

# SPIRIT of SHARING

SUMMER 2013

Gift & Tax Strategies for Friends of Texas A&M

Women's  
Edition

## Supporting Sea Camp

On her desk at home, Judy Wern Kiester '76 keeps a framed paper cutout made by a student years ago. Kiester was visiting a Galveston school and noticed a display of student art; each had decorated a paper shirt to represent how he or she had spent the summer vacation.

"I looked up and saw this one that said 'My T-shirt is from Sea Camp. Riding huge fishing boats, swimming in the big outdoor pool, sleeping in dorm rooms of Texas A&M. I had a terrific summer,'" said Kiester. "I knew the boy who wrote that was homeless, which made me cry. He later attended Harvard."

Sea Camp is a weeklong residential adventure at Texas A&M University at Galveston that gives campers ages 10 to 18 a chance to learn about the wonders of marine environments. Kiester, who worked with the program since its founding by her mentor Sammy Ray in 1986, later served as the director of the program. She keeps the shirt as a reminder of what Sea Camp offers the more than 18,000 young people who have participated.

The three-time Aggie who received her bachelor's degree in marine sciences, master's degree in biology and doctorate in zoology from Texas A&M, believes a hands-on approach is the most powerful way to stimulate children to learn.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Also in This Edition:

- A glimpse of last year's successful Women, Wealth & Wisdom event.
- A free offer for *Planning for Your Future*, an estate and gift planning workbook.
- An idea for securing income for the future.

## Supporting Sea Camp

*(continued from front)*

Now retired as the executive director of TAMUG's outreach department, Kiester has property on an orange grove in La Feria, Texas. But she remains passionate about educational outreach programs like Sea Camp; its sister program, Sea Campus Kids, which caters to a younger audience; and the Talented and Gifted Program, which allows high-achieving students to explore various career options. She is so committed to programs that bring young people to campus that she set up a bequest in her will to endow scholarships for underprivileged children to attend Sea Camp.

"There are always so many children applying for scholarships for Sea Camp who otherwise can't afford to go and never enough scholarships for every worthy child," said Kiester. "Sea Camp has made a huge difference in so many lives. It's more than just a 'fun' thing. It's a first experience on a college campus for these kids, and it's important for them to dive in and do things for themselves."



*Judy Wern Kiester '76 with her dog Jim Thompson.*

At Sea Camp, children and young adults learn about ecology and marine biology; they visit a salt marsh, go on a research vessel, explore lab facilities and learn about oyster biology. Instructors include Texas A&M faculty members and graduate students from the departments of marine biology, marine sciences, zoology, wildlife and fishery sciences and other academic fields. Sea Campus Kids is a similar program geared at campers ages 6 to 11.

Kiester's dedication to the program stems from her desire to help children experience science as fun rather than intimidating. Over the years, she has brought programs directly to school classrooms and conducted teacher workshops.

"I believe so much in the good Sea Camp can do," said Kiester. "It provides these kids with a joy of learning, a motivation to study harder and, if they didn't already have it, a desire to go to college." Kiester's endowment will help continue the program's growth by allowing more students to explore science in a fun and engaging way.

*For more information on Sea Camp visit [tamug.edu/seacamp](http://tamug.edu/seacamp).*



## Contact Us Today!

To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit you, your family and Texas A&M University, contact Angela Throne '03 in the Office of Gift Planning at [a-throne@tamu.edu](mailto:a-throne@tamu.edu) or at (800) 392-3310.

## Smarter Planning

It always feels good when you give to a cause that you love. It feels even better when your plans to help others also help your own bottom line. "Giving" can be much more than writing a check or sending cash to a charity. As taxes go up, it is especially important to strategize, so here are some ideas to consider that can provide you with tax and income benefits.

### *Real Property Gifts*

Maybe you inherited a home or farm that you do not need. Perhaps you recognize that you will never use that vacant lot you purchased some time ago. Gifts of real property can provide you with a charitable tax deduction to offset this year's property taxes and capital gains taxes on the sale of your property.

### *Stock Gifts*

With capital gains tax rates rising, a gift of stock is an attractive way to save on taxes. When you give your stock to the Texas A&M Foundation, you can receive a charitable tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax on the sale of your investment. Another option is to make a gift of your stock to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust.

As you think about what you want to do with your property or investments this year, please consider talking with us. We can help you create a plan that meets your personal goals, offsets taxes and helps further our mission.

*Contact us and we will send you a copy of "Planning for Your Future," our free estate and gift planning workbook.*

## A Plan For The Future With Benefits Today

If you are planning for retirement but haven't set a specific retirement date or are still several years from retiring, a flexible deferred gift annuity may be a good option for you. It's also an easy way to support Texas A&M.

Many annuities and deferred income plans require payments to begin on a fixed date. But you may begin accepting income before you really need it, which could mean higher taxes.

With a deferred gift annuity, your payment date is flexible and you can defer unneeded income for the future through fixed payments, the rates of which are based on your age at the time you elect to begin receiving income.

Plus, you will receive a current charitable income tax deduction when you give to the Texas A&M Foundation through this type of annuity.



## *Capital Gains Tax Savings*

If you own appreciated stock or other securities, you know that selling these assets will likely produce a taxable gain. But you can also use these assets to fund a flexible deferred gift annuity and avoid paying part of the capital gains tax. As a result, you benefit from fixed annuity payments for life. While a portion of those payments may still be taxed at capital gains rates, you may also enjoy partially tax-free income. The partial tax avoidance and increased income for life make a flexible deferred gift annuity a wise option.

## Secure Payments When You Need Them

Ms. Aggie is 55 years old and is not yet ready to retire, but she wants to ensure her future and also to give to Texas A&M. Her advisor recommends that she use her stock to fund a flexible deferred gift annuity. She will receive a charitable deduction this year and can elect to begin receiving payments sometime in the future. Ms. Aggie likes the fact that she will receive fixed payments for life and that she can be flexible about when to begin her payments.

She funds a \$100,000 flexible deferred payment gift annuity with a target payout date at age 65. Ms. Aggie can take a charitable tax deduction of \$29,841 at the time her gift is made and can begin



receiving payments when she is ready. For example, Ms. Aggie can start receiving annual payments of \$4,547.32 at age 60, receive \$6,200 annually beginning at age 65 or even \$14,400 beginning at age 80. The choice is hers!

To learn more, contact us for a free personalized illustration.

# Women, & Wealth Wisdom

*{ A Financial & Estate Planning Event  
for Women of all Ages & Stages }*

In May the Texas A&M Foundation hosted its second annual Women, Wealth & Wisdom workshop at Texas A&M's Memorial Student Center. The free event was a great success thanks to more than 200 women who attended.

The workshop was created in 2012 to empower women to take charge of their financial and estate planning. Financial planning experts shared knowledge on Social Security benefits, investing and long-term care. Be on the lookout for information and announcements about next year's Women, Wealth & Wisdom!



*Detach here and drop in the mail*



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SPIRIT AND MIND®

## **We're Here to Help**

- Send me "Planning for Your Future," the free estate and gift planning workbook.
- Send me more information about giving to Texas A&M in my estate plan.
- Send me more information about deferred payment gift annuities.
- I have not previously informed you, but I have included the Texas A&M Foundation in my estate plan and would like to become a Heritage Member.

**Name** *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

*All information is confidential.*

# *A Look Back*

## 1964 Women's Bowling Team



Photo Courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library and Archives



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