Dear Friends,

We’ve all heard the clichés about helping others: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” “He who helps others helps himself.” And so on.

Charitable giving is a noble and worthy pursuit. The help of donors like you allows the University of Florida to thrive and to fulfill our mission. Your generosity helps us build a bridge between the concerns of today and the hopes and dreams for tomorrow.

One way you can make a charitable gift is through a bequest. This issue of Legacies looks at steps you may take to ensure that the disposition of your will occurs quickly and efficiently—so that your beneficiaries will receive what you intend.

As you consider making a gift to the university, remember that we can help you fulfill your financial and charitable objectives. As the purse is emptied, according to French novelist Victor Hugo, the heart is filled.

Can we help you with your plans?

Sincerely,

The Planned Giving Staff

"MEANINGFUL" TIME AT UF PROMPTS COUPLE TO GIVE BACK

Like many of our alumni and friends, Dr. Leonard Adams and his wife Rachel, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have a strong desire to support the University of Florida. Like some of the examples outlined in this issue of our Legacies newsletter, the Adamses have chosen to support the University of Florida through their estate plan. Specifically, the Adamses have very generously made arrangements through their will and a series of trusts to support graduate fellowships in UF’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Dr. Adams had a long and illustrious career as chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Louisiana State University. Prior to that he was on the faculty at Clemson and earned a master’s degree at Oklahoma A&M. However, it was the pursuit of a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Florida that cemented his close ties to this great university.

According to Dr. Adams, "Our time at the University of Florida was meaningful to us in many ways. We really enjoyed living in Flavet II (see photo on page 4) along with a host of other young married students. Our two little sons had more playmates than one can imagine, and the young wives were able to shed frustrations on each

Leonard and Rachel Adams

continued on page 4
A WILL TO DO GOOD

Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away. —Sir Francis Bacon

The English philosopher/scientist referred to the greatest kind of treasure—the act of helping others. Knowing that your generosity has benefited another person or an organization is a satisfaction that can't be measured in dollars and cents but is priceless nonetheless.

As you contemplate the future, you consider ways of ensuring that the unique spark that represents you—your interests, passions, and dreams—continues to cast its light after you are gone. Perhaps you would like to help, in a significant fashion, a favorite institution or a cause in which you believe. You want to give for the greater good.

One of the best ways to accomplish this is through your will. By taking a few simple steps when preparing your estate plan, you can maximize the amount that will go to charity and minimize the amount “lost” to taxes.

Better still, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you truly have earned a treasure—the heartfelt thanks of those whom you have helped.

A WILL TO GIVE

We all know that a will governs the distribution of certain assets after someone dies. But the document really says far more about one’s life than one’s passing. Your will reflects the values and relationships—whether they be with family, friends, your place of worship, or charities—that are most important to you.

To ensure that those people and charities receive your assets in the manner you intend, it is important that you prepare for probate.

In a strictly legal sense, the term “probate” means that a court establishes the validity of someone’s last will and testament. More generally, “probate” refers to all the steps necessary to settle an estate, beginning with locating and presenting the will to the court and ending with the final distribution and accounting by the executor.

While it may appear that a family member is a logical choice as executor, keep in mind the complexities and highly technical nature of many of the executor’s duties, such as keeping detailed accounts and settling with creditors. It may make more sense to have a professional fiduciary, such as a bank or an attorney, act as your executor because of their experience and expertise.

Sufficient planning for the following steps will help your executor ensure the smooth, swift, and efficient settlement of your estate.

• Locating the Will. If a will cannot be found, an estate will be distributed according to the often inflexible intestacy rules of state government. This means any gifts you intended for a favorite family member or charity will never be realized.

For that reason, it is important to keep an original will in either an attorney’s vault or a bank vault if the bank is acting as executor. Keeping the will in a safe-deposit box can create delays, since many states restrict access to such boxes without court approval.

• Collecting and Safeguarding Assets. Once the will is accepted for probate and the executor has been duly appointed by the court, he or she is often forced to literally go on a treasure hunt to locate bank accounts, stock certificates, safe-deposit boxes, insurance policies, business records, and other types of property.

The executor must make a detailed record of all property to file with the court, collect all debts, investigate all claims owed by the estate, and manage property responsibly in the estate until liquidation. You will simplify your executor’s job if you leave sufficiently detailed instructions about the location of all your assets, personal records, tax returns, bank statements, and other documents.

Note: This information will also be necessary for your executor to determine the taxes due on your estate.

• Determining Cash Needs. Many estates, particularly those in excess of $500,000, suffer from a severe shortage of cash. Funeral and burial expenses, attorneys’ and appraisers’ fees, taxes, and any debts—all must be paid. To ensure that your assets are distributed to the recipients you intend, it is important to prepare for the liquidity issues your estate may face.

• Distributing Assets. The executor’s most pleasant task is distributing estate assets in accordance with the terms of the will. You should first make sure that sufficient funds and property are available to satisfy
SAFEGUARDING YOUR RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

Personal and financial records, legal documents, the original will, and tax returns are all essential to an efficient settlement of an estate. As such, they should be safely stored and readily accessible when needed. The following chart lists those records and documents that will prove helpful, suggests where they should be stored, and explains why they are important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records and Documents</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original Will</td>
<td>attorney’s vault or bank vault</td>
<td>an irreplaceable document, essential for carrying out your estate plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(retain copy at home)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Documents</td>
<td>safe-deposit box</td>
<td>required for sale, distribution, or collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(stock certificates, bonds,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>certificates of deposit,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deeds, and titles)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Policies</td>
<td>safe-deposit box</td>
<td>required to make claims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Returns</td>
<td>file at home</td>
<td>helpful to executor when filing final income-tax return and estate-tax return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(keep irreplaceable records and receipts in safe-deposit box)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Inventory</td>
<td>safe-deposit box</td>
<td>necessary to locate and collect property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Valid claims, pay taxes, and satisfy specific bequests. If the value of the bequests exceeds the value of the distributable estate, for example, certain bequests may be reduced—or even eliminated.

Giving forethought and preparation to the aforementioned steps will guarantee that your estate will be settled quickly, in the way you would like.

Fewer and fewer estates will be affected by the federal estate tax for the rest of this decade as the exemption-equivalent amount climbs from the current $1.5 million per person to $3.5 million in 2009. The tax is repealed for the year 2010—but it will be back in 2011 in full force with an exemption of $1 million unless repeal or higher exemption amounts are reenacted prior to that time.

The uncertainties regarding the eventual fate of the estate tax and even the exemption amount in the intervening years will require constant vigilance to avoid getting trapped in an unforeseen situation.

While preparing your will, your attorney and/or accountant will likely tell you that making a gift of some of your assets is the easiest way to minimize taxes and reduce the need for liquidity. In addition, a gift by bequest often allows one to give more to a favorite charity than was possible with a gift during life, with its many attendant responsibilities.

Have a Heart

Bob Hope was known for his wisecracks, but the comedian, who selflessly gave his time and talents over the decades to entertain American troops around the world, understood the intrinsic value of helping others. “If you haven’t got any charity in your heart,” he once said, “you’ve got the worst kind of heart trouble.”

Help the causes you believe in through your will.

If you have “charity in your heart,” it is important that you spell out your wishes in your will. You may have mentioned once in passing to cousin Teddy that you would like a favorite charity to receive a certain amount; but unless your will makes that stipulation, it will not happen.

Whom should you give to?

First, you will want to make sure that your heirs are taken care of. Then you might think about where your time is now spent—with the organizations and interests that matter the most to you; whether they are your place of worship, Little League, or the University of Florida, these obviously reflect your values. As such, gifts to one or more of them would help perpetuate the ideals and causes you believe in.
other. Without generous financial assistance provided by the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Florida, it would not have been possible for me to study there. Another, and perhaps most significant, contribution to my appreciation of the university was made by Professor E.E. Muschitz, who guided me to a reasonably acceptable conclusion of a most challenging dissertation topic. We hope our legacy will, a; some future time, assist other deserving candidates to achieve productive careers."

Leonard and Rachel Adams and their two sons, shown in front of their home at Flavet II on the UF campus.

Through careful planning, the Adamses have realized that they can accomplish many of their goals by working closely with their legal advisers and setting up the proper distribution of their estate. Bequests can help reduce the size of one’s taxable estate, provide resources and income to heirs, and at the same time take care of one’s charitable goals. There are many other Gators out there, just like the Adamses, who appreciate and value the time they spent at the University of Florida. Many wish to express their appreciation in a tangible form, like naming the University of Florida as beneficiary of their will or revocable living trust.

We hope this issue of Legacies will give you some ideas to consider. Additionally, our able staff is ready and willing to help you and your estate planning team achieve your objectives, particularly as they may relate to the University of Florida.

A Will to Do Good...continued from page 3

How much should you give? The answer lies in your heart—namely, what feels right to you. Whatever your choice, you may be surprised at how the mere act of making this decision and including it in your will lightens your step and makes the world seem friendlier. "You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you," Puritan John Bunyan once wrote.

We’re Here to Help

Giving to charity is a rewarding action, but ultimately one that each individual must take on his or her own. Over the years, the generosity of people like you has enabled the University of Florida to pursue its mission successfully. If you have any questions about making a gift under your will to the university or if we can help in any other way, please do not hesitate to call.

To assist in your planning, we would also like you to have a free copy of our booklet, A Personal and Charitable Financial Record. It is designed to provide your family and executor with essential information about your assets and their location, as well as information about other important documents. To request your copy, simply call our office or return the enclosed card.

You should consult your attorney about the applicability to your own situation of the legal principles contained herein.

For additional information concerning the practical aspects of making a gift to the University of Florida, please submit the enclosed card, call, or write one of the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. Planned Giving staff.

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