Rob Wall is an esteemed Seattle Pacific University professor of Scripture, an author, and a scholar. He speaks with clarity about the relevancy of the gospel to learning and to the world. He’s equally eloquent about his personal life. Ask him how he met his wife, Carla, on the campus of Valparaiso University more than four decades ago. “I laid eyes on Carla before she saw me during freshman orientation,” says Rob. “I knew she would be my wife. I’m just a person with keen intuition.”

Carla Wall’s take on his certitude? “I was just annoyed!” laughs the woman who teaches English at King’s Schools in north Seattle. Despite his early confidence, Rob waited until their junior year to ask Carla on a date – finally spurred on by a fraternity brother who threatened to “move in” on her if Rob didn’t do something soon. After their August wedding in 1969, the young graduates went to Dallas, where Rob earned his master’s degree and doctorate in theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. He pursued post-graduate studies on John Wesley at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology.

Now married for 39 years, the Walls are both tireless teachers, putting in long hours preparing for classes, teaching, and grading students’ work. “There is little down time for us, even during vacations,” says Rob. “We are both always busy tracking down new ideas or honing new skills to try out with our students.” When they are able to squeeze in some time to take a walk around Green Lake, located near their home, work is never far from their minds.

“I couldn’t be more committed to what we do here at SPU. The quality is so superior.”

“A Journey in Love and Loss
Endowment Honors Son, Supports Faculty
Norm Edwards has a shelf at home that is overflowing with souvenir mugs from every fundraising client he has helped over the years. The current tally is 36. Edwards, who volunteers in fundraising for many different organizations, has a shelf of these mugs, each representing a successful campaign he helped launch. He has been a fundraising volunteer for over 30 years and has helped launch capital campaigns for hundreds of organizations. Each mug is a symbol of the success of a campaign and a testament to the importance of giving as an act of faith.

Giving as an Act of Worship

With a rich history of personal philanthropy, fundraising acumen, and a heart for service, Norm Edwards shows no sign of slowing down. In fact, he might be speeding up. As Norm nears his eighth annual “retirement party,” his leadership activities are numerous. Mission Aviation Fellowship; Hope Africa University in the Republic of Burundi; Breakthrough Partners board chairmanship; board membership with the Seattle Pacific Foundation; and consulting with Christian colleges around the country to help launch capital campaigns.

Norm is a 1965 graduate of Seattle Pacific University. He returned five years after graduation to serve as alumni director and then as vice president for development (fundraising). A long career in fundraising management and consulting ensued. Today Norm and his wife, Nancy, live only a few blocks from campus, and their loyalty to the University is deep.

“God owns it all, not just the tithe, or ten percent,” says Norm. “We want to be good managers of all that is entrusted to us, through prosperous times and lean times. It’s an act of worship. And we enjoy it!”

Kelsie Job is a self-described “theology nerd” in her senior year at Seattle Pacific University who sees God at work in her life, even during hard times. Last spring she was involved in a car accident that killed the other driver who had swerved into her lane. She broke her leg in three places, and has several long scars as proof. Throughout the ordeal, which involved a six-day hospital stay, Kelsie felt God saying to her, “Just trust me. I’ve got you.”

She began this journey of trusting God a few years back when an unexpected opportunity came her way to go to Ethiopia to serve the Mursi people, while some missionaries were on furlough. The Mursi ethnic group in Africa is made up of nomadic cattle herders, and the time spent with them was powerful for Kelsie.

“I didn’t know I was going to Africa until two weeks before I left,” says Kelsie. “Everything just fell into place. And I loved it.” She hopes to return to the Mursi people some day, but for now is deepening deeply into learning church history and Scripture at SPU.

Kelsie benefits from the Creta-Hammarski Christian Service Scholarship Endowment, which is for students who demonstrate financial need and who are pursuing a major in the School of Theology and preparing for full-time Christian service.

“It’s pretty cool that people give money away to students they’ve never met so we can stay in school,” says Kelsie. “Because I’m here, I’ve been really changed by relationships with professors and students.”

Whether her future holds a return to rural Africa, youth group ministry, or another form of service, this bright, hard-working theology student is on track to make a difference in the world.
Beneficiary Designations
Peace of Mind Knowing You Can Make a Change

Consider leaving a legacy of love and support for SPU through a beneficiary designation gift. These gifts are completely revocable if you experience a shift in circumstances. The following are ways to make a world of difference for our students — and these methods allow you to change your mind, if necessary:

1. Plan a charitable bequest to Seattle Pacific when making a new will or revocable living trust (RLT), or you can make this provision by adding a simple one-page codicil to an existing will or RLT.

2. Name Seattle Pacific as a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy by requesting a change of beneficiary form from your insurance agent.

3. Name Seattle Pacific as a full or partial beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement plan assets. Simply request a change of beneficiary form from your plan administrator and list the percentage you wish SPU to receive at the end of your lifetime.

4. Name Seattle Pacific as a “payable on death” recipient of a bank account, or a “transfer on death” recipient of a brokerage account. You retain full access to the value of the accounts during your lifetime, with all or a portion of what remains supporting our mission after your death.

All of the types of gifts listed above are straightforward and quick to complete. Since the assets go to charity, they will not be counted as part of your taxable estate. For more information, please ask for a copy of our new booklet, “Leave a Legacy, Change Lives: Plans That Make a Difference,” by calling 206-281-2702 or emailing spf@spu.edu.

RCW Title 19 Notice — The materials contained in this communication are not intended as an offer, a contract, or an agreement to prepare, or to gather information to prepare, an estate distribution document. The associated materials are meant for the sole purpose of soliciting donations. Any information relating to the preparation of estate distribution documents, such as wills or trusts, must be provided by a person who is authorized to practice law.

Next Issue

Your Life Income Plan

In the next issue of Significance, we will explore the popular “life-income plan” known as the charitable remainder trust. This type of trust allows you to create a lifetime income stream for yourself and/or a friend or loved one, while also producing significant tax savings and a generous future gift to Seattle Pacific University. A wide variety of assets may be used to fund a charitable remainder trust, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate. These trusts make a particularly great exit strategy for those who own rental real estate. Learn more in the June issue of Significance.

IRA Charitable Rollover Option Revived for 2009

We are pleased to announce the extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover provision, which had expired at the end of 2007. Once again, if you are age 70½ or older, own an IRA, and intend to make charitable gifts in 2009, you may donate up to $100,000 directly from your IRA to Seattle Pacific University, or other charities you care about.

Making a gift in this way is a tax-free event; the distribution will not be included in your taxable income and you will not receive a charitable income tax deduction. The funds transferred from your IRA to a charity count toward your mandatory withdrawal.

Our staff is ready to help you in making IRA rollover gifts. Please call 206-281-2702 or email spf@spu.edu.

The son they lost
“Bart Grants” honor