Longhorn connection cements five-decade friendship

Chosen Family

TRIBUTE GIFT PRESERVES WWII HISTORY PAGE 8
What is the best lesson you learned from a year of constant change?

We’ve learned so much about the value of partnerships, relationships and collaboration. The bonds between our faculty and students, the level of collaboration among our staff, our work with businesses, philanthropists and local services — these partnerships have enabled us to maintain critical teaching and research during the pandemic. They’ve also helped us play a leading role in the community when it came to the vaccine rollout. It’s immensely encouraging and a reminder of why we’re the Forty Acres, not the “Fortress Acres.” We’re more committed to partnerships than ever before.

How is UT in a better place than it was a year ago?

UT has proven its mettle during the pandemic. There’s a confidence that comes from that, and it fuels our ambition to achieve our goals. We’ll move forward with the same qualities that have gotten us this far — adaptability, resilience, size and scale, and a deep commitment to serving the people of Texas. I firmly believe that the talents, energies and capacities that have brought us to this stage are going to power this incredible university into a bright future.

As you look toward the future, what are you excited about?

Everything! It’s not hard to be here in Austin, Texas. We’re located in the heart of the most vibrant city in the most dynamic state in the U.S. — a nation with the world’s biggest economy and most important democracy. Looking out from my office, I count 27 cranes. Austin is booming, and companies like Tesla, Oracle, Apple and Google are flocking here. We’re a big part of the reason. They need skilled, talented and well-rounded employees who know their way around the 21st century. We’re molding our students, day in and day out, to be innovative thinkers and strong leaders.

What message would you share with UT’s supporters?

Thank you for being incredible partners! I see the impact of your generosity all around. Look at the incredible growth of Dell Medical School — from startup to standout in just seven years. It was made possible by our supporters. Or think about Professor Jason McLellan’s work developing key components of the leading coronavirus vaccines. Both his academic chair and laboratory were made possible by generous supporters. Our promise — what starts here changes the world — is an inspiration to our students, but it’s also a call to action for philanthropists and businesses. We know that supporters like you are starting things here, too.
The Longhorn connection between alumni Betty & Jim Key and Judye & John Hartman cemented a wonderful friendship that spans more than five decades.

Living happily in Houston, these couples share common interests and care deeply about helping others, including at The University of Texas at Austin, where they have all created endowed scholarships to support students.

Betty and Judye met in 1967 when they were among the first women to be hired by IBM in Nassau Bay, Texas, where the company was contracted with the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center to participate in sending a person to the moon. Both were computer programmers, and upon meeting, they became fast friends.

“We just clicked right away,” says Betty. “Judye’s work ethic was just like mine. We would both be out there working in the middle of the night. We were with NASA for the lunar landing and for the first circling of the moon, and I was still there for Apollo 13. Judye kept talking about her husband, and I thought, ‘gosh, this sounds like my fiancé, Jim,’ so we got them together.”

“Jim was a medical student, and I had just finished an MBA program,” says John. “We became close friends, and that friendship has flourished over the years. Our families traveled together, and our children grew up together and remain friends today. We are comfortable calling one another at any time of day or night and responding to any challenge. That kind of friendship is to be cherished!”

The couples are grateful to know the difference a quality education from an excellent university can make in securing opportunities and contributing to the lives of others. They doubled the impact of their scholarship endowments through the Texas Challenge, which matches their gifts dollar for dollar to support high-potential Texas students from middle- and low-income families.

The support from John and Judye Hartman has allowed me to focus on academics without having to worry as much about working during the semester. Without their support, I wouldn’t be a part of so many great organizations and events that have felt vital to my college experience. I am very grateful for their generosity.”

Connor Gray
B.S. Engineering ’23
The Keys support endowed scholarships through distributions from their IRA to the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts. Jim says, “When I entered UT, I was offered a chemistry scholarship, which was both encouraging and helpful financially. Scholarships are important, and it was nice to get one. They are even more important now with the increasing cost of college.” Betty shares, “My parents did not have a lot, but I made it through school with no student debt. That was very important to me. Today it is not so easy, and students struggle to get by. We have enjoyed receiving letters from grateful scholarship recipients, and they are very appreciative.”

“I am extremely grateful to Jim and Betty Key, as their support has considerably reduced my financial stress caused by the pandemic. Receiving this scholarship was a relief, as I have been able to cover expenses such as food, books and supplies during these challenging times. The peace of mind I have gained through this support has helped me stay more focused on my classes and thrive in my academic life, which I genuinely appreciate!”

Ximena Mercado Garcia
B.S. Mathematics and B.A. Economics ’22

Ann discovered her passion for Latin American history during frequent visits to Rio de Janeiro. Jon Graham likes to tell the story of his mother, Ann Hartness, who as a young woman left her small hometown to follow her dreams. Ann is renowned for her 38-year career and tenure as head librarian of the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at The University of Texas at Austin, which showcases one of the world’s foremost collections of Brazilian history and culture. Jon and his wife, Elizabeth Ulmer, both graduates of UT’s School of Law, made a generous donation to the collection to honor Ann’s legacy. The couple is...
With their generous gift to the Benson, Jon and Elizabeth have created the Ann Hartness Reading Room, opening in spring 2022.

In 1970, Ann joined the Benson, working as a cataloger of Latin American periodicals. She helped transition their services into the digital world and eventually worked her way up to director. Throughout her tenure, she increased the depth and breadth of the library's holdings in Brazilian materials. She retired in 2008 at age 73.

Clockwise: Ann will be remembered for her brilliant 38-year career at the Benson. Jon is proud of his mother's passion and determination to excel in her work. Ann surrounded by her sons (from left), Stephen, Jon and Andrew Graham. Ann pictured shortly after starting her career at the Benson.

"In Brazil, Ann was well known and developed important relationships for the Benson. By building such a significant collection over the years, she enabled students to understand Brazil on a deeper level."

— Elizabeth Ulmer, daughter-in-law of Ann Hartness
For My Father
Gift to Briscoe Center Preserves WWII History

For three decades, Ed Clendenin collected artifacts and searched for stories about World War II heroes to share with future generations. He and his wife, Pat, created the Leatrice and Edward Clendenin Endowed Graduate Internship in Military History through a planned gift to the Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin. Their generosity will help make military history collections, including archival materials Ed helped assemble about the 376th Heavy Bombardment Group, available for teaching and research.

The Clendenins come from military families and are grateful their gift will honor the sacrifices of their fathers and other veterans at the Briscoe Center, one of the nation’s leading research centers for historical inquiry and home of an extensive military history collection.

“One day near the end of his father’s life, something happened that opened a new world to Ed. He and his father visited the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and came face-to-face with the actual B-24 plane his father flew during the war. His father had Alzheimer’s disease but recognized it immediately. He belonged to the 376th HBG, the first heavy bombardment group to operate in the Middle East theater during WWII, focusing on Axis supply lines. The group flew 451 missions, was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations and earned 15 campaign awards.

Ed catalogued every mission of his dad's bomb group and published a book, “376th Bomb Group Mission History.” He connected with the 376th Bombardment Group Veterans’ Association. The veterans met annually, and in the late ‘80s, leadership was passed down to the vets’ next generation of family. Ed served as historian for more than 20 years, collecting diaries, uniforms, photographs, medals and research materials with 376th HBG veterans.

“I found out more about my father's war experience after his death,” says Ed. “When I talked with other veterans and their families, I was finally able to fill in the blanks. I conducted oral interviews with veterans and after every interview, families would say ‘we never heard...’”
any of those stories. ‘The veterans were finally opening up about things that they had kept to themselves for decades.’

“Their gatherings were successful because it was a part of their history and their lives that only they could understand,” adds Pat. “Our life is good because of what they did and the sacrifices they made.”

WWII vets are now in their 90s and older, and the 376th Bombardment Group Veterans’ Association has disbanded. At Ed’s suggestion, the group donated its extensive archives, assembled by the group’s members, to create the 376th Heavy Bombardment Group Papers at the Briscoe Center. Its remaining funds established an endowment to help pay for a stipend for an archival student assisting with projects in the center’s military history collections. The Clendenins’ gift honors Ed’s parents and builds upon the 376th HBG endowment to fully fund the student internship position in perpetuity.

The project is bittersweet for Ed.

“My father’s generation was labeled the greatest generation, but they were so modest about it. They survived the Great Depression and then won the war. We believe it is important for future generations to learn about the atrocities of war and what veterans and their families suffered during that time. My only regret is that, knowing what I know now, I have so many questions to ask my father but will never get the chance.”

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Gillian Morton, MSIS ’21, was the inaugural 376th Heavy Bombardment Group Intern in Archival Enterprises and the Leatrice and Edward Clendenin Graduate Intern in Military History. Gillian developed a project to expand the online search functionality for a selection of material on microfilm that allows researchers to skip to the exact reel and frame they need.

“It was helpful to work closely with and learn from several of the Briscoe Center’s professional archivists to develop and complete my project. I learned a lot about digitizing microfilm and creating metadata that will prepare me to work in an archive when I graduate. I come from a military family, so this project was especially meaningful to me.”
As a nurse practitioner, Kim Chapman, BSN ’85, has discovered that one of her greatest joys in life is helping others. She and her husband, Jeff, share the belief that nursing is an important pillar of our health care system and have given generously to The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing by establishing a scholarship, fellowship and an estate gift.

“Nursing is one of the most trusted professions, and it’s one of the most rewarding,” says Kim. “There are endless opportunities in various work environments. Jeff and I cannot think of a better investment in the welfare of our community and of our society than a gift to Texas Nursing.”

When Kim was a high schooler in Iowa, she attended diving camp at UT and fell in love with “the whole UT vibe.” She soon enrolled in the School of Nursing, the place that changed her life. She felt at home in the nursing school’s small, tight-knit community despite the university’s large size. She landed her first job after graduation and realized her Texas Nursing education better prepared her for real-life situations compared to some of her colleagues.

“I launched my career as a surgical nurse and worked on the heart team for legendary surgeon Denton Cooley. I practiced as an RN for 13 years and later became a nurse practitioner in a prominent cardiovascular practice where I was afforded a lot of autonomy. I loved treating and advocating for my patients,” she says.

Kim was forever changed after her first husband, Randy, died from brain cancer. The experience left burning questions inside of her. “Even with my nursing background, this was the most difficult time in my life. It made me think about people who had nobody who understood health care to turn to. How did they understand their disease, navigate the system and find support?”

Later, a mutual friend introduced Kim to Jeff, who had lost his wife, Sheila, to pancreatic cancer. Their friendship led to marriage and a beautiful new life together in Dallas, where Jeff is a mergers and acquisitions lawyer. Kim now focuses her efforts on strengthening the field of nursing as chair of the UT Nursing Advisory Council and the School of Nursing’s fundraising campaign volunteer committee, where she partners with other like-minded nursing leaders to ensure students and faculty have the best resources available for success. She also founded and endowed a patient and family advisory council that supports patients with cancer at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Her insight into the needs of cancer patients, both as a nurse and as a personal caregiver, has been invaluable.

“These leadership roles allow me to tap into my nursing roots in a different way. Now I have a seat at the table, surrounded by leaders and change-makers, where my voice is being heard. It has been so rewarding,” she says.

The Chapmans are true believers that what starts at UT changes the world.

“We believe in the mission of Texas Nursing. We believe in its leadership and faculty. And we believe in the future of its students. UT Austin is a phenomenal, nationally ranked institution that is recognized throughout the world for its academic preeminence. It is important for us to support organizations that have made a difference in our lives. And it is an extraordinarily good feeling for us to know that our investment will always pay dividends,” Jeff says.

“Maybe it’s because of the loss that we’ve been through, but we thank our lucky stars every day,” adds Kim. “Jeff and I are grateful and feel fortunate to be able to give back and make life better for others.”

Kim and Jeff Chapman are confident their support for Texas Nursing will greatly impact the world.
Fifty years ago, in 1971, I earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from The University of Texas at Austin. I walked away from the Forty Acres with an extraordinary college experience that would shape my future and impact my life in many ways. I enjoyed my career journey, which led me in various directions. I worked as an Air Force officer, a management consultant and a banker. Today, I am happily retired and making my community stronger through volunteerism.

As I grew older, I began to think about how I wanted to be remembered. My sister and brothers are ardent and loyal friends of the university, and after great discussion, we considered establishing a legacy gift at UT. It made me think back to my college days, when I received a scholarship. It was a special time for me. I felt honored to receive it, and my parents were so thankful and happy. My siblings and I decided to create an endowed scholarship to honor our parents. We established the Lyle and Jeryle Petterson Endowed Scholarship for the UT School of Nursing, which is one of the leading nursing schools in the nation. We believe the School of Nursing is changing the world. The need for qualified nurses throughout our country is greater than ever, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We then expanded our family’s legacy at UT by establishing the Petterson Family Endowed Scholarship in Computer Science. As the economy becomes more dependent on advanced computing and AI, the field of computer science has become increasingly important. UT Computer Science is ranked as a top-ten department nationally and is training future leaders in the field.

I’m eternally grateful for such a generous scholarship to study in one of the most prestigious computer science programs in the world. Financial worries at home put enormous pressure on me to work more hours, and it was affecting my school performance. Now, thanks to this scholarship, I can work less and study more. Thank you for investing in my future. I look forward to my chance to give back.”

— Vishal Rachapudi, recipient of the Petterson Family Endowed Scholarship in Computer Science

These endowments are very meaningful to my family. Our parents grew up in rural Minnesota and lived through the Great Depression. From their humble beginnings, they did everything they could to provide for us and to instill in us the values of education, determination, achievement and helping others. We were a military family and moved often—from Austin to Ohio to New Mexico to Bangkok, and then to Waco. I always knew that I wanted to attend UT. As a young child, I first saw so many Hook ’em Horns thrown up at UT sporting events, and my dad took me to campus to see the Tower lit in orange. Next to my family, my education at UT has made the biggest impact on my life.

We are excited to invest in future generations of Longhorns and think often about the number of students that we will help over the years. Our investment will support students who will work in two high-demand fields. By participating in the Texas Challenge program, which matches scholarship donations dollar for dollar, we have doubled the impact of our giving. Our endowments are an ongoing investment that grows each year, so the number of scholarships we fund annually will also increase. I also chose to further support our endowments by designating a future gift in my estate plan. We love hearing back from our scholarship recipients about their experiences, their gratitude and their dreams for the future. In deciding where to fund an endowed scholarship, my family discussed the great words I first heard from Walter Cronkite: What starts here changes the world. Start now! By building your legacy at UT, you will change the world.

Hook ’em! ●

To learn more about establishing an endowed scholarship and doubling your impact through the Texas Challenge 1:1 gift match, visit giving.utexas.edu/challenge.
What are your favorite UT memories?

The collaboration between students and faculty was rich and abundant. It taught us how to work in a profession that relies on team effort. We worked hard, and the studio became the focus of our social lives as we helped one another, cared for and fed one another, and made midnight trips to Mrs. Johnson’s donut shop on Airport Boulevard.

How did UT prepare you for success?

I think the most important thing that the architecture curriculum teaches is to evaluate and criticize your own work and look at it in different ways. What is extraordinary is that I have applied these critical thinking skills to every aspect of my life, which has led to my success as the principal of a project management firm.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

I want financial concerns to be an obstacle. By further supporting our family’s endowments with a planned gift, we hope the inclusion of people from underrepresented groups.

Meet University of Texas at Austin alumni and friends who are changing the world through philanthropy and careful estate planning.

Susan Benz
B.A. Architecture ’84

Why did you decide to include UT in your estate plan?

Currently, my family has two endowments that are geared toward helping students from the Rio Grande Valley attend UT. After talking with my estate lawyers and the helpful folks at UT, I decided to designate the university as a beneficiary of my IRA to amplify the impact of these endowments.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

It upsets me to see UT lose kids—especially first-generation college kids from the Rio Grande Valley—to other universities that offer greater financial assistance. I want to support students from the Valley in their pursuit of a world-class education at UT. If students earn a place at McCombs, I don’t want financial concerns to be an obstacle. By further supporting our family’s endowments with a planned gift, we know the impact is forever.

Ed Duncan
B.S. Geology ’79 and M.A. Geology ’87

What are your favorite UT memories?

When I took my first geology class at UT, I fell in love with so many aspects of geology. As a student, I became more focused after realizing how much my professors were investing in me. They were helping me become the best geologist—and the best person—I could be. That realization changed my college experience and changed my life.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

Importantly, we have always focused on minimizing the impact our actions have on the earth. Particularly, in those areas applicable to the oil and gas industry. At the Jackson School, students are immersed in excellence. I love the investigative process of putting together a story from a collection of geologic puzzle pieces to find meaningful quantities of oil and gas.

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I came to UT knowing just a few people from my hometown. The McCombs School of Business helped me develop relationships with people from diverse backgrounds from all over the world, and some of those friendships I still cherish today. McCombs prepared me both academically and for life—and gave me confidence that I can do anything. It opened doors and led me to New York City, where I enjoyed a 20-year career on Wall Street.

How did UT prepare you for success?

I was able to attend UT Austin because of financial aid, and I hope that with this scholarship, someone feels supported like I did. UT’s architecture program is highly regarded nationally, and I hope that the school continues to be a game changer in the field for others, just as it was for me. The whole point of good design is to make people’s lives better in one way or another—whether it’s the building they live in, where they work or the park they play in. It makes the world a better place.

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What impact do you want your gift to make?

The earth is being challenged, and earth scientists for the earth sciences will lead to more diversity and inclusion of people from underrepresented groups. By establishing a gift in our estate plan, we hope the Jackson School will continue to attract world-class professors and top students. We also hope our support for the earth sciences will lead to more diversity and inclusion of people from underrepresented groups.

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Wondering how to include the university in your estate plans? Here’s the language we suggest:

I hereby direct $_____ (or _____ percent of my residual estate) in cash, securities or other property to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for 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].

As with any decision involving your 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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