

SPIRIT *of* SHARING

GIFT AND TAX STRATEGIES FOR FRIENDS OF TEXAS A&M



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A Couple's Life-Changing Generosity Will Continue Forever

The late Martha and Charles Williams '37 believed in the value of a Texas A&M education. In their lifetimes and afterward, the couple gave to many A&M programs; their bequest to the Texas A&M Foundation created 40 Presidential Endowed Scholarships (PES).

Charles Williams, who held an electrical engineering degree, retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel after 20-plus years of service before the couple relocated to his hometown of San Antonio.

"He was very keen on education and on students. He felt A&M guided his life," said Jerome Rektarik '65, Texas A&M Foundation director of development for the Bush School of Government and Public Service. "He thought the PES was a great program. In addition, he and Martha gave generously in their lifetimes to the Bush School, establishing an endowed internship in her name and an endowed fellowship in his name."

The Williamses play an important role in educating dozens of young Aggies. Among them is Rachel Dwight '12, who grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth suburbs. "My twin brother, Jason, is going here, so it helped for me to get the President's Endowed Scholarship with both of us in school at



Gabriel Chmielewski

Accounting major Rachel Dwight '12 receives a President's Endowed Scholarship created through the will of Martha and Charles Williams '37.

the same time. My parents have been able to pay college expenses for my brother and me that aren't covered by scholarships and not go into debt.

"It locked in A&M as the school where I would go. It was between the University

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Converting Your Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA

Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) conversions are attractive for individuals with annual incomes over \$100,000 because the income limits on conversion were eliminated this year. Many people will convert their traditional IRAs because of the benefits of a Roth IRA:

- Tax-free growth of Roth assets.
- Future tax-free withdrawals for the owner and/or beneficiaries.
- No required minimum distribution at age 70½.

There is a conversion cost, however. Money moved from a conventional IRA to a Roth IRA will be taxed at ordinary income levels because a traditional IRA was funded with pretax dollars.

Offset Additional Taxes on Roth Conversion With a Gift for Texas A&M

The tax savings from a charitable gift made this year will help defray the conversion tax. Two gift options to help Texas A&M that qualify for charitable deductions include:

1. **Outright gift**—A gift of cash, stock or other appreciated property.
2. **Life-income gift**—Funding a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder unitrust that will provide payments for life.

To learn more about offsetting income tax with a charitable gift or about giving options, contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 392-3310. ★



Cushing Memorial Library Archives

Through a bequest to the Texas A&M Foundation, Charles Williams '37 and his wife funded 40 President's Endowed Scholarships.

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of Oklahoma and A&M. I wanted to go here the most because my mother—Gail Gierczak Dwight '83—graduated from here, and most of my aunts and uncles on her side went here.”

The scholarship also frees up some of her time. “I probably would have had to get a part-time job during school or take out a loan if I hadn’t gotten my PES,” said Dwight, an accounting major. The scholarship lets her participate in extracurricular activities such as the Accounting and Finance Clubs as well as Texas A&M’s Honors Invitation Program that recruits academically gifted high school students.

For Dwight and many other current and future Aggies, Martha and Charles Williams offered a life-changing opportunity. Through a bequest that was their largest gift ever, they fulfilled their dreams of improving educational opportunities at Texas A&M. The graduates they help will make valuable contributions to our state, nation and world. ★

Gifts Support a Family Tradition: Texas A&M

Texas A&M is a family tradition for Gerald '49 and Ann '91 York. They have sent three children and three grandchildren—with three more bound for Aggieland soon—to study at A&M. Ann York loves the school so much, and it is such a big part of her family, that she graduated at age 61 so she could be an Aggie, too.



Gerald '49 and Ann '91 York stroll on campus with their grandson, Colin York '08.

Because of the Yorks' allegiance to Texas A&M, they have given back to the school they think so grand with four gift annuities, one for themselves and one for each of their three children.

"We funded four charitable gift annuities and we think they're a great way of giving. These planned gifts allow us to help our family and later benefit Texas A&M," Gerald York said. Ann York likes the fixed payments she and her husband receive, and the ability to provide lifetime payments for their children.

For a customized example of a gift annuity that could benefit you and Texas A&M, contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 392-3310. ★

IRA Gifts 101

Do you realize that by planning now you can minimize or eliminate the future tax burden on your individual retirement account (IRA)?

Because IRAs grow tax-deferred, there is an income-tax burden associated with each withdrawal. If your IRA passes to a beneficiary, he or she will inherit the significant income-tax liability.

If you want to benefit Texas A&M after your lifetime, an alternative plan may interest you.

Your IRA gift to the Texas A&M Foundation, a nonprofit institution, is not subject to taxes. Therefore you can utilize 100 percent of an asset that would otherwise suffer a significant decrease because of taxes. Other assets without such a high tax burden may be a better way to provide for your beneficiaries.

Another advantage of this type of gift: It's easy to do. You simply complete a beneficiary designation form directing all or part of your IRA to the Foundation.

But perhaps the best benefit of making an IRA gift is that you control your account during your lifetime. Your funds are available to you when needed, and the remainder will benefit A&M.

For details about the advantages of IRA gifts and other charitable planned gifts, contact the Foundation's Office of Gift Planning at (800) 392-3310. ★



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Gift Planning Officer Mark Browning '88 Specializes in Trusts

Mark Browning '88 is the Texas A&M Foundation's gift planning officer for the San Antonio/South Texas region and for seven midwestern states. Previously he was executive vice president-manager of South Texas region for BBVA Compass (formerly Texas State Bank) in McAllen.



Browning, who joined the Foundation in February, has more than 20 years of experience in trust and investment work for banks in the Beaumont and McAllen areas. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Texas A&M, attended the Texas Bankers Association School of Trust Banking in 1990 and 1991, and is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor.

He believes people should be good stewards of the assets they control during their lifetimes

and likes his role of assisting Aggies and friends of Texas A&M in achieving this goal. "The most rewarding part of my role as a planned giving officer is utilizing my experience and skills to encourage individuals to plan in ways that benefit them, their loved ones and Texas A&M."

Browning gives back to the community in many ways, including serving as a trustee of the Rio Grande Council

Boy Scouts Endowment and leadership roles in his church. Browning also was active in the Hidalgo Starr County A&M Club.

He married Nancy Hoover '90 in the All Faith's Chapel on campus in 1989. The Brownings have two daughters, Kendall and Whitney, and a son, Andrew. ★

To discuss your planned gift for Texas A&M, contact a member of the Office of Gift Planning:

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