Between them, Dale and Marcia Thuline have 14 siblings. The Thuline forebears, siblings, children, nieces, nephews, and cousins who have graduated from Seattle Pacific University form a sizable contingent.

The vein of their SPU connections runs rich and wide. Dale graduated in 1970, his father Horace in 1949, and his grandfather Winfred Thuline attended Seattle Seminary in his high school years.

“He was also the valedictorian, yearbook editor, you name it,” says Dale proudly. Marcia and Dale make it a habit to contribute to the Winfred N. and Evangeline C. Thuline Family Scholarship Endowment for undergraduate and graduate students studying the natural sciences.

You could say that the natural sciences are a natural fit given the couple's career paths. Marcia is a nurse; Dale is an M.D. who ran (along with his partner Garrit Stanley ‘59) a workplace safety company called Medical Diagnostic Specialties Inc.

Winfred Thuline was the only graduate of Seattle Pacific College in 1919.
“A word about charitable bequests

If you haven’t considered a charitable bequest, it’s helpful to know that gifts of all sizes are appreciated and there is no minimum amount to contribute. You can specify in the wording of your bequest how you would like it to be used. Some common designations include the University Fund, student scholarships, a named endowment you favor, or a specific program that is important to you. Undesignated bequests are typically used to meet the financial aid needs of our students. You can leave SPU a specific dollar amount or asset, a percent of your estate, or all or part of what’s left in your estate after your bequests to family and friends have been made. Rest assured that you can cancel or change your bequest at any time. It’s easy to get started. If you already have a will, speak with your attorney about adding a simple codicil to create your bequest. If you do not have a current will, you should speak with an attorney about establishing one, and when you meet, mention your desire to support SPU.

Contact us at 206-281-2702 or at giftplanning@spu.edu to request sample bequest language to give to your attorney or to request a copy of our “Leave a Legacy” brochure. If you are planning a bequest, please let us know so we can recognize you as a Wellspring Society member!

Margaret Diddams has been a member of the SPU faculty since 1993, and she and her husband, Stan, were among the first to join. They both believe in SPU’s commitment to educate and send students to live out their Christian faith in service to others.

“This is a phase in life when students have the space and time to study and think deeply about their Christianity and how that faith plays a role in their learning,” says Margaret. “We want to support something that we know will make a lifelong difference.”

President Circle members enjoy special invitations to events on and off campus, an annual gathering with President Eaton, and other benefits. For all the details please visit www.spu.edu/presidentscircle, email presidentscircle@spu.edu or call 206-281-2690.

An invitation to join the President’s Circle

A newly formed community of donors has been growing rapidly in numbers, made up of alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of Seattle Pacific University who want to stay directly connected to the life of the University, its students, and to President Philip W. Eaton. Emerging from the legacy of the Fellows program, the new President’s Circle is a donor recognition group for those who give $1,000 or more per year. Many President Circle donors have deep ties and loyalty to SPU and desire to partner with the University in a long-term way.

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New tax law extends charitable IRA rollover

In December 2010, President Obama signed a new law that extends until December 31, 2011, a provision allowing taxpayers who are age 70½ or older to make tax-free transfers of up to $100,000 per year to charities. The law makes it easy to “roll over” funds directly from your IRA to a charity, eliminating the need for you to first receive the IRA income, pay taxes on it, and then make a contribution.

You only need to contact your traditional or Roth IRA administrator and make a request to transfer the charitable gift amount you wish to contribute from your IRA to Seattle Pacific or other charities you wish to benefit. This gift amount will not be included in your taxable income, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution.

We can help. If you would like assistance making an IRA rollover gift to support SPU and its students, please call Marlon Sandlin at 206-281-2257, or e-mail him at msandlin@spu.edu. Thank you for considering this terrific opportunity to make a difference at Seattle Pacific.

Wellspring Society Luncheon is coming soon!

If you are a member of the Seattle Pacific University Wellspring Society, please mark your calendars and be on the lookout this spring for your invitation to the Wellspring Society Luncheon, to be held May 17, 2011, at noon in Upper Gwinn Commons. Our featured speaker is SPU Vice President of Academic Affairs Les Steele. As always, you will have an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with friends and meet some truly remarkable students. For more information on the Wellspring Society, please call 206-281-2702, or e-mail us at giftplanning@spu.edu.

Next issue

Next issue of Significance

In our next issue of Significance, we will introduce you to some individuals who have helped Seattle Pacific University and personally benefited from a wonderful gift plan called the charitable gift annuity. Charitable gift annuities are the most common form of planned giving to charities other than bequests — and for good reason. As an investment, they pay higher rates than savings accounts, CDs, money markets, and Treasuries, and make a huge impact in the financial aid we are able to offer our students. Watch your mailbox for the June 2011 issue of Significance!