

Spirit of SHARING

OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2018



FORECASTING THE FUTURE

A gift from the retirement account of the late Joan Griffiths honors Texas' first state climatologist and supports three students studying atmospheric sciences.

Why Estate Planning is a Women's Issue



Welcome to this special women's issue of Spirit of Sharing, where we celebrate the many ways women are making, benefiting from and learning about planned gifts. Each article in this issue relates to women in some way—whether that is Ben Vaughn's planned gift for future women geoscientists or Joan Griffiths' IRA beneficiary gift to support climatology students.

Like Joan, many women may face a variety of unique challenges when it comes to financial and estate planning. On average, women live about five years longer than men, and with that longer life comes additional planning concerns to consider such as ensuring their assets can last for a longer period while often serving as the ultimate decision-maker for the family's estate.

Some women may also face financial challenges due to shorter work histories prompted by putting their careers on hold to raise children or care for aging parents. This break in pay can reduce the amount of savings that women have accumulated for retirement.

When it comes to the household, however, 51 percent of women report that they are the chief financial officer. And today, more married women than ever (37 percent) say they are the family's primary breadwinner. Additionally, 53 percent of women report they either have a "great deal of responsibility" or they "do it all" when managing the household's long-term

savings and investments. In fact, women control \$14 trillion in assets and three-fourths of the financial wealth in the United States, a figure that is expected to grow to \$20 trillion by 2020.

As you can see, these factors combined mean that it is increasingly important for women to get sound investment, charitable giving and tax planning information. If you missed our free women's workshop entitled Women, Wealth and Wisdom this year (see page 8 for a recap of the event), be on the lookout next year for our Bryan-College Station event and regional events near you. The goal of these events is to empower attendees with actionable information. Topics range from managing your retirement income and advanced health care directives to preparing and settling estates. We promise you'll leave with a good sense of all the benefits of an organized estate plan.

I encourage you to read about the ways in which people in this issue have created meaningful estate plans. If you're feeling inspired to start your own estate plan, please fill out the form in the back of this issue to request our free Estate and Gift Planning Kit. This helpful guide will walk you through the process of creating an estate plan in a way that can help you reduce taxes, increase income and leave more for your loved ones. And remember, all of us at the Texas A&M Foundation are ready to help you match your passion with purpose and figure out the best way for you to support Texas A&M in a manner that benefits you, your family and our great university.

Thanks for all you do.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Tyson Voelkel '96
President, Texas A&M Foundation



txamfoundation.com/plan

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Dr. Masako Tominaga '05, assistant professor of geology and geophysics at Texas A&M, gathered geophysical data and rock samples in British Columbia, Canada, that may yield new insights into the properties and structure of Earth's interior. Read how a planned gift will benefit future women in geosciences like her on page 2.



Promising

OUTLOOK

Two planned gifts from Elliot B. “Ben” Vaughn ’74 honor classmate Patty Holyfield ’74 and support future women in geosciences.

By Ashley Wagner ’18

When Elliot B. “Ben” Vaughn ’74 thought about what it meant to leave behind a legacy, he knew he wanted to honor a one-of-a-kind classmate.

Patty Holyfield ’74 was one of the few female undergraduate students studying geology at Texas A&M University in the 1970s. A pioneer in her field and a trailblazer for all Aggie women, she was one of three women to graduate from the College of Geosciences in 1974. She returned to Texas A&M to receive her master’s degree in geology before starting a career with Hunt Energy and later Supron Energy Corp.

“She was by far the brightest student in class—head and shoulders above everyone else,” Vaughn said. “Patty was a delight to be around and always shared her knowledge with those who were struggling with their workloads. She showed me what it meant to be a servant leader in every endeavor.”

Holyfield’s passion for geology and her entrepreneur-

ial spirit reached far beyond the perimeters of Aggieland. She created a program to teach fundamental geology principles to primary and secondary teachers and to students from third to 12th grade. Titled “Rocks in Your Head,” the program gave teachers and students the basic tools for understanding and appreciating geology, including demonstrations that focused on specialized areas in the industry. One lesson in particular featured an oil exploration simulation, during which students learned about real-world skills in drilling, negotiating, and calculating profits and losses for a company. The class was more than a way to educate people; it gave her the opportunity to share what she loved most with those around her.

When Holyfield passed away in 2002 from cancer, Vaughn knew he wanted to honor her profound work in the geosciences industry. In 2016, he named the Texas A&M Foundation as beneficiary of a life insurance policy to establish the Patty Holyfield ’74 Foundation Excellence Award fund, which will support un-



dergraduate women seeking degrees in geology or geophysics at Texas A&M.

"I wanted to encourage young women to study some of the most challenging issues our world will face in the future," he said. "The geosciences field could use greater diversity, and I think women can contribute a unique perspective to the new and varied changes in geosciences we see today."

A planned gift of life insurance can fund an endowment for any area at Texas A&M, which will provide ongoing financial support for years to come. To make a gift of life insurance, an individual can transfer ownership of an existing policy and designate the Foundation as beneficiary; purchase a new policy with the Foundation as owner and beneficiary; or retain ownership and change the beneficiary designation to the Foundation.

In addition to his life insurance gift, Vaughn later created a \$1 million gift in his will, also known as a bequest, to provide additional funding for the Foundation Excellence Award endowment in Patty's name. His bequest ensures that the scholarship fund will continue awarding deserving students

who share Patty's love and admiration for geology and geophysics.

A bequest is one of the simplest ways to give back to Texas A&M. With this method, an individual includes specific bequest language in their will or trust specifying a gift be made to the Foundation as part of his or her estate plan. Individuals can retain assets during their lifetimes, lessen the burden of taxes on their families and support a Texas A&M area of their choosing.

Vaughn's hope is that this scholarship will inspire women to pursue careers in geosciences. "I'm hoping there is another Patty Holyfield out there, and we can find her through this scholarship," he said. "It's critical to identify and support women who can help us further geological sciences. I'm proud to help any way that I can."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in geology from Texas A&M, Vaughn spent the majority of his career overseas working with ExxonMobil and Hess Corp. He is now happily retired and resides in Houston.

Reach out to UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS

Foundation Excellence Award (FEA) scholarships are awarded to outstanding undergraduate students from historically disadvantaged groups often underrepresented in the Texas A&M student body, including minorities and those who face significant economic or educational hurdles. A \$50,000 gift will establish an endowed FEA scholarship, which provides one student an annual stipend for four years and continues to support a new student every four years.

FEA gifts are tax-deductible and can be made in the form of cash, securities, real estate or with a planned gift. Many donors utilize their employer's matching gifts program to support the creation of their FEA award.



Patty Holyfield '74

To learn how a gift of life insurance or bequest can benefit you, your family and the university, contact:

Angela Throne '03

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(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-5638
athrone@txamfoundation.com

Forecasting the FUTURE

A gift from the retirement account of the late Joan Griffiths honors Texas' first state climatologist and supports three students studying atmospheric sciences.

By Dorian Martin '06

The fascination started with thunderstorms. "I was obsessed with severe weather events as a child," said Jeremy Dedrick '18. "During the summer of 2005, I was glued to the television watching hurricanes Katrina and Rita unfold. It was unlike anything I'd ever seen before."

Dedrick's childhood interest in meteorology eventually led him to Texas A&M University's College of Geosciences, where today he's learning about the intricacies of weather forecasting, thermodynamics, air pollution, oceanography and climate patterns as a graduate student.

He is one of three students supported by a scholarship established through a planned gift by the late Joan Griffiths, the widow of internationally respected Texas A&M scholar Dr. John Griffiths, an expert on climate change who passed away in 2003.



JEREMY DEDRICK '18

Joan & John Griffiths Endowed Scholarship Recipient

EYE OF THE STORM

Dedrick became seriously interested in Texas A&M after he was selected to participate in its iGeo summer program as a high school student. He stayed in a dorm, spent time with a mentor and participated in scientific experiments, including launching a weather balloon and viewing weather radars. "Beyond the amazing staff and opportunities, I liked the camaraderie and how everyone at Texas A&M was a family," he said.

Dedrick eventually enrolled in a five-year program that allows him to simultaneously complete his bachelor's degree in meteorology and master's degree in ocean science and technology. "Being here changed my ideas of meteorology and what I was interested in," he said.



"This scholarship helped relieve financial stress, which is even greater for an out-of-state student. It made me eligible to receive an in-state tuition waiver, allowing me to worry less about costs, focus on my classes and enjoy my life as an Aggie."

-SYNCLAIRE TRUESDALE '19

Joan & John Griffiths Endowed Scholarship Recipient

At Texas A&M, Dedrick has studied a broad expanse of all the disciplines in atmospheric sciences. Today, he works part-time in the Office of the Texas State Climatologist, founded by John Griffiths in 1973 and housed in the College of Geosciences, to provide accurate climate information to the public and to better understand climate impacts on Texas.

He also recently completed a summer research internship at the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, where he worked with top scientists to study how the interactions of the atmosphere and the ocean affect climate. “I fell in love with this aspect of atmospheric sciences and want to continue gaining a better understanding of what is happening to our planet,” he said, adding that he hopes to return to the institution to earn his Ph.D.

THE GRIFFITHS: CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

Friends describe the Griffiths as citizens of the world. John was born in London, England, and earned degrees in mathematics, physics, meteorology and climatology from Imperial College, London. His early work took him to Saudi Arabia and East Africa.

Joan hailed from Wigan, Lancashire, England, and graduated from the Gloucestershire College of Domestic Science, where she specialized in cookery and nutrition. She taught home economics at several schools in Lancashire and Oxfordshire in England.

The couple’s courtship began in Kenya, where Joan was a home economics teacher and John was involved in an experimental atmospheric project. They returned

to London to marry in 1962 before moving to College Station, where John joined Texas A&M and helped build the university’s atmospheric sciences program into an international leader.

He was named the first Texas State Climatologist in 1973 and served as chief consultant to many United States agencies, the World Meteorological Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization. John had a sterling reputation and was known to question claims about climate change if the data didn’t concur.

“He had a love-hate relationship with many in his field because he was an absolute truth teller and an expert in statistics,” said Dr. John Junkins, a distinguished professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and director of the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study. “He was very direct in his work and would question people’s assumptions, results and conclusions if he didn’t think they were justified by the data.”

While he loved to complete statistical calculations—especially regarding the connection between climate and agriculture—he was equally committed to his students. “One of John’s greatest passions was teaching, and he was very popular with his students,” said David Woodcock, professor emeritus of architecture and a fellow Brit who joined the Texas A&M faculty the same year as John. “He maintained an extraordinary connection with his former students, who now literally span the globe.”

John taught a variety of courses in tropical meteorology, agricultural and architectural climatology, and statistics. He received Texas A&M’s Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award in 1990.

“Not only did receiving this scholarship provide an extra boost of motivation, but it also allowed me to focus on pursuing leadership and study abroad opportunities that enhanced my college experience.”

-COURTLAND KEITH '18

Joan & John Griffiths Endowed Scholarship Recipient



5 Ways A Retirement Account Beneficiary Gift Helps You

For many people, a retirement account may be the largest asset they own. It can also be the most heavily taxed when passed on to individuals. Instead, your retirement account could be used to support future Aggies. Making a retirement account beneficiary gift like Joan Griffiths is a simple, flexible and affordable way to support Texas A&M.

Benefits include:

1. You can continue to use your IRA account.
2. It's easy. Just a change on your beneficiary form.
3. No taxes are taken out of your retirement account.
4. You can change your mind at any time in the future.
5. You can support a cause you care about as part of your legacy.

THOROUGHLY BRITISH

While the couple called College Station home for the remainder of their lives and eventually became U.S. citizens, the Griffiths never lost their British accent, manners or values. They regularly served high tea and celebrated Boxing Day, while their home boasted a Victorian-era British mailbox. John remained committed to the “civilized sport” of cricket and even helped found Texas A&M’s first cricket team.

The Griffiths were also known for fostering a sense of community and serving as a major source of support for Texas A&M’s international community. Ex-pats could count on the couple for a supportive ear, a place to stay and an invitation to celebrate the holidays. “Living in a different country and culture, ‘Joanie’ knew exactly the heartache, homesickness and cultural obstacles that international students like me experienced,” said Loela Barry ’98, a lifelong friend who first met the Griffiths when she was a landscape architecture student from South Africa. “Her attention to each student made her a mother figure to many. There was no better place to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter.”

The Griffiths also supported the Brazos Valley arts community. Joan served on the Opera and Performing Arts Society’s Board of Directors (now called MSC OPAS) and volunteered as a docent for the Forsythe and J. Wayne Stark Galleries. The couple also generously donated to Texas A&M’s public radio station, KAMU.

FORMALIZING THEIR LEGACY

Joan created the couple’s scholarship endowment by naming the Texas A&M Foundation as beneficiary of

her retirement account. This flexible giving method provides significant tax advantages and offered her peace of mind since she could continue to take IRA distributions. Upon her passing in 2015, the remaining portion of her retirement account transferred to the Foundation.

Today, the couple’s scholarships support the next generation of meteorologists. “This scholarship has really motivated me,” Dedrick said, explaining that he struggled academically during his freshman year. “During the application process, I expressed the challenges I was experiencing and how I was trying to get through college. Receiving this scholarship has gotten me on track and affirmed that I am headed in the right direction.”



Joan and John Griffiths on their wedding day in London in 1962. The couple moved to College Station afterward, where John joined the Texas A&M faculty.

To learn how a retirement account beneficiary gift can benefit you, your family and the university, contact:

Angela Throne '03

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Simplified

Women learn tips and tricks for making financial and estate planning easy at the annual Women, Wealth and Wisdom workshop. **By Molly Kulpa '15**

At the fifth annual Women, Wealth and Wisdom workshop in 2016, Kathryn Watson—an expert in senior care—was invited to give a keynote address called “Help! My Parents Are Aging.” She spent an hour discussing different options for elder care in the U.S. and Texas, and more specifically, how to navigate this challenging system.

The words she spoke hit home for Jennifer Hester '98, senior director of major gifts at the Texas A&M Foundation and the event's annual co-host. When Hester had invited Watson to speak a few months before, her parents were in good health.

But by that Friday in May 2016, Hester's father had been diagnosed with dementia months earlier. “A lot can change in nine months, three weeks and one

day—a reality that many people can bear witness to,” she said. “Kathryn's presentation didn't ‘fix’ what was happening to my dad, but it gave me tools to use and share with my family. It also reminded me that I wasn't alone in facing these challenges.”

Hester took inspiration from her job at the Foundation and her involvement in Women, Wealth and Wisdom to not only put together a will for herself, but to also encourage her parents to update their will and put together their medical directives.

In August 2017, her father passed away. But thanks to the knowledge she and her family had garnered, his will was updated, his medical directives were in place and he was being cared for by medical staff that understood the complications caused by dementia. “Because

we were prepared, it meant that our last days with him could be spent listening to his stories about working on oil rigs and playing his favorite church songs, rather than worrying about logistics,” said Hester.

ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SECURITY

For seven years running, the Texas A&M Foundation’s Women, Wealth and Wisdom workshop has aimed to help women of all ages achieve successful scenarios like Hester’s through information on financial and estate planning, savings, investing, and navigating situations that affect individual and family finances—such as aging parents, widowhood, death, divorce or selling a business.

“Our wish for every attendee is that they’ll gain new ideas, learn something that will help them with future challenges and be inspired to make the best possible lives for themselves and all those around them,” said Hester.

The 2018 Women, Wealth and Wisdom workshop was held May 18 at the Brazos County Expo Complex and included sessions on the basics of Medicare; strategies for those who are downsizing; how to get your legal documents in order before death; and menu planning and nutrition basics to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Attendees also heard from Karla K. Morton ’86, an award-winning author, speaker and photographer who shared poems from her 12 collections.

A key objective of the day is also to show how different types of charitable planned gifts can provide significant financial benefits to the giver. “Before attending Women, Wealth and Wisdom, I had no idea that charitable planned gifts can provide you with lifetime payments,” said Palyce Williams, who is a returning attendee.

While this type of information is applicable to everyone, the Office of Gift Planning felt motivated to tailor an event toward women after realizing the unique challenges they face when it comes to financial and estate planning. These challenges can include shorter work histories prompted by putting their careers on hold to raise children or care for aging parents, which can reduce the amount of savings that women accumulate for retirement. Additionally, women live about five years longer than men on average, and with that longer life comes considerations such as ensuring their

assets can last for a longer period while often serving as the ultimate decision-maker for the family’s estate.

Since the annual workshop began in 2012, participation has seen a dramatic increase. More than 300 women attended the 2018 event, compared to the 135 who attended the first year. For the first time ever, the Foundation also hosted a regional workshop in North Texas in March to reach more women in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

“Before attending Women, Wealth and Wisdom, I had no idea that charitable planned gifts can provide you with lifetime payments.”

—PALYCE WILLIAMS, RETURNING ATTENDEE

In various breakout sessions, the audience learned how to establish their family’s financial belief systems and model healthy behaviors for their children from infancy to adulthood. Another session shared how specific financial tools, such as a 401(k) software or enlisting the help of a financial coach or adviser, can help plan a successful financial journey.

“As this event continues to grow each year, I think it serves as a testament that the community really trusts the Texas A&M Foundation and wants to learn from it regarding financial planning,” said Sara Ramadan ’92, who was one of the presenters at the North Texas event. “The Foundation specifically tailors the breakout sessions so that everyone can walk away having learned a new way to benefit their financial future.”

If you were unable to attend the Women, Wealth and Wisdom workshops this year, you can access presentation materials from the Bryan-College Station event at give.am/WWW18. Be on the lookout for next year’s events in spring 2019.



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A Look Back



1950s Newsroom Legend

*One of the most potent forces for change in the post-World War II years were the wives of students at Texas A&M University. One of these women was **Vivian Castleberry**, the first women's editor for *The Battalion* in the 1950s. Before her tenure, women had edited a "women's page" and also written and worked on *The Battalion* in other capacities. Castleberry, however, was the first person given responsibility for the newspaper's expanded efforts to appeal to and address the concerns of a growing female audience.*

A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Castleberry was a lifelong journalist and founded many women's organizations. In 1984, she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Image credit: Cushing Memorial Library and Archives