

Spirit of SHARING

OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING MAGAZINE • SPRING 2020

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Drs. Betsy '72 and Bob Carpenter '70 are making a promise to foster child literacy with a planned gift to the College of Education and Human Development.

TEXAS
A&M
FOUNDATION®

Cover photo taken at Larry J. Ringer Library.

Giving a Better Tomorrow Today



Optimists can sometimes get a bad rap. Too often, people who see the glass half-full are made out to be ignorant or naïve, unable to see the world for what it “really” is. But having faith in others is often the starting point to enacting real, positive change. The way I see it, there are two types of optimists in the world: passive optimists—those who assume the future will be better—and active optimists—those who work to build a better future themselves.

We at the Texas A&M Foundation are fortunate to build relationships with the latter every day. Texas A&M University thrives thanks in no small part to Aggies and friends past and present who have believed in its mission enough to ensure its long-term success. One of the most common, but impactful ways they have done so is through committing bequests, or gifts given through their wills or living trusts.

Bequests allow individuals to maintain control of their assets while living and deliver meaningful long-

term support to their chosen area of impact after their lifetimes. In short, they provide an accessible opportunity to actively secure a brighter future for the next generation of Aggie students and faculty and the millions of lives they will affect.

This edition of Spirit of Sharing is centered around stories of donors who have chosen to leave a gift to Texas A&M through a bequest. As you read, you will learn about the Halamicicks’ magnificent real estate gift to benefit the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (page 2), the Carpenters’ commitment to fostering child literacy initiatives at Texas A&M (page 6) and other examples of generous individuals who gave bequests to leave Texas A&M in an even better state for the future.

While bequests offer practical benefits to the donor—control, flexibility and tax management—the true value of giving a bequest comes from the satisfaction of contributing toward the success of future generations, sometimes on an unimaginable scale. Beyond the paper value of your gift, a bequest sets a powerful unspoken standard: It incentivizes the next generation to pay it forward. Nothing inspires giving toward the future like a gift from the past given out of pure trust and compassion.

Thanks for all you do.

Tyson Voelkel '96
President, Texas A&M Foundation



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



txamfoundation
Follow us on Twitter to stay up to date with the latest Texas A&M community news and retweet your favorite content.



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



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

Read more about the Carpenters' gift to support child literacy on page 6.

CONTENTS

4 *LASTING LEGACY*
Killer Treatments
A bequest from the late James J. Cain '51 supports two biomedical engineering professors as they develop technologies to combat chronic health conditions.

6 *COVER FEATURE*
Read All About It
Drs. Betsy '72 and Bob Carpenter '70 are making a promise to foster child literacy with a planned gift to the College of Education and Human Development.

10 *DISCOVER*
Top 10 Estate Planning Mistakes
Learn how to avoid common estate planning complications to protect your assets and loved ones.

12 *GIFT SPOTLIGHT*
The Gift of Opportunity
Stacy and Rick Mobley '81 establish a living trust to support future generations of Aggies in the College of Architecture.

14 *A LOOK BACK*
Rancher, Banker and Aggie Pioneer
The namesake of Sterling C. Evans Library, this dedicated Aggie was well known for his leadership and service to Texas A&M University.

SHARING PARADISE

Missy and Skooter Halamicek use a bequest to share their piece of heaven with Texas A&M University.

As visitors drive to Missy and Skooter Halamicek's cabin in Gonzales, Texas, they are greeted by a sign that reads: "Meanwhile." This sign holds a special significance for the couple. "When we see it, we think, 'Meanwhile, while we're in paradise, we wonder what the rest of the world is doing,'" Missy said.

The Halamiceks refer to their 90 acres of solitude as 'paradise' and 'heaven,' and they are proud of what they've built. They chose to gift their real estate to Texas A&M University through a bequest in hopes that it can be used for something meaningful after their lifetimes. "I feel like I've been given a lot, and to whom much is given, much is asked," Missy shared. "I feel good when I can give back to others. It makes me happy."

While not former students, the couple expressed a connection to Aggieland. "Loyalty is everything to me, and that quality drew Missy and me to Texas A&M," Skooter said. "It's such a loyal university. Everyone shares a common bond."

Passionate for animals, the Halamiceks are using their bequest to support the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "We love our animals and don't have any children," Missy explained. "After touring the veterinary school and hospital and the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center, we both commented: 'If we were sick, we wish

we could go to the veterinary hospital because it's so amazing,'" she laughed.

The couple was shocked at the simplicity of the bequest process. "It was very easy to set up our will provision," Skooter said. "Our attorney took care of everything. It's probably one of the best things we've done since we've been married. We've been very pleased with the process and what we've been able to accomplish with our assets."

Made by simply including language in a will or revocable living trust, a charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways to leave a lasting impact on Texas A&M. Benefits include:

1) RETAINING YOUR ASSETS:

You continue ownership and can enjoy using them during your lifetime.

2) DECREASING TAX BURDENS:

Removing property from your estate reduces estate-tax liability.

3) FLEXIBILITY OF ASSETS:

Bequests can be created or changed any time.

4) SUPPORTING TEXAS A&M:

Leave a legacy for the university you love!

Tim Walton '90, the Texas A&M Foundation's assistant vice president for real estate services, partnered with the Halamiceks to find a solution to best fit their needs. "They're very inspiring people," he said. "Even though they aren't former students, they're true Aggies at heart. There's no doubt about that."

BEQUESTS BY THE NUMBERS

During the *Lead by Example* campaign (Jan. 1, 2012 to Feb. 28, 2020)

680

bequest gifts

totaling

\$764,764,230

smallest gift of

\$1,000

to largest gift of

\$150 million

total bequest giving equal to

76.7%

of planned gifts during the campaign

BEQUEST OPTIONS



Percentage Bequest

A percentage bequest is exactly as it implies: You can designate a certain percentage of your estate to a charitable organization.



Specific Bequest

A specific bequest involves making a gift of a special asset such as a gift for a designated dollar amount, real estate or other property.



Residual Bequest

A residual bequest is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has fulfilled each of the specific bequests.



Contingent Bequest

A contingent bequest is made to charity only if the purpose of the primary cannot be met. For example, you could leave a specific property to a relative, but if that relative is not alive at the time of your death, the property will be given to your specified charity.

KILLER TREATMENTS

A bequest from the late James J. Cain '51 supports two biomedical engineering professors as they develop technologies to combat chronic health conditions.

By Dorian Martin '06

The late James J. Cain's personal struggle with diabetes piqued his interest in emerging research for his chronic condition. After reading an article about diabetes research in 2003, Cain contacted **DR. GERARD COTÉ**, the biomedical engineer conducting the research.

Dr. Côté later became head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and developed a strong relationship with Cain that led to the creation of two James J. Cain '51 Professorships in Biomedical Engineering. These gifts support faculty members with significant academic achievements who are leading cutting-edge research on chronic health conditions.

Following Cain's passing in 2015, the gifts funded through his will and retirement accounts now allow the professorships' holders to support doctoral students, acquire lab equipment and participate in academic conferences to explain their research advances while also mentoring future biomedical engineers. "His gift supports biomedical engineering research that improves the health and well-being of Texans and people worldwide, with emphasis on diabetes," said Côté, who holds one of the professorships. "His impact will be seen for decades to come."

DR. GERARD COTÉ

DR. MIKE MCSHANE '94 '99

DR. MIKE MCSHANE '94 '99, Cain's other recipient and current department head, explained the prestige of professorships and their importance in retaining leading faculty. "They recognize outstanding performance, show appreciation for and acknowledge the value of a faculty member, and also provide flexible funds that allow testing of high-risk ideas," he added.

Seeing the Light

McShane's laboratory produces sensor systems using a combination of biomaterials and optoelectronics. Using microscale and nanoscale fabrication approaches, tiny color-changing hydrogels are prepared; then the technology is inserted under the skin with hypodermic needles. These hydrogel devices respond to bodily changes that can be measured by shining a light through the skin from a wearable device. These inventions are being used in research labs with the goal of helping patients with chronic conditions, including diabetes, cancer, kidney failure and gout. "My research focuses on creating monitoring devices that can help people manage their conditions," he said. "Monitoring involves frequent feedback or providing a health status so they can make adjustments in lifestyle or treatment as needed."

Implanting a Cure

Côté and McShane are developing a variety of technologies for underserved populations with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Their work includes developing an implantable barcode that measures glucose and triggers an alarm if a health issue, such as hypoglycemia, arises so the appropriate treatment can be administered. Côté's team is also creating handheld devices that measure biomarkers like hemoglobin A1C that show the monthly average glucose concentration. Emergency medical technicians can also use these devices to measure cardiac biomarkers on a patient having chest pain to identify a heart attack.

Cardiovascular disease is the world's top killer; meanwhile, diabetes, which is the seventh leading cause of death, contributes to cardiovascular disease. "These are particularly acute in underserved populations that lack access to health care," Côté said. "People can use these devices at home or in the clinic, particularly in underserved areas in rural South Texas and also in underserved urban areas, such as the Los Angeles-Compton area or Miami-Dade County."

A generous supporter of Texas A&M, Cain also established two professorships in the Department of Mechanical Engineering that currently benefit faculty there.

Read All About It

By Bailey Payne '19

Drs. Betsy '72 and Bob Carpenter '70 are making a promise to foster child literacy with a planned gift to the College of Education and Human Development.

In the United States, the national literacy rate has remained at the 99% mark since the late 1960s. Public education and high expectations for reading ability in the workforce have catapulted literacy among Americans to almost total ubiquity. In this environment, it is easy to forget that literacy is a gift, not a given.

But for an increasing number of students—especially first- and second-generation Americans for whom English is a second language—true reading and writing proficiency can be difficult. Thirty-two million American adults are functionally illiterate. Young learners need confidence in English literacy not just for

vocational opportunities, but also to enjoy a true connection to the vast culture around them.

Drs. Betsy '72 and Robert “Bob” Carpenter '70 understand this need, and they are providing support for literacy initiatives with a planned gift to the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at Texas A&M University.

The Two Doctors

Betsy and Bob met on a blind date on Sept. 12, 1969. Betsy was attending Baylor University, while Bob was earning his bachelor's degree in veterinary science at Texas A&M. The two were united through Bob's sis-

ter, a roommate of Betsy's at Baylor. Less than a year after their first date, they married on June 13, 1970.

Around that same time, Texas A&M had recently opened admissions to women and, sensing an opportunity, Betsy transferred to the college to study education curriculum and instruction. “Texas A&M was very different in those days,” she recalled. “You didn't see many females, and there weren't as many amenities as there are now. But our memories from our time are unforgettable.”

Bob had also arrived at Texas A&M as a Baylor transplant years earlier. Having grown up in rural Karnes City, Texas, Bob felt that his



country upbringing made him an outlier among the more metropolitan student body at Baylor. He found his way to Aggieland through an unlikely connection to the then-current Aggie football coach, Gene Stallings '57. "It turned out that my high school football coach, Lloyd Taylor, was on Coach Stallings' staff," Bob said. With a letter of recommendation from his old coach, Bob moved to College Station to study veterinary science. After completing their undergraduate degrees at Texas A&M, the Carpenters continued their education.

Both earned master's and doctorate degrees—Betsy in special education and foreign language education from The University of Texas at Austin, and Bob in laboratory animal science and veterinary science from Texas A&M. The two became impactful contributors in their respective fields. Betsy taught students ranging from kindergarten to college for more than 40 years, while Bob served four years in the U.S. Air Force, authored dozens of patents and participated in countless research projects across a variety of companies.

Today, Bob serves as president and CEO of Texas EnteroSorbents Inc.,

the first Texas A&M University System-funded biotechnology company based upon research from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Maroon and White Missionaries

Even before the Carpenters graduated with their first degrees from Texas A&M, they were self-identified Aggie missionaries, spreading the spirit of Aggieland to prospective students wherever they went.

While they were living on campus in 1970, the couple took in young relatives for weeks at a time, showcasing the university's unique atmosphere. Almost needless to say, both of their two children are Aggies, and the recruitment process has already begun for their five grandchildren.

Today, Bob and Betsy both serve on the CEHD Dean's Development Council, where they provide direct input and support for the college's academic initiatives. During a presentation given to council members, the couple was inspired to give toward the college's child literacy initiative. To combat illiteracy in the surrounding Brazos County,

the CEHD has established the Texas A&M Reading Clinic at Jones Elementary and Fannin Elementary schools in Bryan, Texas. Twice per week, undergraduate students from the college visit the two schools to offer additional reading mentorship. The program allows undergraduate students to gain much-needed first-hand experience teaching children and encourages local elementary school students to love reading. Moved by the Reading Clinic's mission, the Carpenters decided to create a generous planned gift.

A Promise for Future Readers

In July 2019, the Carpenters agreed to give an estimated \$500,000 through their estate toward the establishment of two endowments: a fund for early childhood literacy and an endowed scholarship for undergraduate students in the CEHD.

The couple created both gifts through a bequest in their wills, allowing them to give generously while maintaining control of their assets during their lifetimes. "We want to give future students the opportunity to experience Texas A&M and support the

programs that are developing in the college of education," Betsy said.

Bob noted a personal connection to the program, particularly for students learning English as a second language (ESL). Raised in South Texas, he grew up among the children of migrant workers who struggled at first to learn English. He explained that thanks to a dedicated local teacher, those students became proficient enough to give him and other native English speakers "a run for their money" within a year.

"A big challenge for many ESL kids is that they may not have help with reading at home because they may read better than their parents," Bob said. "If we can help teach children better reading skills through this program, they can teach their parents and grandparents in return, ultimately creating opportunity and positive change throughout their communities."

Worlds from Words

Between Betsy's successful career in education and Bob's lauded achievements in veterinary medicine, the Carpenters have proven themselves to be an Aggie power couple unlike any other. They are both living examples of the power of education, and they share a commendable enthusiasm to use that power to help others in need.

Though most Americans may take their literacy for granted, no dollar amount can define the value of even one child's ability to explore the world around them through books. "When children learn to read, it opens up a world to them that might not have been possible otherwise," Betsy said. The Carpenters' gift not only promises to give children better opportunities, but by diving deep into the pages of a book,



it will also propel their imaginations to places they've never known.

You can establish a planned gift that reflects your passions and interests just like the Carpenters. For more information on estate planning with the Texas A&M Foundation, contact Angela Throne '03 at (979) 845-8161 or giftplanning@txamfoundation.com.

“When children learn to read, it opens up a world to them that might not have been possible otherwise.”

—Drs. Betsy '72 and Bob Carpenter '70





TOP 10 ESTATE PLANNING MISTAKES

Learn how to avoid common estate planning complications to protect your assets and loved ones.

By Michele Schevikhoven '21

1 Failure to Make a Plan

You don't need a lot of wealth to justify making an estate plan. A plan gives you the freedom to personally allocate assets and guarantees that your beneficiaries will be compensated. Without an estate plan, the state decides who will execute your plan and distributes your assets based on the law of inheritance.

2 Not Revisiting Your Plan

Throughout your life, your environment, financial status and needs will change, making it crucial to update your plan to suit your current needs. Adjustments like moving to a new state, divorce, remarriage, a change in your goals, new laws, and a birth or a death can all affect your estate plan.

3 Failure to Review Beneficiaries

Even if specific arrangements for beneficiaries are made in your will, it

is important to update and match the beneficiary designations in your insurance policies and retirement plans because they supersede wishes left in your will.

4 Not Updating Powers of Attorney

Powers of attorney allow you to designate a representative to make legal decisions on your behalf if you become unable to manage your own affairs. Failure to name or update your power of attorney could result in the court appointing someone uninformed of your wishes to make your financial and medical decisions. This could lead to a time-consuming and costly legal matter.

5 Naming Minors as Direct Beneficiaries

If you name your minor child as a direct beneficiary in your will, he or she will receive full access to the specified assets at the age of 18 or 21 (depending on state laws), regardless of a trust provision. Your adviser can suggest options that will safeguard your assets until your child can responsibly manage a large sum of money.

6 Not Thinking Through a Well-Intended Gift

Even with good intentions, your gift to a beneficiary might not complement his or her future situation. Think about your beneficiaries' lifestyles and how circumstances may change when creating your plan.

7 Not Having a Residuary Clause

Including a residuary clause in your will guarantees that any assets in

your estate not already designated to a specific beneficiary are distributed as you wish. If you don't have a residuary clause in place, the state will decide how to distribute remaining assets.

8 Failure to Prepare for Long-Term Care

During estate planning, it's important to be realistic about the future need for long-term care services like Medicare and Medicaid, as well as nursing homes or in-home care assistance. Being cognizant of potential care costs and allocating assets specifically for this purpose will ensure that assets designated to your beneficiaries are not used for these expenses.

9 Overlooking Tax Implications

Whether you designate your assets to a nonprofit, family member or other beneficiary, be aware of the different tax implications. Nonprofits can receive accounts such as retirement funds tax free, while beneficiaries can unknowingly face double taxation.

10 Not Confronting Your Own Mortality

Death is an uncomfortable topic, but delaying proper planning to avoid the conversation may put your family at financial risk. Consult an adviser sooner rather than later to establish an error-free plan tailored to your needs and wishes.

For more information, request the Texas A&M Foundation's free estate planning kit at give.am/estatekit or contact:

ANGELA THRONE '03

(979) 845-8161

giftplanning@txamfoundation.com

The Gift of OPPORTUNITY

Stacy and Rick Mobley '81 establish a living trust to support future generations of Aggies in the College of Architecture.

By Morgan Knobloch '20

Whether designing roadways or cooking large-group barbeques, Rick Mobley '81 uses his passions to serve others. "Growing up, my parents constantly reminded me to look for ways to help others in need," Mobley said. "They gave me ample opportunities to discover my talents and learn how to use them for the greater good. Now, I am blessed to be able to extend those same kinds of opportunities to people outside of my immediate family."

While outlining their wills, Mobley and his wife, Stacy, knew they wanted to focus their philanthropy on education. "From our own experiences of raising four children, we understand the financial needs that arise in pursuit of an education," Mobley said.

After ensuring that their children would be cared for, the Mobleys used their remaining assets to create a planned gift to support academics at Texas A&M University while still seeing to their own immediate financial needs. When realized, the Mobleys' gift will fund both a professorship and a scholarship endowment in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning.

"We wanted to support every aspect of education that we could," Mobley

added. "Professors are the heart of the classroom, and students need support to ensure they have the necessary tools to learn."

With time, the Mobleys hope their gift will grow to provide even more opportunities for future students. "We know our gift will not be realized until after we're gone, but we are so hopeful for the impact it will have," Mobley said. "I was provided with so many opportunities during my time at Texas A&M, and I hope this gift will do the same for future Aggies."

Since studying urban planning and transportation at Texas A&M, Mobley has worked for multiple firms on transportation design projects, from parking garage design to the conceptual design for the high occupancy vehicle system in Houston. In his free time, he uses his custom barbeque pit to cook for charity events and continues to seek ways to give others the gift of opportunity.

To learn more about making a planned gift, contact Angela Throne '03 at giftplanning@txamfoundation.com or (979) 845-8161. For more information on how you can support the College of Architecture, contact Larry Zuber at (979) 845-8161 or givetoarch@txamfoundation.com.



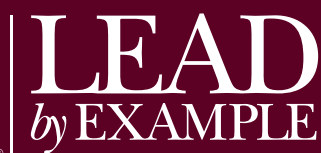
She fulfilled a family

LEGACY

When Meghan Collier '19 took her first tour of Texas A&M University during her senior year of high school, she knew Aggieland was the place for her. It wasn't until she later researched her family history that she discovered her great-grandfather was once a student at Texas A&M, but didn't complete his degree due to financial struggles. With the support of a scholarship from the estate of the late Lou and C.C. Burton '42, Meghan picked up her great-grandfather's Aggie story and rewrote

the ending: She earned her bachelor's degree with university and English honors before enrolling in the Texas A&M School of Law, where she now studies in hopes that she can give others the same opportunity the Burtons gave her.

Planned gifts inspire passionate students like Meghan to better themselves through education. To learn how you can change young lives through a planned gift, visit txamfoundation.com/plan.





Texas A&M Foundation
401 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
COLLEGE STATION,
TEXAS 77843
Permit No. 215

A LOOK BACK: STERLING C. EVANS '21

Rancher, Banker and Aggie Pioneer

The late Sterling C. Evans received a degree in animal husbandry from Texas A&M University in 1921 before beginning a successful ranching and banking career that spanned more than 75 years. A dedicated Aggie, Evans served on the board of The Association of Former Students and was one of 21 former students who helped found the Texas A&M Foundation in 1953. During his presidency of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, Evans also played a key role in paving the way for women to be admitted to the university and removing the requirement that all students participate in the Corps of Cadets—decisions that enhanced the university's reputation. Upon his death at age 101, Evans' 20,000-acre ranch was granted to Texas A&M as a bequest in his estate. In return, the university honored him as the namesake of the Sterling C. Evans Library. Today, it serves as more than a place of learning; it is a campus landmark that recalls Evans' impact as a true Aggie pioneer.

Photo courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.



Learn about the Texas A&M Foundation's Sterling C. Evans medal at give.am/EvansMedal.