SPRING 2026

A TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

Heritage



ON THE COVER

6 Aggies With a Plan

Looking to the future, Roxanna and Jose Corleto '81 '84 formulate a giving strategy that provides for their family and honors their heritage.

MORE INSIDE!

4 Dr. Brandy LaPaglia '24 shapes the future of nursing thanks to a heartfelt gift.

10 Explore estate planning FAQs with attorney Mark Edgmon '87.

12 Kari and Mike Enmon '94 plan a pet-approved legacy with their property.

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION

MEET THE TEAM

Whether charitable giving is part of your financial strategy or simply a way to pay your success forward to future Aggies, our credentialed planners are excited to join you on your journey. Meet the team and say "Howdy!"

GIVE.AM/HERITAGECGPTEAM

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ON THE COVER, THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE
Photos by Josh Lewis '14

WORDS OF WISDOM

A Purposeful Partnership

My role with the Texas A&M Foundation has allowed me to cross paths with thousands of Texas A&M University supporters over the years. Some are married with large families, and some are single. Some work as public servants, while others own private businesses. Some are loud and proud Fightin' Texas Aggies, and others are University of Texas graduates whose lives were touched by an Aggie. Despite the many differences, they often share this commonality: They want to use their hard-earned assets to create a legacy at Texas A&M that is meaningful to them and their loved ones.

Anecdotally, the majority of these donors are surprised when they learn how customized their giving can be. Whether they hope to minimize tax liability, distribute wealth in a fair and tax-efficient manner to heirs, secure lifetime payments to supplement retirement income or more, charitable gifts — made today or planned with estate assets tomorrow — can offer a rewarding and out-of-the-box solution to your specific financial and estate planning concerns.

How do we bring these customized charitable plans to life? Partnership. We not only partner with our donors but also with their trusted advisors: tax planners, estate planning attorneys and financial professionals. And because our team of credentialed planners — consisting of six attorneys, one Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® and a paralegal — are highly educated in these areas, they not only talk the talk but also add value to each unique donor conversation.

As you flip through the pages of this Heritage issue, you'll meet Aggies and friends of Texas A&M who invited our team to the "planning table" as they worked through their financial and estate plans. As these donors crafted tailored strategies that combined their assets with who they love and what they want to support, it's been nothing short of an honor to walk beside them. Texas A&M truly becomes part of their family through this partnership, and working with them on such individualized plans allows us to broaden our knowledge base to better serve the future Aggies who will do the same.

Whether you created your estate plans years ago or are just now researching the topic, know that our team is here and excited to partner with you and your team of trusted advisors to create a charitable plan that will benefit you and Aggieland for many years to come.

Gig 'em,

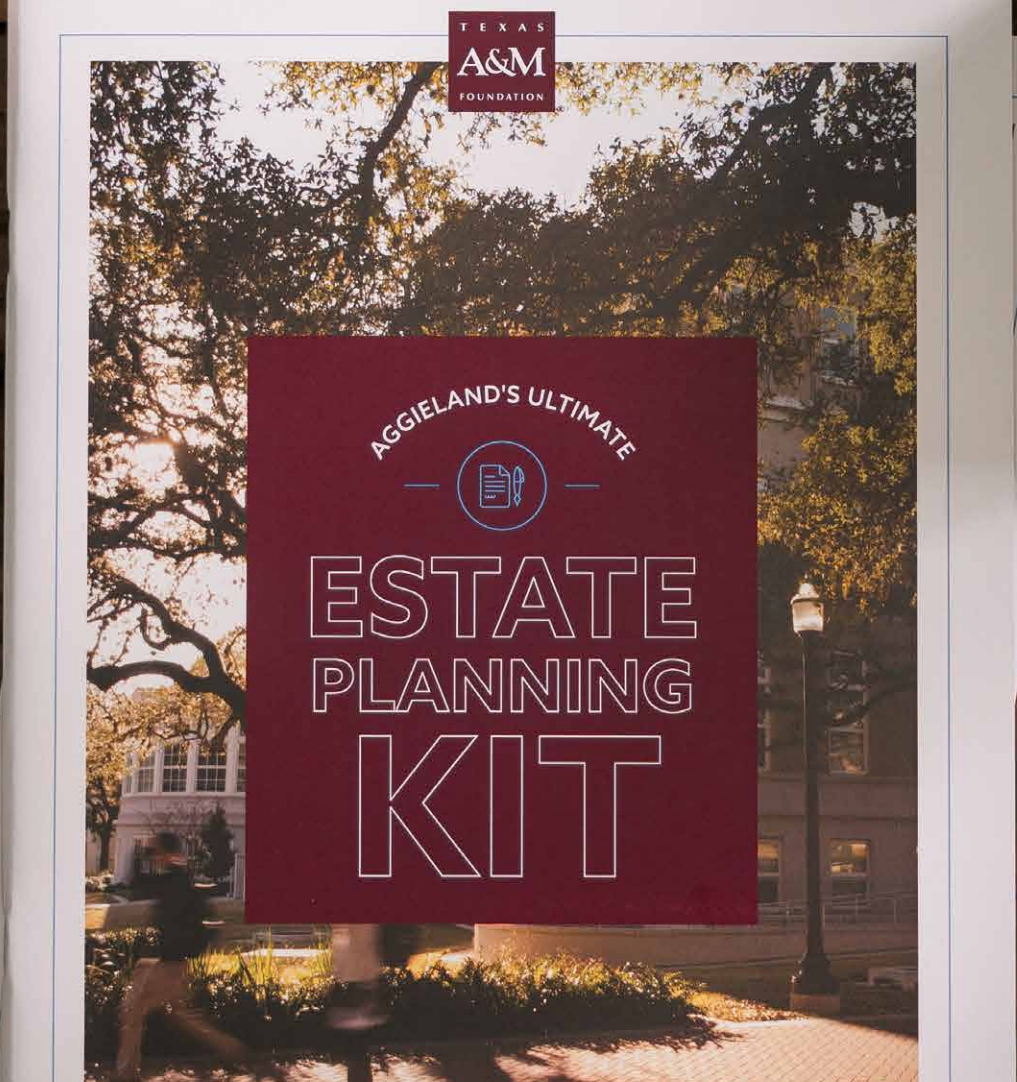
Kevin Westerman '11, J.D.
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Texas A&M Foundation



The best time to plan for tomorrow? Today!

Looking for estate planning motivation? Aggieland's Ultimate Estate Planning Kit will help you move forward with confidence.

Designed for action, this workbook-style resource organizes your assets, loved ones, thoughts and wishes in a format you can take directly to your estate attorney (believe us, they will thank you!). After you've completed the first part of the workbook, flip to the back to meet Aggies and friends of Texas A&M University who solved challenges by implementing customized charitable gifts for Aggieland into their estate plans.



Scan the QR code to start planning!

DONOR DEEP DIVE

BY HILARY NGUYEN '26
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RED DOODLE CREATIVE



SANDRA AND HAROLD STANCIL '73

NO TWO LIVES FOLLOW THE SAME PATH, AND ESTATE PLANS SHOULDN'T EITHER. TO PROVE JUST THAT, WE'VE ASKED SEVERAL AGGIES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES ON ESTATE PLANNING AND CHARITABLE GIVING. THE MORAL OF THE STORY: NO TWO DONORS ARE ALIKE – YOUR PLAN DEPENDS ON YOU.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

Interested in incorporating a charitable gift into your estate plan to support your passions in Aggieland? Use our free estate planning kit featured on the previous page to get started.

BECAUSE OF THEIR ESTATE PLAN...

They know their wishes will be respected.

Education has long been a central value for the Stancils. Raised by parents from coal-mining families, Harold's father benefited from the opportunities education provided and later led his son to believe in its transformative power. After Harold's retirement, he and Sandra re-evaluated their assets and clarified priorities, choosing to include the Texas A&M Foundation in their estate plan.

At this stage of their lives, the Stancils no longer worry what will happen to their assets if something unexpected occurs. Their estate plan leaves nothing unresolved, providing peace of mind and allowing them to focus on supporting their local church and enjoying retired life in the Texas Hill Country. They know their wishes will be carried out as intended, without placing a burden on their family, and that the transition will proceed smoothly, free from possible delays and probate complications.

Sandra and Harold Stancil '73 planned a bequest for the Texas A&M Foundation in their revocable living trust, a flexible method that allows them to manage and amend their assets before transferring to their beneficiaries after their lives. Their gift will create an endowed excellence fund to support the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in honor of Harold's parents.



DALE TIBODEAU '82 '85



PATRICIA SHEPHERD '86 AND RONNIE CROCKER '85

A CHARITABLE PLAN ALLOWED HIM TO...

Move forward knowing his future was secure.

Following a major life transition, Tibodeau reassessed his financial outlook with a focus on securing a well-funded retirement while also creating space for future possibilities. Estate planning was an opportunity for him not only to create stability but also to reflect on what mattered most.

He had long rented out farmland in Minnesota for supplemental income, but as the property appreciated, he incorporated it into a charitable remainder unitrust as part of his plan. This approach significantly increased his annual income, multiplying what the rental income had generated. It also promised payments for the rest of his life, with income continuing for additional beneficiaries after his lifetime. He avoided capital gains taxes, received an income tax deduction and will benefit from income designed to grow over time, helping to keep pace with inflation.

Dale Tibodeau '82 '85 named the Texas A&M Foundation as the trustee and beneficiary of his charitable remainder unitrust to turn his appreciated assets into income while supporting causes at Texas A&M University he cares about. Tibodeau's endowed gift will create a department chair and scholarship in perpetuity for the Wm Michael Barnes '64 Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

THEY STARTED ESTATE PLANNING TO...

Be intentional about making a difference.

After Crocker's mother passed, Shepherd and Crocker created an Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) for first-generation students in her honor. Over the years, they met recipients and witnessed how these scholarships help students focus on their studies — an experience that became an essential pillar as they created their wills.

When they began estate planning, the couple wanted to ensure they set aside funds for more scholarships. They worked with the Texas A&M Foundation's team to identify the areas of the university most meaningful to them. Raised in Galveston, Texas, Shepherd was drawn to how Texas A&M University at Galveston has helped build community in the area, while Crocker, a journalist, wanted to support liberal arts students. Estate planning allowed them to be intentional and strategic about the students they would help, ensuring their gifts would reflect their values and have a lasting impact.

To continue their legacy of giving, Patricia Shepherd '86 and Ronnie Crocker '85 planned a bequest for the Texas A&M Foundation in their will. This revocable gift will establish two endowed scholarships — one for students at the Texas A&M Maritime Academy and another for students in the College of Arts and Sciences — and will also supplement the EOA scholarship named after Crocker's mom.

Caring *for the* Caregivers



BY KINLEY FOSTER '25 | PHOTO BY JOSH LEWIS '14

A member of the Bryan-College Station community since she was a teenager, Dr. Brandy LaPaglia '24 was raising her family in the town she loved when the unexpected kindness of a stranger helped her fulfill a lifelong goal.

Today, LaPaglia oversees St. Joseph Health College Station Hospital as its director of patient care services, and she is also a clinical faculty member in Texas A&M University's College of Nursing. Just a few years ago, though, she was a university student herself. "My husband and I always wanted to earn degrees from Texas A&M," she said, "but we were young and had to put ourselves through school first."

After obtaining degrees elsewhere, LaPaglia set out to officially become an Aggie and further her larger dream of serving others. Inspired by her grandfather, who was a college professor in New Mexico, LaPaglia embraced the challenge of advancing her career. "He always believed in the importance of education," she explained. "I really wanted to feel like I was living up to my potential and purpose."

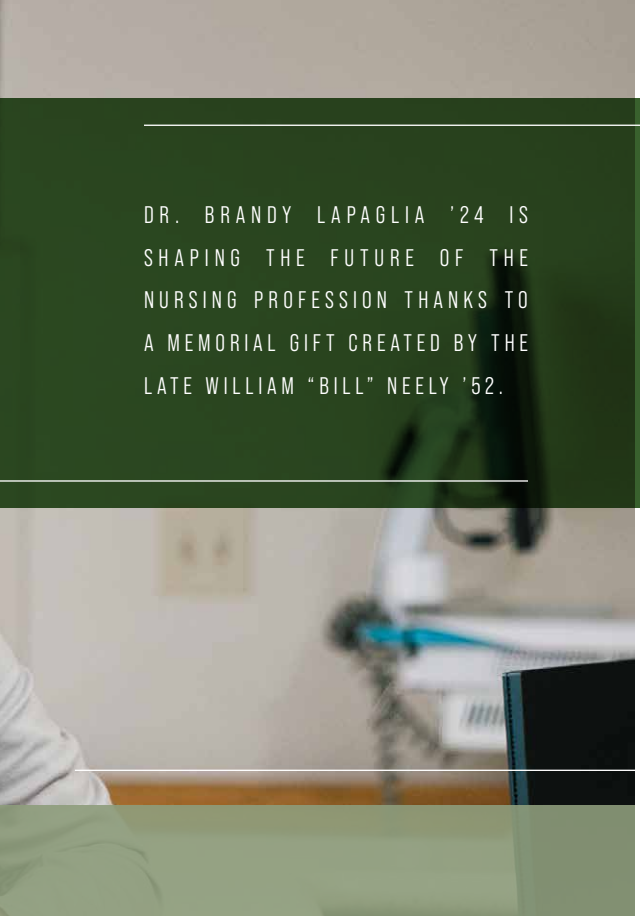
LaPaglia completed her master's degree at Lamar University and sought to obtain her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), a degree focused on project leadership and the practical application of research within the nursing profession. Although Texas A&M didn't yet have a DNP program, she held onto hope and was ecstatic when one became available. "I actually watched the website at midnight waiting for the application to open," she recalled.

With two kids, a full-time job and her husband attending graduate school at Texas A&M, LaPaglia was concerned about the financial burden of going back to college. This weight was lifted when she was selected as the 2024-25 recipient of the Ruth M. Neely Memorial Nursing Fellowship, a gift created by the late William "Bill" Neely '52 in honor of his beloved wife and her nursing career. "Receiving this fellowship was tremendous," LaPaglia shared. "It reduced my financial burden and set me up to have more opportunities in my future."

During her program, LaPaglia found many outlets for growth and service. One was an applied research project implementing virtual nursing monitors at the St. Joseph Hospital facility in Bryan.

"Every inpatient hospital bed was equipped with a touchscreen monitor," she said. "We brought in virtual nurses who partnered with the bedside nurse to do things that require the mind but not necessarily the hands of a nurse." The results were that bedside nurses could do their work more efficiently, retired nurses and those who had to leave the profession found fulfillment working remotely, and patients could receive immediate assistance. Additionally, individuals with language barriers could have live video call interpretation.

DR. BRANDY LAPAGLIA '24 IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE NURSING PROFESSION THANKS TO A MEMORIAL GIFT CREATED BY THE LATE WILLIAM "BILL" NEELY '52.



"Enhancing health care in our community has been an amazing experience," LaPaglia said. "I know that anyone who comes to my facility will receive the absolute best care, partially because of the skills and knowledge I obtained in the DNP program."

LaPaglia also found ways to serve through mentoring undergraduate nursing students, a passion she continues to enjoy today. "Interns work with me several times a year, giving me the chance to use my experiences to help others understand their career options."

It's certain LaPaglia will never forget Neely's generosity that shaped her own career path. "If I could meet him today, I would give him a big hug and tell him thank you," she said. "I'm so humbled to have been selected as a recipient of his memorial gift for his wife, and my goal is to make both of them proud by doing great things with it."

In a way, the Neelys' generosity really came as no surprise. "Caring is what nurses do," LaPaglia explained with a smile. "Ruth's influence as a nurse will touch every patient, every student and every family I get to interact with."

Behind *the* Gift

William "Bill" Neely '52 and his wife, Ruth, were generous supporters of Texas A&M. Bill studied chemical engineering and married Ruth during his junior year in 1950. The two were married for 61 years, 44 of which Bill worked with Dow Chemical.

After Ruth passed away from cancer in 2011, Bill created a charitable remainder unitrust. This life-income gift enabled him to receive payments during his lifetime while also establishing an endowed fund that would support Texas A&M students after his life. He chose to fund three undergraduate scholarships and one graduate fellowship in the College of Nursing in honor of his wife's career.

Since its realization in 2022, this endowed gift has grown by 13%, while also providing a total of $8,325 to seven nursing students. Like LaPaglia, Ruth was a loving mother and dedicated nurse. After graduating as a registered nurse at age 42, she worked with pioneering ophthalmologic and cardiac surgical teams in Texas and Louisiana.

"I owe my career to the education I received at Texas A&M," Bill once said, "and I wouldn't have been able to attend without a scholarship. Likewise, I know Ruth would be pleased with the opportunity to help Aggie students become nurses."

LEAVE A LEGACY

Like Bill, you can create a gift in memory of a loved one and further their life's mission. Endowments make it possible for future Aggies to follow their dreams and multiply the impact. Contact our team at 979.845.8161 or plannedgiving@txamfoundation.com to learn more.

AGGIE HEART WITH A SILVER OF GOLD

BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSH LEWIS '14



GUIDED BY THEIR LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE, FAMILY AND FAITH, ROXANNA AND JOSE CORLETO '81 '84 CONSIDER THEIR "AGGIE GOLD" TO BE THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY STUDENTS THEY ARE SUPPORTING TODAY AND TOMORROW.

Nothing catches an Aggie's eye like the sight of an Aggie Ring.

With a shield and class year prominently featured on the front, a Texas star on one side and military symbols on the other, the ring is instantly recognizable. And it's almost always made of gold.

Almost.

But such is not the case for the Aggie Ring proudly worn by Jose Corleto '81 '84.

When the El Salvador native accrued enough hours to order his ring, he couldn't afford the traditional gold version. And with three younger siblings trailing him to Texas A&M University, he didn't want to ask his parents to pay for it. So, with money he had saved on his own, Jose purchased a silver Aggie Ring.

"People tell me, 'You have enough money now to buy a gold ring,'" Jose shared. "And that's true. But I don't want to ever forget that there was a time in my life that I couldn't afford the gold one. So even though I can buy one now, I won't."

The Aggie Difference

Jose began his college career at Texas A&M in 1977. It was a journey that would last seven years. He emerged with bachelor's degrees in both electrical and industrial engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering.

Like most Aggies, Jose's memories of his Texas A&M days are filled with the excitement of football games and the camaraderie of Midnight Yell Practice. But as a Salvadoran, he also fondly recalls the many opportunities he found to interact with students from other countries.

"The university had a lot of students from Latin America, and there were multiple associations and events where you could meet other international students," he said. "They had shows, presentations and opportunities to try foods from other countries. They would even invite guest speakers to discuss Central America's political climate at the time. You wouldn't get exposed to these types of things unless you were in an educational environment like Texas A&M."

As much as Jose enjoyed participating in these types of special events, he regrets that he was unable to do more. But political volatility in his home of El Salvador had repercussions for the young Aggie almost 2,000 miles away.

Back in El Salvador, Jose's father feared not only for his own future, but for that of his children. He wanted to ensure that if anything happened to him, Jose would have a job so that he could financially help his younger siblings complete college. While engineering students routinely take five years to complete their bachelor's degree requirements, then, Jose earned the two degrees he was already pursuing in a span of four and a half years. Thankfully, the worst-case scenario did not come to pass, and he was able to stay at Texas A&M an additional two years for graduate school. While Jose's father helped him out during these years as much as he could, there was little in terms of extra funds; Jose often covered those with temporary campus employment.

After he graduated, Jose often wrestled with the idea of funding scholarships to support students like him — particularly students from Central America. "I started thinking, 'Whenever I have the chance, I would like to help students who don't have financial means or don't have a father to help them like I did,'" he said. "But I didn't know how to do it. I then spoke to the folks at the Texas A&M Foundation, and they explained different ways that I could help." The end result was a tailor-made combination of present and future gifts.

Support for Today

In the late 1990s, while working as a system architect for the Motorola Semiconductor Products Sector in West Palm Beach, Florida, Jose met Roxanna Marmolejos, a childhood educator originally from the Dominican Republic. The two not only shared a similar heritage but also something much deeper: a Christian faith that provided a clear set of principles to guide their lives. Among those principles was a spirit of gratitude and generosity.

Roxanna and Jose married in 2000. Seven years later, Jose went to work for Qualcomm Technologies Inc. With significant help from Qualcomm's matching gift program, the couple created six endowed Foundation Excellence Awards (FEAs) — Texas A&M Foundation scholarships for outstanding undergraduates from historically underserved groups and those facing significant economic hurdles.

Knowing firsthand the financial difficulties often encountered by Latin American students, Roxanna and Jose requested that their FEAs be awarded to students pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees who either live in Central America or are first-generation descendants of Central American families residing in the United States. If no applicants meet this criteria, their scholarships are awarded to Hispanic students who live in the U.S. and are pursuing STEM degrees.



By giving in the form of FEA endowments, the Corletos' support of Latin American students will continue indefinitely. But their generosity doesn't stop there: With help from the Foundation, they also created an estate gift that will provide even more student support after they're gone.

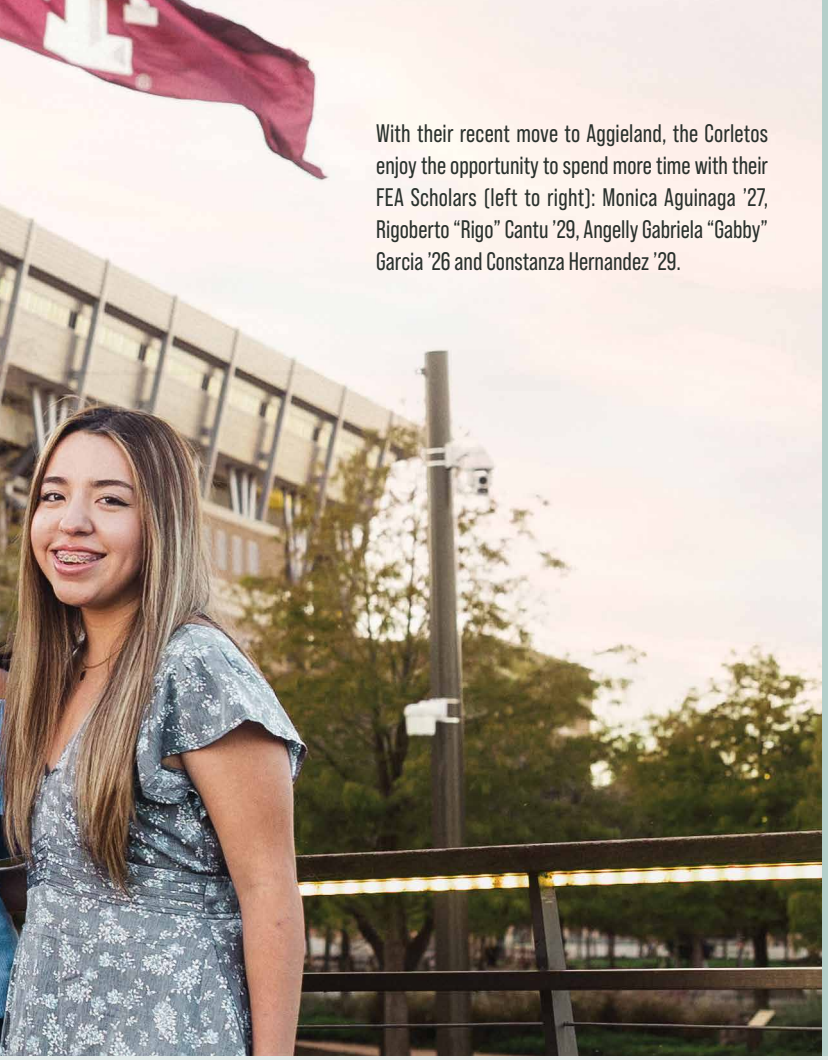
Support for Tomorrow

For 15 long years, Roxanna and Jose were unable to have children. They had all but given up hope when Eliana was born in 2015. Two years later, they welcomed twin daughters, Nicole and Sarah. Wanting to raise their family in Texas, they moved from California to Austin. Jose's commute to and from work, however, meant he rarely saw his "miracle kids." Roxanna was likewise trying to juggle the responsibilities of teaching preschool and raising three children. They determined it was time for Jose to retire as Qualcomm's vice president of engineering. "I enjoyed what I did, but I left because this was the bigger calling," he said.

Jose's retirement package included shares of Qualcomm stock. With guidance from the Foundation, he transferred this stock into a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT), benefiting from an immediate charitable income tax deduction and avoiding capital gains tax. Each month, the couple receives payments based on a percentage of the trust's value. As they've added to the CRUT, their payouts have increased.

"When you're retired, your salary goes away," Jose said. "So, we felt that a CRUT was a good vehicle to increase the scholarship amount that we could provide, while at the same time providing us with reliable income for our own expenses."

The CRUT will deliver payments to Roxanna and Jose for the rest of their lives, and after, the remainder will supplement the FEA endowments they've already created. The fact that Roxanna and Jose are already supporting students with their FEAs and will continue to do so at an even greater level through their estate is particularly satisfying for the couple. As Jose put it, "The need will always be there."



With their recent move to Aggieland, the Corletos enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with their FEA Scholars (left to right): Monica Aguinaga '27, Rigoberto "Rigo" Cantu '29, Angelly Gabriela "Gabby" Garcia '26 and Constanza Hernandez '29.

> *"It's so nice to see these young kids achieve their dreams, knowing that we helped them a little bit."*
>
> – ROXANNA CORLETO

The Corletos have immensely enjoyed interacting with their FEA scholars. And with a recent move to Bryan to be near family — including Jose's brother Dr. Carlos Corleto '84 '86 '90, a professor of practice in Texas A&M's mechanical engineering department — Roxanna and Jose hope to spend more time with their recipients to show their daughters the importance of a college education. They also hope to pass on the trait of a grateful, generous spirit.

"It's so nice to see these young kids achieve their dreams, knowing that we helped them a little bit," Roxanna said. "Being able to support students who don't have a lot of resources is important to us — particularly kids from Latin America. We've been so blessed, and this is the best way we can give back."

Jose concurred: "My philosophy is that you don't need to be rich to help other people. You just need to be willing to do something."

YOUR SCHOLARSHIP, YOUR WAY

Like the Corletos, you can customize your Foundation Excellence Award (FEA) scholarship preferences to specifically benefit students from certain geographic regions in addition to other criteria like major. Learn more at give.am/FEA.

Want to leave your mark on Aggieland through an endowed FEA scholarship or other area of impact? Partner with our charitable gift planners to build a personalized plan that benefits you and your family at the same time. Contact us at 979.845.8161 or plannedgiving@txamfoundation.com to learn more.



Q&A

INTERESTED IN USING YOUR ESTATE PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR ASSETS, LOVED ONES AND CHARITABLE PRIORITIES? IN THIS Q&A, ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY MARK EDGMON '87 ANSWERS FAQS AND SHARES HOW HE HELPS HIS AGGIE CLIENTS CREATE A MEANINGFUL LEGACY.

Estate Planning Explained

INTERVIEW BY TYLIE MCDONALD '27 | PHOTO BY JOSH HUSKIN

Estate planning is a priority for Mark Edgmon '87.

A Texas A&M University economics graduate, Edgmon worked as a financial and securities analyst before earning his Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law. More than 30 years later, his legal work with Granstaff, Gaedke & Edgmon, P.C. has led him through countless estate planning scenarios that have helped him better inform his clients, many of whom are Aggies planning for their future and Texas A&M.

Having worked closely with the Texas A&M Foundation for many years – on behalf of clients and to plan his own charitable gift – Edgmon shares estate planning insights to help you move forward with confidence as you consider leaving your own lasting legacy.

Q: WHAT IS ESTATE PLANNING?

A: Estate planning has complicated connotations since it's such a broad concept. I often tell my clients that when they pass away, their estate can go to one of three places: the federal government in the form of taxes, their family and loved ones, or their favorite charitable organization. Estate planning is simply deciding how you want to divide what you've worked for. Many people prefer to see at least a portion or even the entirety of their estate go to a charitable organization they care about – such as the Texas A&M Foundation – rather than leaving it to the federal government to decide how it's used or unintentionally imposing income or inheritance tax obligations on their families.

Q: DO I NEED AN ESTATE PLAN?

A: Yes, estate planning is recommended for everyone, regardless of financial status. Planning allows you to make intentional decisions about what happens to your assets, family and charitable priorities. When people begin thinking about estate planning, and estate gifts specifically, it's usually influenced by a combination of factors that naturally work together. There's often a desire to ensure their assets are used in a meaningful way and an awareness of the financial and tax considerations that come with transferring those assets.

I've found that Aggies tend to bring a strong sense of loyalty and heart to these decisions, whether they're making a lifetime gift or choosing to include the Foundation in their will. That emotional connection works hand in hand with the practical aspects of estate planning. Once individuals understand their own motivations – whether they center on impact on the institution or students, estate or income tax planning, gratitude or all of the above – that clarity typically becomes the first step in the process.

Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CREATING A PLAN?

A: Thoughtful estate planning can present opportunities to minimize taxes. For instance, clients with larger estates may incorporate charitable giving into their plan to significantly reduce the income or estate tax burden on their heirs. Directing tax-deferred assets like IRAs or 401(k)s to charity is also extremely efficient because a charity receives the full amount tax-free, while heirs would owe income tax and ultimately receive much less.

There are meaningful lifetime benefits too. If someone is taking required minimum distributions, they can use a qualified charitable distribution to send that money directly to charity without paying tax on it or increasing their taxable income. Cash gifts may provide deductions depending on the individual's situation, and tools like charitable remainder trusts allow clients to avoid capital gains taxes on highly appreciated assets while still receiving lifetime income and a current-year deduction. All these strategies can give you extra bang for your buck when you make a gift.

Q: WHAT'S THE PROCESS LIKE?

A: It usually begins with understanding what you already have and how it's set up. I first tell clients to review their financial accounts and beneficiary designations because those determine where certain assets go. From there, it's important to take a fresh look at your core documents – your will or living trust – to ensure they still reflect your intentions. Those documents should be reviewed every year or two.

Many people also begin the process with questions about how certain tools work or how assets move through the probate system. There's often confusion about what a living trust accomplishes or how probate functions in Texas, because people receive information from a variety of sources. That's why it's important to talk with someone familiar with the legal landscape who can explain how these pieces fit together.

Q: I WANT TO INCLUDE CHARITABLE GIVING IN MY ESTATE PLANS. HOW DO I ENSURE MY WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT PROPERLY?

A: When my Aggie clients express interest in making the Foundation a beneficiary of their estate, I connect them with the Foundation's charitable gift planning team. My responsibility is to understand the legal landscape – drafting the documents, ensuring compliance with tax and estate laws, and making sure their intentions are carried out accurately. But the Foundation plays an equally important role in the process.

Their team includes qualified attorneys and professionals who can review the documents I prepare, confirm that everything aligns with the client's charitable goals and explain in detail how their gift will be used to support Texas A&M. They help clients understand the various giving opportunities, such as endowments and scholarships, and how those funds will create a meaningful impact on campus. Once the Foundation walks them through these options and the client confirms their intentions, we work together to finalize the legal tools that make their planned gift a reality.

Disclaimer: This article is intended to share general estate planning information and should only be referenced for general advice. Please seek professional guidance to better understand the best plan for your individual needs.



BY LEAVING A UNIQUE REAL ESTATE GIFT TO THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION IN THEIR WILL, KARI AND MIKE ENMON '94 ARE PRIORITIZING CANINE FRIENDS IN THEIR PLAN AND LEAVING A LEGACY THAT WILL BENEFIT AGGIES FOR YEARS TO COME.

GIFT SPOTLIGHT

LEAVING THEIR PAWPRINT

BY BRENT ZWERNEMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLY RUSSO '95

Kari and Mike Enmon '94 smiled as they surveyed their 20 immaculate acres near Montgomery, Texas, a pristine plot of land that thousands of dogs figure must be heaven.

"It would make me feel so good to know that this place is still being used to care for dogs after we're gone, that one day the sign out front could have 'Texas A&M' on it," said Mike as he observed the gentle hills and two shimmering lakes of the inimitable Dobbin Dog Ranch, a luxury dog boarding and training resort. "That would tickle me to death."

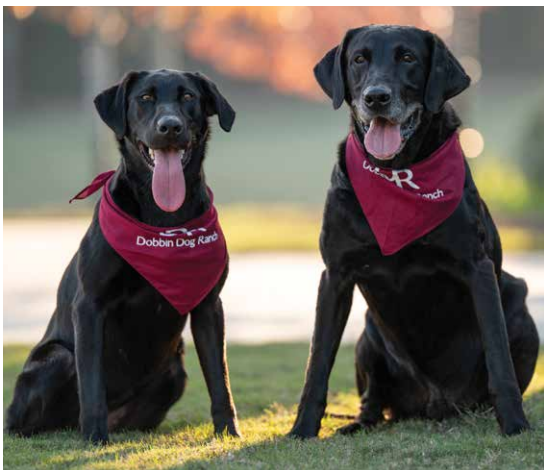
The Enmons, already generous donors to the Texas A&M Foundation and 12th Man Foundation, have planned an estate gift that includes the property that houses their Dobbin Dog Ranch. They hope their property will one day transform into a research space for veterinary faculty and students, as well as a satellite location for the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center — a loving home for pets whose owners can no longer care for them.

"Mike and Kari opened our eyes to what could be possible," said Larry Walker '97, chief development officer for the Texas A&M Foundation. "Their vision invites us to think differently about how a place like Dobbin Dog Ranch might one day support education, research and animal care."

Mike grew up on an East Texas farm near Shelbyville, 170 miles northeast of College Station. "My dad was a chicken farmer, and in high school, I was too busy worried about hunting and working," Mike said with a grin, referencing that he had few collegiate designs following his graduation from Shelbyville High in 1981. Fresh out of school, he worked for his dad on the farm until he was 27. "My dad died, and the farm was sold. I moved to Houston to attend Houston Community College and then transferred to Texas A&M to study finance," he shared.

Mike's father had always spoken highly of Texas A&M, and that never left the young man's mind as he mulled higher education. "If he had ever taken me to a football game at Kyle Field when I was young, I would've spent every waking moment thinking about Texas A&M," Mike chuckled.

Later earning his MBA from the University of Chicago, Mike enjoyed a successful career in banking that took him from New York City to Houston and San Antonio. He met Kari, a Seguin, Texas, native and University of Texas at San Antonio accounting graduate, in San Antonio in late 2001 and proposed in spring 2002 under Texas A&M's Century Tree on Kari's first trip to College Station. The couple celebrated their engagement in true Aggie style: by playing dominoes at the Dixie Chicken.



The Enmons' pups, Taylor and Paul, love to take daily doggy paddles in the lake.

Despite his triumphs in banking, Mike never strayed from his love of animals and love of the land. He has trained dogs for more than 25 years and is a licensed American Kennel Club Retriever Field Trial judge. Mike and Kari dove into a second career when they opened Kickapoo Ranch Pet Resort in 2010. They sold their successful venture in 2019 and opened Dobbin Dog Ranch in 2021.

"Our background served us well," Mike said of his and Kari's previous work in banking and accounting. "There were naysayers in 2010, but we worked our butts off and earned every customer, one at a time." Kari smiled and added, "I never thought it wouldn't work."

Now, the couple is cheerfully leaving their heavenly enterprise to Texas A&M through a bequest in their will.

"When we give money to Texas A&M, it really gets used in a great way," Mike said. "I also realize how insignificant I am in this world, but this gift is a little legacy we get to leave behind."

DIG DEEPER

Like the Enmons are supporting their passion for animals, there are countless ways you can create a brighter future for Texas A&M University in areas that matter most to you. Contact our credentialed planners to sniff out a plan and purpose perfect for you: 979.845.8161 or plannedgiving@txamfoundation.com.

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AGGIE PERSPECTIVES

Trusting Their Plan

In 2024, Julia '79 '80 and Chris Morton '78 '79 knew it was time to revisit the revocable living trust they'd planned in the '90s to protect their young daughters. "We didn't want an attorney to rewrite our documents only to get two miles down the road and rewrite it again," Chris explained. "We were waiting for the point when our kids were old enough that we could see over the horizon a bit."

When this moment came, the Mortons worked with the Texas A&M Foundation on a unique plan that will pay their daughters a set income stream for their lives before passing scholarships back to the Corps of Cadets. **Scan the QR code above to read the full story!**

PHOTO BY ERIC GUEL

