“My idea has been to help students realize their dream[s] ... just as I was [helped] by others.”

H. William Gabriel

OUTSIDE THE BOX | H. William “Bill” Gabriel  by Judith Davis

“I dreamed of an outdoor life somewhere in the mountains, surrounded by trees and birds, and at some distance from civilization,” says H. William “Bill” Gabriel (forestry and wildlife ’56), “so I aspired to a degree in forestry and wildlife conservation. But we were poor folks and the $1,000 or so required in 1952 for tuition, room, and board at VPI [now Virginia Tech] was out of reach.

“Then I won a Virginia Academy of Sciences scholarship with a small study of local birds, and it seemed I might have a chance of going to college, so I applied to VPI. I was accepted and offered a $400 state scholarship. That changed my life.”

Bill recalls hard work as an undergraduate, and spartan cadet accommodations in what is now Eggleston Hall. “I could look out my window and watch the stonemasons carve figures for the Pylons,” he says.

He was as purposefully shaping his own future. With his career goal firmly in mind, he found jobs on campus during the academic year and, in the summers, hitchhiked to California , where he fought forest fires and gained other hands-on experience, which helped him after graduation land the kind of job he wanted.

“My education at VPI was the key to realizing a dream of an interesting and colorful outdoor life well off the beaten track,” Bill says. “In my 32 years with the U.S. Forest service, I worked from the windblown, treeless tundra
Anna McAuley (forestry '15), a former recipient of the Herman William Gabriel Endowed Scholarship, began a job she loves in her field of urban forestry within a week of graduation from Virginia Tech. "Most people can't walk into a position like mine and hit the ground running," says Anna. "My education from Virginia Tech was one of a kind. I was well-prepared to begin work as a plant healthcare specialist, treating insect and disease issues. Soon, I was able to move up, and now I make tree assessments and recommendations of beneficial trees for commercial properties and retirement communities. I'm incredibly thankful for the professors I had. Everything they taught me helped make me ready for this position."

Like donor Bill Gabriel, whose scholarship Anna received as an undergraduate, Anna's job fits her dreams. "I've always been outdoorsy," she says, "and I wanted to do something I loved. Tech has a great natural resources program, and I found I really liked forestry. The importance of the urban forest and sustainability is really exciting to me."

"The [Gabriel] scholarship most definitely allowed me to participate in clubs, extra-curricular opportunities, and internships," Anna says. Her Virginia Tech experience included study in Ireland, participation in the Natural Resources Recreation Society, and work on volunteer projects that helped give her the tools she would need for her career.

"I worked while in college, but with scholarships, I had less stress about how much I needed to earn. I was able to graduate with fewer student loans," Anna says, "which meant I could be more flexible in my job search. Now, I can work outside and make a living doing so. Maybe one day I can help someone else the same way."

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**Required to Harvest Minimum Distributions?**

*If you are age 70 1/2 or older,* you may be able to take advantage of the popular charitable IRA rollover to make a gift or pledge payment of up to $100,000 per person, per year, by direct transfer from your IRA to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., and avoid taxes otherwise due.

While many of the university’s donors have enjoyed the advantages of this tax-wise gift option, certain restrictions apply. Visit http://bit.ly/irarollover to learn more, and feel free to phone the Office of Gift Planning at 540-231-2813 or toll free at 800-533-1144; or email giftplanning@vt.edu.

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**Your gift may count toward your required minimum distribution without being taxed as income.**

**TO QUALIFY**

- You must be age 70 1/2 or older.
- Your gift must be transferred directly from your IRA to a qualified charity such as the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc.
- Gifts cannot exceed $100,000 per person, per tax year.

You are encouraged to consult your accountant or financial advisor if you are considering a charitable IRA rollover or other gift that may affect your retirement, estate, or tax planning.
Anna McAuley | Well-prepared for a job she loves by Judith Davis

Anna McAuley (forestry ’15), a former recipient of the Herman William Gabriel Endowed Scholarship, began a job she loves in her field of urban forestry within a week of graduation from Virginia Tech.

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Endow Your Legacy at Virginia Tech

Your named endowment is a lasting legacy funding a scholarship, professorship, program, or other area where you wish to have an impact year after year, generation after generation. It may carry your name or the name of someone you wish to honor.

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There are many ways to fund a named endowment during your lifetime or with an estate gift. You can also use a combination of gifts to fit your goals. The Office of Gift Planning can help you and your advisors explore options that work for you.
Gabriel, continued from page 1

of Alaska’s Arctic Ocean coast to the steaming equatorial forests of Ecuador, and loved every minute.”

Following retirement from government service, Bill became a writer and photographer with work published in textbooks, encyclopedias, Audubon, Discover, Natural History, Time, and U.S. News.

After a dozen years of travel spanning six continents, ill health forced another retirement. Bill now serves his local Audubon Society as chair of an endowment supporting research at the University of Montana, where he earned a wildlife Ph.D. His charitable giving includes both the University of Montana and Virginia Tech.

“For quite a while, my donations to VPI were small sums in response to annual giving solicitations,” says Bill. But he wanted to more fully express his appreciation for his education and for the scholarships and student work opportunities that made his undergraduate education possible.

“In 1999,” Bill says, “I decided to endow an undergraduate scholarship for a forestry student that would make me feel like I was repaying, in a definite way, for [all] I had received.”

“I’m not a rich person,” Bill adds, “and wasn’t able to fund an endowment all at once.” However, as with other seemingly out-of-reach goals, he reached outside the box to create a solution that worked for him.

“I made an arrangement to fund the scholarship over a number of years with gifts of stock, IRA proceeds [charitable IRA rollovers], and cash, depending on what worked best for me each year.”

Bill included scholarship support in his estate plans as well, making Virginia Tech and the University of Montana equal beneficiaries of his life insurance and retirement account.

“My idea has been to help individual students realize their dream of a life among the trees and the birds, just as I was enabled by help from others,” says Bill. “I guess that behind all this is a love for the out of doors ... coupled to a desire to raise a new generation of foresters who will care for the health of our environment. I just want to help students, one by one ... so they can go on to greater things.”

More than a motto.

If your support of Virginia Tech includes a gift through your will, trust, or other estate plan, please let us know.