Financial Spotlight

Alumna ahead of her time will influence women for all time

H. Alberta Colclaser (LAW ’36) was destined to be remembered long after her days. One of just three women in her Western Reserve law class of 75 students, Colclaser left a mark on Case Western Reserve University—and just about everywhere else she went.

A pilot and an expert in international and aviation law, Colclaser landed a job with the State Department in Paris at a time when other women had barely made inroads in the professional realm. As World War II came to a close, she was instrumental in rewriting and revising policies and treaties for a newly realigned Europe.

Colclaser passed away this summer at the age of 99, after fulfilling an adventurous dream. “Her goal was to set foot on at least every continent, if not in every country,” says Debbie Straub, the daughter of Colclaser’s cousin, adding that Colclaser visited Antarctica in her 80s.

Straub calls Colclaser her role model and says she hopes her pioneering spirit will encourage other women to follow her footsteps through the H. Alberta Colclaser Scholarship Fund, which reduces the tuition burden for qualifying women entering the university’s international law program. Colclaser established the fund in 1999 and contributed to it consistently during her life through a combination of gifts. Among them were outright gifts of cash, a life insurance policy and annuities. She also set up a charitable remainder annuity trust with the university, which paid her an income until her death. The trust’s remaining assets, per her wishes, will set up an endowment fund at the School of Law to support the international law program.

“She was very committed to supporting other women who were interested in pursuing a similar course of study to her own,” Straub says. “I hope she will inspire them to fall in love with international law the way she did.”
Combined Giving

How does it work?

Donors who combine outright support with planned gifts are often able to leave a larger legacy than even they would expect. The university gratefully accepts gifts of property, real estate, life insurance, retirement plans and more and offers competitive rates on life-income arrangements, like charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, leaving donors with a variety of ways they can leave a lasting mark on the future of education and research at Case Western Reserve.

Strategic planning is the key to getting the most out of financial assets. And whether donors choose to remember the university in their will, make a planned gift during their lifetime or support the university through a personalized combination of gifts, the professionals at the Office of Planned Giving work with them, their families and their estate or financial advisers to help them find creative ways to reach their personal and philanthropic goals at Case Western Reserve.

To learn more about how Case Western Reserve can help you plan your estate, please contact Susan St. Onge and John Shelley at 877.477.1143 or giftplan@cwru.edu, or visit cwru.edu/giving/planned.