Avoid capital gains taxes from selling appreciated assets

There was a slight change in the treatment of capital gains tax in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, signed into law by President Obama in early January. The capital gains tax on the highest income households in the United States went up from 15 to 20 percent. While that change affects very few of us, the wealthiest Americans will pay significantly more when they sell appreciated assets. For those in the lower marginal tax brackets (below 25 percent), there remains no capital gains tax assessed. But for the majority of us (in a marginal bracket of 25 percent and up to, but not including the new 39.6 percent bracket), the capital gains tax rate stays at 20 percent. While that change affects us, it won’t affect all of us, the wealthiest Americans will pay significantly more when they sell appreciated assets. For those in the lower marginal tax brackets (below 25 percent), there remains no capital gains tax assessed. But for the majority of us (in a marginal bracket of 25 percent and up to, but not including the new 39.6 percent bracket), the capital gains tax rate stays at 20 percent.

The real estate and financial markets are rebounding and showing decent gains in the last year. Do you have appreciated property (especially if it’s a rental that you have depreciated), stocks or mutual fund shares? If you would like to give to Goshen College with an appreciated asset, don’t sell the asset! Simply contact us at Goshen College and we’ll arrange for a transfer of your asset into our account. Then the college will sell and all capital gains taxes are avoided, maximizing your gift to Goshen College while saving you on taxes.

Avoid capital gains taxes from selling appreciated assets

P.S. For those 70½ and older, who hold some retirement funds in IRAs, remember that you have up until Dec. 31 to direct your IRA custodian to send a gift to charity from your account and while this will count as part or all of your 2013 required distribution, you will not be taxed on it!

― Roger A. Nafziger, Director of Gift Planning

Our students are saying...

“I love TESOL! I loved all my classes and I loved teaching students English. Goshen College prepared me in fun and creative ways. I chose TESOL because I like teaching and I love exploring the endless possibilities that it opens up for me around the world.”

― Marcelle Zoughbi, a 2013 graduate with a TESOL and elementary education-special education double major from Bethlehem, Palestine

Kenneth Steider Memorial Scholarship: TESOL educator gives back

This fall, Goshen College students majoring or minoring in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) will have a new opportunity to help pay for their college experience. The Kenneth Steider Memorial Scholarship Fund, a new scholarship for future TESOL educators, was started by the family of Kenneth Steider ’51 after his death in 2011 at the age of 85. A TESOL educator himself, Steider left behind an earmarked sum of money to provide financial assistance to students at both Goshen College and Hesston College, where he studied.

Steider was always interested in language. He grew up in a home with a bilingual mother (German and English) and a trilingual grandfather (German, French and English), and according to his niece, Annette Steider Brown, “Ken and his siblings are excellent communicators, and are gifted in writing and storytelling.” After receiving his bachelor’s degree in English from Goshen College, he earned a Master’s Degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois and worked as a librarian at Hesston College for eleven years — until a call changed his life forever.

In 1966, Steider was contacted by the director of the Board of Christian Service of the General Conference Mennonite Church, asking him to become an English teacher, librarian and missionary to school children in Taiwan. He had been thinking about doing work overseas for some time, and although he had not planned on making a decision so quickly, he embraced the opportunity. He only intended to serve in Taiwan for a two-year term, but he loved the people and the place so much that he stayed for 27 years until he retired in 1993. During that time, Steider taught at a local middle and high school, worked at the Mennonite Christian Hospital in the city of Hwalien, started a medical library for the hospital and served as the secretary of medical education. He once said, “I went to teach and was taught. I went to serve and was served. I gave up home and family and gained one hundred fold.”

Throughout his work, Steider spread the love of Christ and used the Bible to minister to all he encountered. In his own words, Steider was always involved in “friendship evangelism,” reaching out to those around him in an embracing and caring way. Because of Steider’s life in Taiwan, many people give credit to Steider for changing their lives through love.

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Steider believed in the power and love of God, and he also believed in sharing the sources of their life’s principles and choices for those who follow. For me, it is without doubt Goshen College — but most of all, my professor Dr. Mary K. Oyer — who shaped my life and studies. May this scholarship honor her imaginative teaching and keen scholarship, her performances, and her gifts to congregational worship, from both near and far. May future students, friends and groups benefit from her abundant life and scholarship, ideas and kindneses. May her spirit enrich all who follow.

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Photos by Alia Munley ’15

Radio station evolves with the times

When Goshen students — with faculty collaborators such as chief engineer J. E. Swartzendreuber and program director Roy Umble — began broadcasting on 91.1FM, WGCS in the fall of 1958, they couldn’t have fathomed what the future held for this little college radio station. Though it continues to broadcast from the same upper corner of the Union Building, today 91.1FM (commonly referred to as The Globe) features a fresh and eclectic mix of Americana, alternative acoustic, folk, singer-songwriters and world beat music.

It is also garnering a lot of attention! In 2013, under the leadership of Station General Manager Jason Samuel, it was named the “Best College Station in the Nation” and “Indiana’s Radio School of the Year.” This is the second time the college radio station has received the top national award in three years from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS), making it the first college to be a repeat winner in the competition, which includes every college and university in the country of every size.

During the summer of 2012, after receiving the generous gift of $25,000 from Don and Jody Smith, The Globe was able to renovate their studio and make much-needed upgrades to equipment (above right). The Smiths also provide ongoing support for the Philip T. Smith Memorial Scholarship for students studying broadcasting.

Check out The Globe’s 24-hour programming — which includes music, news, public affairs and sports — anywhere in the world at www.globeradio.org.

— by Jodi H. Beyeler

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Steider believed in the power and love of God, and he also believed in sharing the wonderful gift of language. During his time in Taiwan, he taught English to people of all ages, from students to corporate business owners, who wanted to better communicate with people in the foreign private sector. In his will, Steider expressed the desire to give a portion of his remaining assets to the Mennonite institutions that had profoundly changed his life. In the early 1960s, a pastor convinced him to make some modest investments in mutual funds, before they were common. Because of his humble lifestyle and success in those investments, Steider was able to fund his retirement and still have a remainder to share. Now, even after his death, he is able to greatly impact the lives of others. Steider’s family decided they wanted to fulfill his desire by creating a scholarship fund for Goshen and Hesston colleges. Steider Brown explained that the family wanted to “reflect Ken’s passion of teaching English as a second language, and his interest in students from outside the United States” by offering financial aid to students who would otherwise have trouble attending the colleges that Steider so greatly valued and loved.

— by Kolton Nay, a junior TESOL major from Dover, Ohio

1974-75 WGCS student employees Dennis Nics ’78 and Jon Kaufmann Kennedy ’76. Photo credit: Goshen College Archives, 1975

2013 WGCS student employee Andrew Witsakowski ’14. Photo credit: Brian Yoder Schlabach ’07

Then & Now