

# Crimson & Gold



## Gift Planning Ideas for Bridgewater College Alumni and Friends

### A Family's Enduring Legacy

There is a saying that when one door closes, another door opens. For the Schmidt and Garner families, one closed door has opened many others. It has led to an enduring relationship with Bridgewater College and created a legacy of educational opportunities for deserving students.

William and Dora Schmidt had six girls, three of whom are Bridgewater alumnae—Mildred Nethken '43, Margaret Garner '46, Marian Gross '48, Marie Tasker, Dolores Poling and Wilda Fitzwater. All six pursued higher education and were influenced by their mom Dora's strong belief in the importance of education. "Mother used to be a teacher. She would help the neighborhood children with their assignments and spelling words," shared Margaret. "She made sure everyone was ready for school each week."

When it came time for elder sister Mildred to go to college, her unique birthday, February 29, presented a problem. At the time, Maryland colleges required a student to be 16 years old to enroll, and Mildred (technically) wasn't yet. One of the girls' teachers recommended Bridgewater College.

"Mildred loved Bridgewater. I followed her there and then my sister Marian came behind me," Margaret said. "I have many fond memories of the school and the wonderful teachers, like Miss Ruth Howe, who taught Home Economics."

The entire Garner family are Bridgewater alumni, including late husband Glenn '47 and two daughters, Nancy '72 and Karen '75. "My four years were fabulous," Karen said. "I had excellent professors and made lifelong friends."

Karen's first job after graduation was working as an admissions counselor at the College. The "positive experience" was a stepping stone to a career in middle school counseling. "Bridgewater cemented the values my parents instilled in me. The College is part of my family's legacy."

It's a legacy shared by the Garners and the Schmidts, even for those who didn't attend the school. When Dora passed away in 1985, the sisters established a scholarship fund at Bridgewater in their mother's memory. The **Dora Virginia Schmidt Memorial Scholarship Fund** recognizes Dora's love and passion for education and the role Bridgewater played in her extended family, while providing educational opportunities to future students, something Dora would have wholeheartedly supported.

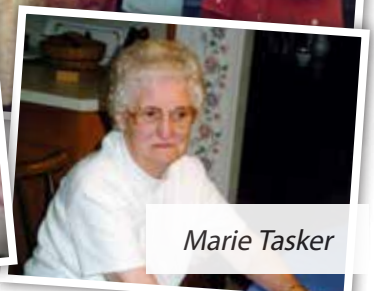
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*Dora Schmidt and her daughters*



*The Garner family*



*Marie Tasker*

## Giving at Year-End

If you are considering making a current gift to Bridgewater before the end of the year, you may want to make your gift with stocks, bonds or mutual funds you have held longer than one year and that have increased in value.

This can be a tax-wise way to support the College, resulting in multiple financial benefits. For more information, visit [bridgewater.givingplan.net](http://bridgewater.givingplan.net) or call (540) 828-5448.



## How to Give More by Giving Securities

With the Dow Jones posting record levels, many have seen their securities increase in value significantly over the last few years. But often these investments are yielding little to no dividends. With these factors in mind, long-term appreciated securities can be a wise choice when making gifts to Bridgewater College, as they offer multiple tax benefits.

Here are some frequently asked questions about giving securities to Bridgewater College:

### Q. What are the advantages of using securities to fund my gift?

A. If you own securities that have appreciated in value, you may owe a substantial capital gains tax if you sell them. By using these assets to fund a charitable gift, you will not owe capital gains tax. You can also enjoy a federal income tax deduction for the full value of the securities.

### Q. Which security should I give?

A. For maximum tax benefits, it is usually best to give securities that have increased the most in value since you have owned them. Or, in other cases, you may wish to give a particular security as a means of balancing or simplifying your portfolio.

### Q. Is there a way I can give a portion of my securities and sell the rest?

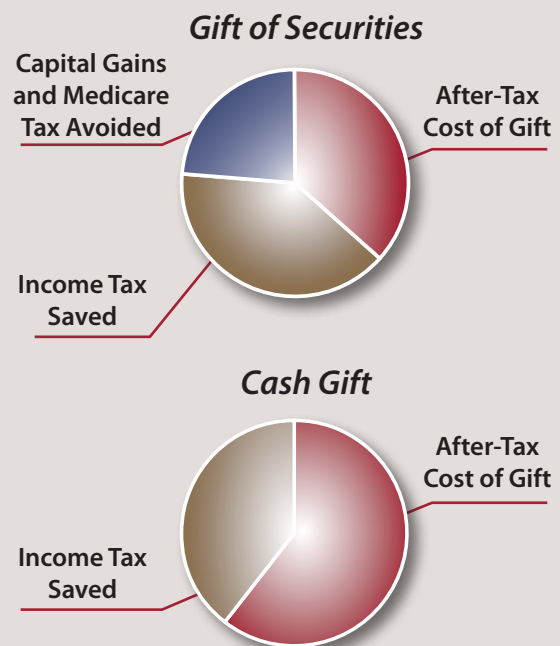
A. Yes. A “balanced sale” may be a good option for greatly appreciated securities that you believe may have reached their peak. Using this approach, you make a gift of a portion of the securities while selling the

remainder. By doing so, the tax savings from your gift can help offset the tax on the securities you sold. Your advisors can help you do this in a way that will result in maximum capital gains and income tax savings.

### Q. Why should I arrange my gifts as early as possible?

A. In order to enjoy tax benefits for charitable gifts this year, gifts must be completed no later than December 31. It’s best to begin discussing your plans with advisors early to ensure enough time to complete transfers.

## Tax Savings Compared



Your savings depends upon your tax rates and other factors.

# Endowing the Future of Bridgewater College

Endowed fund gifts\* from alumni and friends provide a permanent source of support to Bridgewater College, ensuring that our mission of educating the whole person will continue for future students. Just as an individual's savings or investments can provide a degree of security, endowed funds provide Bridgewater with a stable source of funding for years to come.

Oftentimes, endowed funds pay tribute to, or are created in memory of, a special person, beloved teacher or family member. These gifts can be made as an outright gift during life, a deferred gift (such as a bequest through a will or trust) or a combination of both (such as a bequest that is added to an outright gift).

There are many types of assets you can use to make an endowed fund gift. One of the most popular ways is a gift of cash. Cash gifts may be designated to an existing endowment or used to establish a new endowed fund.

Property, such as securities or real estate, may also be given for endowed fund purposes. Such gifts are usually deductible at their full fair market value, regardless of what you paid for the asset. A significant tax deduction for the gift is available as well.

Some other ways to make meaningful endowed fund gifts include donating a new or existing life insurance policy or retirement plan assets, such as funds from an IRA.

*\*The minimum to establish a named endowed fund at Bridgewater College is \$25,000.*



For more information about making an endowed fund gift to Bridgewater College, return the enclosed card or contact a member of our planned giving team, confidentially and with no obligation.

## A Family's Enduring Legacy *continued from Page 1*

Over the years, the sisters and their families have contributed to the scholarship, with each gift growing the Fund. "We've seen out of small beginnings, grand things can occur," Margaret said. "We have met some of the wonderful scholarship students and enjoy receiving their heartfelt thank-you notes and cards," added Karen.

Much to the family's surprise, Margaret's sister, Marie Tasker, who passed away in 2015, included a generous gift in her will to Bridgewater College in support of Dora's

scholarship fund. "Aunt Marie was very kindhearted and charitable to others and didn't have any children of her own. We were humbled she included Bridgewater in her estate plans. What a wonderful tribute to her mother and sisters!"

Because of Marie's legacy gift, along with the ongoing support of the Schmidt and Garner families, doors will be opened for deserving students to benefit from a Bridgewater education.

# An Estate Planning Quiz

Are you certain that your current estate plan is up to date? Take this brief quiz to see where you stand.

1. Do you have a will or living trust to direct the distribution of your property? **Yes**  **No**
2. Is the makeup of your family the same as when you last reviewed your plans? **Yes**  **No**
3. Do you live in the same state as when you last updated your will and/or other plans? **Yes**  **No**
4. Is the person you have named to settle your affairs still able and willing to serve? **Yes**  **No**
5. Has the value of your assets remained the same since you last reviewed your plans? **Yes**  **No**
6. Are all the people and charities important to you mentioned in your plans? **Yes**  **No**

## Your score

If you answered *NO* to any of the above questions, you may need to review your plans. Professional advisors who specialize in such matters can offer advice and help to coordinate various parts of your plan.

For more information, please visit our website at [bridgewater.givingplan.net](http://bridgewater.givingplan.net) or return the enclosed card.



## Considering a Bequest?

With a gift to Bridgewater College through your will or trust, you can provide for the College's future. Here is some sample language to share with your attorney:

*"I give, devise and bequeath to Bridgewater College, a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization located at 402 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ [or \_\_\_% of my adjusted gross estate; or all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate] to be used for the benefit of Bridgewater College."*

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. © Copyright 2017 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NWX-17



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