

Class of 1957 Endowment: A Legacy of Learning

"One of the great joys of being at a university is having the opportunity to go to the library and read works you weren't assigned to read," Tom Rusk Vickery (BA '57), a retired professor of educational policy, said. "The more important works we have at the library—for when students are just out seeking knowledge—the better education we can provide them."

With this enthusiastic spirit, Vickery encouraged his fellow members of the class of '57 to establish the first library endowment at Baylor. Like most of his classmates, Vickery made his donation by signing over his university security deposit—which was in the neighborhood of \$25—to the senior class gift. In the end, the endowment came to about \$4,000, a significant gift for the time.

With the endowment's interest income, the University Libraries have been able to purchase valuable items such as a four-volume facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, *Collected Writings of Herman Melville* and the *Encyclopedia of World Art*. Holdings such as these allow in-depth research that otherwise might not be possible.

Now, as the class celebrates its 50th reunion, Vickery hopes to revitalize their efforts and increase the endowment. He has pledged \$1,000 per year and challenges the other members of the class to do the same.

"The class of '57 was a very special class, with vision and character, and I would like to see their original legacy grow," John Wilson, director of development for the libraries,



Containing beautiful illuminations such as the one above, the Gutenberg Bible Facsimile is housed in the foyer of the Jones Library. (Photo by Baylor Photography)

said. "This class may have even more of an impact on the future than it had in the past. When they give to this endowment, they give to every student and every faculty member at Baylor."

For information about contributing to the Class of '57 library endowment, please contact John Wilson at John_Wilson@baylor.edu or (254) 710-3457.

-Amanda Keys
University Development

A New Way to Support Baylor Libraries

Your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) serves as a storehouse for a portion of your assets, which is similar to how a library stores valuable educational resources. The reserves that are nestled away in both storehouses are ones that can often be shared with others.

There is now a brief window of opportunity that allows some the chance to share these assets in a new way. In the past, the tax deductions from an IRA gift to a charitable organization often did not fully offset the taxable income the withdrawal incurred.

Fortunately, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 helps families overcome that

problem and reach their charitable goals. If you are over age 70 ½, the Pension Protection Act allows you to make tax-free charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 through your IRA, and this opportunity is only available through Dec. 31, 2007.

"It's an opportunity to make a gift without taking the IRA distribution into income," said Maston Courtney, who with his wife, Barbara, utilized the provision to support their endowed scholarship at Truett Seminary. "For anyone who has a mind to make a gift and has available funds in an IRA—it's a grand opportunity!"

To make use of the Pension Protection

Act, send your administrator a written request asking that the distribution be made payable to Baylor University. Next, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-BAYLOR-U, option 4, to notify them of the gift and the plan administrator name. Finally, designate your gift to University Libraries.

For more information about making a gift from your IRA, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-BAYLOR-U, option 4, or (254) 710-2561.

-Amanda Keys
University Development