



Artful Ways to Make a Difference

Ron Marcuson may not have received his many degrees from DePaul University, but the strength of his personal and professional connection to the institution, especially the School of Accountancy, is truly remarkable. As a symbol of his long-standing commitment to DePaul, Marcuson recently became the first School of Accountancy instructor to earmark \$1 million of his estate to endow a full-time professorship in the Master of Science in Taxation (MST) graduate program, through a trust provision in his estate plan. In addition to the endowment, Ron has generously bequeathed a selection of modern-master prints, sculpture and artifacts from his personal art collection.

After earning Master's degrees in both mathematics and accounting from the University of Illinois, Marcuson began teaching in the MST program in 1984, about 10 years after beginning his 30-year career with Ernst & Young LLP, including 20 years as a partner.

"I believe what distinguishes DePaul is that most of our MST faculty have real-world experience in the area in which they are teaching," Marcuson said. "That depth of experience is what makes DePaul – and the MST program in particular – so valuable. I want to help ensure that this practical experience continues to be available to students."

An avid art collector, Marcuson was prompted to also donate a portion of his collection to DePaul partly because he felt if he "had given the pieces to the Art Institute of Chicago, they would probably



Ron Marcuson

wind up in a storeroom. At the DePaul University Museum, they will be used everyday." He was pleased to learn that not only would some of the artwork be displayed at the museum to be enjoyed by students and visitors, but additional pieces could be utilized by the university as teaching tools. Gifts of art to the university can be left through an estate plan and simply require an independent appraisal and a survey by the DePaul Art Museum staff.

Marcuson's decision to include DePaul in his estate plans developed as a result of his experiences as an instructor.

"I have very positive feelings about the university and its mission in general. When I started to do my estate planning, I knew that after I took care of my family, I wanted to give back. I've devoted 25 years to DePaul, and the opportunity to teach in the MST program has been invaluable to me professionally. Even though my degree is from somewhere else, personally I feel closer to DePaul, having taught here all these years. DePaul genuinely cares about its students and offers

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Opportunities as 2007 Draws to a Close

A year-end gift to DePaul can be a satisfying complement to your financial planning, dovetailing in many cases with objectives donors have for themselves and their families. Here are some practical examples:

Investment Planning. Although the stock market lately has resembled a rollercoaster, investors generally have enjoyed success in 2007 and most own highly appreciated securities. Many individuals now need to “rebalance” portfolios that have become top-heavy with stocks.

Selling stocks and reinvesting in bonds, money market accounts or CDs creates capital gains tax liability . . . but the gift planners at DePaul can show you how to make the switch tax free, inside a charitable remainder trust that provides lifetime income – plus a charitable deduction for 2007.

Estate Plans. Your year-end planning should also include a review of your will, living trust, living will, beneficiary designations and other estate planning tools. Set aside time to examine these important documents, or to prepare an estate plan if you haven’t taken this important step. Make sure that all your beneficiaries are still living and that your executor or trustee is still able and willing to serve. Consider, too, the satisfaction of continuing your lifetime giving to DePaul University through your estate plan. It’s easy to make a bequest through your will or living trust, or to add a beneficiary designation benefiting DePaul through your life insurance, IRA or other financial accounts.



Reunion dinner attendees from the class of 1957

Income Tax Planning. Charitable gifts are by far the easiest, most flexible way to increase deductions and reduce taxes for 2007. Every dollar you give before January 1, 2008, to the University or other qualified charitable organizations, will be deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. Any excess deductions can be carried over and deducted for up to five years. A \$1,000 contribution saves \$280 for a person in the 28% tax bracket, \$350 for someone in the 35% bracket. Gifts of appreciated securities, owned more than one year, provide capital gains tax savings in addition to charitable deductions.

Retirement Plans. IRA owners over age 70½ have an opportunity in 2007 to “accelerate” estate gifts to DePaul from their accounts (up to \$100,000). These IRA gifts can save both income taxes and “death taxes,” but must be completed by December 31, 2007.

Year-End Tax Planning Checklist

Unless you expect to owe alternative minimum tax in 2007, here are some year-end planning moves that may reduce next April's tax bill.

■ *Load up on deductions.* If you were able to itemize deductions for 2006, review last year's Schedule A with an eye to maximizing those deductions before the end of 2007. Seek out new deductions, if possible. Look into prepaying some deductible expenses for 2008 in late 2007. You might want to make both your 2007 and 2008 contributions to DePaul before the end of the year.

■ *Postpone some income.* Unless you expect to be in a higher tax bracket in 2008, try deferring receipt of 2007 investment income. Professionals and business owners generally can defer income (and taxes) by billing clients at the start of next year, rather than in late 2007.

■ *Review your portfolio.* Consider selling securities that have gone down in value and use

your capital losses to offset any capital gains from the sale of profitable investments.

■ *Get the most from your charitable gifts.* Gifts of appreciated stocks let you "double up" on your tax savings. Gifts to DePaul can also be planned to provide lifetime income, to you or others, that may be higher than what you are currently receiving from investments or savings.



*Gerry Timm, Father Thomas Munster, C.M.
and Ardelle Pasterczyk (LA&S 1945)*

Include a Gift Annuity In Your Year-End Plans

Late 2007 is a perfect time to arrange a charitable gift annuity with the University. A charitable gift annuity is simply an agreement between you and DePaul in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a guaranteed, fixed income each year for the rest of your life. Your gift annuity offers four distinct advantages:

■ Income for life – at attractive payout

rates, for one or two lives;

■ Tax deduction savings – a large part of what you transfer is a deductible charitable gift;

■ Tax-free income – about half of your annual payments will be tax free return of principal during your life expectancy;

■ Personal satisfaction – from making a gift to ensure the benefits of a DePaul education to many future generations of students.

Artful Ways . . . (continued from front page)

opportunities to those who might not otherwise be able to pursue an education – students who might be the first in their families to go to college.”

From his experience as an instructor, he considers the MST faculty to be some of the most prestigious individuals in the field and the program to be one of the best in the country.

“Teaching at DePaul has given me the opportunity to give back in a significant way. Looking back I can see my legacy in all the

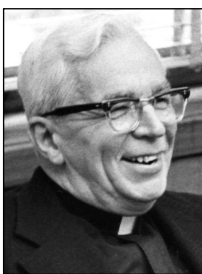
people I’ve taught who have gone on to positions of leadership. I’m in the process of hiring someone to teach in the MST program who was one of my students 15 years ago. It’s been very satisfying to be able to see these people have great success in their careers and now they are ready to step into teaching. When people ask me why I enjoy teaching, it’s because I feel the profession has given me so much and I want to give back. One of the ways I can do that is to teach future generations.”

New Booklet Offers Wealth of Planning Ideas

DePaul University is offering a special booklet, *Tax and Financial Planning Techniques*, that covers a multitude of topics and ideas that should be of interest to you. This com-

prehensive booklet reviews five main categories of personal financial planning: income tax planning, investment planning, retirement planning, estate tax planning and philanthropic planning.

This booklet also illustrates the many ways that a thoughtful gift to DePaul can be woven into your tax and financial planning. Just return the enclosed card for your free copy.



*Rev. John R.
Cortelyou, C.M.*

The John R. Cortelyou Heritage Society

Rev. John R. Cortelyou, C.M. was President of DePaul University from 1964 through 1981 during a period of extraordinary advancement. His legacy is now reflected in the program that bears his name. The Cortelyou Heritage Society honors individuals who demonstrate their commitment to DePaul by making a planned gift today that supports the goals DePaul will realize in the future. Call our office at 312-362-8666 to find out more about this honorary gift club.

Photos in this issue are from DePaul Reunion events held October 12-14, 2007.



The DePaul Planned Giving Team (left to right): Jeff Lindsay, Debbie Fentress, Joel Schaffer, Andrea Wynne & Mindy Siebenaler



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