

TEXAS★LEADER

PLANNING TO CHANGE THE WORLD



HOW TO
CHANGE
THE WORLD
THROUGH
LIFE INCOME
GIFTS

In The Stars

A daughter's gift to
McDonald Observatory

Summer 2018



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

PHOTO BY MARSHA MILLER



From the President

Planned gifts honor family,
future generations

The University of Texas at Austin Class of 2018 recently celebrated commencement, a milestone accomplishment for thousands of students. Our new graduates will take all they have learned—their aspirations, as well as the hopes and dreams of their entire families—out into the world with them, prepared to lead happy and successful lives and contribute to their communities.

The cycle of giving back plays a crucial role in shaping the educational experiences of our students, today and in the future. Alumni and friends who invest in the next generation help more Longhorns take the graduation walk every year. And our dedicated philanthropists often use their giving as an opportunity to honor their loved ones—whether close relatives or “second families” bonded by friendship.

In this issue, we celebrate these gifts. Rasa Silenas, a San Antonio physician, fell in love with UT’s McDonald Observatory. She honored her father’s memory by establishing an endowment that will be used to maintain and update scientific instrumentation for the observatory’s telescopes—a fitting tribute to a man who loved studying how things work. Dick Clark, whose designs and creativity helped define modern architecture in Austin and who excelled in mentoring young, talented architects, created endowments through his estate for student scholarships and faculty recruitment in the School of Architecture.

Two other stories in this issue illustrate how giving through charitable remainder trusts is an impactful way to ensure that the goals of your family and the Longhorn family are both met. Lamar Johnson,

a leader at Procter & Gamble for 34 years, brought new experiential learning opportunities into the McCombs School of Business and has established a trust to support the school in the future. Superfans Julia Hickman and Cecil Reynolds are beloved members of the Texas Women’s Basketball family. Their future estate gift, created through a trust, will establish the Cecil Reynolds and Julia Hickman Center for Student-Athlete Brain & Behavioral Health to benefit the mental and behavioral health of our student-athletes.

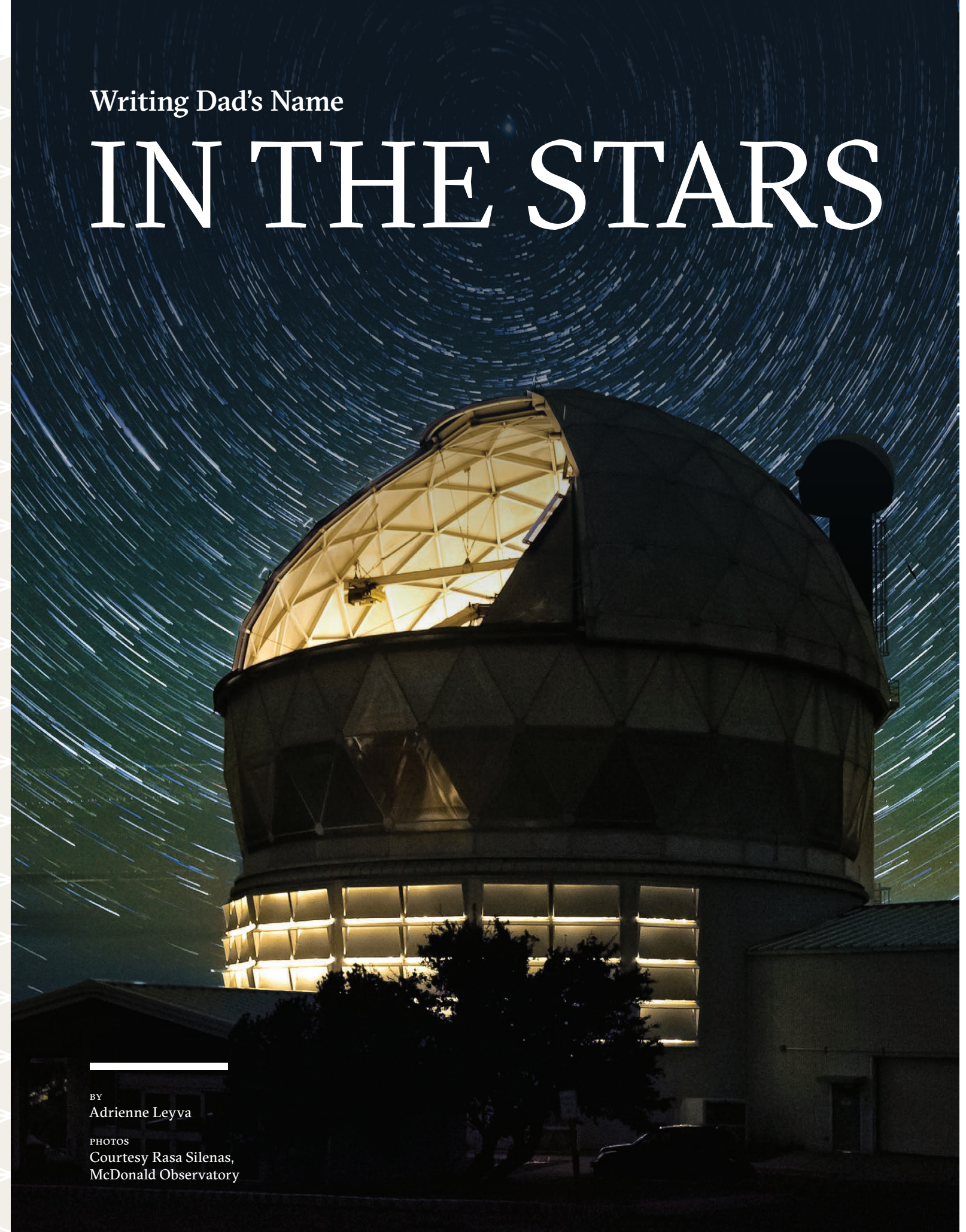
These stories are inspiring—just as your leadership and generosity are inspiring. Thank you for being there for your Longhorn family, now and for generations to come.

Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin | @gregfenves

*Ed and Carolyn Hyman Presidential Leadership Chair
Cockrell Family Chair in Engineering #15*

Writing Dad’s Name

IN THE STARS



BY
Adrienne Leyva

PHOTOS
Courtesy Rasa Silenas,
McDonald Observatory



The otherworldly voice of “StarDate” host Sandy Wood has become part of her life’s soundtrack. Retired U.S. Air Force plastic surgeon Rasa Silenas first began listening to The University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory’s public radio broadcast when she was a surgical resident in the Chicago area.



“One of our stops was in Fort Davis at McDonald Observatory. We were immediately smitten.”

RASA SILENAS, M.D.

Years later, she and her husband Bill White, now a retired county judge, loaded their tent and toothbrushes into the family station wagon and turned a move west into an adventure.

“We were moving from San Antonio to California, and every day we’d look at the map and say ‘Oh, this looks interesting, let’s stop there,’” she said. “One of our stops was in Fort Davis at McDonald Observatory. We were immediately smitten.”

Silenas’ fascination with the observatory, particularly the inner workings of the telescopes, grew during her return visits to the place that “feels like home.”

“I was taken with the instrumentation and the people operating the equipment,” she said. “It reminded me of watching an IMAX movie about some guy summiting Mount Everest, and you see the struggle in the climber’s face. But what you don’t see are the guys behind the scenes lugging that heavy camera to get the shot. So, it’s similar. The people who build the telescope instrumentation are working so that we can get these amazing views of the galaxy.”

◀ McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis was built thanks to an estate gift from Texas banker William McDonald. Each year more than 100,000 visitors take advantage of the darkest skies in the continental United States to view the stars and study galaxies.

▶ Viktoras Silenas had a talent for making things work. His daughter’s gift will support the inner workings of the observatory’s telescopes.

Silenas came by her interest in how things work honestly. Her father was a mechanical engineer, and like others in the World War II generation, could do just about anything—plumbing, electric, carpentry, masonry and car repair.

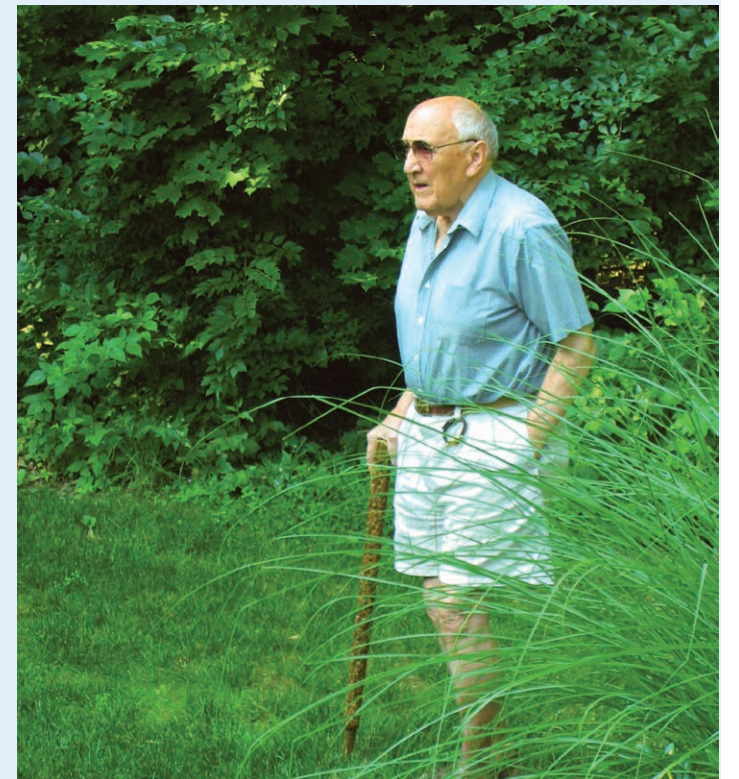
When she decided to make a gift in her will to support McDonald Observatory, she designated it for instrumentation—the engineers’ realm. Silenas chose to set up an endowment that would continually produce income for the observatory while preserving the principal.

“I thought that was the cat’s meow,” she said. “Once I decided on an endowment, I named it in memory of my father Viktoras Silenas. So, you see, I’m writing my dad’s name in the stars.”

Silenas’ planned gift is the first one made to the observatory to support instrumentation. She hopes her gift inspires others like it because the components and maintenance are so costly.

Silenas has made close to 50 trips to McDonald Observatory and attended as many Star Parties, sometimes bringing her knitting circle with her to view the Cheerio nebula (yes, it looks like a Cheerio), constellations and planets. But she loves listening to the graduate students and their approaches to problem-solving best.

One graduate student shared his ongoing work to map the three-dimensional arrangement of matter at the edge of the observed universe. During his talk he



“Once I decided on an endowment, I named it in memory of my father. So, you see, I’m writing my dad’s name in the stars.”

shared a photo depicting an arrangement of gases at the far limits of space.

“I looked at that and realized it looked like bone marrow, or a natural sponge or soap bubbles,” said Silenas. “It was an arrangement that repeats in nature. I felt like I was looking into the face of God, and it wasn’t an old man with a white beard. It was a fundamental organizing principle of all things. It was such an epiphany for me. That’s one of many reasons why this place is so special to me and why I chose to honor my dad this way.” ■

If this story has inspired you to learn more about how to establish an endowment through your estate plans, please call 800-687-4602 or contact giftplan@austin.utexas.edu.

Connecting Big Brands With Top Texas Talent

BY
Adrienne Leyva

PHOTO
Wyatt McSpadden



Lamar Johnson, BBA '70, took an unconventional route to The University of Texas at Austin—he came by dust storm. While a freshman at Texas Tech University, he went to class on a clear day only to face 70 mph winds and blinding dust on his walk home. Already contemplating a transfer to UT Austin, he literally got the push he needed from that storm.

“I grew up behind the Texas pine curtain and had never seen anything like it,” he said. “I filled out my UT application that day.”

That decision led to a deep-seated love for the university, a finance degree and a job at Procter & Gamble, where he worked for nearly 34 years.

Johnson excelled in sales and was later tapped to help Procter & Gamble create the first-ever supply chain team. He became a pioneer in the coordinated disciplines of procurement, manufacturing and distribution.

“It sounded strategic, so I was interested,” he said. “I thought, ‘If I can fix our supply issues, I’ll be performing a much greater service than selling more Tide.’ It was a success.”

After his retirement at the spry age of 55, Johnson returned to the campus he

loved and supported. Over the years, he had given generously to his alma mater, establishing an endowed excellence fund at McCombs School of Business for scholarships and other priorities. He later set up a trust to support UT Austin.

“A charitable remainder trust made great sense to my wife, Debbie, and me because of the tax advantages, guaranteed income for us and money for UT in the future.”

Next, he worked to make a direct impact on the McCombs student experience.

“My father always gave back to the community, and I think that’s where my passion started. I knew I had something to offer college students by bringing the real world into the classroom.”

Johnson launched a second career at McCombs by creating experiential learning programs through the Center for Customer Insight and Marketing Solutions and the Supply Chain Management Center of Excellence.

MBA students wanted the challenge of working with high-profile companies,

“I knew I had something to offer college students by bringing the real world into the classroom.”

and those companies wanted a unique way to interact with top talent on campus. Johnson had the relationships and the know-how to make it happen. Students now work with the likes of Frito-Lay and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to offer their solutions for positioning products in the marketplace. The students love it, and many land jobs at these same companies.

“None of this would have happened if that storm hadn’t blown me here,” he said with a laugh. “Today, I’m leveraging what I’ve learned over the last 34 years, and relationships I have, to give back to a place I love dearly.” ■

To learn more about charitable remainder trusts, the type of gift the Johnsons established, see page 9.

◀ **Lamar Johnson, pictured in Robert B. Rowling Hall, the new home of graduate business studies for the McCombs School of Business.**

Lamar Johnson first began helping UT Austin students launch their careers as a recruiter for Procter & Gamble. Today, he connects MBA students at McCombs with top companies through experiential learning courses.



Hannah Rogers · Graduate Student, McCombs School of Business

“Lamar has been a key mentor for me at McCombs. The real-world projects he has brought to the program, especially those with Kendra Scott, Vera Bradley and Whole Foods, have given me applicable experience to take into a full-time role at Nordstrom. It’s priceless!”

Dick Clark shaped
Austin's architectural
vernacular

Strokes of Genius

Pencil, tracing paper, or often a napkin: That's all he needed to create a true stroke of genius. Make that many strokes. Architect Dick Clark, founder of Dick Clark + Associates, designed some of Austin's most iconic meeting and living spaces, forever leaving an imprint on the city he loved.

When he died last year after a battle with leukemia and complications from pneumonia, 1,000 of his best friends gathered at Austin's Paramount Theatre to pay tribute. Each received a keepsake showcasing his work and his words, including this quintessential quote: "Architecture is not just about a building. It's about people. No matter how beautiful or functional the design,

architecture's true meaning is found in those who live their lives in the spaces we create."

This philosophy towards his work made his clients and colleagues feel like family, and he treated them like one of his own. Clark, who earned degrees in business administration and architecture at UT Austin, was a valued mentor to the next generation of architects who launched notable careers.

Clark drew inspiration from the world around him, whether limestone cliffs buffeted by Lake Travis or colonial structures built on the island of Saint Barthélemy. In an interview with "Inside the Design Studio," he shared, "Architects have an eye that doesn't shut, and when you travel, the stimulus is always there. When young people ask me what to do, I tell them to travel."

To help make that possible, he set up the Dick Clark Travel Fund for architecture students who demonstrate excellence in architectural design and have financial need. The power of this international travel fund in providing meaningful life and learning experiences is hard to overstate.

His ties to the School of Architecture ran deep. Clark was a life member of the school's advisory council and supported many initiatives through the Goldsmith Society. In 2016, he served on the search committee whose work resulted in the appointment of Dean Michelle Addington.

Clark also was committed to supporting the school's future. Through his estate, he established an endowment to fund the Dick Clark III Endowed Scholarship in



BY
Adrienne Leyva

PHOTOS
Courtesy Dick
Clark + Associates,
Mitch Avitt

SKETCHES
Dick Clark

◀ Dick Clark's designs came to life through South Congress hot spots, downtown restaurants and bars, and stunning private residences.

Architecture. This scholarship will help recruit the best and brightest students to the school.

A second endowment supports the Dick Clark III Chair in Architecture. It was Clark's heartfelt desire to build upon the school's history of attracting excellent faculty members who would shape the education of future generations.

"Dick wanted more than anything to see a chair in his name. He knew a chair would be a lasting legacy and help in recruiting and honoring top faculty and student talent," said Sherry Matthews, CEO of Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing and Clark's longtime friend.

Clark shared in a recorded interview, "I moved around a lot to different parts of the country, Central America, Europe. When I decided I had done what I needed to do, I came back to Austin—the only place I would have come back to."

And the better his school, his field and his city are for it.

At Clark's memorial service, Dean Addington reflected on his impact. "Dick's presence surrounds us in the modern architecture that he inflected with a Texan regionalism, in the fabric of Austin's downtown, and in the faces of the students I see in our studios every day." ■



▶ Clark's iconic designs include City View Residence (above), 612 West, Nightcap, Kenichi and 1400 South Congress.



Mitch Avitt • Graduate Student, School of Architecture

"Over winter break I was given an amazing opportunity to study French colonial architecture in Hanoi, Vietnam. This opportunity was only possible because of the Dick Clark travel scholarship. I was able to continue my research on how colonial architecture is treated after colonization ends. This trip has opened my eyes to how architecture becomes a malleable medium for shaping a society. My own work continues exploring this theme. I am extremely thankful for this scholarship."

Believe

In The Future

BY Sarah McAbee
PHOTO Courtesy Texas Athletics



Julia Hickman and Cecil Reynolds stood center court at UT's Frank Erwin Center, right arms raised in a pair of hook 'ems.

"Because of you, we all believe."

The announcer's words expressed the thoughts of many Longhorn women's basketball fans that night. Hickman and Reynolds, whose passion for the team stretches back three decades, had just announced the largest one-time future gift commitment in Texas Athletics history.

That phrase—"we believe"—carries personal meaning for Hickman, Reynolds and the entire Texas Basketball family. For

years, fans have known to look courtside for Hickman's handmade "We Believe in You" sign at almost every women's basketball game.

But that night, as she looked into the stands, the signs read "Thank you, Julia and Cecil. We believe!"

Hickman and Reynolds' legendary support of Longhorn basketball and Texas student-athletes began in the 1990s, when Hickman attended a fantasy camp where she learned the fundamentals of the game from the Longhorns. "I was totally hooked," she remembered. "I started buying season tickets, and Cecil fell in love with it, too."

They quickly became familiar faces and beloved members of the Texas Basketball family. And, like true family, they show "unconditional love" for the players and team, said Head Coach Karen Aston. The couple had already established a scholarship endowment

to support athletes who want to continue graduate studies at UT, but they wanted to do more. Hickman and Reynolds' unique backgrounds as mental health professionals and former college professors gave them a special appreciation for the mental, emotional and health needs of student-athletes, too.

"They know we're always on their side. Winning or losing, we're going to be there for them."

"We want them to be prepared for when they leave the university," explained Reynolds. "Not just academically, but emotionally and behaviorally. That will take them a long way in life."

To that end, the couple established a charitable remainder trust to achieve their vision for Longhorn athletes, provide support for their family and receive lifetime tax benefits. Their \$20 million future estate gift will establish the Cecil Reynolds and Julia Hickman Center for Student-Athlete Brain & Behavioral Health, a collaborative effort of Texas Athletics and the university's Dell Medical School.

According to Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director Allen Hardin, when the center opens, it will allow the university "to provide evidence-based brain and behavioral health care that is unparalleled in college athletics for generations of Longhorn student-athletes."

Like those handwritten signs carried to so many games over the years, the services and resources provided by the center will remind Longhorns that UT cares for them as whole people—just like their families would.

"They know we're always on their side," Hickman said. "Winning or losing, we're going to be there for them." ■

Planning to Change the World

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

There are many ways to leave your legacy at UT. By making a life income gift like a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, you can guarantee a lasting impact, receive an upfront tax deduction, and secure income for yourself or your family—all with one gift.



Transfer cash, appreciated securities or property



To the UT foundation, UT System, or your bank or trust

- ▶ **Charitable Gift Annuity**
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You or your family receive variable or fixed payments for a term of years or life. The remaining funds at the end of the trust term are gifted to UT.

Call 512-475-9632 or 800-687-4602
or email us at giftplan@austin.utexas.edu to start your planning.

Cover

Photo by John-Paul Garrigues

Submissions

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

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Wondering how to include the university in your estate plans? Here's the language we suggest:

I hereby direct \$_____ (or _____ percent of my residual estate) in cash, securities, or other property to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for the benefit of The University of Texas at Austin.

This gift shall be for the further benefit of [college, school, unit]

_____ and shall be used to [purpose] _____.

As with any decision involving your assets and/or estate, we urge you to seek the advice of your professional counsel when considering a gift to The University of Texas at Austin.

TEXAS*LEADER

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