Margot Massey ‘93 greets you at the door with her wide trademark smile. Sobe the rescue dog, a terrier mix, is close at her side. Margot proudly wears her “rah-rah” shirt, a white sweatshirt emblazoned with “SPU Commuter” across the front.

At 82, Margot would have you know that she is writing her autobiography and that life is a series of miracles. Money’s scarce, but the living is rich with people.

She was Depression-born in Tulare, in the heart of California’s San Joaquin Valley. Her mother operated a Montessori daycare, radical for the day; her father, a newspaperman, never lost a day of work despite the poor economy. Because “Mother was great on reading” and “Papa was a journalist,” their daughter enjoyed “a window on the world.”

“I remember the hobos,” she says. Mother fed the unemployed men and made them feel welcome. In turn, these kings of the road marked the Massey place with a small wooden sign carved with a smiling
“She was determined I would be Seattle Pacific University’s new president starts July 1
and they need it, give it away. " She was awarded a remodel of the building and the Americans for the education she received 45 years after she began studies.

The Seattle Pacific University Board of Trustees elected Dr. Daniel J. Martin as the 10th president of SPU on April 10. Martin, currently president of Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) in Ohio, will assume his duties on July 1, 2012. He will succeed President Philip W. Eaton, who announced his retirement last September.

Martin says he was drawn to SPU “because of its ability to actually pursue and fulfill its mission in ways not present at other institutions.”

“The grandmother of two relishes a reading of her adventures overseas in Hawaii, Malaysia, and the former Soviet Union. The Russian winter of 1987-88 is a favorite story. Warren Massey, her husband for 46 years, was talented at all manner of construction projects. When the new American embassy in Moscow was found to be bugged with listening devices, Warren was hired to help salvage one of the buildings and Margot was hired as an administrative assistant in the U.S. Department of Commerce. “It was a marvelous title for someone who just liked things,” she says.

But that filing meant she carried low-level security clearance to access the shredding machines on the secure sixth floor of an office building. Margot recalls a fire of mysterious origin in the building and the Americans refusing to allow the Russian fire department to fight it. “It was a real kind of scary at the same time. We weren't allowed to go to a Russian hospital or a Russian dentist for fear they would give us drugs and learn our state secrets.”

The twinkle in her eye reveals how much she enjoyed the seven months of cloak and dagger existence and, as always, the people she met. Ever gracious, she remembers “the U.S. ambassador was a darling man.”

Parents and husband gone, Margot doesn’t dwell on losses but gathers others around her with kindness and the conviction that each one is precious. “I wouldn’t have missed a minute of my life,” she says, face beaming with memories. “Not for anything.”

That would explain why, to become the first member of his family to graduate from college, Q took a fearless, systematic approach.

He physically visited every college in the state. He narrowed the field to those schools near his Tacoma, Washington, home, but not too near. And no schools with a “giant campus.” That left five possibilities, including Seattle Pacific University.“Fear of them sent letters of acceptance, but not only did Seattle Pacific’s letter arrive first, it arrived Christmas Eve. “I took that as a little bit of a sign,” says Q.

Now in his sophomore year at SPU, the communication major and reconciliation studies major believes God’s purpose for him is unfolding according to plan. He is compelled to succeed by the weight of the opportunity. “Maybe 25 percent of the students in my high school class actually graduated. It wouldn’t be right for me to blow it.”

The rapper and Young Democrat has pursued a career in the legal profession by “associating with people who know how.” He took time to talk to lawyers and judges about their work.


Once again, a vision of her beloved papa and his big blue eyes shimmer to mind. “He taught me to leave a light footprint,” he laughs. "Eyes wet with joyful memories. "Not for anything.”

When Doris Hunter Wilson '47 was in grade school, her Sunday school teachers encouraged her to select a Bible verse to memorize. When Doris selected Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

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Is a charitable bequest right for you?

A charitable bequest generally works for anyone who would like to support Seattle Pacific University in the future. Because you can change your mind at any time, and make your gift in relative proportion to bequests to family and friends, this type of gift has broad appeal.

If you have a will or living trust, or are ready to create one, a charitable bequest is a good option for you, whether you are young or old, wealthy or of modest means. There are four simple steps to completing a bequest gift:

1. Choose what to give. You can give a specific dollar amount or piece of property, or you can give a percentage of your estate. Another option is to give all or part of what's left after all your bequests to family members have been fulfilled.

2. Decide how you would like SPU to use your gift. You can leave your gift unrestricted, or you can specify a particular program you wish to support. You can also give to a permanent endowment so your gift will be invested and support Seattle Pacific indefinitely.

3. Meet with your estate planning attorney. We can give you sample bequest language to take with you, and can provide a list of reputable Christian attorneys if you don’t have one.

4. Let us know of your plans. We would love the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and to welcome you into the Wellspring Society. (Requests for anonymity are strictly observed.)

Need more information on a charitable bequest? For a complimentary consultation with Certified Financial Planner Marlon Sandlin, please email him at msandlin@spu.edu, or call 206-281-2257. You can also visit our website at spu.edu/giftplanning.

Support students and receive lifelong income

In exchange for a gift of $5,000 or more, SPU will pay you a fixed, lifelong income through its charitable gift annuity program. Gift annuity rates are outstanding when compared to returns on CDs, money markets, Treasuries, and savings accounts. For example, the rate for a single donor, age 75, is 5.8 percent; a couple, both aged 75, would receive 5 percent.

In addition to steady payments, gift annuity donors receive a charitable income tax deduction. Combined with the satisfaction of helping SPU students, charitable gift annuities are a win-win opportunity!

For more information, call Marlon Sandlin at 206-281-2257 or visit our website at spu.edu/giftplanning.

Videos for seniors

SPU nursing students have researched and produced three outstanding videos that convey tips for successful aging and healthy living. They can be watched online at spu.edu/HSvideos. You may purchase the videos in DVD format for $5 each by calling 206-281-2237 or emailing archia@spu.edu.