

# WALSAA EXPRESS

➔ YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE

Volume 48 | Issue 3 | December 2020

## More Than \$22,000 Raised to Support CALS Student Scholarships in Place of WALSAA Football Fire-Up

Alumni, friends, and family of the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) recently helped raise funds in place of holding the annual Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association (WALSAA) Football Fire-Up Event. The annual Fire-Up event, which typically raises more than \$20,000 to fund CALS scholarships, awards, and student activities, was cancelled this year to comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines. This year, with the generous support from sponsors, donors, and a matching grant from CALS, we raised more than \$22,000 to fund these awards. We would like to give a big thank you to the sponsors, donors, and CALS for supporting our efforts during this time.

We look forward to seeing you next year for another WALSAA Football Fire-Up! On Wisconsin!



*CALS Ambassadors at the 2019 Fire-Up*

### Thank You Fire-Up Sponsors!

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Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Once A Badger, Always A Badger



*Pierce Dopp, WALSAA President*

Fellow alumni, future alumni, prospective alumni, friends and visitors:

It is an honor to serve as WALSAA's president for the next year. I stand on the shoulders of a line of very dedicated alumni presidents and boards of directors. I am grateful for the help and support of the new slate of officers, each of whom bring distinct gifts and talents to our organization. For so many of us, our time as students at UW-Madison was a crucially formative time in our lives and careers. Whether it was the education we received that opened doors for success, the relationships we made that created friendships for life, a professor or administrator that gave us the encouragement or confidence we needed to forge ahead, or the institution that gave us a sense of place and became part of our identity, our time at this University made it a part of us forever, and us a part of it.

As a 1981 CALS graduate, a son of a 1958 graduate, and a father of a 2012 graduate, I have deep roots at UW-Madison. The first person I met on campus was Rick Daluge, who founded WALSAA in 1972, and I feel privileged to follow in his footsteps.

The world gets more complicated with each passing day, but WALSAA's mission and commitment remains the same: to keep our alumni connected to our school, and each other, and to support the students who will follow as future alumni.

As we reflect on the past 48 years and the future of WALSAA, I ask you to think about how we can help meet the needs of the students who will follow us. Many alumni are already participating at so many levels by giving their time, talents, and treasures, but you can also give back in other ways too, like providing career and academic mentoring, volunteering your time at on- and off-campus events, or simply attending academic and social events. No matter how you do it, your contributions are important and valuable. As alumni, we are a vital thread in the fabric of this institution, and your support and participation are needed more than ever as we enter this new era in our school's history. As you will learn, giving back has another benefit—it feels good.

I want to thank you for visiting with us today (whether you are reading this on our website or in the Express), and please come back often. ***I encourage you to explore all that WALSAA has to offer to strengthen your connection with UW-Madison, and remember, once a Badger always a Badger.***

With warmest regards,  
Pierce Dopp (B.S. 1981)

## WALSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

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**Nikita Piryani**

**FISC Student Rep**  
**Leo Ehlen**

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**Brooke Trustem '20 - 2023**  
Evansville, WI

# CALS MESSAGE

## CALS Study Abroad Offers Virtual Experience During Pandemic



*Brett Schieve, Director, CALS Study Abroad*

Studying abroad is an integral part of the CALS student experience, and the CALS Study Abroad office is proud to support students pursuing research, internships, volunteer experiences, and other studies around the world.

While the current COVID-19 pandemic has halted international student travel, we continue to plan meaningful opportunities for students to learn about the world, make self-discoveries, and navigate cultural differences through the addition of virtual study abroad experiences. Virtual study abroad empowers students to cross borders and break down barriers while learning about global issues directly from international partners in an interactive virtual setting.

One such experience is the UW Circle of Care for Global Health and Human Rights, UW-Madison's first-ever virtual, faculty-led study abroad program. In summer 2020, a group of nine undergraduate students embraced the opportunity to virtually learn about issues related to migration, sex-trafficking, global health, and human rights violations directly from women and organizations in Spain, Morocco, and Nigeria. They were guided by Madison-based program leader Araceli Alonso and her co-leader in Spain, Esperanza Jorge-Barbuzano.

The program leaders collaborated across time zones and utilized creative teaching methods and multiple digital platforms, including Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WhatsApp, and Canvas. Through virtual synchronous learning opportunities, interactive workshops, and conversations between students and partners abroad, they opened windows for participating students to view and explore three other countries.

In addition to allowing students to complete the required field experience for the undergraduate certificate in global health, the virtual program makes an international learning experience more accessible for students who may not be able to complete an on-site study abroad program. The virtual format allows students with physical and mental health challenges, students with financial need, and students who may not feel comfortable traveling outside the United States to engage internationally and interculturally.

In the midst of a global pandemic and worldwide protests against racial inequality, this innovative virtual study abroad program helped UW-Madison undergraduates examine the particularly salient issues of global health and human rights from other cultural perspectives.

As one student participant commented in the post-program evaluation, "This experience was extremely valuable to me because I always wanted the opportunity to study abroad in college. My previous study abroad plans were canceled due to COVID-19, so I am grateful that I was able to participate in a virtual experience. . . I feel as if I gained cultural knowledge and had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of people. It was also a meaningful experience because I was able to speak with these people directly while learning about their stories—this was different from any opportunity I would have in a regular class."

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While we hope that students will be able to travel internationally again soon, CALS Study Abroad is excited about the success of the UW Circle of Care for Global Health and Human Rights program and the learning potential presented by virtual study abroad experiences.

For more information, visit [go.wisc.edu/Circle-of-Care](https://go.wisc.edu/Circle-of-Care).



# WELCOME TO THE WALSAA BOARD

## Ehlen, Murphy, Piryani, Roush and Trustem Join the WALSAA Board of Directors



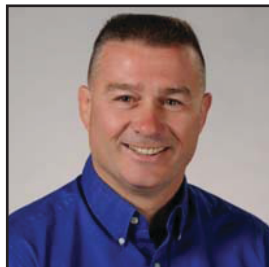
### Leo Ehlen

Leo Ehlen is a second-year Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) student in FISC pursuing a certificate in dairy farm management. He is the 2020-21 FISC Ambassador and WALSAA FISC Student Representative. Ehlen is a third-generation dairy farmer

from Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where his family milks around 115 Holstein cows. On the farm, Ehlen milks cows, cuts and bales hay, and hauls silage and corn in the fall. He is also very active in his local FFA alumni because he likes to give back to an organization that inspired his passion for the agriculture industry.

### Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy, Ph.D., is a 1987 UW-Madison CALS graduate in agricultural economics who has a passion for learning and employee performance. Murphy continued his education at UW-Whitewater to earn a master's degree in business administration, and then at Benedictine University for his Ph.D. in organizational development. Currently, Murphy works in Syngenta's training department with interns, new hires, and leadership to build a stronger customer experience. Murphy and his wife, Nancy, live in DeWitt, Iowa, with their three children.



### Nikita Piryani

Nikita Piryani is a junior from Mequon, Wisconsin, majoring in biology and pursuing a certificate in global health. This is her first year with the CALS Ambassadors and she will serve as the Alumni Relations Chair. In her free time, Piryani enjoys playing tennis, watching Badger football and

basketball games, and spending time with her dog. After graduation, Piryani plans to attend medical school.

### June Roush

June Roush grew up on a dairy and livestock Century Family Farm near Plain, Wisconsin. She earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics, with a business and industry option, from the UW-Madison, and then a master's degree in business administration from Edgewood College.

At UW-Madison, Roush was secretary for the Ag Econ Club, a member of the Badger Dairy Club, and a volunteer at World Dairy Expo. She has since worked for John Deere Financial (JDF) in various roles for more than 30 years. In 2019, Roush accepted the Harmony Hill Farm Sanctuary Board of Director and Treasurer roles. The farm sanctuary is located in northern Illinois. Roush is an avid fan of dance, gymnastics, diving, and all Wisconsin Badger and Wisconsin professional sports. Her son, Isaac, is a freshman at St. Cloud State University (SCSU), and her daughter, Ashlyn, is a junior at Middleton High School.



### Brooke Trustem

Brooke Trustem is from Evansville, Wisconsin, and she is currently the sales and marketing coordinator for BouMatic. Trustem was raised on her family's 2,500-cow dairy farm and has a passion for the dairy industry. A 2020 UW-Madison CALS graduate, Trustem was highly involved in

many agriculture-related organizations on campus. She was president of the CALS Student Association and the Badger Dairy Club, secretary of the Association of Women in Agriculture, and director of public relations for the Collegiate Farm Bureau. In these roles, Trustem helped coordinate events to help educate others about agriculture.



# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## We Are Truly Grateful for Your Support



*Paul Patterson, WALSAA Past President*

WALSAA members,

We have survived. WALSAA has survived. The year 2020 has arguably been our toughest year as an organization. However, with so many people stepping up this year, WALSAA completed its 48<sup>th</sup> year in good shape. While we weren't able to hold any of our annual events, such as the Farm Tech Days Picnic or Football Fire-Up, we still completed our mission to raise money, award scholarships and make friends among our fellow graduates.

Once we knew we wouldn't be able to hold our largest fundraiser at Fire-Up, we pivoted and asked our sponsors and members to step up and fill the void by donating to our scholarship fund. This fund provides the money for FISC Scholarships, Outstanding Sophomore Awards, and other funding for student organizations in CALS during the year. We received an overwhelming outpouring of support and raised more than \$12,000! With a matching grant of \$10,000 from CALS, we are able to fully fund all our scholarship activities for the upcoming year.

This has been a humbling experience for all of us on the WALSAA board. If the pandemic has an upside, it has been this show of force of our members. During our annual planning, we always discuss what would happen in a year where our events are "washed" out by unforeseen circumstances and try to plan for this scenario financially. Our ability to overcome this enormous challenge is a tribute to all of the people who have supported WALSAA in the past AND to the people who stepped up this year.

Saying thank you doesn't seem to be enough, but, from all of us at WALSAA, we are truly grateful for your support during this challenging year. As we look ahead, we now know it will take more than a pandemic to stop WALSAA from achieving its mission to provide professional and monetary support to students in CALS at UW-Madison.

As I write my last message as outgoing president of WALSAA, I am reminded of 19-year-old lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, the father of five-star general Douglas MacArthur, rallying his Wisconsin regiment during the critical Battle of Missionary Ridge in 1863 by shouting, "ON, WISCONSIN!" to win the day.

***On, Wisconsin!***  
Paul Patterson



### **2021 Scholarship Applications Available**

Applications for the 2021 FISC Scholarships and Outstanding Sophomore Awards are now available at [WALSAA.org/WALSAA-scholarships/](https://WALSAA.org/WALSAA-scholarships/). Application deadlines are Monday, February 8, 2021, for FISC and Monday, February 15, 2021, for Outstanding Sophomore Awards. As a part of the new WALSAA Speaker's Bureau webinar series, a video on resume building tips will be available at [WALSAA.org/WALSAA-speakers-bureau/](https://WALSAA.org/WALSAA-speakers-bureau/).

# CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

## CALS Ambassadors



*Nikita Piryani, WALSAA Student Representative*

I hope everyone has been enjoying the winter season. CALS Ambassadors were quite busy this semester holding virtual CALS information sessions and Admissions Open Houses to introduce prospective students to CALS. We have had a handful of students attend each session. We also hosted a CALS Graduate School Panel on October 14, which featured a panel of past CALS graduates to share advice and tips on the graduate school application process.

We had a good turnout and great conversations about preparing for graduate school. The CALS Ambassador team also plans to hold a couple more events this semester, such as the CALS Research Panel in partnership with WISCIENCE and a CALS Virtual Majors Fair.

### **COVID-19 and campus**

Earlier this semester, all in-person classes for undergraduates, graduates, and professional school groups were paused, and all meetings with more than 10 people were cancelled for two weeks due to the rising cases of COVID-19. Some residence halls were asked to quarantine

in place for the two weeks. This decision helped decrease the rate of infection. After the quarantine period, some on-campus activities were allowed to start up again, with a renewed emphasis on increasing testing capacity, reducing the concentration of students in residence halls, and holding students accountable to follow COVID-19 guidelines.

Furthermore, after Thanksgiving break, all instruction was held in a virtual format, including final exams. More information on UW-Madison's COVID-19 response can be found at [covidresponse.wisc.edu](https://covidresponse.wisc.edu).

Lastly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UW-Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment is NOT requiring ACT or SAT scores for the next two admission cycles. This includes current high school juniors and seniors applying for admission between spring 2021 through summer 2023. More information on this policy can be found at [news.wisc.edu/no-act-sat-scores-required-for-next-two-enrollment-cycles/](https://news.wisc.edu/no-act-sat-scores-required-for-next-two-enrollment-cycles/).

## CALS STUDENT AMBASSADORS 2020-2021

### **Dede Haas**

Nutritional sciences and global health

### **Jiahang He**

Agricultural and applied economics, environmental studies and Japanese

### **Hannah Landsly**

Biology with global health and leadership certificates

### **Paul Lyons**

Genetics and genomics

### **Claire Michel**

Food science with Italian certificate

### **Carling Miller**

Genetics and genomics with global health certificate

### **Maggie Marshall**

Environmental science and Spanish

### **Nikita Piryani**

Biology with global health certificate

### **Nick Puster**

Genetics and genomics with German certificate

### **Tatum Satterlee**

Genetics and genomics

### **Lauren Trancer**

Nutritional sciences with global health certificate

### **Helen Wang**

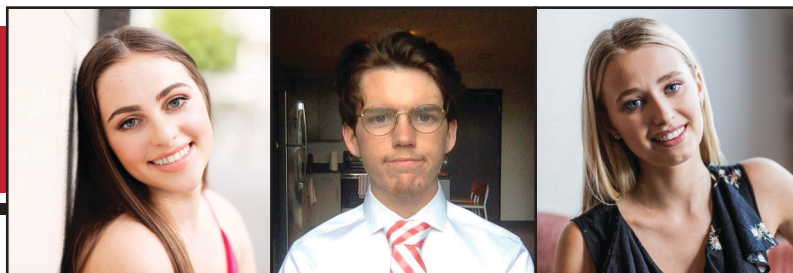
Genetics and genomics with Italian and global health certificates

### **May Wu**

Genetics and genomics with computer science certificate

**Learn more about our newest CALS Ambassadors on page 7.**

**CALS Ambassadors Dede Haas, Paul Lyons and Claire Michel**



**Tell us about yourself (name, hometown, major, fun fact).**

**Dede Haas:** My name is Dede Haas, and I am from Houston, Texas. I am a sophomore planning to major in nutritional science and life and sciences communication; I am currently on the pre-med track. A fun fact about me is that I have a large family with two baby brothers!

**Paul Lyons:** My name is Paul Lyons, and I am from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, but I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. I am a second-year student studying genetics and genomics as well as German. A fun fact about me is that I spent eight months of my senior year of high school studying in Trier, Germany, at the Max-Planck Gymnasium.

**Claire Michel:** My name is Claire Michel, and I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am majoring in food science and pursuing a certificate in Italian. A fun fact about me is that I am an Irish twin with my younger sister! Our birthdays are only 11 months apart!

**Why did you join CALS Ambassadors?**

**Haas:** I joined CALS Ambassadors because I wanted to help incoming freshmen and current students by sharing all the resources CALS has to offer to them. Since it is such a small college, students have many opportunities to pursue their interests, like with the Honors in Research program. I joined Honors in Research and have loved being a part of it.

**Lyons:** I wanted to be a CALS ambassador to encourage prospective CALS students to study abroad and find research opportunities. I see myself as a simple connector between CALS students and the many opportunities on our wonderful campus.

**Michel:** I joined CALS Ambassadors because I love CALS and have had such a good experience being in this college and made amazing connections because of it. CALS also has a ton of amazing resources, and I want to share all this great information with prospective students so they can learn how amazing it is.

**What has been the most meaningful campus activity that you participated in?**

**Haas:** The most meaningful campus activity I have participated in is my research lab. I joined the lab my lab freshman year and it has been a great learning experience for me. I am currently doing research about material calcium metabolism in response to different selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) treatments. This lab has opened my eyes to the immense amount of research that goes on in the labs on campus and it is fascinating to study.

**Lyons:** So far, the most meaningful campus activity for me has been getting involved in research; it is incredibly rewarding to see what you're studying in class be applied to real-world research projects.

**Michel:** One of the most meaningful campus activities I have participated in is CALS QuickStart. I met lifelong friends through this program, and it also provided me the best transition to college. I am also part of an all-girls writing club called Her Campus, and it has been such an amazing experience because I get to flex my creative muscles and write about topics I am interested in while connecting with other talented women.

**What are your post-graduation plans? How you are preparing for it?**

**Haas:** I plan on applying to medical school after college and becoming a doctor. I have had these intentions for almost a decade now because of my dad, who is a surgeon and has motivated and inspired me to become one too.

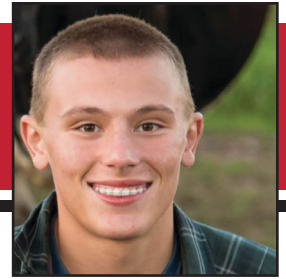
**Lyons:** My post-graduate plans are currently torn between two paths: a research-based veterinary school route for a DVM, or a biotechnology-focused path through graduate school for a Ph.D.

**Michel:** My post-graduate plan is to combine my love of food and the science behind it with my love of Italy. I hope to work in the restaurant industry in consultation and distribution. I love how food is a connection for people through their communities, experiences, and fond memories, and I want to learn more about the powers food has on an agricultural, scientific, and cultural level.



# FISC CORNER

## Farm and Industry Short Course Student Update



*Leo Ehlen, WALSAA Student Representative*

Short course is ready to tackle the 2020-21 academic year. We are excited for the challenge of doing everything virtually.

This year, we will have to jump over many hurdles. While some of our events we would typically hold in the summer were cancelled, like the Agricultural Experience Tour and many of our recruiting events, we found different ways to reach out to current and prospective students, and we are prepared for the challenge of this year.

We are also excited for the many activities we are planning to do online. It's harder to host activities because we are not on campus, but we will make the best of the situation with the resources we have.

We are optimistic and excited to have a great school year.

# 2021 FISC REUNION

## Sponsor Spotlight: Compeer Financial



### Save the New Date! 2021 FISC Reunion

The 2021 Farm and Industry Short Course Reunion will now be held Saturday, March 27 at Crave Brothers Farm, LLC in Waterloo, Wisconsin. Join us as we recognize the recipients of the Friend of Short Course, Service to Agriculture, and Excellence in Teaching awards. Activities will also include a lunch and tour. At this time, we are planning this as an in-person and virtual event, however, we may transition to a virtual-only event. Stay tuned! Registration information will be available at [WALSAA.org](http://WALSAA.org) and mailed to FISC alumni in February.

Compeer Financial is a member-owned farm credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. Based in the Upper Midwest, Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America, while providing personalized service and expertise to clients and the agriculture industry. The \$23.7 billion organization provides loans, leases, risk management, and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Compeer Financial is the third largest cooperative of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending institutions supporting agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit, and financial services.

For more information about Compeer Financial, visit [Compeer.com](http://Compeer.com).



# CALS HONORARY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Breunig, Gunderson, Aberle, Rothschild, and Huschka Sink Recognized



*Breunig*



*Gunderson*



*Aberle*



*Rothschild*



*Huschka Sink*

The University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) is proud to announce the selections for its 2020 Honorary Recognition, Distinguished Alumni, and Distinguished Service Awards. CALs will present the Honorary Recognition Award to Mitch Breunig and Al Gunderson; its Distinguished Service Award to Elton Aberle; and its Distinguished Alumni Award to Max Rothschild and Claire Huschka Sink.

These awards are the highest honors bestowed by the college. This year marked the 111<sup>th</sup> of presenting the Honorary Recognition Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to their professions, their communities and the university. The Distinguished Service Award, first given in 1994, recognizes meritorious service by CALs faculty and staff members. The Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes lifetime achievement and service, was established in 2009.

Awardees are traditionally honored each fall during the Honorary Recognition Awards Banquet and Ceremony. This year, however, the event has been postponed to protect the health and safety of the honorees and their guests during the coronavirus pandemic. It has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021.

For more information about the awards and to see a list of past honorees, visit [cals.wisc.edu/honorary/](https://cals.wisc.edu/honorary/).

# YEAR-END STRATEGIES FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

## Consider These 5 Tax-Savvy Ways to Make Your Giving Go Further This Year

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### Key takeaways

- While charitable donations by check or cash are the most common, giving long-term appreciated securities may have attractive tax benefits.
- Establishing a donor-advised fund (DAF) can be a particularly effective way to give.
- A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- Before undertaking any strategy, consult your legal, tax, or financial advisor.

During the holiday season, many people look for ways to combine their desire to help the causes they believe in with their desire to save on taxes.

Generally, if you itemize your deductions, making charitable contributions can decrease your tax bill, and since high-income earners generally pay tax at higher rates, they may enjoy a particularly large tax benefit from charitable contributions.

Here are 5 strategies to consider that can help you make the most of your giving this year.

### 1. Give long-term appreciated securities, rather than cash

Donations made by cash or check are, by far, the most common methods of charitable giving. However, contributing stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have appreciated over time has become increasingly popular in recent years, and for good reason.

Most publicly traded securities may be donated to a public charity. When the donation is made, the donor can claim the fair market value as an itemized deduction on their federal income tax return. The amount deducted can be up to 30% of the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI). Other types of securities, such as restricted or privately traded securities, may also be deductible, but additional requirements and limitations may apply. No capital gains taxes are owed when the securities are donated, not sold.

Often, people who receive bonuses in the form of stock from their employer can carry a sizable exposure to that company. Gifting shares of company stock can help satisfy your philanthropic goals as well as the common goal to diversify your company awards, all while managing the impact on your capital gains tax.

### 2. Consider establishing a donor-advised fund

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a giving vehicle sponsored by a public charity. It allows donors to make a charitable contribution to the public charity, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund over time. Donors can contribute to the charity as frequently as they like and then recommend grants to their favorite charities whenever it makes sense for them. There are a number of public charities, including Fidelity Charitable® Opens in a new window, that sponsor DAFs. You can then recommend grants to other eligible charities—generally speaking, IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) public charities—from your DAF.

Establishing a DAF allows you to make a gift and qualify for a charitable deduction immediately without needing to decide, until you're ready, on the charities to support with grant recommendations. It can also be a great way for charitably inclined individuals to offset a year with unexpectedly high earnings, or to address the tax implications of year-end bonuses or stock option exercises.

### 3. Consider using a charitable donation to offset the tax costs of converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA

One way to potentially reduce future taxes is to convert a portion of your traditional IRA assets into Roth IRAs. To help offset the tax cost of a Roth IRA conversion, consider making a charitable contribution. The essential difference between traditional retirement savings vehicles (whether they're IRAs or workplace plans) and the Roth versions is that with traditional IRAs, contributions are usually tax-deductible the year they are made and can grow tax-deferred within the account. The contributions and earnings are then taxed upon withdrawal.

Roth IRA contributions are not tax-deductible. You can make qualified withdrawals from your Roth IRA anytime, tax- and penalty-free, if you meet certain requirements. You may have to pay taxes and/or penalties on nonqualified withdrawals from a Roth IRA that go beyond your accumulated contributions, and that includes withdrawals of converted balances.

*Continued on page 11.*



*Continued from page 10.*

Roth accounts may make sense if you believe your current tax rate is lower than it will be in the years you'll make withdrawals; however, there are many other factors to consider. *(For more on Roth conversions, read Viewpoints on Fidelity.com: Tax-savvy Roth IRA conversions)*

Converting in a year in which you can claim a large tax deduction, such as an itemized charitable deduction, can be helpful in offsetting the taxes due to the Roth conversion and may give you an opportunity to give to a charity while also reducing your future taxes.

#### **4. Consider donating complex assets**

Donors may also contribute complex and illiquid assets—such as private company stock, restricted stock, real estate, alternative investments, bitcoin, or other long-term appreciated property—directly to charity. The process for making this type of donation requires more time and effort than donating cash or publicly traded securities, but it has distinct advantages. These types of assets often have a relatively low cost basis. In fact, for entrepreneurs who have founded their own companies, the cost basis of their private C-corp or S-corp stock may effectively be zero.

Contributing non-publicly traded assets to charity, however, involves additional laws and regulations, so investors should consult their legal, tax, or financial advisor. Also, not all charities have the administrative resources to accept and liquidate such assets. But many public charities with DAF programs, such as Fidelity Charitable, are able to accept these assets and can work with advisors, providing them with guidance throughout the process. *(For more on DAFs, read Viewpoints on Fidelity.com: Strategic giving: Think beyond cash)*

#### **5. Over 72? Consider a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA**

If you are at least age 72, have an IRA, and plan to donate to charity this year, another consideration may be to make a QCD from your IRA. This action can satisfy charitable goals and allows funds to be withdrawn from an IRA without any tax consequences. A QCD can also be appealing because it can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD)—up to \$100,000.

QCDs may be appealing if you have few other deductions or if you are already close to your charitable deduction limitations. Because the tax-free QCD is never reported as a deduction, it is not counted against the charitable limits and does not require itemization to be effective.

Alternatively, if you are subject to an RMD and have a desire to contribute to a charity, you could take the RMD proceeds as a taxable distribution and use them to make a charitable donation. Your IRA distribution would then be reported as income, but the subsequent charitable contribution using the proceeds from the RMD would generally offset the tax consequences—to the extent that the limits allow it.

The CARES act temporarily waives required minimum distributions (RMDs) for all types of retirement plans (including IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457(b)s, and inherited IRA plans) for calendar year 2020. This includes the first RMD, which individuals may have delayed from 2019 until April 1, 2020.

**Tip:** DAF sponsors such as Fidelity Charitable are not eligible recipients for QCDs, even though they are public charities. Seek professional advice about QCDs, and visit Fidelity's Learning Center for more on QCDs at [fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics](https://www.fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics)

Before undertaking any of these giving strategies, you should consult your legal, tax, or financial advisor. But each of the strategies, properly employed, represents a tax-advantaged way for you to give more to your favorite charities.



Your CALS Connection For Life

P.O. Box 5177, Madison, WI 53705-5177

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## COMMITMENT FORM

*It's Never Been More Important to STAY CONNECTED*



**YOUR CALS CONNECTION FOR LIFE: *Staying Connected, Great Networking, Giving Back***



Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your company name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DONATION Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

- RED & WHITE: \$50 TO \$124
- HENRY MALL: \$125 TO 249
- BABCOCK HALL: \$250 TO \$499
- AG HALL: \$500 TO \$999
- WALSAA SOCIETY: \$1,000+

Please return to [admin@walsaa.org](mailto:admin@walsaa.org) or send with payment to:  
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*If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Hammerly at 608.438.1994.*