

MAKING AN IMPACT

WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG

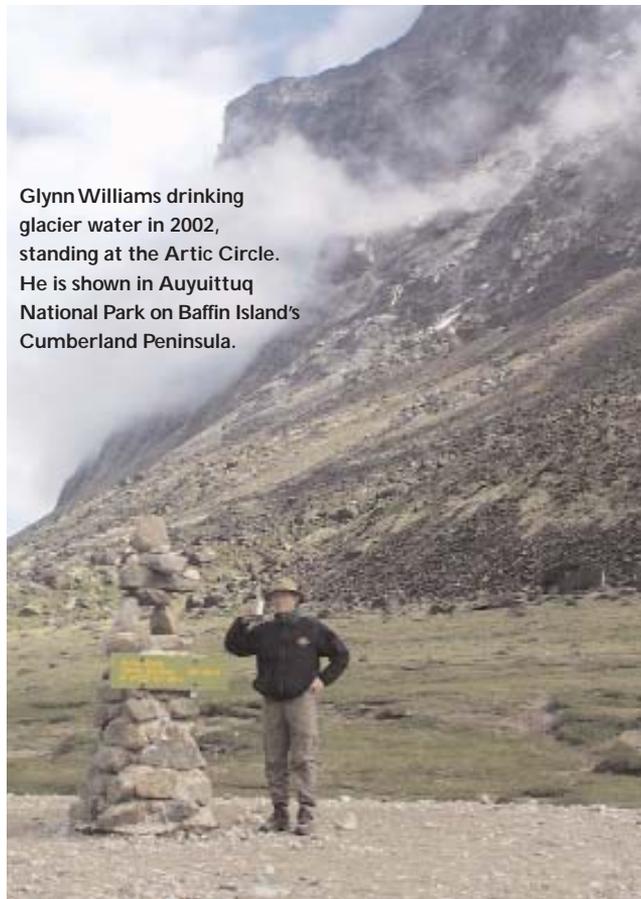
Alum
After Glynn Williams (BASc EngSci 7T8, MASc Mech 1980, MBA 1991) left Skule, he wanted to give something back, but he wondered how, given his modest financial resources at the time.

When Williams was in his 30s, he got the idea of a gift of life insurance, after talking to a financial planner. Williams set up two term life insurance policies, naming UofT as the beneficiary, one designated to the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the other to Hart House, as both were particularly meaningful to him.

Says Williams, "Because I started when I was young, the cost of the insurance premiums was exceedingly modest. The payments were over a fixed period of time, and ended some time ago. Considering the leverage that one gets, it's a great way to start giving. Big gifts can be intimidating, but you don't need a lot of money to make an impact."

Williams fondly remembers his days at UofT.

He is particularly proud of surviving the first year of Engineering Science and recalls his "exceptional professors", such as Professor Frank Hooper, his thesis advisor, who taught thermodynamics and who was the Chair of Engineering Science. He also remembers Professor David Hoepfner, who was Director of the Cockburn Centre for Engineering Design, who Williams describes as "inspiring and practical". Williams himself taught the heat engines lab while in his third and fourth year of studies, making him responsible for 300-400 students.



Glynn Williams drinking glacier water in 2002, standing at the Arctic Circle. He is shown in Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island's Cumberland Peninsula.

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As a student, Williams also spent a lot of time at Hart House, where he was Secretary of the Farm Committee and on the Board of Stewards. He developed great friendships with the staff, particularly with Assistant Warden Carmen Guild, who taught him how to run a business meeting and how to cook for large groups, among many other skills.

"University life is about a lot more than just doing well on exams," he said. "It is a world on its own – with so many smart

people to learn from."

As Williams progressed through his career, he has never forgotten his roots. Stops along the way have included stints as an engineering consultant, manager of a high tech firm, venture capitalist, securities analyst, founder and director of a financial services company, and ultimately founder, Chairman and CEO of a private equity and advisory company for the North American aerospace industry.

"Time is often more valuable than money," he said. "Even if you can't afford to make a financial contribution, the Faculty needs people to get involved. Our young alumni are very impressive people, who can make great contributions."

For his part, Williams continues to provide guidance and advice through the Faculty's Advisory Board and Campaign Cabinet. He has hired engineering graduates, offered design projects for students' course work, and spoken to students about career options. Williams has also set up an endowed doctoral scholarship for the benefit of mechanical engineering students and has named a lecture room in the Bahen Centre for Information Technology.

When he is not busy with other pursuits, Williams can be found flying one of his planes, learning to play the piano, or playing sax in his R&B band at his pub in Nova Scotia. "You can never stop learning," he says. "As we get older, it can get harder, but unless you stay current you risk losing too much." BY CHRISTINE SZUSTACZEK