INTRODUCING THE PHYSICIANEERS

Why is this mother-daughter team helping Texas A&M merge technology and health care? The reasons are many.
Endowments: Legacies that Last

In the grand atrium of the Texas A&M Foundation’s Jon L. Hagler Center, we proudly etch the names of those who give generously to Texas A&M University into the limestone walls. Every year, the list grows. That once-empty atrium is now covered with the names of families, companies and those whose loved ones have given in their honor. We call our atrium Legacy Hall, but you’d be mistaken to think our donors’ true legacy lives in limestone.

As the Greek general Pericles once said, “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” We need only look at the impact of past gifts to see this principle in action. Texas A&M is the beloved institution it is today in large part because dedicated donors from decades past set a standard of selflessness that withstood the test of time. Goodness sows the seeds of further goodness, and Aggies consistently pass down the opportunities they are provided to the next generation. More than any monument can capture, a gift to Texas A&M creates positive change in countless lives.

In this issue of Spirit of Sharing, we highlight stories of donors who have left endowed gifts through their estates. Endowed gifts are powerful given the long-term nature of their financial impact. When donors establish an endowment, we invest their gift and disburse part of the investment earnings annually for the purposes designated by the donor at Texas A&M. In this way, endowments grow and remain forever, benefiting Aggie students, faculty and programs for generations. You can learn more about the impact of endowments through the example of the late Minnie Van Hook’s gift, illustrated on page 10.

As you read each story, consider the legacy you could leave by creating an endowed planned gift. A simple adjustment to your estate plan can lay the groundwork for Texas A&M’s future and give you the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will make a difference that lasts longer than stone.

Thanks for all you do.

Tyson Voelkel ’96
President, Texas A&M Foundation

txamfoundation.com/plan
Visit our planned giving website to learn how you can make a gift to Texas A&M and to read the most recent planned giving news.

give.am/newsletter
Sign up to receive updates from the Texas A&M Foundation directly in your email inbox.

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TexasAMFoundation
Like us on Facebook to read and share stories featuring the latest programs and initiatives at Texas A&M.

Electrical engineering major Razan Ghabin ’20 benefits from a planned gift created in 1984.

Read more on page 10.
WILL YOU BE PART OF $1 BILLION?

By helping individuals create estate gifts, the Texas A&M Foundation has a goal to raise $1 billion in planned gifts during the Lead by Example campaign, a historic campaign to raise $4 billion for Texas A&M University by 2020.

This heat map shows the concentration of planned gifts already made by U.S. donors during the Lead by Example campaign and constitutes more than 1,000 individuals. Simply put, the impact of planned gifts to the campaign—and to Texas A&M's future—cannot be understated. By committing planned gifts, donors are creating ways to provide for loved ones, receive tax benefits, generate potential retirement income and support Texas A&M, all at the same time. Planned gifts benefit Aggie students and faculty, sustain Texas A&M programs and facilities, and help launch major new campus initiatives.

If you're interested in making a planned gift during the Lead by Example campaign, the Foundation's gift planning officers will partner with you to articulate your goals and explore opportunities that deliver the greatest benefits—to you, to loved ones and to the ultimate, longtime beneficiary of your generosity: Texas A&M.

- **943 planned gifts** have been documented since the start of the campaign in 2012.
- That’s **more than $825 million** for the future benefit of Texas A&M.
- The average planned gift amount is **$1 million**.
- Planned gifts account for **more than 24%** of the campaign total of $3.39 billion.

CALIFORNIA:
San Francisco donors have given more than $59 million in planned gifts.

TEXAS:
Donors from Harris and Brazos counties have given the most planned gifts in Texas, with 132 and 114 gifts respectively.

More than $7 million in planned gifts has been committed by donors from the City of Brotherly Love in Pennsylvania.

One donor from Massachusetts gave a $10 million planned gift.

Three donors from Kansas City have given more than $5.8 million in planned gifts.
John R. Carmichael III ’73 had an innate talent for business, a drive to create unique and welcoming environments, and a desire to help others succeed. Not surprisingly, his decision to establish a real estate excellence fund will help foster each of these traits in students enrolled in Mays Business School’s Master of Real Estate (MRE) Program.

The Dallas businessman, who passed away unexpectedly in 2016, used a charitable bequest to earmark $1 million from his estate to create the excellence fund through the Texas A&M Foundation. As one of the easiest ways to make a planned gift, a bequest allows you to make a significant gift from your estate, to any amount you choose, without incurring taxes. A bequest can be in your will or trust.

Unlike many of his counterparts, Carmichael especially enjoyed offering input into the design portion of the company’s multi-family residential projects. “He had a dynamic, creative side,” said his daughter, Taylor Wynkoop ’04. “He loved to design and create an ambiance and feel. He always tried to put his personal stamp on his properties.”

Carmichael used his personal experiences to influence the property’s designs. “He was an avid traveler, and the trips he took over the years influenced the design choices he made,” said Carmichael’s daughter, Meredith Hart ’06. “The landscape of the Southwest, the lodges in Colorado and the opulent pools of Las Vegas are just a few of the details he admired and thoughtfully incorporated into the apartments he built.”

As a leader who wanted to help the company’s employees grow, Carmichael regularly mentored young staff members and often hired Aggie graduates. Ultimately, his entire adult life was infused by the Aggie Spirit, and his gift serves as a testament to his kindness. “I didn’t realize the extent of how meaningful Dad’s gift to the MRE Program was until I received an email from Professor Donnell,” Wynkoop said. “It was wonderful to hear that students will be blessed by his hard work and generosity. That’s just like my dad—quietly being generous.”

Westwood has completed more than 200 apartment communities, including traditional garden style and high-density developments, since its inception in 1992. “One of the biggest philosophies of my dad’s business was adding value to projects,” Brody said. “He set a precedent of making sure that people wanted to live in these properties. He always had a top-notch team that ensured his projects were almost fully leased before they opened.”

Unlike many others who have set up a planned gift for Texas A&M University, a bequest requires the inclusion of specific language in your will or trust. That language identifies the exact gift, which can be a percentage of your estate, a gift of a specific asset or a gift from the balance of your estate.

The Carmichael Excellence Fund will help the MRE Program, which is ranked first among U.S. universities for the commercial real estate field, said MRE Program Director Cydney Donnell ’81. “Our overriding mission is to create professional commercial real estate industry leaders.”

A MULTI-FAMILY REAL ESTATE LEADER

Carmichael gained a strong foundation in business and honed his leadership skills while at Texas A&M. “Being an Aggie greatly influenced his life,” said his son, Brody Carmichael. “It wasn’t just an education or an experience; it was true character building for him.”

Carmichael spent the early part of his career working with Trammell Crow Residential, a multi-family real estate company that developed projects across the nation. Almost two decades later, the Dallas native used the knowledge he had gained while working with the industry leader to co-found Westwood Residential.

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When Alonzo “Al” Byington ’58 knocked on a stranger’s door in 1985, he had no way of knowing that he was about to come face-to-face with his future son-in-law.

Al was in the process of helping his daughter, Carrie Byington ’85, move to Houston to begin medical school. Her new next-door neighbor, Humberto “Bert” Garcia ’81, was a young Texaco petroleum engineer. It was Saturday and kick-off time for the Texas A&M University football game. Carrie’s television was not yet hooked up. Bert had both a sticker on his car announcing his Aggie affiliation and a functioning television. Al was desperate.

When Bert answered the door, Al asked him if he was watching the game and then asked to join him. After settling himself in Bert’s living room, Al then asked Bert for a beer.

The two became fast friends.

As neighbors, Carrie and Bert likewise became close friends. But it was her younger sister, Denise Byington ’86, who would marry him.

Thirty-three years later, the seeds planted with that knock on the door have culminated in a way that neither the Byingtons nor Bert could have imagined: a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation. The Denise Byington ’86 and Caroline Garcia Endowment will support EnMed, a revolutionary Texas A&M initiative that will allow medical students to simultaneously earn Doctor of Medicine and Master of Engineering degrees in four years.

The gift reflects the faith that Denise and her daughter, Caroline Garcia, place in the initiative’s potential to change the face of health care. But it also reflects their love for the three people who came together on a Texas A&M game day in 1985.

A YEAR OF CHANGE

In 2016, Carrie was a pioneering medical practitioner and teacher in Salt Lake City, intent on transforming health care. When an offer arrived to return to Texas A&M, it provided her not only with a chance to move back home, but also to achieve this transformation by building upon the already-existent interprofessional partnerships among Texas A&M Health Science Center components.
REASON NO. 1: THE ENMED INITIATIVE

Texas A&M's EnMed initiative is expected to be the largest engineering-based medical degree program in the nation. It is the result of a partnership between Texas A&M's colleges of medicine and engineering and Houston Methodist Hospital, and is overseen by Roderic I. Pettigrew, CEO of Engineering Health (EnHealth) and executive dean for EnMed at Texas A&M. This summer, students admitted to Texas A&M's medical school can select the EnMed track, which will prepare them to be "physicianeers"—both practicing physicians and trained engineers.

In January 2017, Carrie became vice chancellor for health services of The Texas A&M University System, senior vice president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and dean of the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Sadly, Bert wasn't there to celebrate, having succumbed to pancreatic cancer four months earlier. "My husband was so pleased and proud of Carrie when she moved from Utah back to Texas A&M," Denise said. "He was so excited for her in seeing this dream come true, but sad that he wouldn't be around to see it all take shape."

The same year she lost her father, Caroline—Denise and Bert's only child—graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and moved back to Houston, where she is a health and benefits consultant. Denise is a former equity trader. Their decision to support EnMed was not based on their own professional and academic backgrounds; instead their reasons reflect both events of the last few years and their hopes for the future of health care.

REASON NO. 2: DR. CARRIE BYINGTON & BERT

The EnMed degree program was the brainchild of leaders at Texas A&M, including Dr. Byington and Dr. M. Katherine Banks, Texas A&M vice chancellor and dean of engineering. In addition to supporting such a transformative initiative, Denise sees her gift as a way of honoring her sister, who proudly said she is "doing amazing work at Texas A&M's medical school and in health sciences in general."

Denise said she is also honoring her late husband with this gift—a man who majored in civil engineering, began his career as a petroleum engineer, and ended his career as a safety and environmental engineer. "I know my husband would be thrilled to see this kind of innovation," she said. "To see how engineering could be applied in medicine would have been fascinating to him. For me, this gift was a very easy decision."

REASON NO. 3: CAROLINE

Bert and Denise were true believers in the power of philanthropy. Before Bert passed away, the couple funded endowed scholarships through the Texas A&M Foundation for both engineering students (his major) and business students (her major). This time, Denise opted to benefit Texas A&M by naming the Foundation as the beneficiary of her retirement account. She found this an easy and affordable way to give, as the funds will not be transferred until after her lifetime.

Because the Foundation will eventually receive Denise's IRA funds, Caroline will not. So before Denise made her final decision, she discussed it with her daughter. Caroline readily agreed to sacrifice this future inheritance to support what she deemed "a really worthy cause."

Like her mother, Caroline believes in the promise of the EnMed initiative on health care overall. On a more personal level, she hopes those in the program will develop the qualities.

Including Caroline in the gift process, Denise said, was yet another way to honor Bert. "I put Caroline's name on the endowment because she's my husband's only child," Denise explained. "I want her to see this example of philanthropy and the importance of giving back."

In addition to the standard educational and research medical curriculum, EnMed students will focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. Along with their academic and professional requirements, these students must invent something to transform health care as a graduation stipulation. These technological inventions might involve a new way to treat or manage a disease, a way to use existing technology like cell phones to provide health care benefits, or a way to remotely provide health care to those living in rural areas or serving in the military. The possibilities are endless.

"It's an innovative concept to take engineering and apply it to the medical field," Denise said. "Combining the two will have such an impact on the future of medicine." Caroline said that as much as the EnMed program will mean to Texas A&M, she prefers to look at the "big picture" of how the medicine-engineering combination could positively impact health care overall. "I hope that if EnMed is successful, it will inspire other schools to start similar programs," she said.

"This endowment reflects the generosity and unconditional love of our family," —Dr. Carrie Byington '85

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF ENMED

No one is more moved by Denise and Caroline’s support of the EnMed initiative than Dr. Byington, one of the initiative’s co-creators.

“This gift is special to me for many reasons," she said. "This endowment reflects the generosity and unconditional love of our family. The gift honors Humberto Garcia, a beloved husband, father and member of our family. Bert was a loyal Aggie and an engineer, and this gift recognizes both of these qualities.

“I had the opportunity to talk with Bert about the possibility of engineering medicine, and I know he recognized the potential for physician-engineers to transform the field of medicine,” she added. “I believe he would be so proud of Denise and Caroline and happy to be supporting the future of EnMed.”

To read more about EnMed, visit enmed.tamu.edu. To learn about Dr. Byington’s mission to transform health care, visit give.am/BingtonTrailblazer. To find out more about making an IRA beneficiary gift, contact Angela Throne (979) 845-5638.
The power of endowed funds

When you create an endowed fund through a planned gift to benefit Texas A&M University, you enter into a partnership with the Texas A&M Foundation intended to last in perpetuity. The goal is to preserve the principal of your gift while increasing charitable distributions each year.

The graph below illustrates the power of an endowed fund created through a planned gift by the late Minnie Van Hook to honor her late husband, Raymond Van Hook (Class of 1921), an electrical engineering graduate. After her passing in 1984, the Foundation received $71,574 from her estate to create the Raymond Van Hook Memorial Scholarship. Today, the endowment has a market value of $186,451 and currently provides scholarships to eight Aggie electrical engineering students. Since its creation, the total payout from this endowment amounts to more than $173,200*.

Creating an endowment is easy, and you can specify whether you’d like your gift to fund scholarships, advance faculty endeavors, enhance student programs or fund new facilities at Texas A&M. You can also decide how to name your fund—in your name, in honor of a loved one, or after your favorite professor, for example. Whatever you choose to support will create an everlasting and powerful legacy, given the long-term financial impact of endowments.

*Because the Foundation’s accounting system only dates to 1994, the Van Hook endowed fund has likely paid out much more than this amount. The chart below reflects the gap between when the fund was established in 1984 and when the Foundation obtained accounting records in 1994.

Market Value of Raymond Van Hook Memorial Scholarship by Year

Electrical engineering student Razan Ghabin ’20 is one of the hardworking Aggies who benefits from the Van Hook Memorial Scholarship. “This scholarship has had a profound impact on my experience at Texas A&M,” said Ghabin. “It has strengthened my determination to help others and change the world through my field of study. They say a drop produces a ripple; this scholarship will likewise have an ever-growing impact on society as it supports individuals like myself who want to become engineers and work together to achieve a brighter future.”
Embracing the JOURNEY

New Heritage members Patricia ’93 and Edward McGruder ’89 pave a path for future students through a planned gift. By Morgan Knobloch ’20

Hailing from a long line of veterinarians, Edward Deorsley McGruder, D.V.M., Ph.D. ’89 entered Texas A&M University knowing where his career path would take him. Patricia Hollis McGruder, Esq. ’93, on the other hand, came to see where her journey would lead. While each paved their own road as students, both Edward and Patricia embraced the Aggie Spirit during their college years, letting Texas A&M’s camaraderie and core values enhance their experience and prepare them for the future.

“It goes without saying that Texas A&M’s academics are challenging,” said Edward. “It’s one thing to get into Texas A&M, another thing to stay, and an entirely different thing to excel, but Patricia and I were both blessed with success. When you add leadership opportunities to its rigorous academics, the Aggie experience uniquely prepares students for life after college.”

Reminiscing over their college days, the couple knew they wanted to give back to their alma mater. The McGruders found that naming the Texas A&M Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy provided a simple and cost-effective method to give back to Texas A&M. After their lifetimes, the gift will establish a Foundation Excellence Award scholarship fund to support incoming African-American students from their former high schools.

“We hope to leave a legacy with these scholarships for students to develop and nurture their purpose, attain academic excellence and cultivate diverse community engagement,” said Patricia.

During his years as a student, Edward enjoyed growing in community and leadership with his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. After meeting Patricia, however, he became known as the guy who was dating the girl who ran for Yell Leader and Miss Texas A&M 1993. As the first female to run, Patricia’s Yell Leader campaign focused on inclusiveness for the entire student body.

“I came to Texas A&M for its culture and rich history, but the student engagement enriched my life,” she said. “I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and will always be connected to my sisters to serve mankind. Texas A&M is a place where I explored and developed my purpose and platform in life.”

Through their gift, the McGruders hope to give students the opportunity to find themselves on their own Aggie journey. “When you journey through Texas A&M, the values and traditions of the university shape you in a positive way,” Edward said. “My advice to future students would be to keep your faith first, enjoy the journey and do what you’re passionate about. If so, the reward will follow.”

Embracing the New Heritage members Patricia ’93 and Edward McGruder ’89 pave a path for future students through a planned gift. By Morgan Knobloch ’20

Patricia ’93 and Dr. Edward McGruder ’89 with their sons, Donovan and Chandler.
A Look Back

1937 FDR Visits Texas A&M

On May 11, 1937, after a fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a stop at Texas A&M University. He was traveling from Galveston to Fort Worth to visit his son, Elliot Roosevelt, a businessman who also served on Texas A&M’s Board of Directors. Greeted with a 21-gun salute, President Roosevelt became the first U.S. president to set foot on Texas A&M’s campus. He toured Aggieland from the backseat of a convertible before reviewing five regiments in the Corps of Cadets as they marched across Simpson Drill Field. He concluded his visit with a speech to 20,000 people—students and citizens alike—gathered in Kyle Field. During the address, he was noted for saying, “My only surprise today came because President Walton had told me that this was not a coeducational college. Now I am wondering where all the ladies come from.” To express appreciation for the visit, university officials gave the president a white-faced Hereford for his farm in Georgia.

Photo courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.