

COLUMNS

The Columns Society

Membership in the Columns Society of the University of Memphis is one way we acknowledge those of you who have demonstrated your generosity and vision by including the University in your planned and estate giving.

Membership is open to any of you who have made provisions for the University of Memphis Foundation through any one of a variety of estate planning options. As a member of the Columns Society, you receive special recognition from the University of Memphis.

We ask that those of you who have made such a provision let us know for several important reasons. First, it is the only way that the University will know about your generosity and be able to thank you for it. Secondly, it allows the University to be clear in its understanding of your gift and that any provisions you make are carried out, however far in the future. Also, recognition of your generosity may well inspire generosity from others. Letting the University of Memphis know of your intentions does not create any obligation on your part, and should you wish to remain anonymous, the University will certainly honor your wish. A downloadable and confidential statement of intent can be found under Planned Giving at www.memphis.edu/development.

If you would like to provide for the next generation in higher education, please contact Dan H. Murrell, CFRE, Director of Planned Giving, at 901-678-2732 or dan.murrell@memphis.edu.



Changing Lives

Dr. Janann Sherman is inspired.

She has seen philanthropy at work through a fund set up for graduate students in the department of history. Frank Jemison, Jr. established the fund in honor of his mother, Peggy Bodine, to help graduate students earn their PhD degrees. Janann wanted to do the same. She just wasn't sure she could afford to.

She knows personally the importance of such support. Having come from a poor background and being the first in her family to go to college, Janann was not even aware that graduate school was possible. When she was an undergraduate student about to complete her degree, she found herself running out of funds. She was advised that funds were available that would enable her to continue to graduate school. It was a completely new concept for her – that someone would actually provide funds for her education. When Rutgers University approached her with an offer to fund her graduate work, she felt she had won the lottery, and that support allowed her to begin the work that eventually brought her to the University of Memphis.

Now, as chair of the U of M's history department, Janann is quite aware of the significance that even small gifts have for graduate students. These funds enable some students to survive without incurring tremendous debt as they work to achieve their goals. Of even more importance to her is that granting these funds enables her to validate her students and say, "You are worthy of this support and we want to help you succeed." That demonstrated faith in the student is to her as important as the money itself.

Janann has a deep love for the University of Memphis and says, "This school has meant a lot to me. I have ridden through some really tough life changes because I am grounded here at the University of Memphis. It has been a source of stability."

Janann was surprised to learn that she could indeed make a meaningful and impactful gift. Her estate plan now includes leaving her home to the University. Furthermore, when she learned that she could also make the University the beneficiary of both her retirement assets and her University insurance policies, she added those as well. The Dr. Janann Sherman Graduate Scholarship will provide financial assistance to graduate students in history.

If she could tell others why she is making a planned gift to the University, Janann says she would tell them that they, too, can leave a meaningful legacy. After all, she says, "What is better than changing lives long after you are gone?"



THE
COLUMNS
SOCIETY
University of Memphis

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.

Giving Through a Will, Living Trust and Other Plans

In addition to filling an important role in providing for your family and others, your will or living trust can offer a way to make thoughtful charitable gifts to the University of Memphis as part of your long-range estate and financial plans.

A simple provision or amendment prepared by your attorney at the time you make or update your will or trust is all that is necessary. Gifts included in wills and living trusts are popular because they are flexible, easy to arrange, and may be changed with your life circumstances.

There is no limit on amounts deductible from federal gift and estate taxes for charitable gifts made by will or trust, so no tax will be due on assets given in this way. To plan a charitable bequest, inform your attorney of your wishes and ask for advice regarding the best form for your gift. Please contact Dan Murrell for additional assistance and appropriate language for your bequest.

Ways to give through wills and trusts

- Make a gift of a specific amount. A gift of a particular amount may be designated for general use or to fund a special need.
- Provide for a gift of a particular property. Real estate, stocks, and other items of value are examples of properties that can be used to fund charitable bequests.
- Designate that a percentage of your estate be given to the University through your will or living trust.
- Give the remainder, or residue, of your estate—that is, what remains after all other bequests to friends and loved ones are satisfied.
- Name the University to receive a bequest in the event other heirs are not there to receive their legacies.

Dan H. Murrell, CFRE, is the University's Director of Planned Giving. He welcomes the opportunity to join you, your family and your professional advisors to discuss your plans and find ways to help you achieve your goals and pass on your values.

Contact Dan at 901-678-2732 or dan.murrell@memphis.edu.



Sheena Harris
PhD Student
Pompano Beach, FL

Your planning benefits students like Sheena Harris

Sheena Harris is exactly the kind of student that a departmental chair like Janann Sherman (front cover) would like to support. So she and the selection committee did just that – they awarded Sheena, a fourth-year PhD student from Pompano Beach, Florida, the Bodine Fellowship for the fall semester of 2010 so she could continue her research on women's clubs. Sheena notes that the Fellowship "affords me an opportunity to travel for my research. Many archives are located outside of Memphis and it would be very difficult to continue without this award." She says she feels honored and grateful. Only one student a year is chosen and she feels that her work spoke for itself.

Of the committee's choice of Sheena for the Bodine Fellowship, Dr. Sherman says "Sheena Harris is one of our most promising graduate students and most deserving of the Bodine Fellowship. The History Department is very fortunate to have not only fine and committed graduate students but also a small pool of funding resources in order to provide at least some of those students with the critical support they need to reach their highest potential."

Dr. Sherman adds, "Since I see every day what even a small amount of financial support at a critical point in our graduate students' education can accomplish, I am inspired to add what resources I can to that pool."

Columns Society Luncheon

April 22, 2010

Holiday Inn – University of Memphis



Top Left: Dr. Nancy Simco and President Shirley Raines • Top Right: Burns and Nan Landess

Bottom Left: Lewis and Betty Nolan • Bottom Right: University of Memphis String Quarter from the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

Why You Need A Will

Seventy percent of Americans don't have a will. A will is simply a legal device that allows you to tell the world which people or organizations you want to get your assets, as well as who will take care of your minor children. If you die without a proper will or living trust, your assets will be dispersed according to the law in the state where you live.

Die without a will, and the state – not you or your family – decides who gets what, without regard to your wishes or your heirs' specific needs.

Few people plan to die in the near future, but if you die suddenly without a will, you'll be subjecting your family and loved ones to confusion and anxiety at what is already a difficult time.

Having a will brings peace of mind. Among other things, in a will you:

- name the person you wish to act as executor
- specify how you want your assets distributed and to set up trusts for any minors who could inherit your assets
- specify any charities (like the U of M) to which you wish to leave assets
- and perhaps most importantly, name a guardian for your children in the event that you aren't there to raise them.

A will is the first step toward creating your legacy.



The University of Memphis, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body. UOM008-FY1011/36M

Charitable gift annuities are a very flexible way to make a gift to the University of Memphis. They can be designed to provide a fixed income for life for you and/or others you choose. They are easy to create and can be funded with gifts of relatively modest amounts.

Give to yourself...and to the U of M



By providing your date of birth, we can provide you with a sample proposal, or you can explore the possibilities on your own at memphis.aboutgiving.net.

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How a University of Memphis charitable gift annuity works:

- You transfer cash or other assets to the U of M. This involves completing a simple agreement and can normally be done by mail.
- You will receive generous fixed payments annually. The amount of your payment is a percentage of your gift at the time your gift is funded and will not change with interest rate and investment market fluctuations.
- You will be entitled to an immediate charitable income tax deduction. In addition, part of each annual payment is received tax free for a period of time.
- If you would like, you can also choose to name another person (typically a spouse, parent, or sibling) to receive payments with you, instead of you, or following your lifetime for the remainder of his or her life.
- The assets used to fund your gift annuity will generally be removed from your estate for probate and tax purposes.