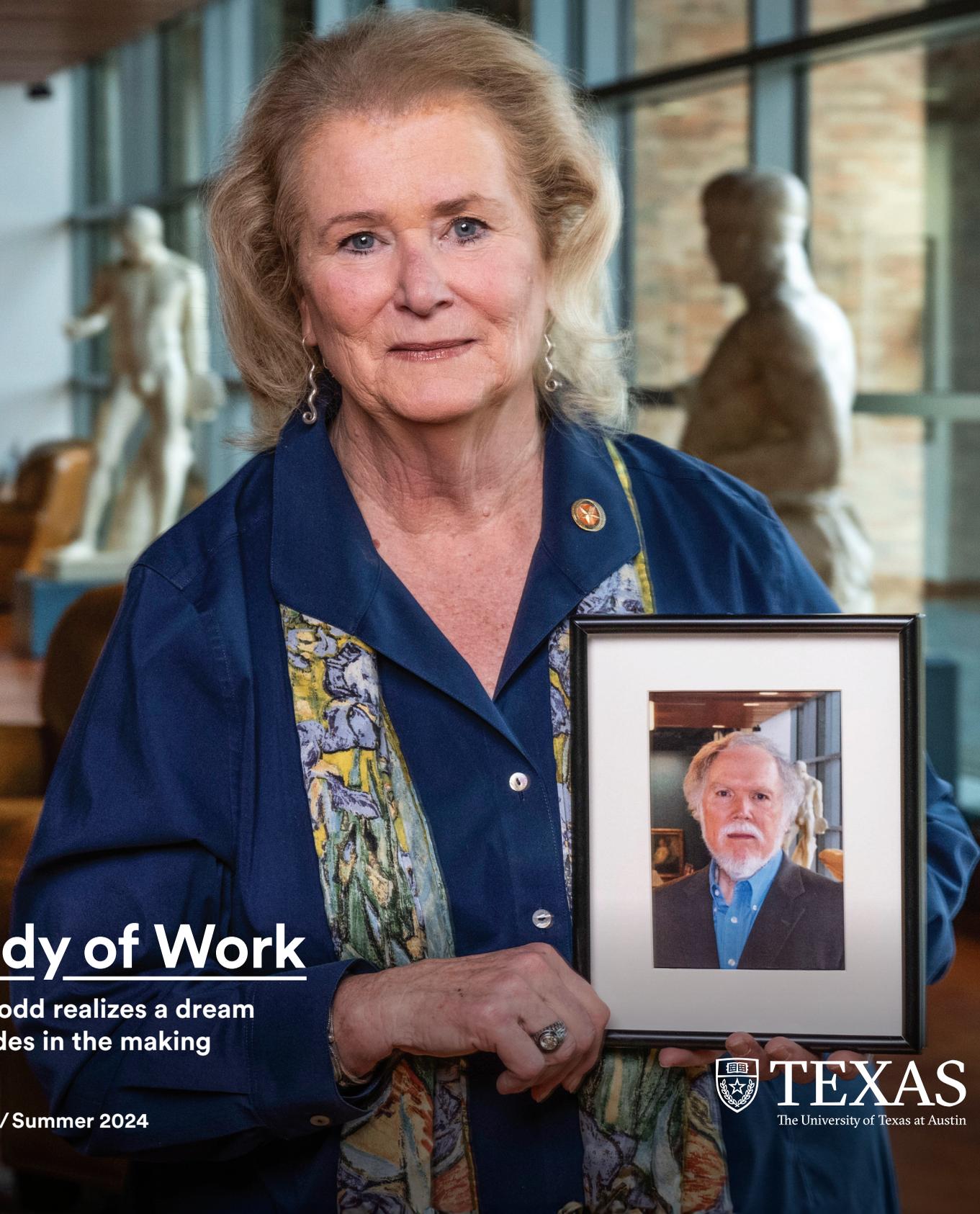


TEXAS★LEADER

PLANNING TO CHANGE THE WORLD



Body of Work

Jan Todd realizes a dream
decades in the making

Spring / Summer 2024



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

PHOTO: WYATT MCSPADDEN



From the President

Here on the Forty Acres, we recently celebrated commencement — one of my favorite weekends each year. As I have watched family, friends and faculty cheer on our students, I know The University of Texas at Austin has prepared these Longhorns well. They are equipped to succeed not only in their first job, but also in their third and fourth jobs in careers they have yet to imagine. The ever-evolving field of artificial intelligence is a great example. This rapidly changing technology holds extraordinary possibilities for us all, which is why we declared 2024 as the Year of AI at UT Austin.

Think of AI as the world's most ambitious science project — one that touches every discipline on campus. From medical advances aimed at curing cancer and disease to major engineering challenges that normally would take years of experimentation, AI uses supercomputing to solve problems like a human brain would, but millions of times faster.

The first cohort of 700 students in UT's online master's of AI program began coursework in January. It is the first large-scale AI degree program offered by a top-tier institution. Students are excited they can enroll at our University, which holds a top-10 ranking in AI and has a massive alumni base around

the world, from virtually anywhere. Best of all, the program is offered at an affordable price, which makes it more accessible.

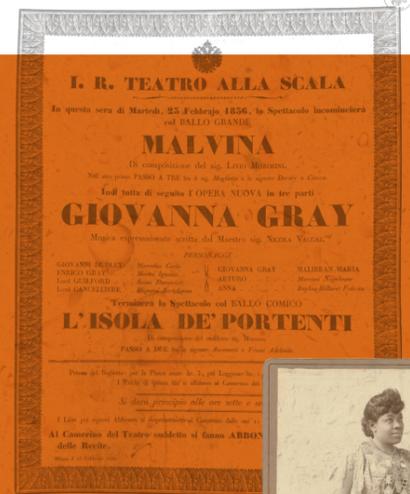
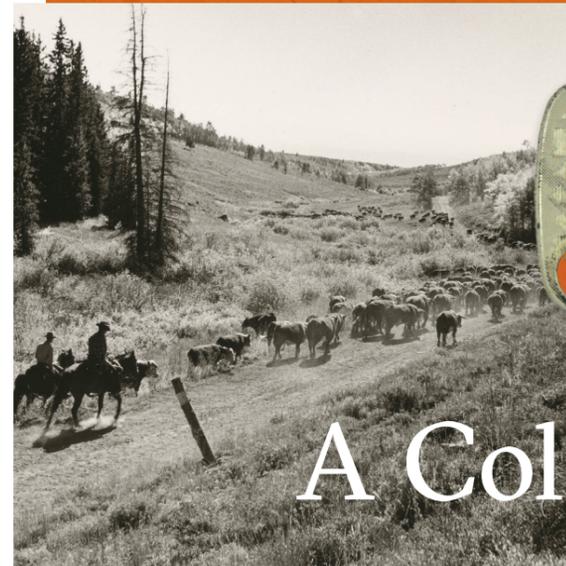
Gaston Alvarado Maza, currently enrolled in this program, says, "The course content is of high quality, and the instructors and mentors are highly prepared in every topic." Our goal is to make sure students like Gaston are able to graduate and immediately start making a difference.

Departments and colleges across campus are working together to solve the most complex problems facing our world today. Collaboration allows us to create even more impact, and that is why we treat AI like a team sport. Your contributions, combined with the passion and expertise found at UT, help us continue the upward trajectory of AI that began here decades ago. Texas Leaders do just that — help lead the way. Each of you shows an unwavering commitment to UT. You have my deepest gratitude.

Jay Hartzell, President
The University of Texas at Austin



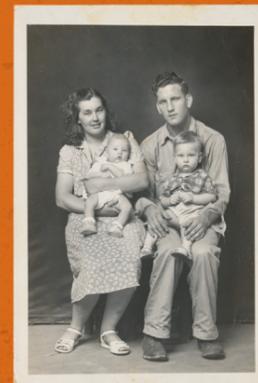
On April 5, 2024, nearly 500 members of the Texas Leadership Society gathered for our 27th luncheon to enjoy friendship, fun and a fabulous finale with a performance by the Longhorn Band! Plans are already underway for next year's luncheon. **Save the date for Friday, March 28, 2025.**



A Collective Effort

The University of Texas at Austin delivers a variety of experiences and educational opportunities across the Forty Acres through its incomparable resources and state-of-the-art facilities. Donors play a significant role in the vitality of these campus gems. With their gifts, donors increase access to mind-expanding material and help others develop new interests or deepen their understanding of current ones.

The H.J. Lutch Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, and the Harry Ransom Center have recently become the beneficiaries of collections amassed in donors' impassioned pursuits. Through their generosity, Jan Todd, Terry and Lee Anne Box, and Girvice Archer have strengthened UT's reputation as a center of cultural significance while enhancing opportunities and knowledge for future scholars.



LONGHORN RECORDS



November 1925 Price 25c



Body of Work

Jan Todd often says that her husband Terry liked big things.

As a student at The University of Texas at Austin in the 1950s, Terry (B.A. '61, Ph.D. '66) discovered weight training as a way to build strength and size. His interest in big weights led to a fascination with big accomplishments on and off the lifting platform, and eventually sparked Jan's (Ph.D. '95) own achievements as a pioneer of strength. But the Todds' biggest feat was founding UT's H.J. Lutzer Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports — the top archive and museum in its field, made possible by Jan and Terry's planned, collection and estate gifts from the 1990s to now.



The Strongwoman

Jan and Terry met in 1970 and, as she remembered at his memorial service, “he looked like no man I'd ever seen before — for he was the first person I'd ever met who trained seriously with weights.”

A few years later, the newly wed Jan tagged along with Terry to the gym and saw a woman performing an exercise called a deadlift. Inspired and curious, she asked Terry about lifting heavier weights. Jan broke her first world record in just 18 months.

During her powerlifting career, which spanned the mid-1970s to early '80s, she set more than 60 national and world records, broke the gender barrier as the first woman to lift Scotland's Dinnie Stones — a traditional test of strength and manhood — and was recognized as the strongest woman in the world by outlets like Sports Illustrated and “The Tonight Show.” Jan was integral to women's admission to competitive powerlifting and chaired the sport's national and international women's divisions. She is also likely the only UT faculty member ever to appear at state fairs doing a strength act in which she bent railroad spikes and drove nails through a board with her hand. “It was a whole different Jan, as you can imagine,” she says.

At the height of her powerlifting career, Jan hit dizzying personal records, like this 1,000-pound partial deadlift (left). She was named the world's strongest woman by outlets like People magazine, which showed her lifting Terry in a January 1979 issue (right, photo by Dale Wittner).
Courtesy of Jan Todd



The Idea

“Dreaming is the easy thing,” Terry wrote in a 1976 diary entry. Since his time as a doctoral student at UT in the 1960s, he'd been dreaming of a way to preserve the books, magazines, photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence and other materials that comprised the history of physical culture around the world and of varsity athletics at UT.

Terry used one such collection, owned by vaudeville strongman, author and collector Ottley Coulter, to write his dissertation. When Coulter died in 1975, Terry was offered the chance to purchase it. “He said, ‘If I don't do it, I'll feel bad for the rest of my life. We have to save it,’” Jan recalls.

They did, and Jan and Terry kept collecting, imagining that someday their materials would become the foundation of a research library at a major university like UT.

The Homecoming

In 1983, Terry joined the faculty of UT's Department of Kinesiology and Health Education. Jan began processing their nearly 400 boxes of accumulated materials, started work on her doctorate in American studies and taught weight-training classes full time.

“Thousands of people learned to lift weights from Terry and me through those years,” Jan says. “It's really remarkable how many people have continued to reach out and tell me they remember the class, and in some cases are still doing the same workout!”

In 1991, the Todds began donating parts of their collection to the University and planning to ensure its future. Scholars from around the world were already visiting UT to use the

Todd-McLean Physical Culture Collection, which was first housed in Gregory Gym and then the basement of Anna Hiss Gym.

Still, Terry and Jan kept dreaming of a day when they could properly house and staff the collection. Their dream became a reality when then-Athletics Director DeLoss Dodds agreed to allocate them space in UT's new North End Zone building. With leadership gifts from the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutzer Stark Foundation and Joe and Betty Weider, the Todds finally moved their collection into the Stark Center, which opened in 2009.

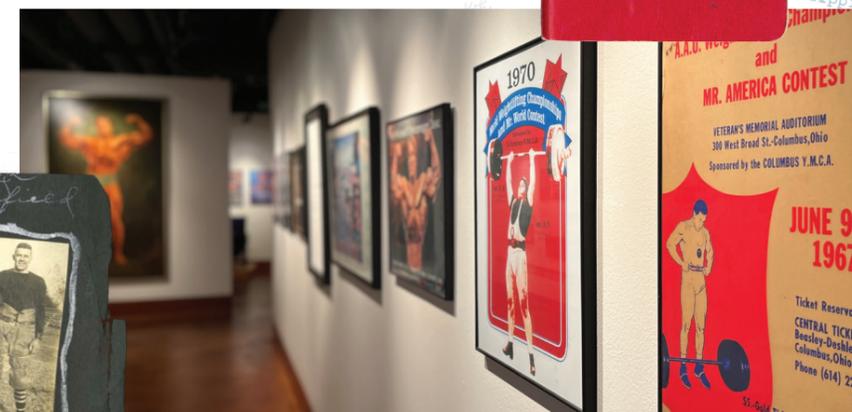
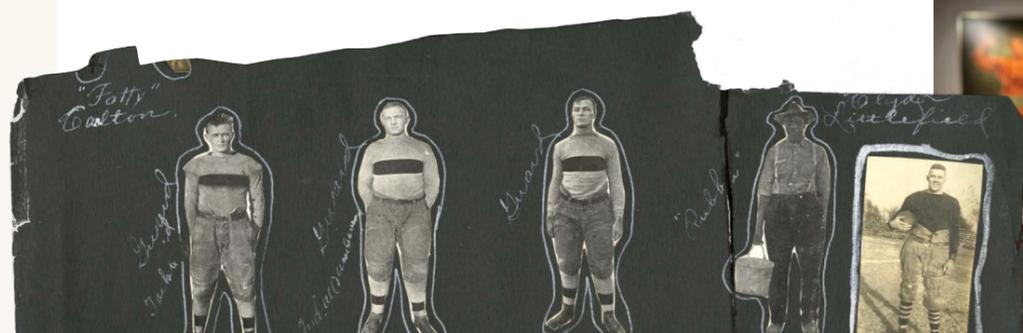
Those acts of generosity transformed the Todds' collection into an official research center, a hub for study in the field, and the world's preeminent archive of its kind. Today, the Stark Center houses hundreds of thousands of books, photographs, films and other artifacts, including the archives of Texas Athletics, which Jan calls “an incredible treasure.”

Jan and Terry led the Stark Center as co-directors until Terry's passing in 2018. “We started as collectors,” says Jan, who now directs the center and serves as department chair. “But this was Terry's dream, and I'm here to finish it.” Jan has made a plan for the Todds' estate to support the future of the Stark Center, which only makes their legacy — in the exploration, documentation and preservation of physical culture — that much bigger.

“Terry was the idea guy, and he had great ideas,” she says. “I figured out how to make them happen. We were a great team.”

The Stark Center, which is celebrating its 15th year in 2024, holds the Todds' unparalleled strength and physical culture collections as well as the archives of Texas Athletics. Visitors and researchers have access to irreplaceable artifacts like Harvey Penick's original “Little Red Book” and Clyde Littlefield's scrapbooks.

Courtesy of the Stark Center



All for Opera

Girvice Archer's gift to the Harry Ransom Center represents more than 50 years of his passionate interest in opera and opera history.



Photo: Julie Bidwell

A lifelong passion can be sparked in the most unexpected way. In his freshman year at The University of Texas at Austin, Girvice (pronounced grr-viss) Archer was at his parents' Kerrville home for the weekend when he randomly turned the channel to the 1962 Miss America Pageant — a broadcast that changed his life.

"Miss Hawaii, Patricia Lei Anderson, sang 'Un bel dì, vedremo' from 'Madame Butterfly' and I was overwhelmed by the beauty of it," Girvice recalls. Miss Hawaii finished 4th-runner-up in the pageant, but she had already won a new fan for opera. "When I got back to Austin, I went to the University Co-op and bought a Maria Callas LP of Puccini arias," says Girvice. "That was my first opera record and I played it until I knew the music and text of each aria. Callas became my beacon."

Ultimately Girvice's collection of opera-related memorabilia went far beyond recordings. It eventually grew to more than 20,000 items, encompassing the history of photography from daguerreotype to modern images, including pre-photographic lithographs and engravings. Thanks to his generous gift to the Harry Ransom Center, the collection is now available for viewing and research by students and scholars, giving them access to a treasure trove of opera history.

Dr. Eric Colleary, the Ransom Center's curator of performing arts, welcomes the inclusion of Girvice's collection and sings the praises of this unique and remarkable gift.

"Dr. Archer carefully crafted his collection over several decades," says Eric. "There are images represented in the collection that don't exist anywhere else — celebrity singers and the now-forgotten alike. It will be an invaluable resource for the study of opera and performance for generations to come."

▶ **Enrico Caruso as Don José in Bizet's "Carmen."** Photo by Aimé Dupont Studio, c. 1910.
Sissieretta Jones, one of the highest paid African American performers of her time. Photo by Napoleon Sarony, c. 1895.
 Courtesy of the Ransom Center

A Musical Shift

Perhaps Girvice's interest in opera would have developed eventually, even without his chance encounter with a beauty queen's talent. He had some musical influence in his background — his father played piano by ear and used his talent to entertain guests at dinner parties. Girvice played trombone in school bands and recalls the emotional impact music had on him. "We played a smattering of operatic music," he recalls. "A piece we played in our concert season one year — 'Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral' from Wagner's 'Lohengrin' — always made me teary."

Medicine eclipsed music as a career option. After graduating from UT Southwestern Medical School, Girvice continued his training in Connecticut. In 1970, he met educator Frank Chiaramonte, who became his life partner and, in 2010, his husband. They have been longtime residents of Harwinton, where Frank has served three terms as first selectman and Girvice began his career in anesthesiology. Living just two hours away from New York City, he made frequent trips for operas and concerts. Over time, his interests evolved.



Poster for Milan's Teatro alla Scala 1836 premiere of the opera "Giovanna Gray"
 Courtesy of the Ransom Center



“It is a relief that my collection is in a safe place now and will stay together and be available to spark an interest in others.”

“Once past my youthful years,” he says, “it was difficult to keep up a work schedule in the operating room and still have the energy to see as many performances.”

Instead, Girvice became far more engrossed in the history of opera and the logistics of life on the road for performers in the 19th century. “The slow and dangerous means of travel to the U.S., South America and Australia with costumes in tow fascinated me,” he says. “English soprano Anna Bishop, while on tour, crossed the Andes on muleback. In 1854, German soprano Henriette Sontag died of cholera in Mexico City at age 48. There were some real legends back in those days.”

Girvice discovered collectible items through specialist dealers, in the numerous antique shops and book barns throughout New England (“Frank has put up with a half-century of long waits while I have shopped”) and later on eBay. And within the world of opera, he found a niche pursuit. “I ultimately specialized in 19th-century iconography, specifically cartes de visite and cabinet cards of singers and musicians,” says Girvice. “It was always a thrill to identify singers, famous or not, and research their careers in the countries and theaters in which they sang.”

Finding a New Home

Several decades ago, Girvice started to worry about what would happen to the collection, to which he had devoted so much time and effort, after he was gone. After some consideration, he decided the Harry Ransom Center — UT’s internationally renowned humanities research center — would be the ideal location for his prized possessions. The center’s visitors number 60,000 annually; among them are scholars who seek access to important collections such as Albert Einstein’s unpublished notes for his work on general relativity, original works by Frida Kahlo and the earliest surviving photograph, produced in a camera obscura.

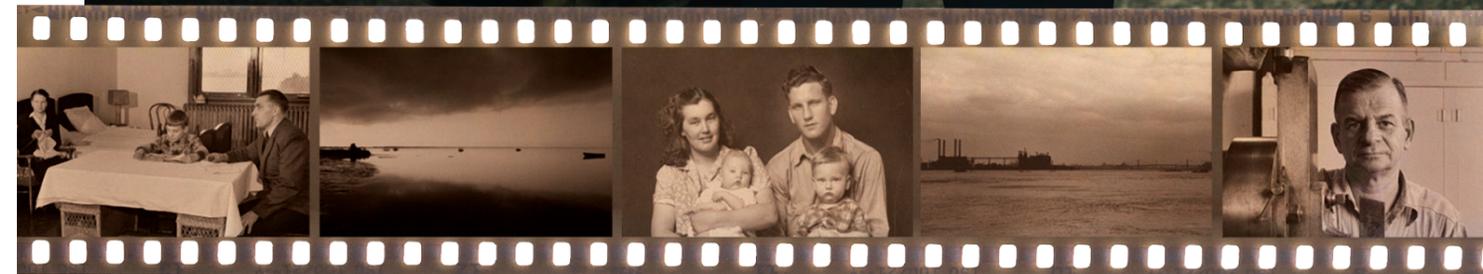
“It is a relief that my collection is in a safe place now and will stay together and be available to spark an interest in others,” says Girvice, whose contribution to the cultural life of UT will have a lasting impact.

“The history of the Ransom Center is, in part, the history of passionate collectors like Girvice Archer,” says Ransom Center Director Stephen Enniss. “My colleagues and I look forward to caring for this remarkable collection with some of the same passion he devoted to building it.” ■



Meant to Be

Terry and Lee Anne Box’s gift of black-and-white photographs is colored with gratitude.



▲ The Boxes’ photography collection encompasses a diverse range of subjects and is an invaluable resource for exploring the history of 20th-century America. Courtesy of the Briscoe Center. Cover photo by Sloan Breeden.

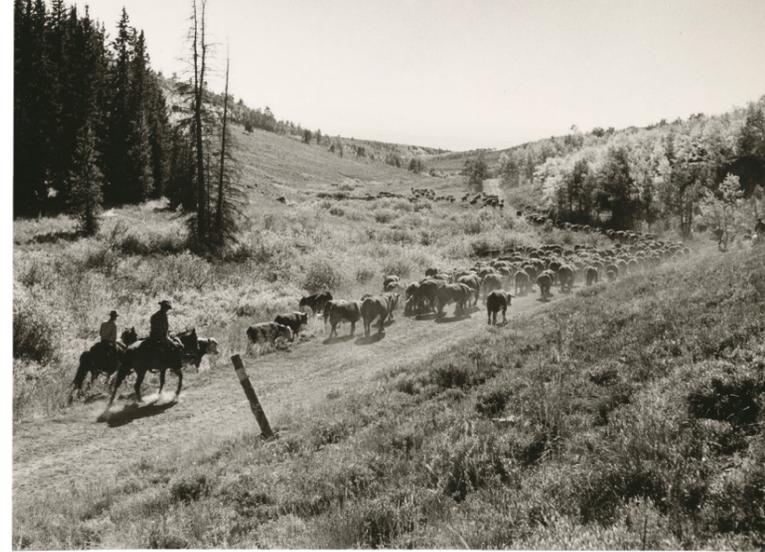
Before he was even 10 years old, Terry Box (B.A. '73) knew he wanted to be a Longhorn. The Waxahachie native was watching a football game on television in the late 1950s — at a time when the Longhorns' iconic burnt-orange uniform would appear in only black and white on TV screens — and decided then he would attend The University of Texas at Austin.

Of course, not all childhood dreams come to pass, but Terry's determination and excellent scholastic record in high school helped him achieve his goal. Now a resident of Utah, Terry continues to hold Texas and UT close to his heart. In appreciation for the education he received and the life opportunities it granted, Terry and his wife Lee Anne have created an endowed scholarship in the College of Education as well as a gift of black-and-white art photographs to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

“People Sleeping on Grass” was photographed in 1985 by Ken Heyman, best known for his work with cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead.
Courtesy of the Briscoe Center



Ken Heyman



Twists and Turns

It would be a mistake to equate Terry's early determination with rigidity. He has remained flexible throughout a life that has presented him with many unexpected events. The first detour Terry navigated was his field of academic study. He started as a mathematics major, but midway through a book report in a German literature class, Terry heard a comment that caused him to rethink his future.

“The professor stopped me midway through my report on ‘Steppenwolf’ — Hermann Hesse's esoteric novel — and said, “This is very good, but it's very concrete. I think you would do well in medicine.”

It wasn't the first time Terry had heard such a comment. His family friend and primary care physician in Waxahachie had frequently suggested Terry should consider becoming a doctor. Terry decided that the universe was trying to tell him something. “With the additional encouragement from the German professor,” he says, “I finished the mathematics courses I needed to get my degree then wound up doing my last year and a half on campus in pre-med.”

From the Forty Acres, Terry headed to UT Southwestern Medical School to earn his medical degree. He left after graduation for a residency program in Utah with the intention to stay for four or five years, then come back home to the Lone Star State. Once again, life had a surprise in store. While in Utah, he met Lee Anne Dunn, a nurse in the

◀ **Lou Stoumen, two-time Academy Award winner, photographed “Fall Roundup” in Colorado in 1953.**
Courtesy of the Briscoe Center

hospital's endoscopy lab, and he followed his heart on a new path. After completing his fellowship, Terry accepted a job offer; several years later, Lee Anne accepted his marriage proposal. “I lost my passport and never got back to Texas,” Terry jokes.

Terry finished his training in gastroenterology and hepatology in 1983 and began what he thought would be a conventional gastrointestinal medical practice. In 1986, however, he was asked to collaborate with the transplant surgeons at Salt Lake City's LDS Hospital in caring for the state's first-ever liver transplantation patient. From that point forward, Terry devoted his medical practice to being a transplant hepatologist — a decision that eventually would take on special significance.

The Boxes believe they have found the perfect home for their collection in UT's Briscoe Center, one of the nation's leading research centers for historical study.

In 2002, after more than 15 years of specializing in liver transplantation, Terry ironically found himself in need of his own services. If not for the generosity of an organ donor, Terry would have succumbed to a highly aggressive tumor that had compromised his liver.

“There's certainly not a week — or sometimes even a day — that goes by that I don't think back to that event and the incredibly loving and courageous donation that a family decided to make,” says Terry. The experience has left him with a deeper understanding of the importance of philanthropy.

A Gift of Gratitude

Around the time of that same turning point in Terry's life, he and Lee Anne became interested in collecting documentary photography. Together, they amassed roughly 650 prints. The Boxes believe they have found the perfect home for their collection in UT's Briscoe Center, one of the nation's leading research centers for historical study. Terry and Lee Anne's donated images — depicting daily life, cultural events, architecture, industrialization and politics across the U.S. from the 1920s to 1970s — will add to the Briscoe's existing collection of 9 million photos and support the Briscoe's commitment to collecting, preserving and making available the evidence of the past.

“The generous gift of these prints from Terry and Lee Anne Box marks a significant addition to the Briscoe Center's photography collections,” says Don Carleton, executive director of the center. “The prints augment our collections from such photographers as Flip Schulke, Jacques Lowe and Joel Meyerowitz. They also enhance our current holdings with works that capture a range of topics and perspectives, giving future researchers a greater scope of historical evidence. We are grateful to the Boxes for their donation.”

For Terry, the gift completes a cycle that began with what UT gave to him. “Our gift reflects our interest in giving back to the entire entity that has enabled us to be where we are today,” says Terry, who credits the University's culture and values for shaping him. “The equality, the diversity and the inclusivity of The University of Texas made a huge difference in my life. I'm a different person for that and I'm a better person for that.” ■

Jacques Lowe, best known for his intimate photos of the Kennedys, also captured the daily lives of blue-collar workers in the 1960s.
Courtesy of the Briscoe Center



Be a Part of UT History

Our Tower: The Next 100 Years

The Tower stands as one of The University of Texas at Austin's most iconic and beloved landmarks. Today, the Tower needs your help. Together we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to **restore, revitalize and reimagine our Tower** — an enduring symbol of excellence — for generations of Longhorns.



SCAN HERE

Learn about the project and how you can help at tower.utexas.edu.

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Justin Michalka
Assistant Vice President for Development
512-475-6072
tower@utexas.edu

**OUR
TOWER**
THE NEXT
100 YEARS



Legendary Lady Longhorn

A gift from Betty Grubbs, a longtime fixture at UT sporting events, has created opportunities for future student-athletes.

Some Longhorns sports legends have neither caught a touchdown pass, knocked a baseball out of the park, nor worn a burnt-orange uniform. Betty Grubbs, described by those who knew and loved her as “a tiny powerhouse,” earned her status of Longhorn legend by being one of the most loyal sports fans The University of Texas at Austin has ever known. She and her husband, Homer (BBA '31), watched baseball from the wooden bleachers at old Clark Field in the 1960s. She was in the stands for more than 55 consecutive Texas-OU football games, and for decades she and Homer held season tickets for football, baseball, softball, volleyball and men's and women's basketball, most of which Betty continued to hold after Homer passed away in 1996.



In May 2018, Betty celebrated her 100th birthday at one of her most frequently visited venues — UFCU Disch-Falk Field. While she is no longer with us to cheer on her favorite teams, her estate gift to Texas Athletics will make her presence and impact felt for decades to come.

Life as Adventure

Betty was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania in 1918. After earning a master's degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh, she taught business at several high schools. In 1943, she enlisted in the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy and during World War II, she was transferred to Monterey, California. Betty was assigned to the disbursing office of the Naval Reserves, a role in which she demonstrated

her characteristic grit. She carried vast sums of cash — not to mention “a gun and an attitude,” according to her obituary — from the naval office to the bank.

During this time, Betty earned her pilot's license and met Homer, whom she married in Austin in 1951. Betty taught in UT's College of Business Administration before

taking a job as a benefits counselor with the Social Security Administration, a role well suited to her outgoing personality. Not surprisingly, she did far more for the SSA than was expected of her. She hosted a weekly cable TV show to educate senior citizens about the social security process and Medicare and wrote a weekly newspaper column for senior citizens for more than 20 years. Her long-standing community activism earned her a 2006 Community Spirit award from the Austin Group for the Elderly.

▲ Betty reached the rank of lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Women's Reserve before her honorable discharge in 1947. Her uniform is on display at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas.



Game for Anything

Between work, commitment to her stepson and granddaughter, playing golf at Onion Creek Country Club (which she continued to do until age 92) and gathering with friends in her “Wild Bunch Lunch Group,” Betty still found time to fit in a full schedule of UT sports. She was more than a spectator — Betty helped the programs grow. In the 1970s, Title IX, which legislated equitable opportunities in college sports, had opened doors for women to participate in sports beyond high school. Betty's personality and way of connecting with people became an enormous asset to Texas Athletics.

“Betty always had been an advocate for Texas sports, and now that there was this new thing — women's sports — she was going to be an advocate for that too,” says Christine Plonsky, executive senior associate athletics director/chief of staff, who has been with Texas Athletics for 36 years. “Betty was active in the community and was well-known, energetic and knowledgeable. She banged on a lot of doors and said, ‘You're going to buy women's basketball season tickets,’” Christine recalls. “That was the type of grassroots approach to publicity in that era for Texas women's athletics.”

◀ At age 92, Betty was named honorary captain for the softball team and delighted in throwing the first pitch.

A Gift for All Time

One of Betty's dearest friends was Gary McIntosh, a former athletic trainer for UT football and baseball who sat beside Betty and Homer at Longhorns baseball games for 43 years. Among Gary's favorite memories of Betty is how she could create community with anyone who came within her orbit.

“She was just one of those dream people,” says Gary. “Her approach was always to make people happy. Everyone who came over to talk to her walked away thinking they had been blessed that day.”

As her longtime seatmate, Gary knew firsthand just how loyal Betty was to her Longhorns teams. When she was named Austin's Volunteer of the Year at age 89, she told Gary she would be unable to attend the banquet “because we're playing against Nebraska in baseball tonight.” Gary convinced Betty to take the night off and enjoy the ceremony instead.

When Betty's long and happy life came to an end in December 2018, Gary was charged with fulfilling her final wishes, among which were making contributions to softball and baseball facility renovations and the creation of an endowment to support UT's female student-athletes with proceeds from the sale of her five-acre property on Brodie Lane. Betty's gift is the largest scholarship endowment ever for UT women's athletics and the third-largest gift to the women's program she so dearly loved.

“Betty was forward-thinking and ahead of her time,” says Jody Conradt, who coached Texas women's basketball from 1976 to 2007 and served as women's athletic director from May 1992 to April 2001. “We were so fortunate to be a partner with her. Because of the funds she designated, our student-athletes will have a chance to continue to play the sports they love.”

Betty's support of Texas Athletics will continue, and her extraordinary gifts will create opportunities for others to make memories of their own. And nothing would have made Betty happier. ■



◀ Homer and Betty Grubbs held season tickets for numerous UT sports for more than half their lives.

Beacon of Hope

Philanthropist continues his family's enduring legacy through UT scholarships



The ways in which we shape our future can be strongly influenced by how the past has shaped us. Byron Anderson (B.A. '88) credits his maternal grandparents for their impact on his life and for helping him find a pathway to creating positive futures for others.

"My grandparents showed me what is possible through their actions and values," says Byron. "They helped me understand the benefits of building good character, pursuing higher education and being of service to others and how rewarding those experiences could be."

Byron has honored his grandparents with the creation of The Garfield and Petrenella McConico Endowed Scholarship through the College of Education. His endowment will be further funded with a future gift through his estate, ensuring his family's extraordinary legacy endures.

By honoring his grandparents' memory with an endowed scholarship, Byron Anderson is sharing the gift of their positive influence with future Longhorns.

Planting Deep Roots

In 1937, Garfield McConico married Petrenella Johnson and the couple settled in Round Rock, Texas, which then had a population of just 1,200. Both college-educated, Garfield and Petrenella were eager to change the world as Petrenella began a teaching career while raising five children, and Garfield became a businessman, a real estate investor and a politician who had big dreams about what Round Rock could become.

In 1969, Garfield became Round Rock's first Black city council member (1969-77) and went on to serve as the city's first Black mayor pro tem (1971-77). During his time in office, he was instrumental in hiring Round Rock's first city manager, connecting the city to a 911 emergency services and waste management system, and recruiting Westinghouse to establish its headquarters in Round Rock. He also helped create jobs for Black veterans returning from service abroad through his contract painting business. Recognized as a local legend in Round Rock, Garfield made a lasting impact on the city's development and bridged the gap between all cultures.



Petrenella, a lifelong resident of Round Rock, graduated from Tillotson College (now Huston-Tillotson University) in 1934. She was a devoted educator who touched the lives of countless students during her more than 35-year teaching career in the Round Rock Independent School District, which included a lengthy tenure at Hopewell School, the district's segregated school for African American students. She and Garfield lived the basic principles of family, education and service to the community and passed them down to the next generations of their family. In 2003, the city honored the couple by naming Round Rock's municipal building, which sits on the site of the family's former homestead, the McConico Building.

A World of Impact

As the descendant of teachers, including his mother, Patsy McConico Anderson, who taught in the Austin Independent School District for 30 years, Byron knew early on the important role education would play in his future. He attended Austin public schools and developed a strong connection to UT during his youth, spending countless hours on the UT campus attending educational programs, sporting events, playing basketball on the Clark Field outdoor courts and hanging out with friends. As a teen, he worked as an usher at the Frank Erwin Center. He graduated from UT with a B.A. in government and a minor in business administration. "My whole experience at UT was the most enjoyable and memorable time in my life," he says. "I met people from all over the world and made lifelong friends."

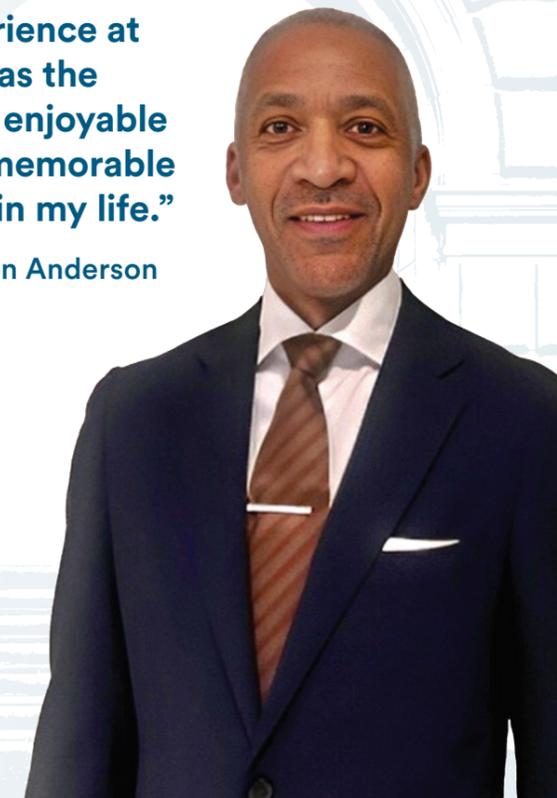
Byron went on to earn an MBA in finance from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business. He has more than 30 years of combined work experience in the energy and insurance industries, where he specializes in the areas of commodities trading risk control, ethics and compliance, and corporate insurance risk management. His tremendous commitment to creating an inclusive atmosphere at UT is evident through his longtime interest in connecting the University's intellectual resources to communities across

Texas and offering support to those who may face challenges accessing educational opportunities. Byron has served on the Texas Exes Advisory Council and the Texas Exes Board of Directors – Houston Chapter. He is a Life Member of Texas Exes and is currently a member of the UT Austin Development Board.

"Fostering an environment where global education, innovation, entrepreneurship and community outreach are celebrated is so important. I am most proud to be a part of a group of people that truly represents the University's core values," he says. "In today's society, we focus so much on giving our youth the things we didn't have. Sometimes we forget to give them what we did have. My scholarship pays homage to my grandparents and the impact they are still having today." ■

"My whole experience at UT was the most enjoyable and memorable time in my life."

– Byron Anderson



Texas Leader SPOTLIGHT

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



Carolyn Long
Austin, TX

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

As a longtime volunteer and supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, I'm incredibly excited about the University embracing it as one of its field stations. Over the past 30 years of being involved with the center in various volunteer positions, I have gained a great deal of respect for the educational resources it provides visitors to help them better understand the ecosystems in their own backyards. Their educational programs, state-of-the-art learning resources, immersive exhibits and advanced research initiatives are unlike any other botanical garden's. I love the place and have a deep-seated appreciation for

all the wonderful work they're doing, so the decision to get involved philanthropically through a planned gift was easy and felt like a natural step for me.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

My goal is to help visitors gain confidence in their interactions with the natural world and share that passion with others. I hope my planned gift can help provide resources to improve the Wildflower Center's visitor experience and help strengthen everyone's interest and ability to preserve natural landscapes at the ground level. It's like the UT tagline: "What starts here changes the world."

Linda Holcomb, B.A. History '81
Humble, TX



What are your favorite UT memories?

I spent most of my years at UT in the late '60s and early '70s, so it was a very lively time with a lot going on. Even though I didn't belong to a lot of organizations, I met a lot of people and I was involved in activities we did together. I made really close friends I still have today.

How did UT prepare you for success?

My professors taught me to think. As young adults, we believe we know how to do that, but in truth we grow up thinking the way our parents and community taught us to. I learned that just because authority thinks one way doesn't mean I have to think the same way. UT gave me the skills to assess my beliefs and to keep an open mind. I hope that through my career as a supervisor and a professor, I have passed on those valuable skills to other people.

Why did you choose to make a gift to UT?

The education I received at UT was extremely valuable. I want to give back because I'm very grateful for having gone to school there and for all the ideas and opportunities I was exposed to, both in and out of the classroom. All the people I met there — professors, students, just everybody — were wonderful, and it was a very good experience for me.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

My charitable gift annuity supports Student Emergency Services. Some students have no safety net, and if something goes wrong, they may be without financial resources to help them meet that emergency. I want to help these students so they won't have additional debt to deal with when they graduate. I hope my gift will allow students who are facing an unexpected crisis to stay in school and continue on their path.



Dixie Stanforth, Ph.D. '10 & Phil Stanforth
Austin, TX

What are your favorite UT memories?

Dixie: My biggest takeaway from graduate school was to do everything with excellence and nothing will be wasted. On my last day of teaching a class with a particular cohort of UT students, I had put Post-it notes around the room with different questions. One of the notes asked, "If you were going to get a tattoo of something you've learned, what would it be?" And the most common response was "Do everything with excellence." And that just meant the absolute world to me.

Phil: One of my favorite things about being a professor at UT was the whole idea of collaborating with other people and building a community that helps you learn and grow both professionally and as a person.

How did UT prepare you for success?

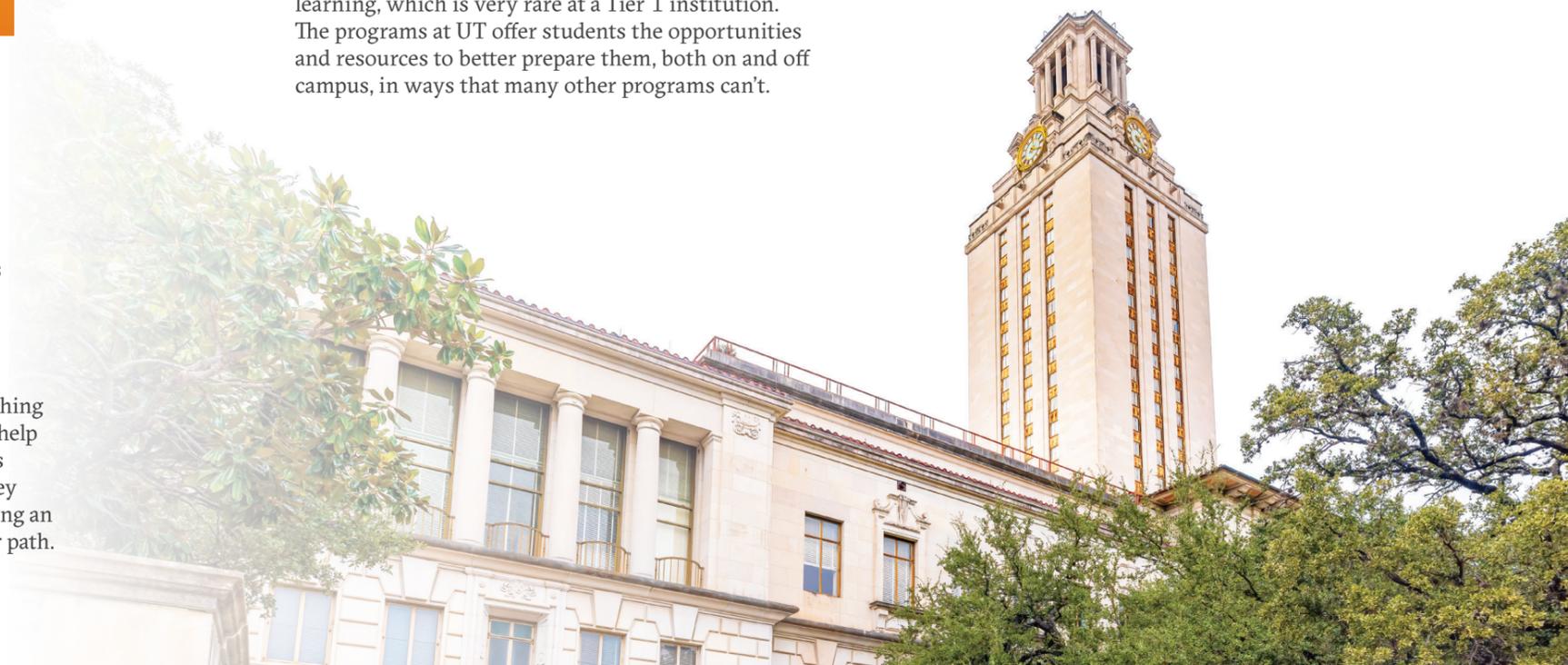
UT has given us the freedom as faculty members to develop a curriculum that emphasizes experiential learning, which is very rare at a Tier 1 institution. The programs at UT offer students the opportunities and resources to better prepare them, both on and off campus, in ways that many other programs can't.

Why did you choose to include UT in your estate plans?

We have so much to be grateful for and the University is a huge part of that. Through our professional opportunities, we got to know thousands of students. This gift to support the College of Education is our way of expressing gratitude to the students that have always been at the center of our careers.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

During our tenure at UT, we witnessed firsthand the many challenges first-generation students and students from small towns face. We want to offer support to those who have the drive and passion to do well but may not have the financial means to take on an unpaid internship. We hope our gifts today and our planned gift to establish the Phil and Dixie Stanforth Endowed Excellence Fund will benefit students now and long after we're gone.



Cover Photo
Marsha Miller

Submissions
TEXAS LEADER is published for members of the Texas Leadership Society and other alumni and friends of The University of Texas at Austin. To submit story ideas, comments, questions and address changes, please use the enclosed envelope, call us at 800-687-4602 or email giftplan@austin.utexas.edu.

Managing Editor
Adrienne Leyva

Writers
Eden Bonniwell
Sarah McAbee
Sharon Reynolds
Audrey Webb

Art Director
Maddie Pelan

Designers
Tomoko Bason
Maria Huang
Maddie Pelan

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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Across The University of Texas at Austin, many schools and colleges have launched a Legacy Challenge. When you document a new planned gift as part of a Legacy Challenge, you can unlock immediate additional funds for a participating college or school — and choose which program or area those funds will support. Challenge funds are limited, so don't delay!



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