

**MILLSAPS
COLLEGE**

Heritage

A newsletter for Millsaps alumni and friends

Bequests Link Donors to Millsaps

Most people assume only older persons make bequest gifts to a college. Two Millsaps alumni of different ages have proven that wrong.

Rex Poole, 68, Class of '63, and his wife, Lenda, 64, made a sizable bequest to the Millsaps United Methodist Bishops Endowed Scholarship Fund. Becky Woodrick, 44, Class of '82, stipulated in her bequest that a percentage of her estate go to the Lavelle and Patricia Woodrick Endowed Fund at Millsaps to honor her parents.

Why did they decide to leave a bequest to Millsaps? Lenda Poole explained, "Once you are gone, you don't need it." Ms. Woodrick said, "I'm by no means a wealthy woman, but I know, down the road, this will be meaningful to honor my parents."

After graduating from Millsaps, political science major Rex Poole began a career in banking, working in both Jackson and Columbus. After retiring from banking, he and Lenda moved to Clinton, Mississippi. They have one son, Rex Jr., a physician in Lakeway, Texas, and another son, David, in Clinton. A Millsaps education is a family tradition for Mr. Poole, whose brother, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew graduated from the college.



Rex and Lenda Poole

Mr. Poole said, "The Bishops Fund is a link to the relationship between Millsaps and the United Methodist Church." He feels it is "a good way to provide scholarships for needy students. Over the years, the Bishops Fund gives the students an incentive to make a difference in their church and community."

With an English degree from Millsaps and Master's in Higher Education Administration from Oregon State, Ms. Woodrick is currently Director of Affirmative Action at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Ms. Woodrick's father, Lavelle, a retired Methodist minister, is a former member of the Board of Trustees at Millsaps and once was a District Superintendent for the United Methodist Church. The Woodricks now live in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



Becky Woodrick

"My parents were practicing community service long before it was fashionable," Ms. Woodrick said. "They taught by example. When my dad moved to another church as pastor, my parents left something through community

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue

- The "who" and "what" of your plans
- Increase income and reduce estate taxes
- Provide for your spouse and make a gift of a lifetime

People and Property: the Foundation of Your Estate Plans

The process of reviewing your plans for the future need not be overwhelming. You may find it helpful to begin by spending some time organizing your intentions. This can help simplify what may otherwise become a confusing process.

A good place to begin is with two lists: “People” and “Property.”

The “who” of your plans

People—your family and other loved ones—constitute the first list. With the passage of time, events such as births, marriages, and deaths can change the makeup of families.

Be sure to list each person for whom you wish to provide:

- Your spouse, children, or other family members
- Close friends and associates

Many also choose to include their charitable interests, such as Millsaps College, in the same category as the people in their lives.

The “what” of your plans

Next, list property you own or are likely to own in the future.

Include pertinent information about:

- Your home(s) and other real estate
- Securities (stocks, bonds, and mutual funds)
- Other investment assets
- Pension plans and retirement accounts (including IRAs)
- Life insurance policies
- Savings accounts and certificates of deposit
- Personal property (household furnishings, automobiles, jewelry, antiques, art, etc.)
- Inheritances you expect to receive

Along with your assets, make a list of debts, or liabilities. When you have completed this list, subtract the liabilities from your assets to arrive at your net worth.

It is also a good idea to list the income, if any, produced by each category of property.

Next, compare your properties to the “People” list. Some properties should obviously be



given to certain people. Of the remaining assets, consider how you wish to distribute them—by percentages to different recipients, by specific amounts of cash or property, or in other ways.

Once you have an idea of how you would ultimately like to match your property with the people in your life, your attorney and other advisors can help you determine which tools are best for accomplishing your goals.

Estate Planning and Philanthropy Can Be Partners

Keep in mind that your desire to continue to support Millsaps and other charitable interests can be a vital part of your plans. Charitable gifts can be included in your estate plan, sometimes with welcome tax savings and other benefits to you and your loved ones as well. Call or write for more information.

How Your Will Can ‘Work Twice’

Married couples often make wills that provide for trusts to manage assets for the benefit of a surviving spouse for their lifetime. Known as a “marital deduction trust,” this plan typically results in elimination of tax at the death of the first spouse while providing income for the surviving spouse for the remainder of his or her life.

Access to assets in the trust can also be arranged if needed. Such plans can provide for professional management of funds and other safeguards for the benefit of the spouse.

What if you would like to make charitable gifts to Millsaps College as part of your estate plan but want to first assure economic security for your spouse? Your will can serve to create a marital trust

for the benefit of your surviving spouse for life, while directing that all or a portion of what remains at the death of the spouse is devoted to Millsaps.

In this way, your will can actually “work twice.” First, it helps assure the financial well-being of your spouse, then it works again to direct the ultimate distribution for charitable purposes of your choosing.

Enjoy Benefits From Giving Today

Now that tax law changes make it possible for many to leave more property to loved ones free of estate tax, you may wish to reexamine the role of charitable gifts as part of your will and other long-term financial plans.

Other ways to give

A number of popular tools enable you to complete gifts to Millsaps College in the near term while retaining income for life or another period of time for you and/or a spouse or other loved one. In so doing, you can avoid capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on the sale of the donated assets, enjoy a charitable tax deduction that can immediately reduce income tax, and still minimize or eliminate estate taxes just as if the gift were arranged as part of the settlement of your estate.

Income for life

Nora and Tom have included charitable gifts through their wills. They have recently been told that under current law they may no longer be subject to estate taxes.

In consultation with their advisors, they decide to transfer assets that have increased in value—but yield little income—to make an eventual charitable gift while they receive generous income payments for the remainder of both of their lives. In this way, they avoid payment of capital gains tax that would have been due on a sale of the stock and are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction that will serve to eliminate tax on a large portion of their income. A percentage of the payments they receive each month will be taxed at rates lower than that paid on other income.

Whatever funds ultimately remain will be used by Nora and Tom’s charitable beneficiaries, including Millsaps College. They are very pleased with their gift and welcome the tax and other financial benefits.

Why Consult an Attorney?

With a variety of “do-it-yourself” will planning kits on the market, is there a real need to go to the trouble and expense of hiring an attorney to plan your estate?

For most persons, the answer is probably yes. By working with an attorney who is experienced in estate planning matters, you will see firsthand how he or she can help you and your loved ones by:

- Recognizing pitfalls and taking steps to minimize their impact.
- Staying current on complex state and federal laws, including changes that occur and court interpretations of such laws.
- Helping to reduce or eliminate estate taxes.
- Being familiar with legally correct wording so that your wishes are accurately conveyed.

- Making sure that the impact of insurance and retirement plan designations are considered.
- Safeguarding documents once they are completed.

Failure to make estate plans can place a tremendous strain on loved ones at a most difficult time. Investing a moderate amount of time and other resources in good advice today may prevent unpleasantness for those you care about most.

Attorney’s fees for estate planning can be quite reasonable, and most will commit to a maximum fee in advance. If you do not have an attorney, or if you need an estate planning specialist, ask for recommendations from friends, relatives, or your local bar association.

Bequests Link...

Continued from page 1

service in that town when they moved on. This bequest in my will is a way for a value important to my parents—community service—to last for decades to come.”

The Pooles and Ms. Woodrick have proven that people of different ages leave bequests to Millsaps.

If you need additional information on planning a bequest to Millsaps, contact Dudley Marble at (601) 974-1026 or e-mail him at marblrd@millsaps.edu.

MILLSAPS COLLEGE

Dudley Marble
Gift and Estate Planning Services
1701 North State St.
Jackson, MS 39210-0001
(voice) 601-974-1026 (fax) 601-974-1088
Development Office (toll-free) 1-866-974-1031