The Carleton experience was pivotal to my career. Especially important was Professor Thurlo Thomas, an outstanding mentor and advisor. At the time we went to Carleton, your advisor had to sign a card that listed the courses you proposed taking the next term. With great regularity, Dr. Thomas refused to sign my card unless I took courses outside of biology. He made me take courses in political science, philosophy and history—all very meaningful to me now. As a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, I am always amazed that without Dr. Thomas’s influence, I would be totally ignorant of the world outside of biology.

I look at the Carleton experience as one might look at a relay "torch." My goal is to be certain that my generation does not drop the torch but passes it on smoothly to those who follow us. I want the Carleton torch to burn even more brightly than when we were at Carleton.

The question then became what to do? Gradually my plan evolved with the help of the staff at Carleton. I am Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Radiology at Vanderbilt University Medical School, and I am quite familiar with the Vanderbilt Student Health Service and the programs it provides to the Vanderbilt student body. It occurred to me that when we were at Carleton the student health service was very primitive, with only one physician and a small nursing staff. I thought that I could make an impact on future generations of Carleton students by contributing funds to support the Carleton student health service.

The money that we are contributing to Carleton will be given after my death and the death of my wife. If the Carleton Wellness Center does not need the money, then the funds will go to the Carleton endowment. Toni and I are very happy with this plan.

Our classmate, Steve Sandels, says that once you have made your commitment to Carleton and have completed the arrangements, a great feeling of accomplishment envelops you. This is exactly our experience.

Dick ’59 and Toni Heller

The term “Carleton family” has deep meaning for me. Since my grandmother left the farm for Carleton in 1899, multiple members of the Grove clan have come to the College, picking up diplomas and sometimes spouses, then sending their children here. We claim sixteen Carls among the relatives, including our son in the 4th generation.

Like several others in the family, I found my spouse at Carleton, but it was six years after we had graduated. Friends “fixed me up” with a young philosophy professor, and the rest, as they say, is history. As important as those four years in the 50’s were for making me who I am and what I value, the 40+ years since have been more crucial for my relationship with Carleton—as faculty wife, as employee, as parent, as alumni volunteer, and as constant observer of the College from these many perspectives. So it is not simply family loyalty that prompts Gary and me to support Carleton, but it is also our insiders’ view that has shown us what an exceptional place this is. We have had many opportunities to compare Carleton with other academic institutions. We see Carleton faculty and students with extraordinary talents, which they bear modestly. They work extremely hard toward the highest academic standards, but temper that with a special sense of fun. Students are cooperative, not competitive—as are faculty and staff—and together maintain a sense of community that is the envy of other institutions. An egalitarian atmosphere pervades this place, one of the College’s most distinctive qualities. We are very proud to have been part of Carleton.

In addition to strong support for Carleton in our bequests, Gary and I have used an appreciated investment to set up an annuity that pays us an income during our lifetime and goes to Carleton at our deaths. We have decided, in part, to designate the uses of our funds: I, to help remove financial barriers to participation in Carleton-sponsored off-campus study programs; Gary, to support faculty travel. We are pleased to assist in preserving the character of this college so that it will be the place that we love—and an even better place—when two who are now little girls will apply in the 2020’s to be Carleton students in the 5th generation of our family.

Andrea Grove Iseminger ’59 and Gary Iseminger

For more information about ways to make a 50th Reunion Gift, you may contact Lynne Wilmot ’89 or Mike Tompos ’83 in the Carleton Development Office. The toll-free number is: 800 492-2275.
March 1957
Bertha Baldwin ’03 gave Carleton a gift annuity worth $6,000

January 1969
The annuity paid Bertha $750 each year until her death in January 1969
(total income paid to Bertha = $8,250; remainder to Carleton = $8,725)

June 2006
Today, Bertha’s gift is part of Carleton’s endowment and is worth more than $60,000

Arc of Philanthropy
Charitable Gift Annuity