At the time of World War II, Dr. Kumiko Watanuki (MUND BA ’84, MA ’87) and her seventh-grade classmates had to work in a Tokyo munitions plant sewing uniforms for Japanese soldiers instead of studying. Today, Dr. Watanuki has four degrees and is an active 79-year-old professor and business consultant. Her Mundelein College education and close ties to the Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Center for Women and Leadership have inspired her to make several substantial gifts to Loyola, including a bequest that half of her estate be donated to the Gannon Center.

“We were denied education, because during the war we had to do things other than learn,” Dr. Watanuki says. “When I came to the United States, I went to college and learned a lot.”

In 1957, Dr. Watanuki moved to the United States with her American husband. She earned a general education degree and later, in her 50s, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Management from Mundelein College and a Master of Science in Organizational Development from Loyola.

“Mundelein College prepared me with a quality education as a stepping stone toward my life in the United States,” says Dr. Watanuki.

Dr. Watanuki has maintained a close relationship with the Mundelein BVMs since the early 1980s and is a member of the Spirit of Mundelein Club giving society.

“I am very happy to be a part of exciting education programs at Loyola that develop, promote, and sustain women’s leadership initiatives.”

—DR. KUMIKO WATANUKI
(MUND BA ’84, MA ’87)
Do I really need a will?

A recent survey* indicated that less than half of adult Americans have a will. For many alumni and friends, including a charitable bequest in a will is the simplest and best way to make a gift to Loyola. The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—has helped shape what Loyola University Chicago is today.

Here are some common misconceptions about making a will and the responses of estate planning professionals:

**MYTH:** I don’t own enough assets to justify having a will.

**FACT:** A will helps you avoid “intestacy”—state laws that divide up assets of people who pass without wills. A will lets you decide who gets what from your estate.

**MYTH:** Wills are too costly.

**FACT:** A simple will is one of the least expensive legal documents, so the potential savings to your family and your own peace of mind will far outweigh the legal fees.

Keep in mind the following points:

- A will can be drafted to reduce taxes for your family.
- A will can provide important assistance for your heirs, if they need help managing money, by setting up a trust in your will.
- A will lets you nominate an executor to manage your estate or a guardian for minors under your care.

A will also empowers you to assist organizations that have enriched your life, like Loyola. You can leave a cash amount or a percentage of your estate to benefit future students.

Other options include:

- **Residuary bequests.** You can leave Loyola part or all of any amount remaining in your estate after all other bequests have been satisfied.
- **“Tax-cursed” assets.** You can leave bonds or retirement accounts to Loyola that would otherwise require income and estate taxes for other beneficiaries.
- **Lifetime income.** Your bequest can support Loyola and provide lifetime income to a friend or family member.
- **Disclaimers.** You can give an heir the right to “disclaim” (turn down) part or all of a bequest, which would then pass to Loyola.

Our Office of Gift Planning has many more creative ideas for establishing your legacy at Loyola. Just give us a call at 800.424.1513.

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*Loyola gift planning—Your online resource center*

Visit our new gift-planning website to learn how Loyola University Chicago can help you achieve your philanthropic goals while bringing you a number of financial benefits. Our website is also a great source of Loyola news and past Magis newsletters.

Learn more about how to contribute to Loyola’s future, and discover how your generosity can make a difference at the University at LUC.edu/plannedgiving.

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*This survey was conducted by telephone within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of lawyers.com (Martindale-Hubbell® lawyers.com® from LexisNexis®) in March 2007.

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*Online estate planning tool* Easily organize your estate information and goals with the use of our online will planner. It’s free, confidential, and secure. Find it at LUC.edu/plannedgiving (click on Plan Your Will).

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*Making a memorial gift* Pay tribute to an important person in your life by making a memorial gift in his or her honor. By giving such a gift in your will or living trust, you can continue his or her legacy and make a difference in the lives of people supported by a favorite charity receiving your gift.

**Your memorial bequest can be made in the following ways:**

- Make a cash gift in any amount
- Give a specific asset from your estate
- Make a gift of a percentage of your estate or trust
- Give from the residue of your estate or trust

Memorial gifts are a great way to let your loved ones know how important they are to you. Loyola University Chicago is grateful to all who have chosen to remember a special person in this way.