Hallie Cooper didn’t think her occasional $20 gifts to charity could make that much of a difference. That was before she learned about smart giving.

Now she is able to make the kind of difference she wants to make at the University.

Cooper is the latest addition to the Gift Planning team as well as a new estate donor. A development associate, Cooper takes a lot of pride in her job supporting the Gift Planning team and reaching out to donors. She’s the first contact when someone calls Gift Planning.

Like a lot of people, Cooper thought that she couldn’t make a real difference without a lot of cash in hand. Then one day, shortly after she had started her new job at the University, she heard Gift Planning Executive Director Laura Hansen Dean speak about how to make a difference without making a sacrifice. Cooper learned she could make a larger gift through her workplace life insurance policy.

“Had I not come to work at UT, I probably would have gone the rest of my life without realizing that I could have made a bigger difference in somebody else’s life,” she said. “It made me re-evaluate my thinking as far as charitable donations. People don’t realize that they don’t have to come up with large sums of money to support their cause.”

Cooper chose to name Texas Exes as the beneficiary of her gift, a decision motivated by the same thing that drew her to a job at the University to begin with — a love of helping students.

“If I can help to bring in funds to provide scholarships or help students in some way, it benefits everybody,” she said.

Cooper joined Gift Planning as a temp before being hired permanently in March. She comes to the University after working eight years as a paralegal in intellectual-property law firms. She also worked a short time at the Gary Job Corps in San Marcos, Texas, which helped lay the groundwork for her gift to UT.

“When I saw what the lack of education is doing to this generation coming up it really affected me,” she said. “When you’re surrounded by it every day you know how important education is.”
Federal estate tax
Set to come roaring back in 2011

The federal estate tax comes roaring back on Jan. 1, 2011, at 2001 levels unless the U.S. Congress changes the law. The first $1 million passes estate-tax free with a 55 percent tax rate for taxable estate transfers. Transfers at death to spouses and to qualified charitable organizations are usually exempt from estate tax.

This is a good time to review your estate planning documents with your professional adviser to be sure that your current estate plan reflects how much estate tax you are willing to pay. Most of us have felt the desire to make a difference, to give back to something that has changed our lives for the better. At the same time we are concerned with providing for our loved ones after we’re gone. What if you could do both?

We can show you how. You can reduce or eliminate gift, estate, and generation-skipping taxes by including The University of Texas at Austin in your estate planning. Instead of the money going to the IRS, it can make a difference at the University. With thoughtful planning charitable gifts will not reduce the amount your heirs will receive and in some cases can increase the amount of an inheritance.

There are many ways to make testamentary charitable gifts, including:

- Provisions in wills or testamentary trusts.
- Provisions in revocable or “living” trusts.
- Beneficiary designations for retirement plans, insurance policies, group term insurance plans, bank accounts, and brokerage accounts.
- Gifts that provide lifetime income to one or more survivors and then benefit the University.
- Gifts that return assets to survivors after benefiting the University for a number of years.

Doing Well While Doing Good: Estate Planning and Smart Giving to UT Austin (issuu.com/utaustin/docs) has more information on these giving options.

Only you and your tax adviser can decide what is best for you. The UT Austin Gift Planning team is ready to work with you and your advisers in confidence and without obligation. For more information about gift and estate planning, please call 1-866-4UTEXAS (866-488-3927), e-mail giftplan@www.utexas.edu, or write to:
The University of Texas at Austin
University Development Office
Gift and Estate Planning Team
P.O. Box 7458
Austin, Texas 78713

IRS Circular 230 Notice: The University of Texas at Austin does not provide legal, tax or financial advice. Consequently we urge you to seek the advice of your own legal, tax, or financial professionals in connection with gift and planning matters. This communication (including any attachments) is not intended to be used and cannot be used for the purpose of avoiding tax-related penalties.
Nursing philanthropy

HOW ONE STUDENT’S BROTHER FOUND THE INSPIRATION TO CHANGE THE WORLD

BY ANGELA CURTIS
It wasn’t his graduation. It wasn’t even his alma mater. But something touched Wayne Wagner that night, and a scholarship was born.

It was December 2002, and Wagner was attending the UT School of Nursing commencement as the proud big brother of graduate Nicole Murry. Honored as an outstanding student, Murry was a featured speaker. Then it came time to hear from Dean Dolores Sands, who not only delivered standard graduation fare but also reminded the graduates that they had a responsibility to give back to the University. Wagner had never heard a college dean speak so directly, and he knew he had to act.

“It just came to me that night,” he said. “I went and hunted the dean down.”

Wagner also saw something special in the 40 members of his sister’s graduating class: an overwhelming desire to help others.

“I was just blown away,” he said. “It was so refreshing to have every one of those 40 get up there and talk about how they just wanted to change the world.”

A scholarship was born that night — a scholarship named for Murry that would help students follow in her footsteps in the School of Nursing. The Nicole Streuding Temprovich Murry Undergraduate Scholarship in Nursing became Wagner’s graduation present to his sister.

“What a great gift,” Murry said. “Better than your usual.”

Murry is now a nurse manager of Neonatal Intermediate Care at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital in San Antonio. Before that she worked as a neonatal intensive care nurse and nurse educator at St. David’s Hospital in Austin. Wagner is Western division sales director for Principal Funds, a division of Principal Financial Group, also in San Antonio.

When it comes to giving, Wagner knows that not everyone can be a Bill Gates or a Warren Buffett. He isn’t. But as a financial executive he knows there are many ways to make a gift without writing a check today. At his age, 41, life insurance is still very affordable. After his lifetime, the University will receive the proceeds of his policy.

Estate donors, he said, “have the ability to see way down the road.”

Stephanie Wagner isn’t surprised at her husband’s decision to give. “Wayne is such an amazing human being who is all about everyone around him and not about himself,” she said. “He’s about that in everything in his life.”

Wagner, whose family had little money for college, knew he would give back to higher education from the moment he registered at the University of Southern California. When it came time to pay his tuition he couldn’t understand why he didn’t owe the full amount. The cashier explained that people gave money to the university to help students like him. Wagner found the concept mind-boggling. He promised himself that he, too, would help college students someday.

“There’s probably some deserving but not financially capable person who’s going to go to this school because of Steph and me,” he said. Wagner gives for another reason, too. He grew up in San Antonio, where he and Stephanie live with their three sons. He knows his family will be longtime Texans.

“We believe in Texas as a state,” he said. “You’ve got to have an educated population if you’re going to be competitive on a global basis.”

The Wagners lived in Austin during Murry’s years at UT. They helped her through school, offering both emotional and financial support. In that time Wagner began to see the nursing profession differently.

“I took on a new respect for nursing,” Wagner said. “I didn’t realize how much science and chemistry it took. It’s brutal.”

Murry loves working in neonatal care. “It’s not just a job,” she said. “Realizing what an impact you can make on a life every day is really the important thing.”

Murry reveres the nursing profession — and the school where she learned it. She marvels at the fact that future nurses will be able to study in her name.

“I believe in nursing,” she said. “I believe in the future of nursing, and giving someone the opportunity to attend this nursing school is an incredible feeling.”

Wagner says giving is both a responsibility and a privilege. “You will get way more from the experience than you will ever imagine.”
Walter Cronkite
A man of many gifts

He was the most trusted man in America. And, as one of UT’s best-known alumni, he made sure to share the fruits of his labors with the University.

UT alumnus and longtime newsman Walter Cronkite had been giving his papers and memorabilia — including a moon rock — to the University for more than 20 years by the time he died in 2009. That didn’t end upon his death — his will conveyed the remainder of his collection to the University. That collection belongs to the Briscoe Center for American History and is now on display at the LBJ Library as “Cronkite: Eyewitness to a Century.”

“We’ve got one of the most important archives documenting the history of television broadcast news in existence,” said Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center.

Cronkite attended UT in the 1930s and worked as a student reporter at the Daily Texan. He never graduated, instead choosing to launch a career that spanned five decades. As one of the nation’s preeminent broadcast journalists, Cronkite brought almost every major news story of the last half of the 20th century to the American people. “Cronkite: Eyewitness to a Century” is the first exhibit to explore his experiences with some of the most crucial moments in history, including D-Day, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the civil-rights movement, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and the space race. He retired as anchor of the CBS Evening News in 1981.

Carleton met Cronkite in 1989 when they began working on Cronkite’s memoir together. From that point on they were friends.

“He was exactly the kind of person you would want him to be if you met him,” Carleton said. “He was warm, had a great sense of humor — very much a wonderful person to be around. He was capable of small talk, but he really preferred to talk about what was going on in the world and larger issues.”

The exhibit runs through Jan. 3, 2011. The LBJ Library is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission and parking are free.
University steps up during gulf oil spill

As oil began spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, engineers, scientists, researchers, and other experts at The University of Texas at Austin sprang into action.

Members of the University community quickly joined efforts to evaluate the size of the spill, analyze consequences, and anticipate possible complications.

As the spill saga unfolded, the University stepped up on multiple fronts:

- The federal government appointed a faculty petroleum engineer to help estimate oil flow from the spill.
- Researchers in the Texas Advanced Computing Center used UT’s Ranger supercomputer to produce 3-D simulations of the spill’s impact on coastal areas.
- The Energy Institute sponsored a forum to help members of the public understand the cause, consequences, and cost of the spill.
- A researcher in the Marine Science Institute used a Rapid Response Research grant to study how the spill would affect oxygen levels in the Gulf of Mexico “dead zone.”
- Scientists at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences used Ranger to model past hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike to see how a hurricane could affect the region.

Joining the group appointed to help estimate the oil flow was Dr. Paul Bommer of the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering in the Cockrell School of Engineering. Bommer was the only petroleum engineer in the Flow Rate Technical Group appointed by the federal government. As a member of the “plume team” Bommer provided conventional petroleum engineering calculations to estimate the escaping oil. Bommer joined the UT faculty in 2004 and teaches courses in drilling, production, artificial lift, and facilities.
Strengthen your future and ours
Receive fixed payments for life

Did you know that when you make a gift to The University of Texas Foundation that will benefit what you love at The University of Texas at Austin you can receive fixed payments for life? This is possible with a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is a contract with The University of Texas Foundation in which you agree to make an irrevocable donation, usually with cash or marketable securities. In return the foundation agrees to make fixed annual payments to you for life. The part of your donation that remains after your lifetime is used as you directed. Some advantages include:

- A charitable deduction for income tax purposes when you itemize.
- Potential for increased disposable income.
- Partially income tax-free payments during your life expectancy.
- Capital gains income reportable over your life expectancy, in most cases.

Gift annuity rates are generally determined by two factors: the age of the annuitant(s) at the time of the donation and the number of annuitants. A gift annuity contract can include up to two annuitants. Rates for two-life contracts are often lower because of the extended life expectancy. Charitable gift annuity rates are the same for men and women. Charitable gift annuities providing that payments begin at a future date or within a range of dates specified in the contract can provide supplemental income during retirement.

Current rates for a single annuitant at the following selected ages at the time of donation are:

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To learn more about charitable gift annuities and calculate how a charitable gift annuity could benefit you, go to http://bit.ly/cKFP9Q

Only you and your tax adviser can help decide what is best for you. The UT Austin Gift Planning team is ready to work with you and your advisers in confidence and without obligation. For more information about gift and estate planning, please call 1-866-4UTEXAS (866-488-3927), e-mail giftplan@www.utexas.edu, or write to:

The University of Texas at Austin
University Development Office
Gift and Estate Planning Team
P.O. Box 7458
Austin, Texas 78713

Sample will language
Wondering how to include the University in your will?

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, we urge you to seek the advice of your professional counsel when considering a gift to The University of Texas at Austin.

Cover: Wayne Wagner was so inspired during his sister’s graduation from the School of Nursing that he decided right then and there to give. The gift from Wagner and his wife, Stephanie, is in honor of Wagner’s sister, Nicole Murry. Story inside.

Texas Leader is published each spring and fall 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 reply form and enclosed envelope, call us toll-free at 866-4UTEXAS (866-488-3927), or e-mail giftplan@www.utexas.edu.

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