



THE HERITAGE CIRCLE MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY



FINANCIAL AND PHILANTHROPIC PLANNING IDEAS

AZCOPT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR REWARDS SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE THROUGH A GIFT OF A LIFETIME

With his outgoing personality, Vladimir Yevseyenkov, O.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor at the Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT), seemed destined to teach. However, his road to education was a bit circuitous.

Born in Russia, Dr. Yevseyenkov moved to the United States at the age of 13 and was adopted by a family in Kansas. As a biochemistry student, he realized that he was too much of a “people person” to relegate himself to the lab, and his research on the eye led him to the field of optometry. He enrolled at Nova Southeastern University’s College of Optometry and then completed his postdoctoral residency in low vision and ocular disease at the Illinois College of Optometry.

Upon completing his residency, Dr. Yevseyenkov planned to work in a private practice until a former dean from Nova intervened and encouraged him to consider teaching. He then took advantage of an opportunity presented by a faculty member to work with a troubled student. “You are Russian. You are direct. You can get through to him,” remembered Dr. Yevseyenkov.

He continued, “Within a month and a half, we found a common language of respect, and the student completely transformed. I have diagnosed life-threatening tumors before, but I got more joy out of helping a student succeed.” After this experience, he began looking for faculty positions. Lured by Arizona’s mild winters and hockey team, he applied for a faculty appointment at AZCOPT, which instantly felt like home.

Dr. Yevseyenkov joined the AZCOPT faculty eight months after the College opened and, since then, he has become a part of the College’s foundation. Dr. Yevseyenkov is well respected among students and faculty alike. He has received the Teacher of the Year Award on multiple occasions and recently was recognized with the Littlejohn Award for Faculty, Midwestern University’s highest honor. He also serves as the faculty advisor to the AZCOPT’s Lions Club chapter and leads several local and international mission trips.

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SPRING 2017



Dr. Vladimir Yevseyenkov

“There is a commitment to service here.”

—Dr. Vladimir Yevseyenkov

To learn more, please visit our gift planning website:
midwestern.givingplan.net



WILL CONGRESS CHANGE YOUR ESTATE PLANS?

These days it's virtually impossible to watch television, read a newspaper or go online without coming across information about possible revisions in our nation's tax laws. In this environment, it can be challenging to know the best course of action when making future financial plans.

If income, estate and gift tax changes do occur, it is important to determine what they mean for you and how they may affect your estate and financial plans.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

Contact your professional advisors for a review of your existing estate plan. They can advise you on any changes you need to make to address your planning goals and any tax implications. Provide your advisors with current information such as your marital status, state of residence, employment status and other vital information that may impact your plans. Maintaining an up-to-date will or trust will give you peace of mind that your property will be distributed according to your wishes.

Review beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, retirement accounts, bank accounts and investment accounts. Make sure they are current and coordinated with your overall estate and financial plans. (See Page 4 for more on retirement plans.)

Think about your charitable intentions and make sure they are addressed in your plans. Obtain professional guidance as to the best options available to achieve your goals.

Take advantage of certain tax incentives while they are in place. Income and capital gains tax rates, allowable deductions, as well as gift and estate tax rates typically remain unchanged until Congress introduces or passes new legislation. We are happy to discuss the best way to make your gifts now or in advance of any future changes.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IN THE FUTURE?

Revisit your plans periodically to make sure they remain up to date. It's best not to delay until an event in your life or changes in tax laws occur to assess your plans—make a review part of your yearly routine. Every review may not result in the need to make a change or an addition; however, doing this consistently will give you peace of mind that your plans are current.

Be smart about your charitable giving. For instance, if you enjoy an increase in the value of securities you own, consider using them—instead of cash—to fund your charitable gifts. This will often bring added savings at tax time. Did you recently turn 70½ or older? If so, you can use your IRA to make tax-free charitable gifts. Or, if you are planning for retirement, consider giving in ways that can supplement your income for life or for a term of years.

Adjust your plans accordingly if changes do occur. Seek the advice of your professional advisors if there are tax law revisions that will affect your estate plans. We are happy to discuss charitable options with you and offer ways to continue your support of Midwestern University in the future. ■

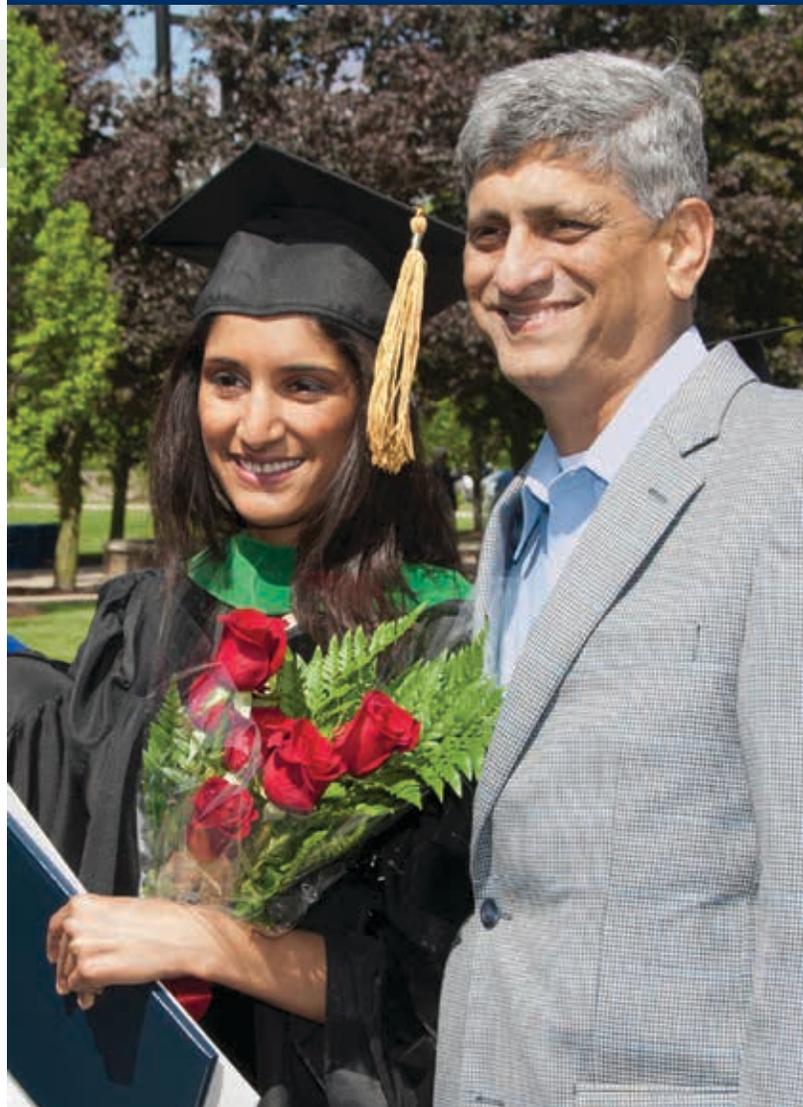
Fortunately, one thing *is* certain: In terms of the actual documents, **Congress cannot change your will, trust or other plans.**

...GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Yevseyenkov noted that he is most impressed by the culture of service at Midwestern University. “Students revel in the opportunity to volunteer. There is a commitment to service here, and it starts at the top,” explained Dr. Yevseyenkov. Midwestern University’s altruistic culture encouraged Dr. Yevseyenkov to pursue volunteerism. “When I started seven years ago, I did not see myself as a humanitarian type, but now I am addicted to service.” The gift of service inspired Dr. Yevseyenkov to start giving back to Midwestern University in other ways. “It started small; I enjoy the beauty of the campus and decided to dedicate a tree in my mother’s name, and then I began to donate regularly through a payroll deduction.”

Dr. Yevseyenkov then learned about the Heritage Circle as another avenue to give back and recognized it as an opportunity to celebrate his values of scholarship and service. He wanted to establish a merit-based scholarship for AZCOPT students, so he joined the Heritage Circle to fund an endowment through his retirement savings. Dr. Yevseyenkov said, “Life happens, and with the Heritage Circle, you can plan ahead and leave a meaningful legacy. Midwestern stands by its mission and through a deferred scholarship gift, I can help spread its mission.” It is truly evident that Dr. Yevseyenkov’s journey to discovering his passion as both an educator and a philanthropist has come full circle. ■



TAX-FREE GIVING FROM YOUR IRA

Keep in mind that a tax law passed recently now makes giving to charity from your IRA a permanent, tax-efficient option. Here are the highlights:

- Available to those age 70½ or older who would like to give directly from their IRA completely free of income tax.
- Applies to qualifying transfers up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA.
- Couples with separate IRAs could “double up” and make total transfers up to \$200,000.
- Charitable gifts from IRAs can be used to fulfill pre-existing pledges.

For more information, contact us or your retirement plan administrator. ■

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

2

Campuses

Downers Grove, Illinois • Glendale, Arizona

11

Colleges

6,500+

Students enrolled

21,000+

Hours of community service each year by students and employees

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Mrs. Angela Solce
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Vladimir Yevseyenkov O.D., Ph.D.
James W. Young D.O. '82
Stephen P. Young D.O. '75
Phillip C. Zinni III D.O. '88

RETIREMENT PLAN Q&A

Your retirement plan assets can be a wise source to make your charitable gifts both now and in the future.

Q. What are the benefits of giving retirement plan assets?

A. If the funds in your tax-favored retirement plan exceed your needs, or you are required to take mandatory withdrawals from such plans, giving from this source may be a good option.

Using these assets as part of your retirement planning can be a wonderful way to give to Midwestern University while minimizing taxes that may otherwise be due on these funds.

Q. How can I make a gift to Midwestern University from a retirement plan?

A. Making a gift directly from your IRA or similar retirement plan may result in little or no tax on these funds. When you itemize your deductions, you report the amount withdrawn from such plans along with an offsetting charitable deduction. Check with your tax advisors for the specifics of your individual situation.

Q. What if I am required to take withdrawals I do not need?

A. Consider using all or a portion of a required withdrawal to make your gift to Midwestern University. You may reduce or eliminate taxes that would otherwise be due on the amount withdrawn if you itemize your charitable gifts and other deductions.

Q. How do I make a future gift to Midwestern University through my retirement plan?

A. You can name Midwestern University to receive all or a part of your retirement plan assets at the end of your life. Simply ask your plan administrator for a change of beneficiary form.

For more information about giving through your retirement plan, visit midwestern.givingplan.net. ■



MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Educating Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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