Dear Members of the Westminster Community,

As you enjoy this edition of our Bulletin, which features the remarkable transformation in our campus first envisioned by our campus master planner Graham Gund ’59, I want to offer some insights regarding our aspirations for Westminster School moving forward. The new dining hall, student center, residences, academic center or even the turf field have each been designed with the intention of underscoring Westminster School’s ethos and core values: The new dining hall allows us to offer family-style lunch to our entire school community — boarding and day students as well as faculty; the new student center assures that our historic first building on Williams Hill — Cushing Hall — remains at the epicenter of community activity; and the new student and faculty residence features common spaces for students and faculty to gather. We are a more vibrantly intentional community thanks to this vision for our campus master plan and the philanthropy that brought that vision into reality.

The lessons members of the school community learn from each other every day, as a community, are a distinguishing aspect of Westminster’s mission. Although academic lessons taught in the classroom define us as a school, we seek to teach lessons that extend well beyond the academic sphere. We hope these lessons will inform the lifetimes of our students, as they seek to contribute to the world beyond Williams Hill. Fundamentally, our school’s mission focuses on the people who comprise our school community — students, faculty, alumni, parents and friends. Our beautiful campus facilities matter because they enhance this mission and the experience of our students.

Now, as we cast our gaze forward from this transformed campus setting, we seek to focus directly on supporting students, faculty and programs. Achieving this critical goal will require substantially more philanthropic resources for promising students without sufficient financial resources, for attracting and retaining faculty whose passion will inspire our students to new heights, and for enriching programs which will prepare students to make a difference in their endeavors.

This philanthropic support can be directed to various important priorities, such as scholarships that allow us to enroll students from diverse circumstances who want to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Westminster; through funded honorary chairs that distinguish, attract and retain top-notch faculty; or through underwriting the costs associated with inspirational programs across our curriculum, whether in the classroom, in the arts, in athletics, in the chapel or in service to others. There are many opportunities to be realized, and every initiative will have a tremendous impact on the future of Westminster.

Philanthropy can sustain these initiatives on an annual basis and even in perpetuity. To use the example of a scholarship, depending on philanthropic inclination and capacity, a donor might contribute on an annual term basis to The Westminster Fund or endow in perpetuity a partial or full scholarship. Annual gifts, term funding gifts and endowment gifts will accomplish the same goal of supporting opportunities for deserving youngsters from various circumstances to attend Westminster, even if their families don’t enjoy the financial wherewithal necessary for tuition. At present, about 30 percent of Westminster students are on financial aid, among whom only a portion are supported by endowed resources.

For another example, consider Westminster faculty, many of whom have devoted their lives to the school and our students. During reflection about their experience at Westminster, alumni often volunteer the difference that faculty made and continue to make in their lives. The roster of legendary faculty names in our school’s history continues to expand. The impact of faculty on the experience of students is immeasurable, so attracting and retaining faculty devoted to our mission, core values and ethos must remain an overriding priority. Crucial to this process is honoring the best, which can occur with the award of a named faculty chair. As with a named scholarship, a named faculty chair can be funded either through annual gifts or an endowed gift. No matter the source, this philanthropy affirms the dignity of the faculty’s devotion to enriching the student experience.

We all cherish this school and can accomplish more as a community than individually. Martlets fly together! Our aspiration is for Martlets to soar together in support of students, faculty and programs. Together, we can provide the lift that will allow Westminster School to achieve new heights, assuring that it enjoys not just sustainable resources but resources which will allow it and its students to thrive!

William V.N. Philip P’06, ’09 Headmaster