

Roots Run Deep

For John '56 and Carol (Litchfield) '56 Rehfluss of Newport, Ore., Willamette is more than a school, it is a family tradition.



John '56 and Carol (Litchfield) '56 Rehfluss, standing in front of the Eaton Hall room that bears their name, came to Willamette to hear the first lecture in the newly renovated space.

This year they have honored that tradition by providing Willamette with \$125,000 to name the newly renovated Rhetoric and Media Studies seminar room in Eaton Hall.

Originally the money was designated in their will, but the Rehflusses decided it would better serve the University if it were available now. "We took the view that we just as soon not wait and let the vagaries of fate determine when the money was used," says John.

Both John and Carol harbor great fondness for Willamette. It is the

place where they met and fell in love. Their family connections to the University run equally deep. Carol's great-great-grandfather, Charles Craft, was on the Board of Trustees for the Oregon Institute, Willamette's forerunner. "Willamette has always been the place to go in my family," she says. As

one of five Willamette graduates from a farming family in the Willamette Valley, John's sentiment echoes that of his wife's, "Willamette was the best place for me to get an education."

However, their reasons for giving to Willamette are more practical than nostalgic. They see their support of the Rhetoric and Media Studies seminar room, with its whirling new computers, wireless internet and vast video capabilities, as an investment in Willamette's future. "We're very excited about the new seminar room. It's large and quite impressive," says John.

They contributed to a nearly \$2 million renovation which has transformed the fourth floor of Eaton Hall into the campus' most modern and up-to-date learning space. The renovation also includes eight new faculty offices, two additional state-of-the-art classrooms and a faculty/student meeting area.

While they will always have fond memories of their time at Willamette, John and Carol are certain that Willamette has many more good days ahead. "Willamette is a strong school academically, and I think it continues to get stronger."

To date, Willamette has raised \$1.4 million toward the cost of the renovation and is working to raise an additional \$1.1 million. To support this crucial renovation effort, Willamette is offering naming opportunities for each of Eaton's new classrooms and offices. For more information about Eaton Hall's naming opportunities, contact Ron Korvas, vice president for University Relations, at 503-370-6397 or visit www.willamette.edu/support.

— Brad Millay '97

Did you Know?

- More than 8 percent of Willamette students come from families who are at or below the poverty level.
- Less than 10 percent of entering students can afford Willamette without scholarship or financial aid support.
- While Willamette is awarding the most scholarships in its history, only 17 percent of those scholarships are endowed – the rest are funded with annual gifts and operating revenue.
- Alumni giving provides financial aid that enables Willamette to enroll students who otherwise couldn't afford to attend.