Dave and Ruby Englund are as comfortable with each other as with an oft-read book.

Not that they’re not opposites. He’s a night person; she’s mornings. She’s socially fearless; he hangs back. She doesn’t like to shop; he buys her clothes.

“I know all about driving,” he says, the light of the jokester in his eyes, “she knows nothing.” Ruby, who does the driving, smiles in the benign manner native to spouses of nearly 31 years.

“I grow a little weary of the World War II television programs every night,” she pokes back. “I like CNN on first thing in the morning; he’s not interested politically.”

“She’s a disciplined eater, and I’m not.” Dave shifts in his chair, a signal that acres of common ground do lie ahead. “We eat out at our favorite haunts where we meet up with ‘the regulars’ and compare notes on how everyone’s doing.”

They’re both passionate about travel, TV’s “Antiques Roadshow,” and their home on Seattle’s Queen Anne Hill. The “fixer” was purchased decades ago for just $14,500. When Dave needed to scrape together the $175 for the down payment, a delivery truck ran into his car and the insurance company settled — for $175.

They “live” in the sun room with good books, a sweeping view of Puget Sound, and a number of Dave’s 18th-century woodworking tools. The tools are a small part of hundreds more tucked away in the basement workshop that he has found in mostly East Coast auction houses. They include what he says is likely the largest collection of tools made by Deacon Francis Nicholson, the first known maker of woodworking planes in America.

Ruby is a student of nursing history. Her collection of old nurses’ uniforms, complete with capes and hats, were included in the “Centennial of Nursing Licensure” exhibit at the Washington History Museum. Her eclectic bedpan collection comprises 40 of the specialized ceramic and enamel receptacles.
One of Ruby’s most prized possessions is Dave’s gift to her: a first edition of Florence Nightingale’s nursing notes.

Ruby was one of the pioneers of the School of Health Sciences at SPU. In 38 years of preparing hundreds of students for the nursing field, the associate professor of nursing developed the highly successful Nursing Camp for high school teens and was chosen the 2007 Professor of the Year by student acclamation. She retired the same year.

The Englunds, introduced through mutual friends, “just knew” they were meant to be together. Dave, a 1960 graduate of Seattle Pacific College, taught high school industrial arts for 14 years. When a school levy failed and he was to be reassigned, he became licensed and bonded to be a remodel contractor.

But soon he had invested in rental properties and before long was his own boss. Englund Properties was born. Dave reveled in making the decisions and reaping the benefits, especially from a number of rooming houses he owned.

For 12 years, Dave taught a popular real estate investment course at SPU. Some of his students went on to make successful investments of their own.

With their properties, the Englunds have funded four charitable remainder unitrusts through the Seattle Pacific Foundation. “We can provide a major donation to SPU when we die,” says Dave, a former SPU Alumni Board member, “one that I expect is beyond anything we could give any other way.” As a kind of “enforced savings plan,” the trusts are an ideal donation vehicle for a self-employed person. And now the interest earned monthly makes their retirement “more comfortable.”

Over the years, the Englunds have also been generous supporters of Falcon athletics, particularly women’s soccer and basketball. At first, they liked cheering on Ruby’s nursing students who played on the teams, but the competitive caliber was so good, she says, “we got hooked.” Dave served on the interview team that hired women’s basketball coach Julie van Beek and in March flew to Missouri to watch the team compete in the NCAA Elite Eight tournament.

Today their son, Daniel, who attended Seattle Pacific for two years, manages Englund Properties. Last year, Ruby and Dave traveled to Israel with others from Seattle’s First Free Methodist Church, their church of 10 years. They continue to work on the things that unite them and to minimize the things that don’t. They’re bound by simple Christian values and a strong hunch that the next time “Antiques Roadshow” comes to town, they will not easily decide which of their treasures to have appraised.

Ruby, though, will still drive.

For a young man of 26, Eyob Tesfayohannes carries a backbreaking load.

Not only are his nursing studies especially challenging in this, the final quarter before graduation, but his family weighs heavily on his heart.

His mother, who used to hide her children under the bed whenever opposition forces would invade her Ethiopian village, is ill in Saudi Arabia. A widow, she went there to work as a housekeeper and send money home to support her children. But life was difficult. Her kidneys failed, and she went on dialysis. She contracted pneumonia. She was diagnosed with diabetes.

Who will support the family?

Eyob, who dreamed of freedom and opportunity in the U.S., was chosen on his third try at the Diversity Visa Lottery — a government system that provides visas to people from underrepresented countries. An uncle in Seattle was his sponsor and helped him come to the U.S.

“Sometimes we call it chance,” says Eyob. “But I know it was God’s hand.”
A lover of biology, Eyob found a housekeeping job at Seattle’s Harborview Medical Center. He worked hard, sometimes two jobs to support family and school, and entered the certified nursing assistant program. Nursing was tailor-made to his desire to help people. He did not want them growing up as he did in a village with no modern clinic, only traditional medicine. He still bears burn scars on his body from a village doctor’s “cure” for scoliosis.

Eyob enrolled in community college and two years later transferred to Seattle Pacific University to become a registered nurse. He quickly earned a reputation for his hands-on clinical work and compassion for his patients. Associate Dean Christine Henshaw calls him “a lovely young man” who works many hours in addition to his rigorous academics. He smiles readily, but those smiles are etched in worry. He thinks of his two sisters and how they will get by, and would like to bring his mother to Seattle to see him graduate. He does without to help his family. Seeking the answer to why he is here in the U.S. pushes him to achieve his dream.

“My instructors ask me if I need anything. Without their help, I could not do this,” he says. As well, the Nadine Mallare LeMaster Nursing Scholarship Endowment has provided crucial financial assistance, and other individuals have stepped forward to take up his cause.

What does the future hold for Eyob? He wants to be a disaster response nurse. He has seen a lot of civil war, remembers vividly hiding under that bed.

“When I tell people I know their pain,” he says, determination in every word, “I mean what I say.”

Dean of Health Sciences Lucille Kelley still comes to work every day excited to be at Seattle Pacific University. Considering she’s been at the University for 25 years, that says something. “Sure, being a dean has its challenges,” says Lucille, “but SPU is a very special place. One of the things that’s so rich about being here is how we equip nurses in the technical, artistic, and spiritual side of the profession.”

“Hand-embroidered” is a term coined years ago by the school’s founding dean, and Lucille uses to describe how SPU students are equipped to make a difference in the lives of patients and families. The program is small by design, and entrance to the program is highly competitive. “Our graduates are not mass-produced,” says Lucille. “Our students are nurtured and developed to perform at a high level of critical thinking. Our faculty is very hands-on and dedicated.”

The faculty factor is significant, and with it comes challenges that Lucille is working to overcome. There is a nursing shortage nationwide, and one major cause is the lack of Ph.D.-qualified nursing faculty to teach the next generation. As a result, Lucille launched the Grow Our Own program. Through generous donors, the program comes alongside current nursing professors and provides the funding, peer support, and time to earn doctoral degrees. “We’ve been able to provide modest but encouraging amounts of money to assist clinically prepared and proficient nurses who want to teach and who fit with our Christian mission,” says Lucille. “This program is beginning to fulfill our primary need to find nursing faculty.”

Lucille is a devoted personal donor to the School of Health Sciences, and is also a long-time member of The SPU Fellows, providing sustaining annual support for student scholarships. “I know all this ‘hand-embroidery’ takes resources,” says Lucille. “We value donors so much because it means we can prepare more expert and caring nurses. Everyone benefits from that!”

“Sometimes we call it chance. But I know it was God’s hand.”
Charitable remainder trusts are stable and proven

Just like Dave and Ruby Englund (featured in the cover story of Significance) found that charitable remainder trusts were a perfect addition to their financial and estate plans, perhaps a charitable remainder trust is a tool that would benefit you or your loved ones as well. A CRT is a separate tax-exempt account into which you transfer your gift of cash, stock, real estate, or virtually any other marketable asset. The Seattle Pacific Foundation will serve as trustee of the trust for you and will handle the sale of the trust property, the investment of the trust assets, as well as the legal, accounting, and administrative matters.

As trustee, Seattle Pacific will pay you a percentage of the trust’s value as income each year, typically five to six percent. As the value of the trust changes, so too does your income.

Alternatively, you can elect to receive a fixed payment each year if you prefer to receive income that will not fluctuate over time.

Charitable remainder trusts offer excellent benefits:

- Quarterly income payments for life; support for your spouse or other beneficiaries
- Potential for growth of income over time
- Investment diversification by professional managers
- No capital gains tax on gifts of appreciated assets
- Charitable income tax deduction when you establish the trust
- Estate tax savings
- Investment management services provided by the Seattle Pacific Foundation with no separate management fee, where SPU is named as 50 percent or greater charitable remainder beneficiary of the trust
- The satisfaction of making a significant future gift to support Seattle Pacific and its students

For more information on giving through charitable remainder trusts, please contact the Office of Development at 206-281-2702 or email spf@spu.edu.

Wellspring members honored at annual luncheon

Seattle Pacific University honored its Wellspring Society members on May 25 at a festive annual luncheon in Upper Gwinn Commons. Wellspring Society members include those friends who have planned future gifts to the University through wills, trusts, annuities, and life insurance or retirement plan beneficiary designations.

Guests were greeted by President Philip W. Eaton and enjoyed a presentation on “Brain Rules for Education” by John Medina, director of Seattle Pacific’s Brain Center for Applied Learning Research.

We presently have more than 270 confirmed Wellspring Society members, with a goal of reaching 300 members by our 2011 members’ luncheon. If you have included a future gift to SPU in your estate plans and are not yet included as a Wellspring Society member, please let us know! For more information contact 206-281-2702 or email spf@spu.edu.

Next Issue of Significance

In our next issue, we will explore the topic of endowments. When you create an endowment, you make an everlasting gift to Seattle Pacific University. An endowment donation is never spent. It is invested, and earnings from the investment provide ongoing support for the University. And behind every endowment is a story: donors who give to the University they love, students who benefit from the generosity of others, and families who strive to make the world a better place through their giving. We hope you will enjoy the wonderful stories we have in store for you in the next issue of Significance.

Extraordinary collectors and donors:

Dave and Ruby Englund:

John Medina