Michelle Grossman Coleman ’89 has a text thread for her friends from Gamma Phi Beta. They remain close because they grew up together on South Mountain.

Together, they survived late-night study sessions and relished the Lehigh traditions—the Lehigh Lafayette games, Greeker eating contest and bed races when they stood on the roofs and porches of fraternity houses as beds flew down the hill ... or beds flew apart ... or racers flew off.

“As a parent of a Lehigh student now, when I think back on my experience, my stomach can turn a bit, but I truly appreciate those days,” she says.

Coleman understands the power of the Lehigh experience. As an international relations major with minors in Spanish and journalism, she blended her passions together and applied them.

While she taught and tutored for a number of years, her children became her focus—two daughters and a son.

Her son’s dyslexia diagnosis altered the course of her life. “My children had access to advocates and tutors, and we wanted that for everyone,” she says.

She and her husband Tom met with the leader at Lehigh’s Disability Support Services (DSS) and saw an opportunity to make an impact for students.

“The Coleman family gathers to celebrate Hannah and the Class of 2022.

“As students transition from high school and home lives to independence at college, the adjustment, for some, can be overwhelming, especially if they have a neurodiversity issue, like dyslexia, ADHD or autism,” she says. “Now is when students need access to services so they can understand their differences, communicate those differences and receive accommodations.”

The self-confidence they can gain through success is dramatic. She saw this firsthand when her daughter Hannah Coleman ’22 served on the executive board and as a peer mentor at DSS.
A GIFT THAT SUPPORTS

continued from front

She and Tom made a gift to establish the Michelle G. Coleman ’89 and Thomas J. Coleman Learning Disability Support Services Endowment Fund, so they can create an impact forever.

“We are committed to Lehigh and want support there for others to rely on when resources are needed,” she says. “Is it as sexy as a name on a building, entrepreneurial program or business school? No. But the focus of our gift has deep meaning for me and my family.”

By Stephen Wilson

Like the Colemans, you too can ensure the values you hold close live on indefinitely when you make an endowment gift to Lehigh University. Please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (610) 758 4749 or intower@lehigh.edu to learn how you can make a difference in students’ lives.

To read the Colemans’ full story, visit www.plannedgiving.lehigh.edu/donors like-you.

ENDOWED GIFTS: MAKING AN IMPACT TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND

Contributions to the Lehigh University endowment fund have “a twofold goal to support the current annual operating needs of the university, as well as being able to support (Lehigh) as far into the future as one can imagine, which is perpetual in our mindset,” explains Kristin Agatone, chief investment officer at Lehigh.

Listen to Agatone and Joe Buck, vice president for development and alumni relations, during a recent episode of the GO Getters Podcast series, and hear more about how she brings a unique perspective as a first-generation student to her work and how the investment office has grown Lehigh’s portfolio to over $2.1 billion.

LISTEN IN at alum.lu/agatone.
RECOGNIZING LEHIGH’S IMPACT AND THOSE SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Lehigh alumni can be found in every corner of the globe—especially Florida! Tower Society members came together with a group of nearly 90 alumni and friends in Sarasota and Palm Beach on February 5 and 7, respectively, to hear about Lehigh’s strategic plan from President Joseph J. Helble ’82. He and Anand Jagota, vice provost for research and the Robert W. Wieseman 1916 Professor of Bioengineering and of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, discussed Lehigh’s impact in research, one of the four themes of the strategic plan.

Attendees enjoyed the Q&A about not only the emerging ideas related to the strategic plan, but also disruptions like ChatGPT and other issues facing American higher education.

In addition, attendees learned details of Lehigh’s newly relaunched recognition societies: The South Mountain Society, Brown and White Society, Asa Packer Society and 1865 Society. Along with the Tower Society, these societies celebrate and recognize the generosity of Lehigh’s alumni and friends, whose enduring support advances the university’s mission.

Considering that philanthropy not only moves us closer to our goals, but also sends an important message about alumni confidence, commitment and dedication to Lehigh, it was exciting to share news of the relaunched recognition societies and celebrate those in attendance, many of whom have been engaged and generous donors for decades.

By Cynthia Tintorri
ENDOWMENTS:
THE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

An endowment is a forever gift, a way to ensure your support for the places and organizations you care about most, like Lehigh University, lives on forever. When you establish an endowment, or contribute to an existing one, you create a lasting legacy that reflects your values.

How an Endowment Works
When you make an endowed gift to Lehigh, only a small portion of your gift will be spent each year. The balance is invested, allowing the gift to live on in perpetuity.

Funding Your Endowment
There are many ways to fund your endowment without using cash. Some allow you to establish your gift now, while others will not go into effect until after your lifetime.

• Appreciated assets. Using appreciated assets that you have owned for more than one year may allow you to eliminate capital gains tax on the assets’ appreciation.

• Life insurance. Name Lehigh the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, or make us the owner of a policy you no longer need.

• Retirement plan assets. Consider naming Lehigh beneficiary of your IRA. After your lifetime, the funds will be used to establish your endowment.

• A gift in your will or living trust. Your gift to Lehigh can be a specific amount or a percentage of your residuary estate.

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Make the most significant gift of your lifetime—a gift that lasts forever. Learn more in our complimentary guide The Best Present for Anyone on Your List. Simply return the enclosed reply card and we’ll send you a copy.

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