Preserving History for Others to Enjoy

Texas history has a special place in the hearts of native Texans Bill and Susan Ouren. So when the class of ’74 Kingwood couple had the chance to tour the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, they recognized an opportunity.

“When we were updating our estate plans recently, we asked the folks at Cushing what we could do to make a difference in the preservation program,” explained Bill Ouren. “We noted that they were sending many items to be preserved. Out of that discussion we learned they needed a preservation librarian position as well as funding to expand their ongoing preservation program.”

As part of their living trust, the Ourens included a gift to create the William and Susan Ouren Preservation Librarian Endowment, which will help Cushing with its preservation, storage and access to the many rare and fragile items in its collection.

“Like countless Aggies, Bill and Susan cherish A&M traditions,” said David Carlson, dean of the university libraries. “They understand that these traditions embody the Aggie spirit and form a legacy that will endure for generations to come. Our libraries embrace the mission of preserving Aggie history and using technologies to make it readily accessible now and in the future. We are grateful to the Ourens for their leadership and dedication to keeping the flames of A&M’s traditions burning bright.”

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Preserving History (continued)

In addition to funding the preservation librarian position and program, the gift from the Ourens’ living trust will also continue to grow the endowed scholarships the couple has already established in education, agriculture, engineering and accounting. One of those scholarships, the Ben and Mildred Mahler Foundation Excellence Award, is for Hispanic or Native American students in the College of Education and Human Development. The Ourens chose this demographic because Susan, who majored in educational curriculum and instruction, is of Hispanic descent and was the first in her family to go to college.

“We have the honor of meeting our recipients each year, and we continue to be so impressed by these positive and grateful students,” said Susan Ouren. “The places we have directed our scholarships have personal meaning to us and allow us to honor the people who have advised us well during our lifetime.”

Bill Ouren spent the majority of his career working for Exxon, while Susan Ouren taught interior design at Lone Star College. Now retired, they spend time in New Mexico and Arizona supporting and promoting Native American art and culture. They also return to Texas A&M as frequently as possible and remain actively involved with the departments and students they support through their endowments.

“One thing I would say to anyone is that if you want to give back to the university you can do so in many different ways, large and small,” said Bill Ouren. “It’s less about how much you give, and more about being committed to give something. The needs are so broad that if you just work with the experts and specialists at the Foundation you can fashion a way to feel proud about what you do. Once you start giving, the rewards you receive in return are priceless.”
New Heritage Members

The Texas A&M Foundation is happy to welcome many new Heritage Members to the A&M Legacy Society. The following individuals made their planned gift to the Foundation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. To notify the Texas A&M Foundation that you have established a planned gift, please call (800) 392-3310.

Fiona McCracken Allen ’82
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Contact Us Today!

To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit you, your family and Texas A&M University, please contact Will Fusselman ’95 in the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 392-3310 or at w-fusselman@tamu.edu.
Michelle L. Keller ‘92
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We’re Here to Help

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☐ I have not previously informed you, but I have included the Texas A&M Foundation in my estate plan and would like to become a Heritage Member.

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All information is confidential.
A Look Back

1946 Yell Leaders

Photo Courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library and Archives