



## ESTATE PLANNING IDEAS FOR SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

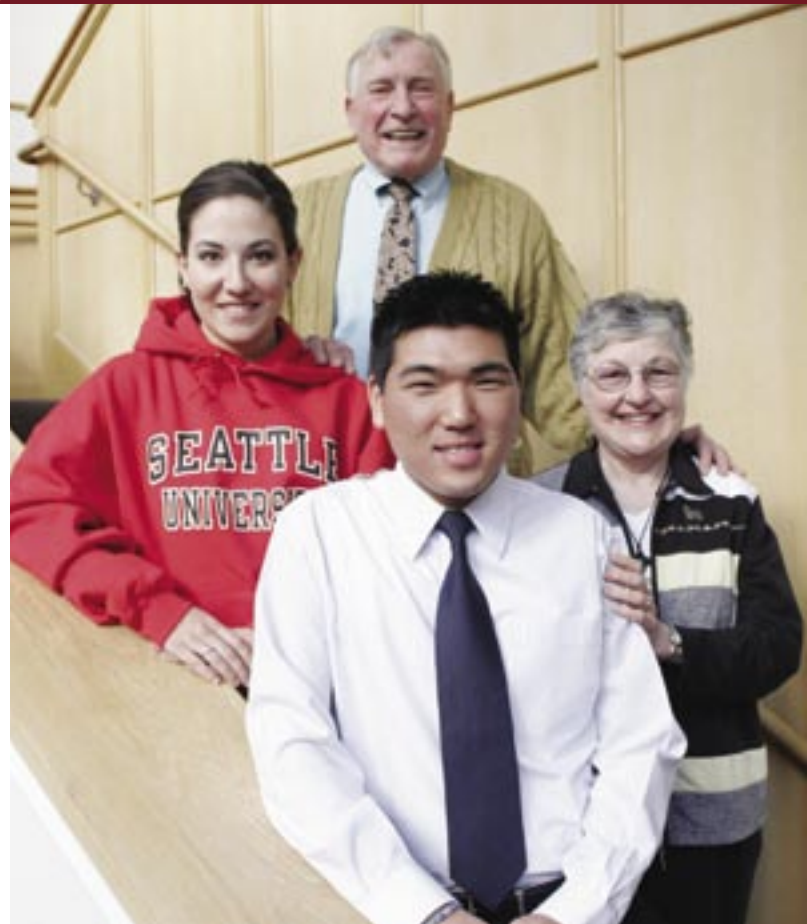
WINTER 2007

### MAKING A GIFT THAT GIVES BACK

“**Y**es, you really can make a charitable gift, save on taxes, and receive income for life,” says Bernie Steckler, Professor Emeritus. “A charitable unitrust is a very desirable kind of gift because it continues to grow from the fund’s equity investments. It also generates income, so as we move toward our golden years we have a little extra bread coming in.”

In 2006, Bernie and his wife, Joyce, created a charitable remainder unitrust to express their appreciation of Seattle University’s role in their lives. “We were grateful for my opportunity to work at the university,” explains Bernie. “Joyce and I are so supportive of the Jesuit mission and we wanted to say thank you in a way that will help others experience the wonderful opportunities at Seattle University.”

Saying thank you to Seattle University was



*Joyce and Bernie Steckler visit with Matteo Ricci College students, Renee Mindas, '07, and Josh Lee, '07, on the Seattle University campus.*

the right thing for Bernie Steckler to do since the university had been such a vital part of his life for many years. Fortunately for Seattle University, just four years after earning his

# ENDOWMENT SUPPORT



doctorate, the call to academia became too loud for Bernie to ignore. That call led Bernie to the school's Capitol Hill campus to teach chemistry. Bernie was eager to join the faculty of a Jesuit school and was proud of the Jesuit's principled, if sometimes unpopular, stands regarding economic justice and solidarity with the poor. "The Jesuits invited all the people in their ministries, especially academic ministries, to explore what that meant," Bernie says. "They invited people to the conversation and they've been doing it ever since." It was this reaching out to people that matched Bernie's own values of collaboration and communication.

The young professor could have hardly predicted how that decision would shape his career. Over his more than 30 years at Seattle University, he helped advance a new type of teaching philosophy, first as a professor of chemistry and later as the first director of curriculum and dean of Seattle University's Matteo Ricci College.

Bernie Steckler's giving to the university



*Students experiment in a beginning chemistry class.*

began early in his career and lasted a lifetime. He first put his stamp on the chemistry department. "In some ways, Bernie is the heart and soul of the department," says David

“Everything I am looking forward to as a graduate of Seattle University has been made possible almost entirely by the first-class academic preparation and research experiences provided by the Chemistry Department at Seattle University.”

—ADAM JOHNSON, '07

Thorsell, associate professor of chemistry at the College of Science and Engineering and a former colleague. "He started so many things, such as collaborations with people outside the



*Joyce and Bernie Steckler tour campus with Matteo Ricci College students, Renee Mindas, '07, and Josh Lee, '07.*

department. Some of that still continues today.”

Bernie and Joyce still host the annual chemistry department retreat in their home. This retreat has become a tradition that is still going strong despite Bernie’s retirement in 1996. “The department still sees him as one of the faculty,” says George Simmons, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at Seattle University.

This annual retreat, which began more than 20 years ago, keeps Bernie in touch with his former department, and not just as an observer. “Bernie is not just hosting us,” says Thorsell. “He still makes valuable contributions all the time.” For Bernie, it’s a chance to observe and enjoy the changes in the College of Science and Engineering. “The faculty is so committed to exploring what’s effective about their teaching and the different ways to make it more effective,” he says. “The chemistry department is modeling the kind of academic scholarship and pedagogical inquiry that emphasizes learning about learning.”

Bernie eventually had the chance to expand that inquiry. In the mid-1970s, he and a number of other Seattle University faculty and administrators began to lay the groundwork for what would become Matteo Ricci College, an innovative program that coordinates and integrates high school and university-level studies. Students are able to complete their high school and university education in six or seven years rather than the traditional eight years.

“The Matteo Ricci College offers an opportunity like no other. It gives students a chance not only to take a wide variety of courses, but to go beyond simply learning the material to truly comprehending the humanities, allowing them to integrate the subject matter into their lives, and consequently, live more humanely.”

—CATHERINE PREZBINDOWSKI  
MATTEO RICCI STUDENT

The most distinctive features of Matteo Ricci College are the coordination of many levels of studies, cumulative reinforced coherence within the curriculum, and a spirit of community. Matteo Ricci College is “student centered,” stressing lifelong habits of learning and the skills of sharing ideas within society. The program remains unique and now includes more high schools than ever. Students now attend Matteo Ricci from Seattle Prep, John F. Kennedy Memorial, O’Dea, Archbishop Murphy, Eastside Catholic and Forest Ridge High Schools.

“It was a counterpoint to the traditional, prevailing practice of narrowing attention to the subject matter without any attention to linkages to the subject matters so students can see the relationships among different disciplines,” Bernie says. Matteo Ricci’s curriculum created those linkages. The school also created a new way for teachers, both at the high school and college level, to work together. “It was a way of freeing faculty to explore the collaborative and interdisciplinary approach,” he adds.

Bernie and Joyce have contributed in so many ways to make a difference in the lives of many. We are thankful for their years of unselfish service and for their thoughtful planning to help our next generation of Seattle University students.

#### BEQUEST LANGUAGE

I give to Seattle University, a Washington non-profit corporation, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for \_\_\_\_\_.

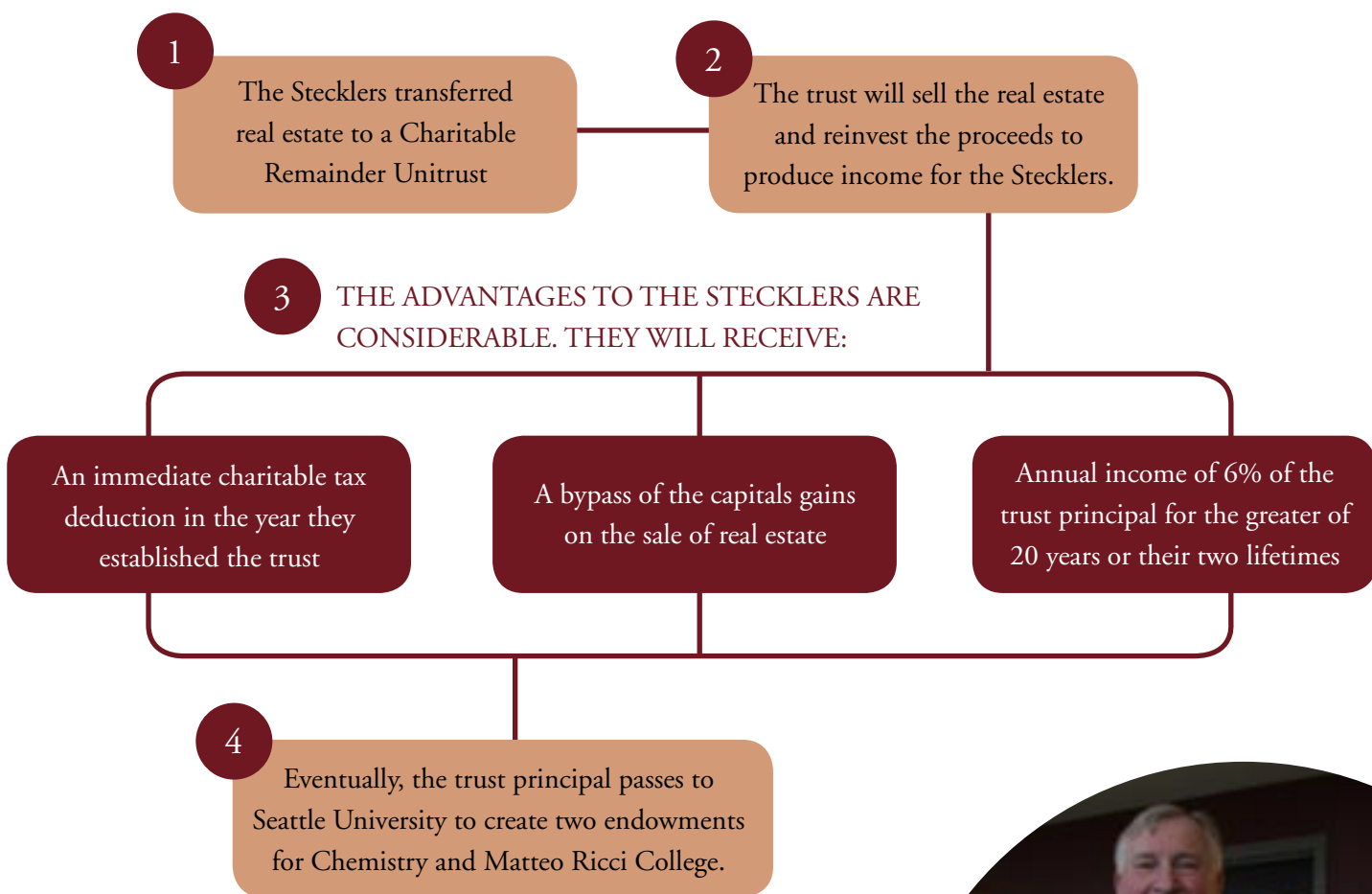


*The College of Science and Engineering helps students attain their goals and prepare for opportunities to serve the community.*

# CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST

Bernie and Joyce Steckler funded a Charitable Remainder Unitrust with real estate. Their gift will create endowed funds in the Department of Chemistry and Matteo Ricci College.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



“ If we had sold our real estate, we would have had to pay a lot of taxes. By transferring it to a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, the property in the trust sold tax-free and we will receive income for life, as well as make a wonderful gift to Seattle University. It’s a win-win situation.”

—BERNIE STECKLER  
FACULTY EMERITUS



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