Inside This Issue:

A helpful tool for estate planning
Estate planning seminar series offered
Your first appointment with your attorney
FREE wills preparation kit offered!

Next Issue:
Floramae Raught ’37 still putting kids through school
The importance of plan coordination
Welcome new Legacy Society members!

Judie Bilderback ’64 enjoying one of her favorite moments traveling and visiting schools in Japan.

UPS—A significant influence in my career and my life

By Judith (Judie) McLean Bilderback ’64

As an undergraduate, I worked and had scholarships to help pay for my education. A number of professors acted as my extended family, providing counseling and motivation. I gratefully acknowledge the inspirational advice, competent teaching and acts of kindness of “Teach” Jones, Drs. Phillips, Gross, Lee, and Ostranski and Mr. Lew Dibble. Graduation day was one of the most celebrated and treasured days in my life.

My connection with the University strengthened when I began training student teachers in my classrooms. In 1976, I earned my Master’s Degree in Educational Administration from the University and supervised its student teachers. In 1979, I became my district’s first female principal and continued training Puget Sound students by pairing them with experienced teachers. I found that the University’s students were well prepared for classroom challenges.

Since retiring in 1997, I have helped established a small private school at Lakewood’s St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. It is a joy to work with an outstanding staff in designing new and innovative pro-
A family mission statement—

A helpful tool for estate planning

**Values. It is all about values.** Isn’t that one of the main objectives of a good estate plan? Passing assets to heirs is a practical result of an estate plan but behind the practicality lies a statement of values.

“Begin with the end in mind” is the second of Stephen Covey’s landmark 7 Habits of Highly Effective People ©Franklin Covey. This is where many families start. After envisioning what their family means and what its values are, they prepare a family mission statement. This may sound a bit commercial in today’s world where we associate mission statements with the corporate culture but family mission statements can be wonderful tools that guide one’s life.

What topics might be included in a family mission statement? There’s no limit but here are few ideas.

- A statement of family values. This might include a brief family history to document why the family cherishes its values and behaviors.
- A statement of how the family treats its members.
- A statement of how the family interacts with the broader world.
- A statement of the family’s religious background and ethical beliefs.
- A statement of how the family will live out its values.

The family’s estate plan is then a natural outgrowth of its mission statement. If one of the family’s values is to provide financial assistance to its members based on need, then the estate plan would probably distribute assets based on this guideline. If the family values assisting the less fortunate, then a bequest to a charity serving that need would seem appropriate. If education is important to the family, then there might be gifts to children or grandchildren for that purpose or possibly gifts to educational institutions to help educate others.

Can you have a family mission statement if your children are grown? Certainly. It can document the values that are important to you and provide guidance as you continue to interact with your children and grandchildren.

A family mission statement can be a helpful tool for living and for guiding your estate plan.

---

**Estate planning seminar series coming soon**

If you live in the Puget Sound area, make your reservations now and plan to attend a three-part estate planning series Simplifying Estate Planning scheduled for April 19, May 3 and May 17.

The seminars will be presented by attorneys Robert Pittman, Kerry Brink, and T. Gary Connett. This seminar will provide valuable information to help you make important decisions about your estate.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, this series covers the basics of estate planning and includes many helpful hints for those with modest or large estates.

If you would like an invitation to this helpful series, please complete and return the business reply envelope.

---

…pleased to meet you!

Lavonne ’51 and George Dickson enjoy a light-hearted moment with President Thomas at this year’s Legacy Society event. Society members attended the Adelphian’s holiday concert in December.
The first appointment: an attorney’s perspective

Setting the first appointment with an attorney is often the most difficult part of making an estate plan. It is a hurdle that many people find difficult to manage. In a recent conversation with Sound Advice, Linda Nelson Lysne, C.P.A., an attorney with Vandeberg Johnson & Gandara in Tacoma shared her perspective on the first appointment.

S. A. How do you approach the first appointment with a client?

Lysne: I want the first appointment to be as productive as possible. I ask clients to complete and return a questionnaire prior to our first appointment. This document gives me an overview of their assets and family situation. Then, when we meet, I am prepared to discuss business.

S. A. Is it reasonable for a client to expect you to have specific recommendations to offer during that first meeting?

Lysne: If they have returned the questionnaire in a timely fashion, I am able to have several ideas to discuss. I can evaluate their tax situation, special needs and general estate planning goals.

S. A. How long does that initial appointment usually last?

Lysne: I usually allow 1–1.5 hours for this initial appointment. Clients who come prepared reduce the amount of time needed and save on costs.

S. A. Do you discuss charitable estate options?

Lysne: The questionnaire asks about charitable giving and if my clients have expressed interest in it, I will certainly discuss options then. Also, if the estate is large enough to be taxed, I may mention charitable tax savings options even if the client has not specifically expressed an interest in making charitable gifts. It all depends on the situation.

S. A. What general advice would you give to the readers of Sound Advice estate planning?

Lysne: Don’t procrastinate. The difficulty caused by not having a will is much worse than making that first call. Most attorneys I know are friendly and helpful and work to keep costs to a minimum.
The Legacy Society was established in 1986 to honor alumni and friends who are benefiting the University of Puget Sound through their estates, charitable trusts and/or gift annuities. The greatest benefit of belonging to the Legacy Society is the satisfaction of knowing that your long-range plans will help future students receive the advantages of an excellent liberal arts education. As a member you will also receive:

- A cloisonné lapel pin.
- Recognition in the Society's membership roster (only with your permission).
- Invitations to Society events.
- Complimentary and confidential estate planning services from the Office of Gift Planning.

If you have included Puget Sound in your will, trust, retirement plan or other estate-planning vehicle, please let us know by returning the reply envelope.

“When I began my estate planning it was only natural to include the University.”

“...one child at a time. This parallels my experience at Puget Sound, since it was personalized, one-on-one relationships with faculty and staff that made the difference for me.

When I began my estate planning it was only natural to include the University. After providing for my family, I divided the remaining half of my estate among those institutions and charities that played a significant role in my life. Since others had financially assisted me in gaining my degree, I wanted to repay them by providing financial support to deserving students. It is a thank you to Puget Sound and those dedicated faculty and staff members, who touched my life in the early stages of my career. I am pleased to be able to contribute to the University in this way.

I will always be grateful to the University for building the solid academic and spiritual foundations that have served me well in my life.

Judi McLean Goldsborough

Disclaimer
The information provided in this newsletter is of a general nature and meant for educational purposes only. Consult with your advisors to learn how these concepts apply to your situation.