TOGETHER, WE HONOR THOSE WHO ENRICHED OUR LIVES

Veronica and Jonathan Schmerling
Remembering Elizabeth

Flexible Gift Planning Options: Estate Gifts

Estate gifts provide many options that allow you to designate a future gift to Washington University, retain control of your assets during your lifetime, and maintain flexibility to meet ongoing personal and family needs. The gifts of more than 425 family members and friends have created a significant portfolio of endowed scholarships, professorships, fellowships, research grants and other educational and research programs.

See page 6.

The Office of Planned Giving can provide language for your will or trust, or for a living trust. To learn more, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 800-835-3503 or 314-935-5373, or via email at plannedgiving@wustl.edu.

The generosity of these donors helps ensure the continued excellence of the university for generations to come.

For information or to notify the Office of Planned Giving at 800-835-3503 or 314-935-5373.

Tax charitable deduction.

Washington University in St. Louis

SPRING 2015
Flexible Gift Planning Options: Estate Gifts

Estate gifts allow you to designate future support to Washington University, retain control of your assets during your lifetime, and maintain flexibility to meet ongoing personal and family needs. After your passing, the assets transfer to the university to support the purpose you designate and your estate will receive an estate tax charitable deduction.

Consider how a gift through your estate can support scholarships, professorships, research and other priorities of the Leading Together campaign.

Wills and Trusts — You may include a provision in your will or trust designating a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or specific property to the university.

Beneficiary Designations — You may designate the university as beneficiary of any portion of the assets from your qualified retirement plan (see below), life insurance policy or commercial annuity by completing a change of beneficiary form with your financial institution.

Qualified Retirement Plan Assets — Designating the university as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) retirement plan is a tax-wise way to give since the university is not subject to income and estate taxes. Distributions from retirement plans given to individuals other than a spouse may be subject to estate tax in addition to income tax. This loss to taxes can often exceed 50 percent of the asset value.

Payable on Death Designations — You may also designate the university as beneficiary on your bank accounts and other financial investments. By completing a Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) designation with your financial institution, you retain the right to change the beneficiary on the accounts as long as you own them. After your death, the funds for the designated accounts are not subject to estate taxes and will pass outside of probate and transfer directly to the university. Because each financial institution may have its own guidelines, it is important to verify specific procedures with your financial institution.

Testamentary Life Income Plans — You may include language in your estate plan directing a gift to the university, to establish a charitable trust or gift annuity after your passing. Once funded, it will make payments to named beneficiaries such as your spouse, family members or friends. When the payments end, the remaining assets will be used by the university to support the school or program you designate. A portion of your gift will generate an estate tax charitable deduction.

The Office of Planned Giving can provide language for your will or trust, or information on beneficiary forms. To learn more, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 800-835-3503 or 314-935-5373, or via email at plannedgiving@wustl.edu.
Elizabeth Schmerling AB ’03 was a gifted young architect whose joy and enthusiasm for her chosen field touched the lives of everyone around her. “Architecture was her passion,” says Elizabeth’s mother, Veronica Schmerling. “Her love of architecture was nurtured from a young age by her grandfather, Daniel Schmerling. He had a great love of architecture that he shared with Liz.” An artistically talented child, Elizabeth expanded her burgeoning interest in architecture during high school, taking courses in technical drawing, design, and architectural modeling. “Architecture combined Liz’s talents and interests,” Elizabeth’s father, Jonathan, adds. “She was interested in art and design, and enjoyed building.”

Elizabeth flourished at Washington University, bonding with her classmates and gaining the respect of her professors. “The friends she met at Wash U were some of her closest friends,” says Veronica. “Those years were some of the happiest, most fulfilling years of her short life.” After graduating cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in architecture, Elizabeth enrolled in the master’s degree program in architecture and landscape architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. While pursuing her graduate studies, she was diagnosed with brain cancer, and after a courageous 19-month battle, she died in April 2005 at age 23.

Jonathan and Veronica and their son, Bruce, chose to establish the Elizabeth S. Schmerling Endowed Scholarship at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in memory of Elizabeth. “We have always felt that giving to address education is important. With Liz’s death, given the wonderful education she acquired at Wash U and her love for the university, we determined that establishing the scholarship fund to award scholarships to deserving and accomplished students was the most appropriate way to honor and remember our daughter,” Jonathan explains. Continued on page 2
Six months after Elizabeth’s death, Veronica began making handmade greeting cards. “Making cards was a source of release and therapy for me,” she says. Encouraged by family and friends, Veronica creates the one-of-a-kind cards and sells them at semiannual card parties with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the scholarship fund.

The Schmerlings have been joined by more than 425 donors including family members and friends who have contributed to the scholarship fund. Like Veronica, several donors have funneled their creative energy into special fundraising projects. One such friend, Deb Rutledge, the mother of one of Elizabeth’s classmates, makes quilts for an annual fundraiser and donates the proceeds to the scholarship fund. “Deb’s son, Matt, was a close friend and classmate,” Veronica explains. “The fundraiser is one of the ways that Deb has expressed her appreciation for their friendship.”

Over the years, the scholarship fund has grown significantly from the Schmerlings’ many generous annual gifts and the generosity of family and friends. Jonathan and Veronica also have designated planned gifts through their estate and a beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy. To date, 26 scholarships have been awarded from the Elizabeth S. Schmerling Scholarship Fund. Jonathan and Veronica enjoy receiving letters from the recipients and hearing about their studies and aspirations for the future. “Knowing that the scholarship fund will in perpetuity provide educational opportunities like Liz experienced at Wash U provides some level of comfort,” says Jonathan.

To date, 26 scholarships have been awarded from the Elizabeth S. Schmerling scholarship fund.

Elizabeth S. Schmerling Endowed Scholarship

The Elizabeth S. Schmerling Endowed Scholarship is a prestigious award that provides financial support for talented rising seniors who are on track to earn a bachelor’s degree in architecture. The scholarship is awarded annually to one or more recipients. Selection is based on superior academic performance and scholarship; innovative thought and approaches to the science and art of architecture; and a commitment to the study and understanding of architecture that serves as an inspiration to professors and peers alike.

Creating Innovative Programs – for academic, museum and special programs

Building for the Future – for Anabeth and John Weil Hall, which will house graduate programs in architecture and art
Plan to Support Scholarships

Scholarship and fellowship support remains a top priority for Washington University and the Leading Together campaign. The university currently provides nearly $190 million in financial assistance to undergraduate, graduate and professional students each year, including nearly $86 million for undergraduate financial aid. The endowment provides only 13 percent of this aid with much of the balance for scholarships and fellowships coming from the operating budgets of the schools.

There are various ways to establish an annual or endowed scholarship through current gifts, planned or deferred gifts, or a combination thereof. All scholarship gifts, regardless of size may be designated to the school of your choice.

Current Gifts
You may designate your annual gift to support the general scholarship fund (no minimum) or an annual scholarship with a gift of $5,000 or more. Endowed scholarships can be established with a gift of $100,000 or more.

Planned Gifts
Planned giving provides a number of creative strategies that allow you to support scholarships in ways that may not be possible through current gifts. You can establish an annual or endowed scholarship through your estate plan (see page 6), a life income plan or another planned gift that provides attractive financial and tax benefits.

Charitable Gift Annuity
• Establish a charitable gift annuity with $5,000 or more in cash or appreciated securities and receive fixed lifetime payments (see rate chart on page 4), a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, and estate tax benefits.
• Reduce capital gain tax when you fund your gift annuity with appreciated assets.
• Enjoy partially tax-free payments.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust
• Fund a charitable remainder unitrust with $50,000 or more in cash, appreciated securities, or real estate and receive lifetime payments, a charitable tax deduction for a portion of your gift, and estate benefits.
• Washington University will draft and manage the trust and serve as trustee at no additional cost to you.
• Avoid capital gain tax when you fund the unitrust with appreciated assets such as securities or real estate.
• Enjoy tax-free principal growth.

To learn more, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 800-835-3503 or 314-935-5373 or via email at plannedgiving@wustl.edu.

Appreciated Assets
With the stock market reaching an all-time high in the past year, many alumni and friends have made gifts of long-term (owned for more than one year) appreciated stock. Appreciated real estate also may be used to make a gift. Benefits of contributing appreciated assets include:
> Charitable income tax deduction based on the current value of the property
> Capital gain tax savings
> An opportunity to use these assets to fund a life income plan
Her Impact Lives On
ELIZABETH SCHMERLING

scholarships to deserving and accomplished students was the most appropriate way to honor Jonathan and Veronica and their son, Bruce, chose to establish the Elizabeth S. Schmerling brain cancer, and after a courageous 19-month battle, she died in April 2005 at age 23. University of Pennsylvania. While pursuing her graduate studies, she was diagnosed with respect of her professors. “The friends she met at Wash U were some of her closest friends,” Jonathan, adds. “She was interested in art and design, and enjoyed building.”

Leading Together
Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Design, College of Art and Graduate School of Art, Arts and

Planned gifts are an important source of support for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual

Sam Fox School Campaign Priorities

$10

•   Washington University will draft and manage the trust and serve as trustee at no

•  Fund a charitable remainder unitrust with $50,000 or more in cash, appreciated securities,

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

•  Establish a charitable gift annuity with

Charitable Gift Annuity

•  Designate a beneficiarystock. Appreciated

Appreciated Assets

•   Capital gain tax savings

> Capital gain tax savings

>   Charitable income tax deduction

Appreciated assets include:

real estate also may be used to make

Gift Annuity Sample Payment Rates*

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*Rates are subject to change.
The Robert S. Brookings Partners recognizes individuals who have chosen to support Washington University through estate gifts, life income plans or other planned gifts. The generosity of these donors helps ensure the continued excellence of the university for generations to come. For information or to notify us of a gift in your will, trust or other planned gift, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 800-835-3503 or 314-935-5373.
What's inside:

Her Impact Lives On
Elizabeth Schmerling AB ’03 was a gifted young architect whose joy and enthusiasm for her chosen field touched the lives of everyone around her. When Elizabeth lost a courageous battle to cancer in 2005, her parents, Veronica and Jonathan Schmerling, and her brother, Bruce, chose to establish the Elizabeth S. Schmerling Endowed Scholarship at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts in her honor and memory. The scholarship fund has grown significantly over the years from the Schmerlings' generous annual and planned gifts and the gifts of more than 425 family members and friends. See page 1.

Plan to Support Scholarships
Scholarship and fellowship support are among the highest priorities of Washington University and the Leading Together campaign. Discover the many ways to establish an annual or endowed scholarship through current and planned gifts. See page 3.

Flexible Gift Planning Options: Estate Gifts
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