Perpetuating the Proud Zag Cycle

We each have our own reasons to be proud Zags. For Jim and Jean Roeber, it was the University’s unwavering and generous support when their family needed it most. For Pat and Carol West, their pride is parental. Mike (‘63) and Sunny (‘65) Strong found theirs in the life-changing experiences they had as students. For Va Lena (‘58) and Don (‘60) Curran it comes from seeing lives transformed through a Gonzaga education.

These Zag alums, parents, grandparents and friends are perpetuating their pride by giving back in creative ways – a bequest in a will, a charitable remainder unitrust, a gift of retirement funds, a laddering of multiple charitable gift annuities and more. Their motivations are uplifting as they each ensure that Gonzaga University can continue to provide the transformative experience that inevitably creates a pathway for future proud Zags.

Walk with us through their unique stories (inside) and you might be inspired by their experiences and find encouragement through these heartfelt examples of Zag benefaction.

Thank you!

As ever,

Judy Rogers

P.S. Learn more about the Proud Zags Give campaign and how you can take part at gonzaga.edu/proudzags.
When asked about the essence of Gonzaga, Jim Roeber is quick to recall a conversation he once had with Father Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J. The words proffered by the former Gonzaga president in that exchange, though brief, made a powerful and lasting impression.

“If we don’t have that personal relationship with every student,” Fr. Coughlin told Jim, “then we feel we have failed.”

Gonzaga, in Jim’s unwavering estimation, has never failed his family. Four of the Roebers’ daughters are Gonzaga alumnae; however, two of them might not have graduated without, as Jim likes to say, “the University going the extra mile.”

In the early 1970s, Jim was running a company in California that, after a sale and change in management, directed him to apply discriminatory pricing practices against a few specific customers. Jim refused to comply, so he resigned. Jim and his wife, Jean, informed Gonzaga that for financial reasons it would be unlikely that their daughters would be returning to school; but Fr. Coughlin said, “You send your kids and we’ll make it work.”

“They did a lot for our family at a time when we really needed it,” Jean said of Gonzaga, “and our girls have done well with their education.”

Now the Roebers feel it is their privilege to not only help provide an exemplary Jesuit education for others, but also sustain the spirit of Gonzaga. That is why they give so generously to the University. In addition to establishing the Jim and Jean Roeber Family Endowed Scholarship in 1984, the couple has made a bequest for Gonzaga in their will.

“From our total estate, each of our kids gets a piece and the other portion is divided up amongst three different charities,” said Jim, “and GU is the first one after the church.”

“We hope it pays back some of the really great things Gonzaga did for us,” Jean said. “They made it happen for us and we want to make it happen for somebody else.”

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN A CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST (CRUT) IF YOU DESIRE

1) to convert non-performing assets into income-producing assets
2) to bypass capital gains tax on highly appreciated assets
3) to dispose of management-intensive assets (e.g., real estate)
4) to receive an income tax deduction now and give to GU later
5) to reduce the size of your estate for tax purposes

Gonzaga. For their combined lifetimes, the Wests will receive income quarterly, and upon their passing, what remains in the CRUT will be added to the Christopher M. West Memorial Fund which will provide more scholarships.

“I don’t have to pay any capital gains, I can donate the stock to Gonzaga, we can build up the scholarship fund that we have in our son’s name, we can get a tax deduction and increase our income— all this benefiting Gonzaga when both of us are gone,” Pat West said describing the benefits of their CRUT. “It just makes a lot of sense. It’s a win-win all the way around.”
Gonzaga University has changed quite a bit since Mike Strong graduated in 1963. Just about all of the change has been for the better, though Mike notes that change brings with it a new set of challenges.

“When we went to school here, the tuition was $650, and you could actually earn that,” Mike said. “I paid my way through school by working on a farm in the summertime, but that’s not possible anymore. You have to get help from somebody to afford college these days.”

Mike and his wife, Sunny (’65), are more than willing to provide that help. In 2013 they transferred funds from their individual retirement account to Gonzaga.

Mike, who studied biology with the intention of pursuing a medical career, called Gonzaga a life-changing experience, saying his liberal arts education opened up the world to him. His fondest memories involve his time as a member of The Brotherly Order of YoYos, a brotherhood banded together and pledged over $100,000 in just one month’s time.

Sunny was part of the first Gonzaga-in-Florence class in 1963, spending 10 days crossing the Atlantic Ocean by ship. She says her year in Italy, “really stretched my mind. It gave me a clue that there were other ways to think and do things.”

The Strongs became engaged in a corner booth in the lower level of the COG. They married in 1965 and have remained loyal to Gonzaga ever since. Their grandson, Ryan, will be attending Gonzaga as a freshman this fall.

“Gonzaga really gives people options to live their lives fully and to remember others, not just to make a living,” Sunny said. “It gives you an opportunity to find meaning. That is why I am always promoting Gonzaga and I hope that it always stays true to its identity.”

Editor’s note: The charitable IRA rollover provision that allowed donors 70 ½ and older to make tax free, direct transfers of up to $100,000 per year to charity expired on December 31, 2013. It is now uncertain whether it will be extended in legislation this year, or in the future. However, any IRA account holder 59 ½ and older may withdraw from their IRA without a penalty, recognize the income, and then take a charitable deduction for the gifted amount to charity. Note: Always consult first with your tax advisor.

You can make a meaningful gift by naming Gonzaga University as a full or partial beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) type retirement account. Because retirement assets can trigger estate taxes and/or result in substantial income taxation to (non-spouse) heirs, they make ideal gifts to a tax-exempt charity such as Gonzaga.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA), though very simple to establish, is a bit different from an outright cash gift. Through a contract, a donor agrees to make a donation of cash or appreciated stock to Gonzaga. In return, the donor receives an immediate IRS-approved tax deduction and fixed quarterly payments from Gonzaga for the rest of their life (or lives, as with the Currans). Upon the death of the donor(s), what remains in the gift annuity account is put to good use by the University.

Gonzaga later extended in legislation this year, or in the future. However, any IRA account holder 50 ½ and older may withdraw from their IRA without a penalty, recognize the income, and then take a charitable deduction for the gifted amount to charity. Note: Always consult first with your tax advisor.

If you desire:
1) to receive secure, fixed payments for life
2) to supplement your retirement income
3) to receive an income tax deduction now
4) to receive higher payments than your current income
5) to receive income now and support Gonzaga later

Sunny said. “It’s partly altruistic to make a charitable gift annuity — it’s a wonderful way to help out a great institution,” Don said. “But at the same time, it sounded like a good idea to get a higher rate of return at our age. I think it’s a win-win for the donor and Gonzaga.”
THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Which specific plan is best for you?
Your tax and financial advisors should always be consulted in the decision-making process.

Cash/check
Credit Card
Online
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
Stock

Bequest
Retirement Assets
Life Insurance
Personal Property
Real Property (real estate)
Charitable Gift Annuity
Charitable Remainder Trust
Charitable Lead Trust

Of course, we are willing and able to work with you and your advisors to help ensure the impact of your gift.

MAIL
Your Heritage Survey today

EMAIL
plannedgiving@gonzaga.edu
We’re happy to answer questions

CONTACT
Judy Rogers or Annette Davis
at (800) 388-0881

gonzaga.edu/plannedgiving

to find gift and estate planning ideas

THANK YOU

Estate gifts from the following alumni and friends were gratefully received between March 16, 2013, and March 1, 2014. These gifts will have a significant impact on student scholarships, faculty support and academic programs.

Kenneth & Esther Louise Barton & Frank & Louisa Murphy
Edmund ('49) & Darlene Braune
Dr. John P. ('42) & Flo Ann Connors
Robert A. Coomes ('57)
Donald E. DeFeyer
Genevieve (Tudy) Edmonds

Dennis ('66) & Lynn Flaherty
Maurice Glassy ('50)
Mazie W. Herman
Fred J. Mollerus ('54)
Joseph & Alice Peirone
Frank & Janice J. Rotondo
Joseph Tremblay ('42)

You are our Heritage. Your Legacy is our future.

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