Financial Spotlight:

INCOME-PRODUCING GIFTS HONOR ALUMNA, SUPPORT TOMORROW’S NURSES

When Paul Bilka and Madge Mussey met in 1940, he was an MD candidate at Columbia University, and she was a nursing student at Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. The couple wrote letters and visited often. Three years later, mere days after he earned his medical degree, they were married.

In 1993—after nearly 50 years of marriage—Madge Bilka (NUR ’43) passed away. Bilka has since been committed to keeping his wife’s memory alive.

“As a physician, I know that nurses are an integral part of medical care,” says the retired rheumatologist. “I want to educate tomorrow’s nurses, who maybe couldn’t have gone to Case Western Reserve otherwise.”

So, for the past 16 years, with his wife’s memory in his heart and a cause on his mind, Bilka has made a series of generous charitable gift annuities to benefit students of the nursing school. He recently made his 16th such contribution to the school and says he is partial to charitable gift annuities for obvious reasons.

“It’s good for the giver and good for the receiver,” he says. “It’s generous, but it’s safe too. And you can designate your money to go to anything you want.”

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— Paul Bilka, MD