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**THE CLAFLIN SOCIETY**

We celebrate our thoughtful philanthropists through **The Claflin Society**, a membership group that pays tribute to alumni and friends of **BU** who have established a planned gift.

The society was founded by Elsbeth Melville (CAS 1925), Dean of Women Emerita, and named for one of the co-founders of **Boston University**, Lee Claflin.

**Benefits of Membership:**

- ◆ Fast, personal assistance from a concierge dedicated to Claflin Society members to answer any requests or questions
- ◆ An invitation to the annual Claflin Society spring luncheon and fall reception on campus
- ◆ Invitation to select regional alumni events
- ◆ Complimentary access to select Alumni Weekend events

**Qualifications of Membership:**

- ◆ A bequest in a will or trust
- ◆ Designating **Boston University** as beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy
- ◆ Charitable remainder trust
- ◆ Charitable lead trust
- ◆ Charitable gift annuity
- ◆ Remainder interest gift of a home or other property
- ◆ Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

Planned gifts are a great opportunity to build a personal legacy at **Boston University**. For Claflin Society members, this is often an empowering act that conveys important personal values to the next generation.

Have you already finalized a planned gift to **Boston University** but haven't notified us yet? Do you need to update your contact information? Please contact the **BU Office of Planned Giving** at **800-645-2347** or **opg@bu.edu**. We would be happy to speak with you!



*The corner of Commonwealth Avenue and the BU Bridge, winter 1979*

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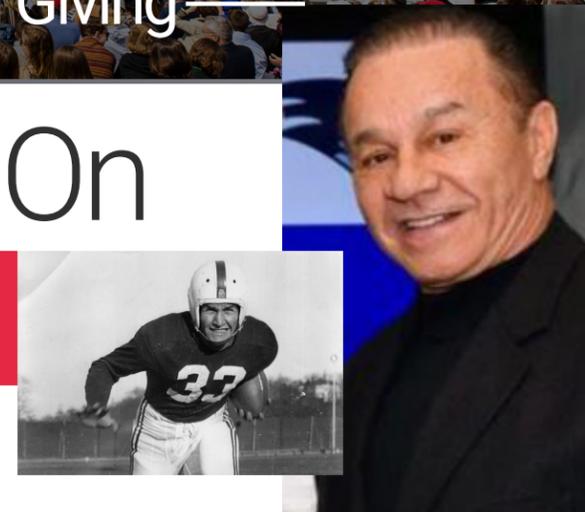
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**FALL 2024**



**A LEGEND Lives On**

In honor of his uncle Harry, **Michael Agganis** has given generously to **BU** for decades



For nearly 50 years, **Michael Agganis (Wheelock'67)** couldn't speak a word about his uncle **Harry Agganis (Wheelock'54)**, the star **BU** athlete and Red Sox first baseman who tragically passed away in 1955 at only 26 years old.

Harry, just 13 years his senior, was "like a brother to me," says Michael. "For years, I had many, many people tell me stories about him, but it was too emotional for me to talk about him." Michael couldn't even bring himself to attend Harry's posthumous induction into the College Football Hall of Fame or look at his statue displayed at The Sports Museum in TD Garden.

In 2003, however, he received a phone call that changed everything. "My uncle Phil called and said, '**Boston University** wants to name the sports arena after Harry,'" he remembers. "I know how close you were with Harry. Can you take the reins?"

Michael agreed. And over the next year, he worked closely with **BU** Athletics to prepare for the 2004 dedication of Agganis Arena and unveiling of a life-size bronze statue of Harry branded with his nickname, "The Golden Greek."

But Michael didn't stop there. In Harry's honor, he established a scholarship for **BU** student-athletes, donated generously to the Athletics endowment, and joined the Board of Trustees' athletic and fundraising committees as well as what is now the University Advisory Board. He kept giving in the decades that followed and continues to give today in Harry's name, encouraging other **BU** graduates to do the same.

"The majority of my estate is going to **BU**," affirms Michael. "That's out of appreciation of what **BU** has done for Harry. I will always be grateful."

**The Strongest DNA**

These days, Michael is comfortable speaking at length about Harry and other members of the Agganis family, who emigrated from Greece in the early 1900s and settled down in Lynn, Massachusetts.

"My father [Jimmy Agganis] was an extremely brilliant man, and also an athlete," says Michael, ticking off proof points: Jimmy made the National Honor Society, scored nearly 800 on his SAT, was awarded a full scholarship to Tufts University, and received a contract to play for the New York Yankees—which he turned down, concerned that he couldn't both play and provide for the family.

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# A Charitable Gift Annuity

## Gives You Benefits For As Long As You Live

By funding a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with **Boston University**, you receive the security of fixed payments throughout the year, and a portion of the payments may be tax-free. Your CGA can also benefit you and another person, such as your spouse. Payments continue for as long as either of you live.

**BU's** Office of Planned Giving can easily model different options of your payout rate, income tax deduction, and potential tax-free

### Enjoy Benefits Today, While Helping **Boston University** Tomorrow

portion in just a few moments. If you like doing it yourself, visit our website ([bu.edu/plannedgiving](http://bu.edu/plannedgiving)), where we have a handy calculator for you to explore. Whether you click, call, or email us, we are here to help.

### When you fund a charitable gift annuity with **BU**, you receive:

- Fixed payments to you, you and a loved one, or another annuitant you designate for life.
- An income tax deduction for the charitable gift portion of the annuity.
- Additional capital gains benefits if you transfer appreciated property.
- Satisfaction, knowing that you are strengthening **BU's** future with your gift.



## A **New Way** to Take Care of Yourself *and* Take Care of **BU**

By funding a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust with your IRA, you can receive income today and help **Boston University** students of tomorrow.

If you are 70½ or older, you can now use your IRA to create a gift for **BU** that also pays you. By making a one-time election for a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$53,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity (CGA), you receive fixed, reliable income for life. Spouses can each contribute up to \$53,000 from their respective IRAs for one joint-life CGA or a \$106,000 charitable remainder trust (CRT).

Qualified charitable distributions offer great tax advantages for CGAs and CRTs. Taxpayers who are required to take minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs can



count qualified charitable distributions toward their RMDs, thereby avoiding the usual income tax hit on their RMD dollars.

Funding a CGA or CRT with retirement assets comes with special rules and considerations, so please contact the **BU** Office of Planned Giving for more details and to receive a personalized illustration at no obligation.



**Michael Agganis**  
*continued from pg.1*



Harry, meanwhile, was the first Wigwam Wisemen All-American High School Football player and captain of the team, a first baseman in All-Star Baseball for New England, a dual-sport athlete for **BU** who set 15 records, and a member of the **BU** Hall of Fame. "**Boston University** acquired a kid that was the greatest high school baseball player in New England, and one of the greatest high school football players in the history of America," Michael says.

He was also a man of great moral character, Michael adds. In 1947, one year after Harry led his high school team to a national championship victory and

was named MVP, "he refused to go to the national championship again because the team wasn't allowed to bring two of their players who were Black," he says. "So, the team didn't go—but Harry was still named National Athlete of the Year."

During his junior year at **BU**, Harry was the Cleveland Browns' first-round quarterback pick. He rejected the offer in favor of a much less lucrative contract with the Red Sox because he wanted to stay close to his widowed mother, Georgina. "He was very devoted to her," Michael says. "He used to go home from Red Sox baseball games and rub his mother's feet because she had arthritis."

Georgina was also strong in her own right, Michael adds. "After she gave birth to Harry on the kitchen floor, she got up and cooked everyone dinner."

### Onward and Upward

Like Harry, Michael was a talented athlete who received a baseball scholarship to play at a Division I school. "But I flunked out," he says matter-of-factly. "That was the greatest thing that happened to me. It turned my life around."

Motivated to study hard, Michael went from having failing grades to straight As. He finished his bachelor's degree at a state school, then pursued a master's in education and a doctorate at **BU** and

earned his MBA. He even enrolled in law school for one year "to better understand torts and contracts," he says.

His career followed a similar upward trajectory. While working as a university psychologist, he started a construction business from scratch and grew it into a successful venture. In 1981, he pivoted to professional baseball, buying Lynn's minor league baseball team "when it was the worst of 186 teams in the nation," Michael remembers. "And then it became one of the best." In 1996, by then based in Akron, Ohio, the team drew the highest attendance in the Eastern League—a record it still holds to this day.

Michael's son, Greg Agganis (SHA'92), also inherited many of the Agganis family's talents. "At 14 years old, he could hit a baseball 100 mph," Michael says. Although Greg decided to focus on academics instead of sports at **BU**, he now serves on the **BU** Athletic Director's Council. He and Michael also co-produced a two-hour documentary about Harry and have donated all proceeds from the film to **BU** to fund student-athlete scholarships.

That's what Harry would have wanted, Michael says. "He started a scholarship; he gave money to the church. He was just a giving guy, and those are the qualities I try to have."