Hometown investments
f the heart of a small town is small business, Dennis Williams, MBA'65, helps keep Quincy, Illinois, beating. A board member of a local bank as well as a media company, he attributes his success in financial analysis and investment banking to his UChicago education.

Entering the business school more than 50 years ago, he calls it “the most intense but stimulating time in my life.” To help secure the University’s tradition of excellence, he’s made planned gifts to Chicago Booth: a bequest in 2014 and a charitable gift annuity in 2015. The CGA made financial sense for Williams, who is widowed with no children and who appreciates its income tax advantages.

Williams majored in economics at Northwestern University and then pursued an MBA for the practical training it offered. After a few years as a purchasing agent for the General Services Administration, he joined First National Bank of Chicago, a move that eventually led to more work in investment banking, securities, analysis, and portfolio management at several firms in Chicago, including Commonwealth Edison.

In 1980 Williams pooled together with several other investors to organize a new state-chartered commercial bank in suburban Bolingbrook, Illinois. This opportunity was “the most exciting thing I ever conceived. I was 40 years old ... but had never ‘started’ anything.” He and his wife remained in Chicago for another decade until she suggested moving 300 miles back to their hometown of Quincy, both to care for their aging parents and to take on a new bank-investment project.

In Quincy, a town of about 40,000 residents, he turned his attention to reorganizing the First Bankers Trust Company. As Williams sees it, community banks specialize in funding small businesses and providing personal service that the big banks can’t.

“It’s based on who you know, reputations and connections. It’s not a numbers thing; it goes beyond that,” says Williams, who has chaired the bank’s audit committee for the past 27 years. The community banking industry, he says, “is essential to the growth and prosperity of small businesses in Illinois.”

In 1993 he joined the board of directors of Quincy Media, Inc., which now owns 23 television stations in 14 Midwest markets, two daily newspapers, and two radio stations. “It sounded so exciting, I couldn’t say no,” says Williams. “Quincy Media was changing and a little narrow focused. I had met the principals a number of times—you see them at restaurants, at church—and they were interested in my finance background.”

Elected chair of the board in 2003, he decides which strategic and financial items the board considers. While profitability rates for the media industry as a whole decline, Quincy Media’s acquisition strategy has helped to more than double its revenue and net income. “My job as chairman,” he says, “is to motivate members of the management team to adopt that strategy.”

While continuing his Quincy Media and bank work, Williams also serves on five charity boards and committees, such as the Quincy Society of Fine Arts and the town’s Good Samaritan Home. He is also an amateur historian of Illinois and regional history.

“The ultimate question I’m wrestling with is, what do I leave before the end? And when is the end? This is a story in progress—we all are,” he says. “Thanks to my disciplined education at Chicago Booth, now I’m able to support it and other institutions’ missions.”

—Megan E. Doherty, AM’05, PhD’10

After investing in a local bank and media company in Quincy, Illinois, Dennis Williams supports Chicago Booth, which provided “the most ... stimulating time in my life.”

Natural networker

In Dennis Williams’s hometown, personal connections fuel small businesses.

You can defer charitable gift annuity payments for a higher payout rate and larger tax deduction.
When individuals become involved in committed relationships later in life—whether or not they wed—they should consider some important legal and financial questions to help protect both partners and their families.

1. **QUESTIONS OLDER COUPLES SHOULD ASK EACH OTHER**

One pressing question for an individual to ask is: What if something happens to me or my partner? More specifically, who will make legal and health care decisions for me if I am unable to make them for myself, and vice versa? If not my partner, then should my partner be consulted? In particular, unmarried partners who wish to make decisions for one another should name each other as agents in powers of attorney and/or directives to make this clear. If not so named, partners should know who the named agent is and discuss what role, if any, the other should play.

Another question to consider is what, financially, a partner’s death or disability will mean for the survivor. Will the couple leave their assets to one another upon death? How will the assets be divided between the surviving partner and any adult children from a prior relationship? If the couple lives in a home owned by one partner and that partner dies or is transferred to a nursing home, will the surviving partner have the right to purchase or rent the home?

2. **CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE GETTING MARRIED**

Most experts agree that a couple marrying later in life should consider a prenuptial agreement, especially if either partner has significant assets, an interest in a privately held business, or children from a prior relationship. A prenuptial agreement is a legal document that specifies how assets should be divided if the marriage fails or a spouse dies.

3. **FOR COUPLES WHO CHOOSE NOT TO MARRY**

First, it is important to work with an estate planning attorney to prepare a proper estate plan. While the law provides certain default benefits to married couples in the absence of a will, unmarried couples do not have survivor’s rights without a will (other than certain jointly owned property).

Careful estate planning can also save estate taxes, which may apply if a partner’s assets exceed the estate tax exemption amount ($5,450,000 in 2016). To reduce estate taxes, some strategies should be considered:

**A credit shelter trust.** Inheritance for a surviving partner can be left in a trust for the survivor’s benefit that, if properly structured, will prevent a portion of the predeceased partner’s assets from being taxed when the surviving partner dies. Upon the survivor’s death, any remaining trust assets can pass to desired beneficiaries.

**An irrevocable trust for insurance.** If insurance is owned by a properly structured and administered irrevocable trust, proceeds will not be subject to estate tax when the insured dies. The trust can name the surviving partner as the outright beneficiary, or the insurance proceeds can be held in trust for that partner’s benefit.

**A charitable remainder trust.** If the couple is charitably inclined, they may create a charitable trust in their estate plan. When one partner dies, assets pass to a trust that requires annual payments to the surviving partner. Upon the death of the surviving partner, any remaining trust assets would pass to charity.

---

**RELATED GLOSSARY: A FEW GIFT PLANNING TERMS TO KNOW**

- **Testamentary gift** A gift made at death.
- **Unrestricted gift** A gift to be used at the University’s discretion.
- **Estate settlement** The process of distributing one’s assets after death.

This newsletter is intended to provide general information that we hope will be helpful to you in your tax, estate, and charitable planning. It is not intended as legal advice and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Figures, calculations, and tax information are based on federal tax laws, regulations, rulings, and rates applicable at the time such information was prepared and are for illustration purposes only. Individual state laws may have an impact on the availability of gift annuities. For advice or assistance with your particular situation, you should consult an attorney or other professional adviser.
University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his PhD and began his career as a research assistant. In 1946 he joined the James Franck Institute, formerly known as the Institute for the Study of Metals, writing papers on the grain structure of metals, superconductivity, and superfluidity. After a Guggenheim Fellowship and a stint at General Electric Research Laboratory, he ended up at Argonne in 1960.

Betty and Lester worked together at the national lab—he as a senior scientist and editor of the Journal of Applied Physics, she as a technical librarian—retiring in 1986 and 1991, respectively. Married for 50 years, the couple had two daughters and shared many interests, including art, literature, theater, and music. In addition to photography, they also collected orchids and mushrooms in their midrise condo in Kenwood.

Leaving the photography to the Smart through a bequest in their will, the Guttmans gifted their neighborhood museum with a varied and informative collection. “Rather than seeking to collect, for example, all the works of a specific artist, period, or place, or the best known or most precious, the Guttmans’ choices grew out of their inquisitiveness and wide-ranging interests in the world,” write professor of visual arts Laura Letinsky and Smart Museum curator Jessica Moss in an exhibit catalog. “It is a thoroughly eclectic and a fantastically personal gathering of images expressive of the Guttmans’ full, rich lives.”

The collection’s historical and conceptual breadth and depth “will be a powerful resource for the object-driven inquiry that is at the heart of our work at the Smart Museum,” says interim director Bill Michel, AB’92, MBA’08. The Guttmans’ photographs are on view in a Smart exhibit, There Was a Whole Collection Made: Photography from Lester and Betty Guttman, through December 30.
The gift of time

Longtime gift planning officer David Crabb reflects on his career—and standout gifts—before retirement.

David Crabb, JD’63, is responsible for administering UChicago’s estate gifts as well as gifts in kind—generous and creative gifts from alumni and friends that include works of art, rare books, oil and gas interests, stock, partnership interests, real estate, and insurance policies. Crabb, who has collectively worked for the University for close to 40 years, plans to retire next June to Virginia to be near his young grandchildren.

As he reflects on his career, a few gifts stand out. The most unusual, he says, came in the mid-’80s: “an undivided interest of a horse named Alydar, one of the most successful champion thoroughbreds of all time.”

The University owned one-third of the horse for roughly 20 minutes. “We picked up a deed at one end of the table at the bank and went to the other end of the table to exchange it for a check of over $11 million.” The gift was directed to support pediatric research.

The largest bequest the University received was $44 million in unrestricted funds from Renee Granville-Grossman, AB’63, who died in 2012 and had never made a gift to the University during her lifetime—a donor known as “a secret admirer.”

Crabb sees testamentary gifts not only to all areas of the University but also from all levels and backgrounds: “People who are not alumni, not faculty, but friends of the University who have developed a great affection for the OI or Smart, or who have received great care from the University of Chicago Medicine. These people also remember these institutions in their estate plans.”

He can attest that settlement of these gifts can take time. Although beneficiary designations on retirement funds and life insurance typically settle much faster than other gifts, they don’t happen overnight. “People may be surprised to know that estate settlement takes longer than most imagine that it will,” Crabb says. “The process can take anywhere from one to three or more years from the death of the decedent, regardless of whether we knew about the gift beforehand or if the gift bypasses probate.”

Beyond time, improperly planned estates can present complications, including the ability to realize a donor’s intentions. “It is very helpful to the University and the donor to be sure that the terms of the bequest are acceptable to the University and that the University can honor their good intentions,” Crabb says. “Of course, unrestricted bequests are valued because the University can use them for its most pressing needs.”

With the countdown to his retirement approaching, Crabb feels grateful. “I have enjoyed my time at the University of Chicago, which has been a part of my life for about 45 years,” he says. “I get a great deal of satisfaction out of helping colleagues, donors, and decedents. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.”
Who will be your +1?

Attend an event. Bring a friend.
The alumni community is your legacy. Let’s grow the network to 125,000 strong.
Invite fellow alumni to University events.

alumni.uchicago.edu/attend

Make it count

Planned gifts are a crucial source of support for the University, accounting for 20 percent of the value of all gifts received. Documenting your bequest—by providing further details such as the amount, purpose, and structure of the gift—authorizes it to count toward fundraising goals, inspires others, and assists the University’s long-term planning efforts.

Documentation does not make your gift binding or irrevocable—you still have the liberty to revise your estate plan if your circumstances or priorities change.

To document your bequest, visit giftplanning.uchicago.edu/document.

In this issue

Natural networker  For Dennis Williams, personal connections fuel small businesses.
Picture perfect  Lester and Betty Guttman leave a legacy at the Smart Museum.
Late-life relationships  Karin Prangley offers planning advice for older couples.