Not many women studied geology in the 1930s, but Eleanor Caldwell ’39 built her adventurous life around it. After graduate school she was a cartographer for the OSS during World War II and spent the following four decades working as a micro-paleontologist. Her bequest now supports the sciences she loved, including the R/V David Folger Research Vessel on Lake Champlain. A lab in McCardell Bicentennial Hall bears Eleanor’s name in recognition of her legacy for Middlebury.

Every summer, two or three high-performing students are able to attend Middlebury’s French School, thanks to Dr. Frieda Derdeyn Bambas MA ’54. Dr. Bambas established a scholarship fund in 1982. She also set up several charitable gift annuities (CGA) that gave her a reliable source of income. She passed away in 2010, and her CGA assets were directed to her scholarship fund. Dozens of Language Schools alumni can thank Dr. Bambas for their excellent French.

Eric Tunis ’67 traveled the world as a U.S. State Department diplomat. He spoke French, Farsi, and Indonesian and was Consul General in Lahore, Pakistan, before his death in 2010. His two bequests to Middlebury—a collection of medieval maps of the Middle East, and scholarship funds in the name of professor emeritus of geography J. Rowland Illick—memorialize his love of discovery.

“By contributing to the cost of my education at Middlebury, you have truly changed my life and given me a much more auspicious future. For that, I cannot be more grateful.”

—From a thank-you letter from Merelise Ametti ’13, Dorothy Symonds Spendlove ’36 Scholar, writing to the Spendlove family; her parents originally discouraged her from applying to Middlebury because they couldn’t afford it. She plans on getting her PhD and working in mental health.
Historically, gifts in the form of bequests and life income gifts provide a critical base of future support for Middlebury. Those who benefit the College through a planned gift are enrolled in Gamaliel Painter’s Cane Society. Currently, the Cane Society has more than 1,353 members, including faculty and staff, alumni, parents, and friends. They represent all areas of Middlebury—the College, Bread Loaf School of English, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and the Language Schools.

Albert Spendlove remembered his late wife by establishing the Dorothy Symonds Spendlove ’36 Scholarship Fund in 1995. Dorothy was committed to women’s education, and the scholarship is awarded with preference to young women from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Albert, a newspaperman, also established a charitable gift annuity (CGA) and a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT), from which he received a steady income stream for life. When he passed in 2010, the remaining funds were added to Dorothy’s scholarship fund.

Professor Grant Harnest MSc ’41 was a beloved Middlebury chemistry professor for 36 years and helped build the sciences here. He set up a charitable remainder unitrust and designated that the remaining assets support general educational purposes at Middlebury, which it has been doing since 2002.

Planned gifts are not just for the wealthy, and they can work for people of all ages. Our gift planning professionals, Anne McMenamin and Deb Wales, Esq., can talk with you about how to blend your financial and philanthropic interests. At no obligation, they’re happy to explain the different charitable plans that can offer tax and income benefits. You can use a variety of assets such as insurance, appreciated securities, real estate, and other assets without touching your operating cash flow. Our website has a gift calculator and helpful information on creative and customized plans.

Let’s talk.  
http://go.middlebury.edu/giftplanning  ■ 866.496.6433

Our Office of Gift Planning (from left): Tiffany Stowe, coordinator; Deb Wales, senior associate director; Laurie Celik, administrator; Anne McMenamin, director