simple as adding “T.O.D. to St. Lawrence University” after your name on the account.

* The only exceptions to the possible double-taxation are distributions from a Roth IRA or distributions attributable to contributions of after-tax dollars to other types of IRA.
Members of the G. Atwood Manley Society have expressed their commitment to St. Lawrence University through a planned or estate gift. The simple act of making this type of gift has a dramatic impact and provides transformational opportunities for students through current-use or endowment support for scholarships, professorships, internships and more.

In naming St. Lawrence as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift, members ensure that a St. Lawrence education will be available for future generations. Such gifts might include a bequest, life insurance beneficiary designation, charitable remainder unitrust and more.