Win-Win for the Classes of 1964 and 1965 and Hamilton

The Classes of 1964 and 1965 announced reunion gift totals in excess of $7 million that included Annual Fund gifts, capital gifts, life payment gifts and estate plan provisions. Both classes earned the Kayle Cup — awarded annually to the class that records the highest percentage increase of estate plan intentions and planned gifts.

Even more important, each class established an endowed fund that will assist current and future students obtain internships, a key, as noted by Milt Walters ’64, to helping “Hamilton students gain meaningful employment following graduation.”
“We have the comfort of knowing we have made a lasting contribution to Hamilton.”

A dedicated volunteer for more than 40 years who chaired the Annual Fund and Planned Giving committees, Milt Walters teamed with Class of 1964 leaders Tom Slaitgh, Art Massolo and Denny Terrell to encourage their classmates to consider planned gifts, including charitable gift annuities.

In Milt’s words
My Hamilton education helped provide a framework for addressing issues, by teaching me thoughtful consideration and problem solving. All of those skills contributed to my career in investment banking and finance and civic activities. Probably most important was developing the courage and conviction to ask questions.

Carrie and I were high-school sweethearts, and she was a frequent and well-known visitor to the Hill. An added connection, one of our three children also attended Hamilton, graduating in 1988. Carrie and I felt it was important to recognize the significance of the College in our lives and the lasting friendships we established, so as my milestone 50th reunion started to lurk in our thoughts, we decided to set the stage for our class reunion contributions have been one-life gifts altering between Carrie and me.

Eventually the remaining value will be added to the Class of 1964 Internship Fund. We recognize that, in today’s workplace environment, internships help Hamilton students gain meaningful employment following graduation, and we are happy that we can contribute to the future success of other Hamilton alumni.

For more information about planned gifts at Hamilton, please go to hamilton.edu/PlanningYourGift or call Ben Madonia ’74 or Joni Chizzonite at 866-729-0317.

Pay no tax before its time.
That simple slogan, employed by alumni, parents and friends for decades, has been especially meaningful during this tax year, a record one for mergers and acquisitions. Not all M&As are taxable events. In cash deals, donors have a “window of opportunity” to transfer shares of stock held long-term to public charities such as Hamilton, while avoiding tax on their long-term gain. Potential donors are encouraged to review the facts and circumstances of each transaction with their legal counsel.

When a donor completes a contribution of stock held long-term, he or she permanently avoids tax on the gain and generates an income tax deduction for fair market value.

Wish to diversify a stock position in a tax-wise way?
• Simply sell some shares and contribute other shares, essentially utilizing the same strategy as donors facing taxable M&A activity.
• Alternatively, contribute some shares to Hamilton and retain the right to receive payments, fixed or variable, that begin immediately or may be deferred, for life or a term of years. Some gifts may participate in the investment return of the endowment. Example: A recently retired corporate executive contributed shares of his former employer’s stock to a trust that will make variable payments to him and his wife for as long as either of them lives.
• Equity market volatility provides buying and wealth transfer opportunities. Use market down-turns where appropriate to give even more shares to an heir in a lower tax bracket, utilizing the gift tax annual exclusion or a portion of your lifetime gift tax exemption.

Interestingly, donors may be able to obtain the same benefits with real property by contributing to Hamilton an undivided partial interest, either outright or in trust.