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GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER



ALDEN
SOCIETY

FALL 2019

WPI Celebrates 150 years of Charles Dickens

A lifelong collector of Charles Dickens manuscripts and material and an expert in his own right, Daniel Ryan was nonetheless puzzled by his newest treasure. He had obtained a letter signed by all of Dickens' living children related to the settlement of their father's estate. He contacted, David Parroissien, editor of *The Dickens Quarterly*, inviting him to visit and view his collection the next time Parroissien would return to New England. That eventual meeting brought Dan and his wife Alice to Worcester to learn more about WPI's own Dickens Collection.

After a day spent touring facilities, meeting with faculty, interviewing students, and spending time in the WPI Archives and Special Collections, Dan and Alice announced that they had chosen WPI as the recipient of their collection, which Parroissien and WPI literature professor Joel J. Brattin acknowledge as among the most impressive privately-held collections in the world.

Dan and Alice were struck by how WPI blended both a rigorous technical curriculum with a strong focus in the humanities and arts to produce students with the capacity to change the world using the moral lessons imparted by the thorough study of history and literature.

Their gift, in addition to the prior generosity of Robert D. Fellman combined with a truly cross-campus collaborative effort, places WPI as a world-class repository of material related to the life, world, and works of Charles Dickens, the most celebrated novelist in western literature. Dan's alma mater, Yale, features an extensive Dickens collection but the Ryans understood that WPI was better positioned to ensure their collection would support our curriculum and serve as a catalyst to expand our ambitions beyond New England.

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Dan and Alice Ryan

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In addition to providing the works for use in faculty research and student learning, WPI intends to digitize and disseminate each of Dickens' novels in their original format as part of our digital exhibition, Project Boz. Named for Dickens's early pen name, this site will be the only one of its kind, presenting authentic digital surrogates to enhance opportunities for global learning.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens on June 9, 1870, Gordon Library's new exhibition, *Illustrating Every-day Life and Every-day People: Dickens and his Artists*, will explore the artists who illustrated Dickens's novels and Christmas books.

The exhibit will be on view in the Gladwin Gallery, located on the ground floor of the Gordon Library, from September 2019 through August 2020. The exhibit will be open to all members and friends of the WPI community. Dickens developed close relationships with his illustrators and was intimately involved in choosing and shaping the visual images used in his works. Highlights of the exhibit will include materials from the Robert D. Fellman collection on Charles Dickens, as well as unique items from the collection of Daniel and Alice Ryan.

Article written by Gordon Library Archivist Arthur Carlson.



A Simple Way of Ensuring WPI's Future

More than 150 years ago, John Boynton pledged his life savings to endow a new school in Worcester to educate future generations of technical leaders. His commitment inspired others and together a community of supporters established the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science. Today, WPI continues to educate leaders who are making a positive impact around the globe. It is through the generosity of generations of supporters who have ensured Boynton's vision stands true today and remains strong and secure long into the future.

A simple way to join this extraordinary community of benefactors who have helped shape and secure WPI's future is through a beneficiary designation. Just as you designate individuals to receive certain assets directly as your named beneficiaries, you can name a charity to receive all or part of these same assets.

Beneficiary Designation Gifts

Beneficiary designations have the advantage of being flexible (give as little or as much as you like), they can be changed at any time and perhaps most importantly, they leave the assets under your control should you need them during your lifetime. Assets gifted directly to a beneficiary whether an individual or a charity bypass the complications of probate. Your gift to WPI is fully deductible if your estate is subject to federal estate taxes. In most cases, completing a beneficiary designation form provided by your plan administrator that includes naming WPI as a beneficiary is all you need to do. Modifying or changing the beneficiary is as simple as completing a new form.

Best of all, a gift through a beneficiary designation has no financial impact on your current lifestyle. You have worked hard, provided for yourself and your family and saved and invested wisely. Beneficiary designations allow for the transfer of assets after you have fully enjoyed and benefited from them.

Naming a beneficiary is most commonly done with IRAs, other retirement plan assets and life insurance policies, but it can also work with assets such as checking and savings accounts, brokerage accounts, donor advised funds and commercial annuities.



Contact your fund administrator for options and instructions.

Is a Beneficiary Designation Gift Right for You?

Designating a charity like WPI as a beneficiary could be the right gift for you if:

- You do not plan to use all of your retirement assets during your lifetime.
- You have other assets such as real estate or securities that you want to pass on to heirs.
- You want to reduce the tax burden to heirs on distributions from your retirement plan.
- You want to reduce the amount of estate taxes your estate may owe.
- You want to provide a generous gift to WPI without affecting your current lifestyle.

We recommend that you consult with your tax and financial advisors to determine the best options to reach your financial and philanthropic goals. Charitable giving can be incorporated into any estate plan and most importantly, smart gift planning allows you to create a legacy of impact for the future of WPI in a way you may never have thought possible.

If you are interested in learning more or have questions about making a beneficiary designation gift to WPI, please contact:

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WHAT IS THE ALDEN SOCIETY?

The Alden Society recognizes and celebrates those who have included WPI in their estate planning through a will or trust, IRA or other retirement plan, real estate, life income or other planned gift. The Alden Society also recognizes and celebrates individuals who have created an endowed named fund at WPI through any type of philanthropy.

Membership is about giving you recognition now for your plans to support WPI in the future. Throughout the year, you'll be invited to the annual Alden Society luncheon during Alumni Weekend and other special events to learn more about how theory and practice continue to inform teaching and research at WPI. Best of all, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to advance a WPI education.



“WPI is still a fairly small group of people who are preparing to make a big impact on the world.”

- BONNIE & TOM NEWMAN '64
ALDEN SOCIETY CO-CHAIRS

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