

Class of 1963 50th Reunion Gift Profile



William E. Chapman II '63

Bowdoin is the place where I explored interests that eventually became lifelong passions. During those “best four years,” I learned a great deal about myself and the world around me. Devoted faculty members and fellow students helped me evaluate issues and take positions that I could defend. My education took place in the classroom, the fraternity house, Dayton Arena, the *Bugle* office, and away from campus. While at Bowdoin, I developed the curiosity to be a lifelong learner.

I've always considered Bowdoin a top priority, giving regularly to the Alumni Fund, the Polar Bear Athletic Fund, and various capital campaigns. I am extremely lucky to have come to Bowdoin as a young man. It was the right place for me, and the College played a significant role in making me who I am today.

A Bowdoin education is often life changing for the extraordinary and diverse students who consider the College home—students from rural northern Maine to inner cities across the country, indeed from every corner of the world. This is as true today as it was when we arrived in Brunswick, even though that student body wasn't diverse by today's standards. Giving students the opportunity to attend Bowdoin not only changes their lives, but also makes the College stronger and filters back to the communities where these students eventually live and work.

A few of us established the Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund as a way to support students who otherwise could not attend the College. In addition to my annual gifts to the Alumni Fund and capital gifts to the Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund, I recently let Bowdoin know that I have provided for the Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund both in an IRA beneficiary designation and a bequest. In these ways, I hope to show how meaningful my association with Bowdoin has been and to share that gift with future generations of students.

—BILL CHAPMAN '63

Bill and his wife, Bonnie, live in Longboat Key, Florida, and Annapolis, Maryland. After graduating from Bowdoin, Bill served in the Army for two years as a junior officer in the Fourth Armored Division in southern Germany. He then joined Connecticut General Life Insurance Co., which later merged with CIGNA, rising to become senior vice president and ultimately being named president of CIGNA Investment Advisors, Inc. From 1992 to 1998 Bill served as executive vice president for marketing and product management of Kemper Financial Services, Inc., and he currently is owner and president of Longboat Retirement Planning Solutions, Inc. He also serves as an independent director of four mutual fund groups and is the independent chair of two. Bill has been president of the Bowdoin Alumni Council and has served on the Board of Trustees since 2002. He and Bonnie have two children, Dorothy and Robert.