

FALL 2015

HERITAGE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING



#StillwaterStrong



Welcome to the **FALL 2015** issue of the *Heritage Newsletter*

Greetings from Stillwater!

Thank you. Thank you to all our alumni and friends who consider creative ways to support Oklahoma State University through their estate planning. In spite of, or partially because of, recent uncertainty in the stock market and oil and gas industry, many individuals reach out to us asking how they can continue to impact our students, faculty and programs by means other than, or in addition to, using current disposable income.

Some of those examples are included in this issue of *Heritage*. Blending a combination of estate giving with current outright giving has enabled many to provide both immediate and long-term support for their particular orange passion.

As you explore opportunities to include OSU in your charitable planning, please know the Office of Gift Planning is here to help in any manner possible. Sample bequest language, educational material on a variety of planned giving tools and topics, and gift illustrations are just some of the information available to assist you and your professional advisors. Let us know what we can do to help you identify your orange passion and achieve your charitable goals.

If you have already provided for Oklahoma State in your plans but have yet to share that news with us, we encourage you to do so. It enables us not only to thank you for your generosity, but also confirm your gift intent and the impact you want it to have on campus.

For more information, we invite you to complete and return the enclosed reply card, call us at 1-800-622-4678, or visit online at OSUgiving.com.

Go Pokes!

David Mays

Senior Associate Vice President of Central Development

OSU FOUNDATION GIFT PLANNING TEAM

Melinda McAfee, John Strah, Nina Phipps,
David Mays, and Diana Lasswell



COURAGE to BUILD, COURAGE to GIVE

Nancy Roberts donates to honor
husband and daughter

Children of the mid-20th century grew up without the noisy distractions from blaring television sets and the near-constant dinging of smartphones. Instead, as it was for Gary Roberts, an entire room or basement could be devoted to a magical land of toy trains, whizzing on tiny tracks around quaint toy villages — over bridges, through tunnels and around the bend — at his command. The engineer of this landscape might be a young boy or girl fascinated by all things mechanical. And that was Gary, who attended a one-room country school in Reno County, Kansas, and grew up discovering how his toys worked by tearing them down and putting them back together again. As a teenager, he was given the responsibility of driving the large water truck needed for making mud at a drilling site in Canada. He worked alongside his father during summers and attended school at Western Military Academy in Alton, Illinois.

Those experiences and learning auto mechanics under the tutelage of his father did not, however, serve as sufficient background for the Fortune 500 company job he really wanted to have. His formal schooling at Colorado School of Mines, Wichita State University, Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College and the University of Connecticut did not conclude with a degree, so at the age of 32 he determined that Oklahoma State University would be his alma mater. He and his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Renee, left their home in Hutchinson to create a future and a business in Stillwater.



Gary and Nancy Roberts married in 1962, and remained together until he passed away in October 2014.

Dr. Ernie Fitch of the OSU College of Engineering offered him a position as a research engineer at the Fluid Power Research Center, thus giving him the chance to finish his education. With the aid of Fitch, he completed the last two years of his undergraduate coursework and graduated in 1976 with his master's degree.

Gary Roberts passed away in October 2014. His story is not whole without mentioning the vision and partnership of his wife. Together they created REN CORPORATION 35 years ago. It's an American success story, born of creative inspiration and innovation in the face of client needs. REN solves problems for manufacturers who need to develop

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testing stands for their equipment products. During their years in Hutchinson, Gary had experienced on-the-job hydraulics testing at Cessna Hydraulics. He learned how to test hydraulic parts such as valves, pumps and cylinders to assure they met certain specifications. Gary's inkling that he could create a business from building testing stands led to REN. Implementing automation so that the production would be cost-effective and also an improvement to current standards became part of his learning curve. With his reputation spreading, the client list grew and so did the company.

Clients have come from across the United States as well as Europe, Asia and China. Each testing stand is engineered to meet individual specifications. This is a niche operation which has employed OSU graduates for years. Gary would search for "farm kids" who knew how to fix and operate farm equipment. Some have been with the company for over 25 years.

In the year that REN had its first order from an Asian company, the couple received the news that Renee, 16 at the time, had a rare form of leukemia. During a year of trying to help her recover, they took turns every other day so she would never be alone in the hospital. Gary did some telephone business with South Korea while at his daughter's side. Renee joked that REN was the only American company with a satellite office in Oklahoma City's Presbyterian Hospital.

Renee lost her battle with the illness in July 1987. Friends of the family started a scholarship fund at Stillwater High School to remember her. Gary and Nancy continued the scholarship in her memory for an SHS graduate to go anywhere he or she wanted for their studies. To date, over 25 of their "kids" have graduated and are employed in their profession or are still in school. Nancy is working on developing a Facebook page to keep in touch with them.

Thank You!



We appreciate all Heritage Society members for providing a pipeline of support that ensures OSU's success today and tomorrow. The next Heritage Society event is **Saturday, April 9**. This was a great success last spring, and we look forward to seeing even more of you there this year. A save-the-date card and more details will be coming soon.



Nancy Roberts is remembering her husband and daughter with a planned gift to establish scholarships in each of their names.

With the passing of Gary, Nancy turned to Oklahoma State University Foundation to secure a legacy for both her late husband and her daughter. Nancy chose to create a charitable gift annuity which will one day establish an endowed scholarship in her daughter's name. The scholarship is for Stillwater High graduates pursuing any field at OSU. This will continue the tradition begun at SHS. And for Gary, Nancy has made plans for a significant remainder gift from her trust to establish the Gary A. Roberts Endowed Scholarship in Engineering. These gifts symbolize her love for the two, but also for the university's ability to perpetuate student successes through scholarship dollars. The family has long treasured helping others attain their degrees.

At the approach of the one-year anniversary of her husband's passing, Nancy says, "Since widowhood, I've felt that half of me is gone, and I'm trying to fill that half now. I feel that I'm doing just that with the establishment of these two endowed scholarships through the gift annuity and the remainder gift in my estate plan."



Their daughter, Renee, lost a battle with leukemia in 1987. She was 16.

DOING *the* MOST GOOD

Everetts leaving money for
Spears School of Business'
greatest needs

Bill Everett grew up in Skiatook, Oklahoma, where both his parents were bookkeepers. Everett told his mother, the city treasurer, that he wanted to study accounting, so she asked the owner of a local firm about colleges.

"He said, 'We hire B students from Tulsa and OU, and C students from Oklahoma State because they know as much as the B students at the other schools,'" Everett said. "My parents had always wanted me to go to Tulsa and stay at home. I had always wanted to go to OU and get away from home. After that, my parents encouraged me to think about OSU."

A high-school friend of Everett's had started summer school at OSU right after graduation. The friend's mother had never been to Stillwater, so Everett borrowed his father's car and took her to see her son.

"He had arranged a meeting for me with a faculty adviser without my knowledge," Everett said. *"So we toured the campus and I met with the adviser. I came home telling my parents that I wanted to go to OSU."*

Everett completed his accounting degree in 1955 and started looking for a job. Most employers were reluctant to hire him because he was likely to be drafted for military service with his college deferment ending. He turned to his uncle, who worked for Phillips Petroleum in Borger, Texas.



Bill and Sue Everett will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next August. They have established a planned gift of about \$1 million to create an endowment supporting the Spears School of Business.

"I called him on a Sunday and he told me they would be hiring some summer employees soon," Everett said. "He called me back on Monday afternoon and said, 'If you can be here in the morning, you've got a job in the paint gang.' That was at least a job, so I said I'd be there."

Borger is in the Texas panhandle, northeast of Amarillo. It is closer to four state capitals — Oklahoma City (219 miles), Santa Fe (255), Denver (343) and Topeka (392) — than it is to Texas' capital of Austin (429).

Before the end of the summer, Everett had transitioned from his temporary position to a permanent job in the plant's cost analysis office. The following March, he was drafted into the Navy and Phillips guaranteed him a position when he completed his service.

He jokes that he had “really rough duty” in the Navy.

“I spent two years working in the administrative office at a naval air station in Hawaii from 7:30 to 4 o’clock in the afternoon and had my car over there,” Everett said. “When I returned to Borger, it so happened that my old job was open again so I went right back to where I’d been two years earlier.”

He spent his entire career in Borger, retiring on June 1, 1992. His final position was traffic and accounting supervisor for the refinery.

“The traffic portion was preparing bills-of-lading for shipping hazardous material by truck and tank car,” Everett said. “The accounting was not dollars and cents but barrels and gallons. We worked with the engineers to report flow through the plant so they could manufacture different products based on demand.”

He met his future wife, Sue, on a blind date in Borger, where her father worked for Phillips at a chemical plant. In August 2016, they will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The Everetts have supported many causes over the years. They decided they would like to increase their giving to OSU, so they are leaving a significant portion of their estate to the OSU Foundation. It is expected to be about \$1 million, which will create an endowment for the dean to address the Spears School of Business’ greatest annual needs.

“I didn’t want to limit it with any specifics about how it should be spent,” Everett said. “I don’t really care about that. I just want it to do good. I thought it would be most helpful if it could be used where it’s needed most.”

Save more, give more

Retirement accounts are often exposed to income tax. **Many of these taxes can be avoided or reduced through a carefully planned charitable gift.** Your retirement account, or a portion of it, can pass directly to the Oklahoma State University Foundation, directed to support your orange passion at OSU.

This is accomplished through naming OSUF on your beneficiary designation form. If your custodian requires verification of our organization’s tax-exempt status, you can provide them with our Federal Tax ID Number: 73-6097060.

An additional note, you can name OSUF on any account with a beneficiary designation to make a direct gift to OSUF and OSU.



Lynne McElroy earned a bachelor's and master's degree in nutrition at OSU, leading to a successful career with the Oklahoma State Department of Health. She was a maternal child-health nutritionist, a public-health administrator, nutritionist for the Sooner Start early intervention program, and state nutrition director of the Women, Infants and Children program.

"I had a wonderful experience at OSU," McElroy said. "I wouldn't have been able to do the work that I did had I not gone to school there."

McElroy lives in Norman, where she proudly touts her alma mater. While approaching her July 2011 retirement, she decided to invest her new-found free time into establishing the Cleveland/McClain Counties Chapter of the OSU Alumni Association.

That is just one way she supports her school. She joined the Heritage Society by naming OSU the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. She is also on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as a volunteer for Grandparent University. If there is an OSU-related event in Stillwater or Norman, there is a good chance she is there greeting others she encouraged to attend.



I used to think being involved with OSU or becoming a donor required a big, fat checking account. You really don't need that. All you need is a little bit of love for orange."

— LYNNE MCELROY —

If you are interested in following McElroy's example of supporting OSU through a planned gift or serving as an ambassador of orange, please contact the OSU Foundation Office of Gift Planning at 800.622.4678 or giftplanning@OSUgiving.com.