

Legacy Giving

Lorraine Kelly Young '56 and Marilyn McClernon Wilkins '56 have known each other a long time—more than 60 years. Both majored in biology at Elms; both married, became mothers, had long professional careers, and spent decades in service to their communities. And, when it came time for their 50th reunion in 2006, they both became members of the Living Legacy Society.

"The reason I gave the gift is that I was very appreciative of having my degree and having a career," said Marilyn, who retired after a career as a junior high science teacher in Old Saybrook, CT, public schools. She has two children. Marilyn served on the boards of directors of Lyme and Salem land trusts, and is active in the Lyme garden club.

"I came from a very hard-working family, and coming here was really a privilege," said Lorraine, who, after a successful career in the banking industry, went on to have an equally successful career in the arts, serving on the Connecticut State Commission on the Arts and as executive director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. "I thought that my mother would really appreciate my doing this." Lorraine, a mother of six, received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Elms in 2002. She currently serves on the board of finance in the town of Branford, CT.

Now in their early 80s, both women realize that it can be difficult to plan for future needs and know what you can comfortably give, but they both stress that you don't have to win the lottery to make a lasting impact on the campus and in the lives of Elms students.

"I feel it's an obligation," Marilyn said. "The sacrifices that the nuns and everyone made — you feel like you owe a debt to the college."

Both women encourage their classmates and others returning for Reunion 2016 to consider joining them as members of the Living Legacy Society.

Make a Planned Gift Today

If you would like more information about making a planned gift, contact Bernadette Nowakowski '89, '08, director of development and legacy giving, at 413-265-2214 or nowakowskib@elms.edu.