$15.6 million was transferred to the endowment from gifts managed by Hamilton that made payments to others for life, as fiscal year 2016 concluded. The fact that donors contributed approximately $600,000 in “life payment gifts” in the last fiscal year drives home the need to replenish the pipeline.

Hamilton has a rich tradition of estate gifts dating back to 1842 and for nearly 65 years, life payment gifts, contributions of which increased dramatically through the extraordinary efforts of donor/volunteers Mac Bristol ’43, Dick Couper ’44, Milt Fillius ’44 and others, as well as vice president Joe Anderson ’44. In fact, they were so effective that they built one of the largest portfolios of gifts under management of our peer colleges, until May 31, 2016, nearly $60 million (at one time the portfolio totaled $81 million, or 11.43% of the value of the endowment).

Donors can achieve personal planning and philanthropic objectives with life payment gifts that provide either fixed or variable payments to themselves or others that begin immediately or may be deferred. Directing payments to others and/or deferring them to future years makes life payment gifts attractive to donors in their fifties and sixties. Please contact me to explore creative charitable planning strategies and to honor the efforts of those who came before us.

Benjamin P. Madonia III