Susan Fleet Welsch’s ‘63 passionate love for outdoor activity including piloting helicopters, fly fishing, golfing and skiing certainly sets her apart as extraordinary, but it is her long, and remarkable legacy of service to The Bishop’s School that defines her.

Susan entered The Bishop’s School in 1959 with her twin sister, Sandra Fleet Honnen ‘63. While at Bishop’s, she was immediately impressed by the fine caliber of faculty and the high learning expectations. “When I graduated from our public school, I was valedictorian of my eighth grade class and my sister was a half point behind,” she says. “We didn’t have much competition. When we got to Bishop’s, it was an entirely different story. It was much more difficult, but we had very good teachers, we learned a lot, and were well prepared for college.”

Susan was elected Senior Class President, the first of many ways in which she would serve her beloved school. After graduation, she attended Southern Methodist University, Long Beach State University, and went on to earn a law degree at Western State University Law School. For ten years Susan practiced real estate law and estate planning in San Diego before she and her husband, Harry, retired to Aspen, so that they could indulge in their love for outdoor sports.

Although Susan may have graduated, she never truly left The Bishop’s School behind. Serving three terms on the Board of Trustees, Susan is one of only six people to be named an Honorary Lifetime Trustee. To this day, she attends as many Board retreats as possible so she can be familiar with the goals for the School. Even while working on Board issues, she has not forgotten her beloved Class of 1963. Susan has been integral in organizing her classmates’ involvement in class reunions and was directly responsible for bringing back to the campus 30 out of 53 classmates for their 40th reunion last May.

In addition to her countless volunteer hours for Bishop’s, Susan’s generous philanthropic dedication to the School is noteworthy. Following in the esteemed footsteps of her parents, Ruben H. and Eva May Fleet, she has long supported the scholarship program that helps to bring diversity to the student body.

“I just believe so much in education, like my dad did. I feel that if you educate a
child you provide a level of self esteem and capability that no matter what happens he or she can always fall back on that education.

Susan has also created a lasting legacy to the School by establishing a significant planned estate gift to ensure the continued strength of Bishop’s in its second hundred years. It is for her tireless support of her alma mater, through both philanthropic and volunteer service, that Susan Fleet Welsch ’63 is awarded the Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to Bishop’s.