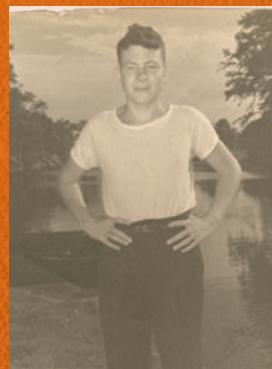


# TEXAS★LEADER

PLANNING TO CHANGE THE WORLD



## Son of a Longhorn

Clyde Rabb Littlefield preserved  
UT history and his father's legacy

Fall 2018



**TEXAS**  
The University of Texas at Austin

CLYDE LITTLEFIELD





# From \_\_\_\_\_ the President

Planned gifts are expressions of your  
lifelong interests and passions

**Supporters like you are creating a vibrant future for UT, Texas, the nation and the world.** Over the past year, members of the Texas Leadership Society — alumni and friends who have included UT in their estate plans — committed more than \$100 million in new gifts. These generous commitments will be used to fund student scholarships, faculty chairs, innovative research and university programs that will continue to expand UT's statewide and global leadership in education, research and health care.

As you will read in this issue, each gift is as unique as the person who gives it. But there is a common thread among them: Every contribution will help ensure the donor's lifelong interests and passions will be shared with future generations of Longhorns.

Eric Gonzales grew up in Corpus Christi and graduated from the Cockrell School of Engineering. He and his wife Debby believe in lending a hand to deserving UT students. So they set up two endowed scholarships and a planned gift to support engineering students from south Texas.

Janis Forse Wells was a single parent when she graduated from the College of Education. As a teacher, she has seen firsthand how her students' lives were transformed by educational opportunity. She has made a commitment to stand behind future teachers by establishing a scholarship through her estate to benefit single parents pursuing degrees in education.

Betty Carrow-Woolfolk, a nationally renowned speech pathologist and language theory expert, and her husband Robert Woolfolk established an estate gift that will create a research center in the Moody College of Communication's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Many other UT alumni are giving directly to the university programs that shaped their lives. Leslie P. White treasures the time that he

was able to spend studying geology in the field. Now he and his wife Dianne are giving future students in the Jackson School of Geosciences the opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning experiences by gifting the university their 266-acre ranch. Austin Ligon credits the Plan II Honors program with greatly expanding his worldview and perspectives. He has set up an excellence fund to strengthen the program for many years to come.

And finally, our cover story focuses on the generosity of Clyde Rabb Littlefield, son of Longhorn legend Coach Clyde Littlefield. His gifts are preserving UT history, his father's legacy and much more.

Through these stories it is clear — when our alumni's passions combine with the potential of our students and faculty, great opportunity is created for future learning, discovery and exploration. Thank you for your generosity and for inspiring excellence across the Forty Acres.

**Gregory L. Fenves, President**  
The University of Texas at Austin | @gregfenves

*Ed and Carolyn Hyman Presidential Leadership Chair  
Cockrell Family Chair in Engineering #15*

AUSTIN  
UNIVERSITY  
NOV 19 1961  
Clyde Rabb Littlefield  
Clyde Rabb Littlefield



# Son of a Longhorn

Clyde Rabb Littlefield preserved UT's early history and the legacy of his legendary father, Coach Clyde Littlefield



Dear father, I wish you would write once and awhile. I am getting along fairly well. I got a letter from Grace a few days ago and she is well. Write me all about yourself. Clyde



# Before greats like Bobby Layne or Earl Campbell ignited UT athletics, Longhorn nation cheered for Clyde Littlefield. He was UT royalty both as an athlete and a coach.

While a student in the 1910s, he earned 12 varsity letters in three sports — track and field, football and basketball. He was a leader of the undefeated 1914 football team that outscored its opponents 358-21 and is credited for having helped popularize the forward pass. But his true prowess was on the track. His specialty was high hurdles, an event that earned him a tie for a collegiate world record.

After college, he spent several years coaching high school teams, and in 1920 UT Athletic Director Theo Bellmont recruited Clyde, “Coach Littlefield,” back to the Forty Acres to coach track, football and basketball. He led the Longhorns to two Southwest Conference football championships before focusing his coaching talents solely on track and field.

This was an era of shining moments: Coach Littlefield cofounded the Texas Relays — later named the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays — and coached numerous SWC championship track teams, world-record-setting relay teams, and three Olympians. And he had a son. He and his wife

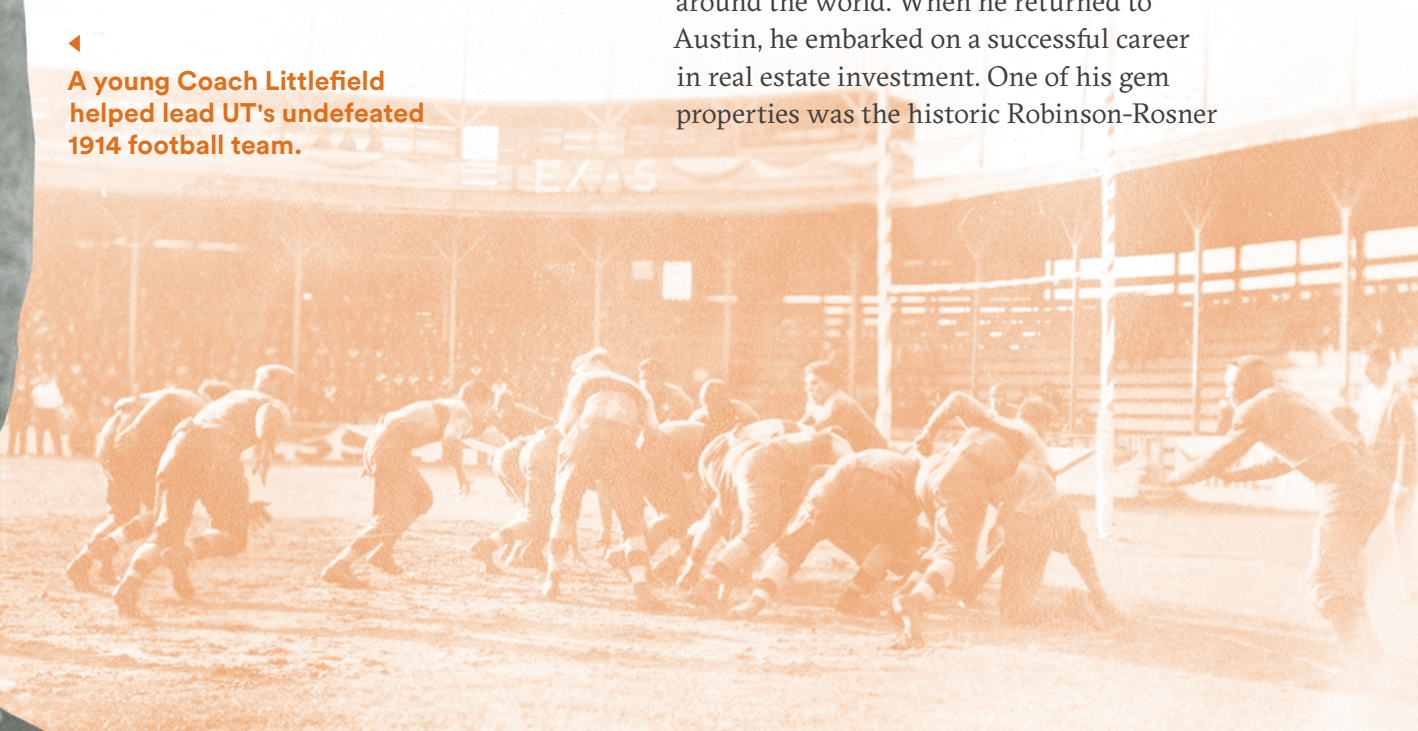
Henrietta welcomed Clyde Rabb Littlefield, their only child, in 1931. Telegrams sent to the family congratulated the Littlefields on the birth of “a little mascot” for the team.

It was an idyllic childhood despite the Great Depression. Young Clyde grew up in the Tower’s shadow and often waited for his dad in the stadium until practices wrapped up. He was a devoted Longhorn his entire life. Before his death in March 2018, he created a legacy of his own by preserving the legacies of his father and the university that shaped his life.

Clyde shared in a 2016 Austin-American Statesman interview, “UT has been at the heart of the Texas story since Reconstruction. I want to see the ideas and people that made this university what it is today elaborated upon so we can better understand the history of the university and the state.”

Intrinsic to Clyde was his passion for history. At UT he studied history and government, earning his B.A. in 1953 and an M.A. in 1958. He spent much of his career as a civilian historian for the Air Force, traveling around the world. When he returned to Austin, he embarked on a successful career in real estate investment. One of his gem properties was the historic Robinson-Rosner

◀ **A young Coach Littlefield helped lead UT's undefeated 1914 football team.**







Winning H. Hurdles with also  
Statement  
1914



Dear father:— I wish  
you would write on  
a awbile. I am  
tiring along fastly  
at a letter from  
me a few days  
and she is well  
to me all about  
myself. Clyde

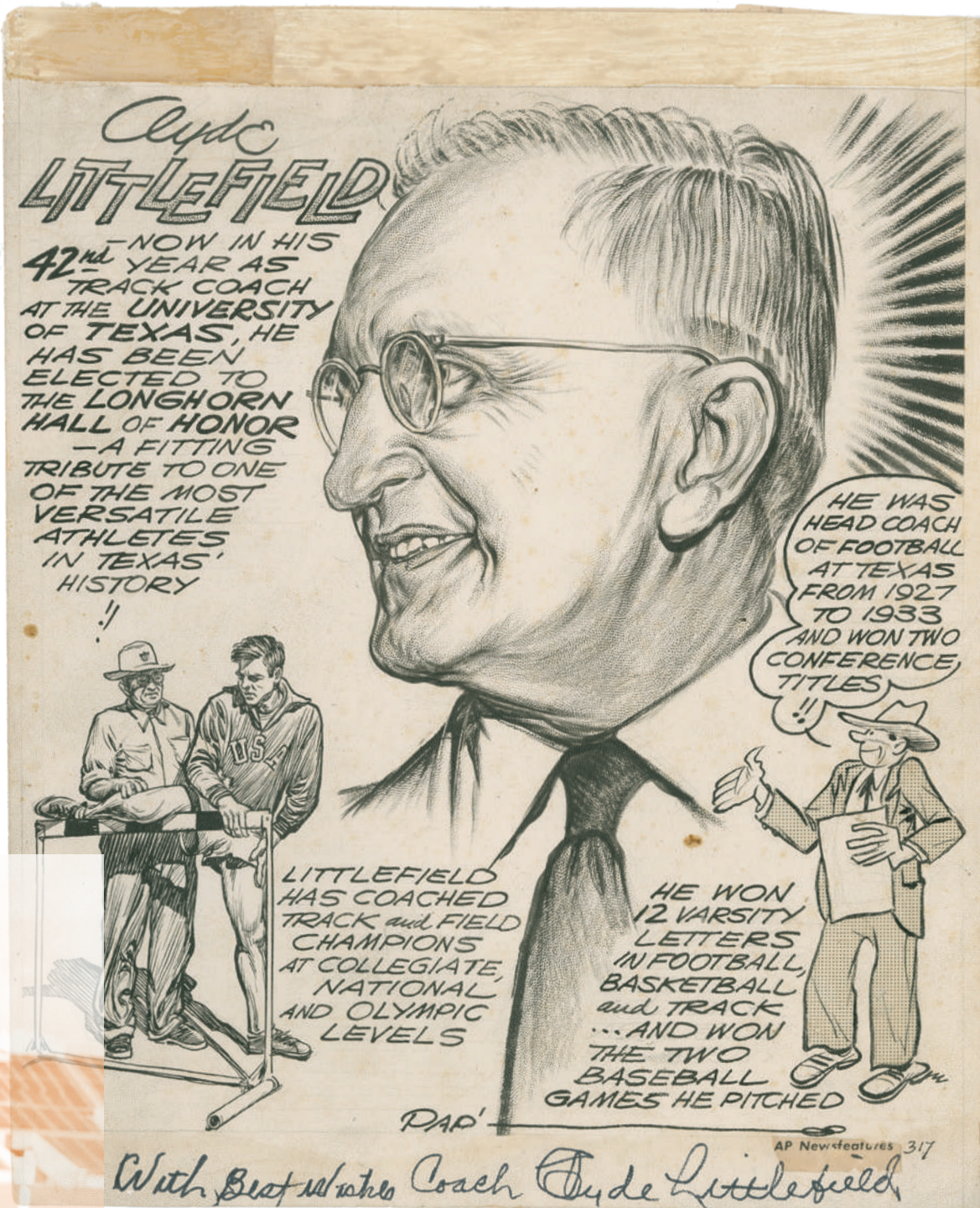


Archival photos courtesy  
of the H.J. Lutch Stark  
Center for Physical Culture  
and Sports at The University  
of Texas at Austin

◀ Coach Littlefield with  
his "little mascot"



"My dad was very personable," Clyde Littlefield said of his father Coach Littlefield. "I'd sometimes walk with him to his office, which was in Gregory Gym. I thought we'd never get to his office because he always stopped to talk to everybody."



*Talking to a couple of my best boys*



Building, the oldest existing structure on Congress Avenue, which he restored. In his free time, he became an expert in early UT history — the ideal calling for a Littlefield.

This son's first priority was to preserve the legacy of the UT icon he knew best — his father. Clyde's planned gift to update the track floors at the Mithoff Fieldhouse, located at Mike A. Myers Stadium, resulted in two special recognitions by Texas Athletics. A plaque of Coach Littlefield was placed at the stadium gate and the track floors in the fieldhouse were named the Clyde Littlefield Track and Field Team Center.

"Clyde was extremely proud of his father, and he loved UT more than anything," said Jan Todd, Ph.D., director of the Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports. She and her late husband Terry had a standing Wednesday night dinner date with him at Hut's Hamburgers, where the staff affectionately called him Mr. L.

**"Clyde was extremely proud of his father, and he loved UT more than anything."**

"When we lost him, it was like having your walking encyclopedia of UT history go away," added Todd.

Thankfully, Clyde took generous steps to make sure UT history never goes away. Through his estate, he established an endowed archivist position for The University of Texas Archives and Texas History Collection at the Briscoe Center for American History. Clyde was a familiar face at the Briscoe Center and served on its advisory council.

"Clyde's generosity and foresight ensures that not only will the university archives be preserved, but they will continue to grow in size and scope," said Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center. "This endowment will be a significant part of his legacy at UT, an institution he dearly loved." ■

## The Littlefield Legacy

In addition to setting up the Clyde Rabb Littlefield Archivist/Curator in Texas and University History Endowed Excellence Fund, Clyde also made plans to support other areas of campus he loved. His estate gifts will fund:

- Clyde Rabb Littlefield Chair in Texas History
- Coach Clyde Littlefield Endowed Excellence Fund for Texas Track
- Clyde Littlefield Head Coach Endowment for Track and Field
- A gift to the Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports that will name the Coach Clyde Littlefield Archives Room and an annual lecture series in his name
- Clyde Rabb Littlefield Dean's Chair in Liberal Arts



▲ Littlefield stands in front of a dedication plaque for his father Coach Littlefield. Photo: Nick Roland





# Empowering Potential

Houston couple's generous estate plan bolsters scholarships for engineering students

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**Eric Gonzales hates to see resources wasted.**

Eric, who earned a degree in petroleum engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and spent his career working in the energy industry, brings expertise to resource management. And it's not energy resources he sees wasted today — it's the extraordinary potential of bright students with financial need.

His wife, Debby Gonzales, agrees. "No one should be limited in education," she said. "If they have the brain power and academic prowess, lack of finances should not stop

them" from attending top-tier universities like UT and realizing their potential. Through their giving, the Gonzales family is ensuring that UT engineering students with few financial resources are able to develop that potential through an education at the Cockrell School of Engineering.

Eric was born and raised in south Texas and working in the oil and gas industry had always held an appeal. That interest grew when he had the opportunity in high school to participate in a shadowing opportunity with a petroleum engineer.

Eric chose UT and was awarded a scholarship from Equal Opportunity in Engineering, a Cockrell School program that supports qualified students who are historically underrepresented in engineering. "Our parents were strong believers that education leads to greater opportunities," Eric shared.

▲  
The endowed scholarships established by Eric and Debby Gonzales have supported 28 UT engineering students.

Photo:  
Lauren Marek



When he graduated in 1985, times in oil and gas were tough. By 1986, the crude oil price per barrel had dropped by half and good opportunities in petroleum engineering were scarce. After a short stint with an energy service company, he decided to go back to school — this time at a school in College Station — to earn his MBA. That's where he met Debby.

One day Eric was talking to a friend about the hiring practices of their respective companies.

"His company was placing an emphasis on hiring candidates from a specific university," Eric shared. "I remember saying, 'At UT we believe in meritocracy. If there is merit in the UT graduate — and typically there is — we will select them, but if the best candidate attended another university, so be it.'"

That conversation helped to shape Gonzales' philanthropic philosophy. "When Debby and I talked about the idea of setting up scholarships, we wanted them to be merit-based, for people who have shown the capabilities but may lack the financial means."

They went on to establish the Alfonso and Dora Gonzales Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Engineering. "We created an endowed scholarship in my parent's names as a tribute for the personal sacrifices they made to put my brother and me through college," Eric explained.

Debby continued, "We have both been blessed in our careers and wanted to give back to the academic institutions that

allowed us to reach our potential. The endowment will grow throughout our lifetime and will touch the lives of not just one student, but many students."

**"No one should be limited in education. If they have the brain power and academic prowess, lack of finances should not stop them."**

Eric and Debby were inspired by the caliber of students wanting to attend UT and desired to do more. They created the Eric and Deborah ("Debby") Gonzales Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Engineering. After having the opportunity to meet with students who received the scholarship, they decided to add to the endowment. Recently, Eric and Debby set up an estate plan that will increase the Eric and Deborah Gonzales Endowed Presidential Scholarship. This generous gift will allow even more engineering students to receive the financial assistance that they need to change the world. "We hope that by providing scholarships to more students, it will encourage those same students to give back once they graduate and find their own success. Hopefully, it creates a perpetual circle of support," Eric said. ■

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**If you would like to learn more about establishing an endowed scholarship contact [giftplan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:giftplan@austin.utexas.edu) or call 800-687-4602.**



### **Uriel Buitrago, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, '20**

"Coming from San Antonio, a predominantly Hispanic city, transitioning into UT Austin led to a season of growing for me. As a first-generation student, knowing how to navigate college and all the experiences it offers can be challenging. **After meeting Eric and Debby Gonzales at a scholarship dinner last year, I felt reassured that other people were also invested in my success. Their contributions towards my education inspire me because it has shown me that Latinos, like me, can be successful too.** Now I work for University Housing and Dining as a Resident Assistant in the dorms. I serve as a mentor to residents while building an inclusive community and help them to navigate their college experiences."



A large peace lily plant with broad green leaves and a single white flower is positioned in front of a window on the left side of the page. The window looks out onto a bright, sunny day with green foliage visible outside.

# Love for Language

Thousands of lives have been transformed by Dr. Betty Carrow-Woolfolk, a pioneer of language theory and assessment. Her work opened the world of communication to children — and many adults — who struggled to understand and be understood.

**“The essence of life is communication,” she said. “Just imagine not being able to speak or convey your thoughts and ideas.”**

Carrow-Woolfolk earned a master’s in educational psychology at The University of Texas at Austin and a doctorate in speech pathology from Northwestern University, where she was the only female doctoral candidate at the time. She returned home to San Antonio in 1955 to start a speech and hearing program at Our Lady of the Lake University.

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► **Betty Carrow-Woolfolk, Ph.D., is internationally recognized as an innovator in speech pathology and language theory. Photos: Lauren Marek**









“We started with one child in one room, but it soon got very crowded,” said Carrow-Woolfolk. “I was treating children for stuttering, voice disorders, reading difficulties and other problems.

“I recall a three-year old boy who could only mimic what others said,” she shared. “Some thought he couldn’t learn, but I saw a spark in him. We worked together, word by word, picture by picture, and he gradually began to understand that words have meaning. His life was changed, and he later attended college.”

To serve more clients, Carrow-Woolfolk secured a grant to establish the Harry Jersig Speech and Hearing Center, one of the first free-standing clinics of its kind. She later went on to lead the speech pathology and audiology program at UT and serve as head of speech pathology at three hospitals in Houston.

Carrow-Woolfolk has always been ahead of her time. She created an early, if not the first, language assessment test. Since then Carrow-Woolfolk has created numerous language assessment tools that are used around the world and authored more than a dozen books.



In 1974, she married Robert M. Woolfolk, a chemical engineer, author and athlete, and the couple has lived in Houston’s Piney Point Village for decades.

Today, Carrow-Woolfolk is still pioneering in her field. She and her husband have made plans through their estate to create a center for research and language disorders at UT. The center will build a comprehensive database dedicated to understanding language disorders across lifespans. Researchers will study the relationship between language disorders and other factors.

**“This research is the single most important thing in the speech communication field, and I’m grateful to UT for embracing it. I have great hopes.”**



**Carrow-Woolfolk and her husband Bob in their home in Houston’s Piney Point Village.**







▲  
**Carrow-Woolfolk authored groundbreaking books on language theory and assessment.**

"It's exciting to think that we will finally be able to create profiles for groups with similar combinations of language, cognitive and neurological impairment," she said. "This will lead to better diagnosis and treatment."

"This support for a new research center is even more meaningful because it comes from someone who has worked with these children and adults her whole life and has made lasting contributions to our field," said Dr. Rajinder Koul, department chair in communication sciences and disorders at the Moody College of Communication. "Dr. Woolfolk's legacy is something we want to nurture at UT."

Carrow-Woolfolk added, "This research is a significant step for progress in the speech communication field, and I'm grateful to UT for embracing it. I have great hopes."

She has always known the importance of hope. "People can be quick to label children who have trouble with language. It's not fair to place labels when we don't have all the information. We all have challenges, but we have hope to conquer them. We as a society have to do better for these children. They deserve it." ■



**Dr. Mary Beth Schmitt,** assistant professor and language research expert, has been recruited to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders because she has the expertise and credentials to help Carrow-Woolfolk's vision come to life. She earned her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and previously served on the faculty at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.







▲ Austin Ligon, B.A. '73, M.A. '79, created a five-year study abroad fund for Plan II that helped more than 500 students experience an international learning environment. Photo: Wyatt McSpadden

▶ Ligon proudly displays his support of Plan II on his license plate.



# An Education for Life

**Some kids dream of being police officers, firefighters or superheroes when they grow up, but one young man from Midland dreamed of being governor of the moon** — at least that was what Austin Ligon wrote on his application to the Plan II Honors Program at The University of Texas at Austin. “Admissions knew I belonged in the program because it was such a weird idea,” he laughed.

The CarMax co-founder and venture investor grew up a self-proclaimed cross between a typical Texas boy who loved football and a picture-perfect geek. His precociousness and natural talent for taxonomy encouraged his mother to sign him up for school early. “I have often described my mother as the perfect mom for an excessively curious little boy. She never constrained us — rather, she would dare us to do things,” Ligon shared.

Ligon excelled in school and was intrigued by the Plan II Honors Program offered at UT. Plan II is “a tiny group within a giant university. It sounded like something I would do because it gave me the freedom to explore and build my own curriculum,” Ligon said. “And at that particular moment in 1969, we had these global academic stars who taught our classes.”

As a young man from a small town, the university was an enlightening experience for Ligon. “There is no place like a big state university where you have people with backgrounds from all parts of the world. The more time that I spent at UT, the more I appreciated and enjoyed it.”

During his senior year, Ligon studied abroad in Peru. “It was so transformational for me,” he said. “It opened my eyes to everything. I met people who had lived all over the world and spoke three or four languages. It changed my life and my perspective and gave me a clear determination that I was going to work and live in an international context.”

Ligon’s experience has made him a strong supporter of Plan II — even his license plate displays the name of the program. “Plan II is incredibly effective and valuable,” Ligon said, “and it sometimes flies under the radar.” One way that Ligon is hoping to change that is by setting up an endowment. Ligon recognizes that the program’s needs will change over the years, so his endowment is meant to be used at the discretion of the Plan II director. While Ligon prefers to give gifts that will have an immediate impact, such as his gift to support the Plan II study abroad program, he knows that it is important to plan for the future.

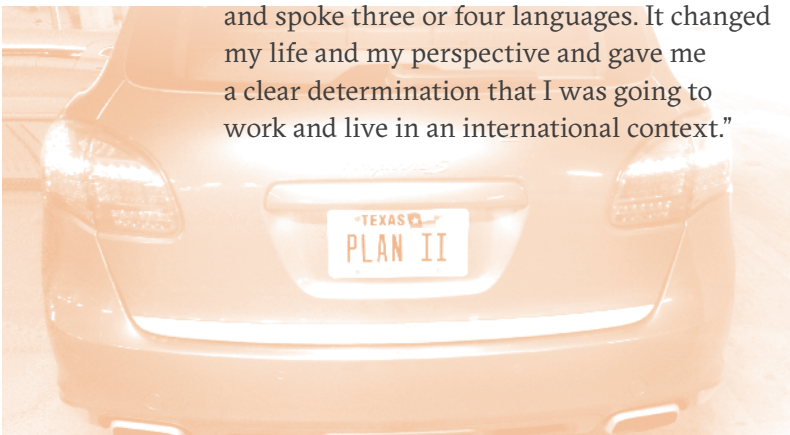
**“There is no place like a big state university where you have people with backgrounds from all parts of the world. The more time that I spent at UT, the more I appreciated and enjoyed it.”**

Alexandra Wettlaufer, Ph.D., Plan II’s director, shared, “Like Austin, we believe that the best way to understand the world we live in, and indeed the best way to understand ourselves, is through the often-challenging experience of new cultures, new perspectives and new ways of thinking. His legacy gift of an unrestricted excellence fund in Plan II will allow us to continue to expand our students’ boundaries beyond the familiar, preparing them as leaders of an increasingly global world. We are enormously grateful to him for his long-term commitment to Plan II and for his inspiring vision.”

Over the years Ligon’s love of learning has not diminished. This fall he will be back on campus as part of UT’s TOWER Fellows Program, an intergenerational nine-month experience where individuals can enhance their knowledge by attending classes and seminars at the university. Ligon plans to sign up for “everything that I didn’t have a chance to take the first time around.” ■

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**You can help prepare UT students to be global leaders, too. Contact [giftplan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:giftplan@austin.utexas.edu) or call 800-687-4602.**







**As Leslie P. White walks the 266 acres of his beautiful Hill Country ranch, he's every bit the geologist.** He knows every rock, every stream, every outcrop, and he carries a whiteboard to help him map out the features and explain them to guests.

White loves the ranch and the opportunity it offers him to spend time outside sharing its natural splendor — and maybe a few geology lessons — with friends and family. But he loves his alma mater even more. That's why Leslie and his wife Dianne have gifted the ranch, the White Family Outdoor Learning Center, to benefit The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences: to act as a living classroom for future generations of geoscientists to learn their craft.

"Geologists need to be outside. They need to see geology where it lives," said White, who graduated from UT with a degree in geology in 1956.

The property, roughly an hour's ride southwest of campus outside Dripping Springs, is a game changer for the Jackson School,

# A Living Classroom

Generations of geoscientists will benefit from Leslie P. and Dianne White's epic donation

◀ **White loves to help geoscience students explore the White Family Outdoor Learning Center.**  
Photos: Anton Caputo



particularly for hydrogeology research and education. The school's mission involves tackling the big, hard issues facing Texas and the world, such as how to manage scarce water resources in the face of a booming population and how to determine when heavy rains will turn into dangerous floods.

White was at the ranch in May when students had their first look at the property, as Jackson School professors incorporated a visit into the annual hydrology field camp.

"It's absolutely a dream come true," said Assistant Professor Ashley Matheny. "We can study not only stream gauging, well pumping and aquifer testing, but also how the landscape interacts with hydrology."

"Field work is foundational for geosciences education at every level," said Sharon Mosher, Jackson School dean. "I can't stress how important Leslie and Dianne's donation is to the school and the opportunities it affords us to educate young geoscientists. Their foresight and generosity will pay dividends for Texas and beyond for generations to come."

White, who spent his career with Humble Oil and Exxon, has enjoyed time on the ranch with family and friends throughout the years. One of his fondest memories is hosting the 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday party of former UT geology

professor and legendary geologist Stephen Clabaugh. It's a story he likes to share, because it shows the lifelong connection he made as a student to a teacher who influenced his life academically and as a role model. "The school for me became like extended family," he said. "I'll bet today's students will find the same."

**"My time at the university was transformational, and it is up to us UT graduates to give back to the university and make sure that future students can have the same experience."**

White also relayed some wisdom to his visitors that had been imparted to him as a student: "Question all things and do your own thinking." And he asked them to save a little money to give back to the university, particularly to a Jackson School endowment he started with matching funds from Exxon. He had advice for how to do so. "When you eat out, drink water," he said. "After all, you are hydrologists." White continued, "My time at the university was transformational, and it is up to us UT graduates to give back to the university and make sure that future students can have the same experience." ■

◀ **Leslie and Dianne White are gifting their ranch to become an outdoor teaching and research facility. Photo: Wyatt McSpadden**





# Sowing the Seeds of Education

Janis Forse Wells is making education a priority

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**Education has always played an important role in Janis Forse Wells' life.**

In fact, you could say that it's a part of her DNA. Her grandmothers and aunts were teachers in the Big Thicket area of Texas — which meant the importance of education was instilled in her at a young age. Wells, who earned a degree in education at The University of Texas at Austin, believes “the kind of life an individual will live, whether they get a job, and how they'll influence society themselves, are sown through the seeds of education.”

Wells persevered to complete her degree despite her own challenging circumstances. She was a single mother. “I had a child I knew I had to support,” said Wells. “That was a huge influence because I wanted the very best for my child. When things get tough, you can either lay down or move forward, and I chose to move forward.”

While in the College of Education, Dr. Charles Dent and other professors kindled her love of teaching and impressed upon her the lifelong impact educators have on their students, which she has seen to be true in her own career. “I taught third and fifth grades at I.W. Popham Elementary in Del Valle and third grade at Highland Park's Hyer Elementary in

▲ Janis Forse Wells, B.S. '68, is helping put passionate teachers in the classroom and ensuring that they have the tools they need to succeed. “Educating the youth of our country is probably the biggest priority we have,” she shared. Photo: Christina S. Murrey



Dallas,” she said. “That was years ago, and I still keep up with many of those students. I love hearing about their successes.”

When Wells decided to make a gift to the university, she chose to help students who were facing struggles similar to those that she had faced as a single parent attending college. She created the Janis Forse Wells Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education. “The scholarship is for single parents because I so identify with how hard it is,” she said. “At that point in my life it would not have taken a lot to have made it a little easier.”

**“I want those students to know that I believe in them and want them to tackle this profession of education so they can make a difference in another person’s life.”**

By creating the endowed scholarship, Wells is leaving a legacy that will ensure the scholarship continues. “While I am alive, I’m making sure that there’s enough money there to distribute to the students, and once I pass away, a large portion of my estate goes to that scholarship,” she said. “I’ve always believed that the reason we’re here is to help the person behind us and the person in front of us.

“Having been in the role of a single parent, I hope that the students who benefit from this scholarship understand that there is one person behind them — that they are not alone,” said Wells. “I want those students to know that I believe in them and want them to tackle this profession of education so they can make a difference in another person’s life.” ■

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**You can stand behind future UT students and help them receive an education that will allow them to live their best lives. Learn more about establishing an endowment through your estate plan by calling 800-687-4602 or contacting [giftplan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:giftplan@austin.utexas.edu).**

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Texas Leadership Society (TLS) members have a lasting impact on UT students, faculty, programs, facilities and more through their generous planned gifts.

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pledged for student support  
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pledged for faculty support  
by 99 TLS members



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## Cover

Photos courtesy of the  
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## Submissions

TEXAS LEADER is published  
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the benefit of The University  
of Texas at Austin.

This gift shall be for the further  
benefit of [college, school, unit]

---

and shall be used to [purpose]

---

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assets and/or estate, we urge you to  
seek the advice of your professional  
counsel when considering a gift to  
The University of Texas at Austin.*

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11 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

ETTER-HARBIN ALUMNI CENTER

The Texas Leadership Society honors  
the remarkable generosity of 1,400 alumni  
and friends who are giving nearly \$1 billion in  
lifetime and future support for UT's mission.  
The luncheon is a chance to reconnect with  
friends, meet outstanding faculty and students,  
and learn about the latest on the Forty Acres.

**It's not too late to become a member  
and join President Gregory L. Fenves for  
this special event. For more information,  
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