



THE BELL

GIFT PLANNING NEWS FOR THE LFA COMMUNITY



FALL/WINTER
2022

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TEACHER PLANTS, GROWS WITH FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dean of Faculty Tom Johnson is quick to tout the importance of faculty professional development with his three R's—recruitment, recognition and retention. “But even beyond those,” he says, “as educators, our DNA reads ‘lifelong learning.’ So of course, development that comes back to our classrooms and that which extends our students’ experiences isn’t merely functional; it’s truly exciting.”

Underwritten by professional development funds in the LFA endowment, recent and forthcoming experiences of fourth-year history teacher Ackim Mpofu, who has also taught in the Global Department, touch on both of these aspects.

His summer work through Augsburg University—online from Zimbabwe, Africa, and in-person

in New York—is already paying dividends in Mpofu’s AP United States History and Comparative Government and Politics classroom. But it’s an opportunity on the horizon that has him particularly enthused.

Mpofu exudes unbridled enthusiasm about an upcoming trip to the country of Jordan this academic year, funded through the Mints Professional Development Fund. Made possible by a bequest from Thomas M. Mints Jr. ’45, who died in 2003, the fund supports individually designed enrichment opportunities rather than more traditional workshops, conferences or classes. Additional funds from the bequest also established the Thomas M. Mints, Jr. ’45 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

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Ackim Mpofu

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In conjunction with exploring historical sites, Mpofu will also be researching sustainable agriculture. “I am so excited to go on this trip and by the faith LFA has in giving me an opportunity to do this,” he says. Knowledge gained will be applied in his classroom at LFA and in a major farming project he’s organizing in his native Zimbabwe.



There, in partnership with a large agribusiness, Mpofu will exemplify LFA’s “Midwestern Heart, Global Mind” tagline by starting a sustainable farm to give his village and other low-income communities access to affordable food. His almost spiritual motivation is grounded in the communal aspect of subsistence farming—making sure that everyone is taken care of—which he saw growing up.

“My grandfather passed away when my dad was about 12 years old. My dad was forced to farm about 5 acres alone at that young age, and he produced like 3 tons of corn by himself,” Mpofu says. “It’s stories like this that make me think about how much other people have to work just for food, and I knew I wanted to change that story. With global climate change, methods of farming are shifting. It’s forcing people to think of sustainable ways to produce food. So I want to be part of the solution. But I also don’t want to think about it small-scale—I want to think about it bigger.”

He quickly credits the LFA mission for influencing this idea. “The project in itself—sustainable development in relation to agriculture—is like a preaching point for our Global Department here at LFA,” Mpofu says. “When we look to study global issues and find physical solutions for sustainable futures, we are basically building character and awareness of the world that is gradually becoming smaller and smaller through globalization.”

Work getting the farm up and running is already taking hold in Zimbabwe, and Mpofu knows his experience in Jordan will be helpful there, at LFA and for him personally. “The intellectual and cultural

immersion and finding sustainable ways for producing food in arid regions will enhance my mission to take a transformational approach to education,” he says.

“Basically, transformational education is having all of these different perspectives be heard in the curriculum—which is the definition of LFA, where you get

all these students coming from all over the world,” Mpofu continues. “If we are going to teach, our curriculum must represent what our student body is.”

With the first planting scheduled for this winter, Mpofu is confident in his personal mission, the solution he’s pursuing and the impact of LFA professional development on both. “I knew I wanted to make a difference, and making sure people have access to food is really important,” he says. “I am positive it’s going to work out. The exact time frame is the only thing I don’t know, but I know it will impact some people’s lives.”

Thanks to professional development funds made possible through a generous bequest, that impact will be felt in Zimbabwe and on the Lake Forest Academy campus.

You can also make a difference by creating an endowed professional development fund through a gift of assets from your estate.

With documentation of a new or existing estate gift, donors gain access to funds from the Caxy Legacy Challenge pool made possible by Sheri Kersch Schultz FH’72 and David Gupta LFA’81. The estate gift donor then directs the unlocked challenge pool dollars—up to \$10,000—to an existing endowment fund (like those for professional development) of their choice. For more information, contact Assistant Dean of Advancement Garry Sloan P’19, ’21 at 847-615-3287 or via email at gsloan@lfanet.org.

Mpofu’s faculty bio may be read (on Page 5) here: <https://www.lfanet.org/about-us/faculty-staff-directory>

CREATE A LEGACY THROUGH BEQUESTS, LIFETIME GIFTS

Legacy gifts, through a trust today or a bequest in the future, can ensure your support of Lake Forest Academy (LFA) continues in perpetuity.

Bequests—which are gifts made through your will—are a time-honored way to continue your support of LFA after your lifetime. Your bequest can take many forms and accomplish a variety of objectives. You might create a fund for a special purpose, such as a scholarship, endow a program that has personal meaning for you or establish a memorial to the life of a loved one. Or you simply can designate your bequest be devoted to our general needs.

Lifetime gifts offer the same potential as bequests for helping LFA yet with the satisfaction of making a present commitment to our future. Your gift can be outright or in trust, with lifetime income preserved for you and your family. And, as with

bequests, your lifetime gift can be directed toward a particular area or used to memorialize your life or that of another.

The language of your bequest is important. Be sure to share the language of your bequest with beneficiaries to ensure your gift can be properly directed and used according to your intentions.

We invite you to explore with us the many ways your legacy can have an impact on the future of LFA. You can do much to shape our tomorrow and assure yourself of a place among those who truly can say their life and work made a difference.

For more information about supporting LFA through a bequest, life income gift or other gift planning instrument, please contact Garry Sloan at gsloan@lfanet.org or 847-615-3287.



BEQUESTS FOR OUR FUTURE

After taking care of your family and other loved ones, your bequest for the future benefit of Lake Forest Academy can take any of these forms:

Naming LFA to **receive the residue of your estate** is a popular form of bequest. The residue is what is left after paying settlement costs, debts, taxes, specific bequests and general bequests. If you wish, you can give specified percentages of your residuary estate as well.

A specific property, such as an investment or other noncash asset, can be given to LFA.

A specific sum of money can also be given. A gift of a specific amount is absolute and fixed, though the value of your estate is variable and changes from time to time. You may want to consider whether a bequest of a percentage of your estate is a better option.

YEAR-END GIVING IN 2022 AS EASY AS 1-2-3

Many friends have found creative ways to give to Lake Forest Academy at the end of the year, some of which you may not have considered. Here are three ways to make gifts in 2022.

1. Giving Through Retirement Plans. As millions of people are now approaching retirement age, it is more important than ever to plan for your financial well-being during your golden years. Through thoughtful planning, you may be delighted to learn that you can give to LFA and still ensure a healthy financial future for you and your loved ones. Through your retirement plan you can make immediate, tax-favored transfers each year, provide for future gifts as part of your long-range planning and arrange for charitable gifts that feature additional income, special tax savings and other benefits for yourself and your loved ones.

2. Giving Through Securities. People often are surprised to learn that different tax results come from giving different types of assets. Gifts of highly appreciated securities, for example, may yield favorable tax outcomes. If securities have been owned more than one year, donors can deduct the original cost as well as any unrealized capital gain. Best of all, no capital gain taxes are due when you give securities, and excess deductions can be carried over for up to five additional years. If you own securities that have dropped below the price you originally paid, consider selling shares and donating the proceeds. You'll be entitled to a capital loss deduction and also a charitable deduction.

3. Giving Through Your IRA. Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from IRAs offer a unique opportunity for IRA owners who have reached age 70½ to make a gift to LFA and reduce taxable income—even for donors who cannot itemize their deductions. You can transfer up to \$100,000 annually, free of tax. QCDs can satisfy part or all of any required minimum distributions you are required to take. Contact us if you're planning an IRA gift to ensure your gift is completed in time and you are provided with the necessary acknowledgment.

For more information about supporting LFA through a retirement plan, securities or an IRA, please contact Garry Sloan at gsloan@lfanet.org or 847-615-3287.



SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE:

I give, devise and bequeath to Lake Forest Academy, a not-for-profit organization located in Lake Forest, Illinois, _____ percent (%) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate [or \$_____] as an unrestricted gift to be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees of Lake Forest Academy for the general purposes of Lake Forest Academy (tax ID#: 36-2216167), located in Lake Forest, Illinois.



LAKE FOREST ACADEMY

Midwestern Heart. Global Mind.

Garry Sloan | Advancement Department

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The purpose of this publication is solely educational, namely to provide general gift, estate, financial planning and related information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice, and you should not rely on it as such. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate and qualified advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Consult a tax and/or accounting specialist for advice regarding tax and accounting related matters. © Copyright 2022 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved.