Self-sustaining benefactions
A fortunate chain of events

Beverly Livingston’s UChicago legacy extends from her father’s Manhattan Project work to her Humanities Division bequest.

In 1995 Beverly Livingston, AM’68, PhD’74, returned to the University of Chicago with her father, Ralph Livingston, for an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. “Rockefeller Chapel was completely packed,” she says.

It was then that she learned her father, a Manhattan Project chemist, had been one of many scientists who signed a petition asking President Harry Truman not to launch an atomic bomb without first explaining and demonstrating its force and giving Japan a chance to surrender.

Ralph Livingston had arrived at the University about five months after Enrico Fermi led the team that achieved the first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear reaction in December 1942. He worked there for two years before moving to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he spent the majority of his career. “It took many years before he talked about [the Manhattan Project],” says Beverly, and even then it was only if he were asked to give a talk. “I knew very little about it at home.”

What she did know was French. In 1960–61 Ralph Livingston did research in France as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow and Fulbright Research Scholar. It was a pivotal year for Beverly, then a high school junior. “That was my launch pad,” says Livingston, who fell in love with the country and culture. She went on to study French at UChicago; teach at Yale and other institutions; translate the work of Flora Tristan, an early socialist feminist; and start her own business conducting tours in French around the United States.

Now Livingston has included the University in her estate plan, leaving a gift to the Humanities Division. “I had no debt when I went off to take my first academic position,” says Livingston, who was offered a fellowship for her graduate studies and wants to ensure the humanities continue to flourish.

This year, as the University marks the 75th anniversary of Chicago Pile-1, that first controlled, self-sustained nuclear reaction, Livingston plans to attend some of the many associated events on campus—without her father, who died in 1998. She’s also donating some of her father’s effects to the University archives.

“It took many years before he talked about [the Manhattan Project].”
—BEVERLY LIVINGSTON, AM’68, PHD’74

See the series of events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction at mag.uchicago.edu/cpl1-events.
Estate planning for young adults

If you have completed your own estate plan documents, you have pondered a series of “what ifs.” You know that peace of mind comes from having your estate plans in order, and that your family or loved ones will know how to carry out your wishes if you become ill or die. What you may not know is that as a parent, you no longer have legal authority over your child’s financial or medical affairs once he or she turns 18.

What every parent should know

Due to privacy laws, your child’s status as an adult presents immediate changes in your legal rights to obtain his or her health, financial, education, or personal records, or to make decisions on his or her behalf. Without documents and tools in place that name you or another trusted family member or friend to act as an agent on his or her behalf, you may experience a delay or inability to access critical information. This can result in frustration, wasted time, and unnecessary expenses in an already emotionally charged or troubling situation.

Documents young adults should have

To avoid unexpected roadblocks, your adult child can take a proactive approach and name a trusted adult to act as an agent on his or her behalf in a variety of matters and circumstances. An estate planning attorney can help to assemble and maintain a basic set of estate planning documents, such as:

- **HIPAA release** allows medical information to be released to an agent
- **Health care power of attorney** allows an agent to make medical decisions
- **Living will** provides instructions about medical treatment to be administered (or avoided) when an individual is deemed permanently incapacitated or terminally ill
- **Durable power of attorney** allows an agent to make nonmedical decisions (legal or financial)
- **Basic will** provides instructions for the disposal of assets after death

Once your child has these documents in place, encourage him or her to revisit them and update them during different life stages.

Start the discussion now

It’s never too early to have this conversation with your child. Learn about his or her wishes and share your own estate plans.

By Denise Chan Gans, Senior Director, Office of Gift Planning

Related glossary:

A few gift planning terms to know

**Scholarship** A gift that provides support for an undergraduate student.

**Fellowship** A gift that provides support for a graduate or postdoctoral student.

**Endowment** A gift that is invested in perpetuity, in which the earnings from the invested assets provide permanent financial support for a specific purpose directed by the donor.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN? REQUEST OUR FREE ESTATE PLANNING ORGANIZER AT TINYURL.COM/CONTACTOGP.
A bad day in 1986 turned into the best years of Brian Thomas and Mark Fogle’s lives. After a miserable interview for a job he wasn’t sure he even wanted, Thomas attended his uncle’s funeral, then came home to water pouring into his St. Louis kitchen from a broken gutter that was gushing through a light fixture. “He threw up his hands, swore a bit, and finally decided he needed a roommate,” says Fogle. “Fortunately for me, he went to the company housing office and found my posting.” They both worked for McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing)—Thomas as a programmer analyst, Fogle in electronics engineering—and both needed a roommate.

Shortly after moving in together on June 26, 1986, the pair began dating. They married in 2008 and were partners until December 2016, when Thomas died from brain cancer at age 55.

Moving to Chicago in 1990, Thomas and Fogle physically built their lives together, remodeling their Lakeview condo to create the perfect home for what Fogle describes as a couple of homebodies who enjoyed staying in and watching sci-fi shows like *Battlestar Galactica*. “We both had ‘thinking’ jobs, so it was nice to put a hammer in your hand once in a while,” Fogle says.

For more than 20 years, Thomas’s “thinking” job was with the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he served as the director of application development for the Center for Research in Securities Prices. Starting out as a database programmer, he became known for his problem solving. His supervisors gave him managerial responsibilities, Fogle says, and he eventually oversaw a team of about 20 developers.

When the fast-moving illness prevented Thomas from going to work, it hit him hard. “When he was out on leave, his coworkers made a video for him, wishing him well and wanting to see him back at work,” Fogle says. “He was never able to watch it. He was just too overcome with emotion.”

Diagnosed in spring 2015 after a seizure at work, Thomas began to take stock of his legacy. By summer 2016 he decided to give back to his employer. “He liked that the University had a world-class reputation,” says Fogle. “Providing a quality education to young minds is a different value proposition than a widget-making company. It gave him a sense of pride to be associated with it.”

Fogle reached out to the Office of Gift Planning and worked with senior director Denise Chan Gans, who met with the couple to discuss their options. “We were not knowledgeable about this process and didn’t know the differences between setting up a scholarship and a foundation,” Fogle says. “After talking to [Gans], it seemed to make the most sense to set up an Odyssey Scholarship in his name.” The Brian J. Thomas Odyssey Scholarship Fund provides preference for students from rural Illinois, where Thomas was born and raised.

“Being able to focus his scholarship to help kids from rural downstate Illinois was a twofer,” says Fogle. Coming from Lenzburg, Illinois, a town of fewer than 500 people, Thomas “wanted to help kids from his kind of background to come to a large, international city like Chicago and live and learn from people that are different from themselves, to be exposed to new ideas.”

This December, the first anniversary of his husband’s death, Fogle plans to spend some quality time with his in-laws and retrace the “Christmas triangle” he and Thomas used to drive visiting their families in downstate Illinois and Indiana. But what he really hopes is that when Thomas’s friends think of him, they think of the fund. “When Christmas comes around,” Fogle says, “I want nothing but donations in his memory.”

Learn more about the Odyssey Scholarship Program at [odyssey.uchicago.edu](http://odyssey.uchicago.edu).
In recognition

The Office of Gift Planning recognizes the following individuals, whose gifts have been received by the University. Their legacies of generosity and commitment to academic excellence live on through the University programs they have supported through their estates.

Edward A. Allworth, AM’53, supported Central Asian and Near East Collections at the Library.

Aurora L. Biamonte, PhD’69, established two scholarship funds—one to provide grants for social sciences students to conduct research in Italy and the other for humanities students to study fine arts in Italy.

Sidney Block, friend of the University, supported the Program of Liberal Education for Adults at the Graham School in memory of Hanna Block.

Kenneth Dunne, friend of the University, supported the Ancient Near East Research Fund at the Oriental Institute.

Gladys Fawley, PhB’19, SM’30, supported medical research at the Biological Sciences Division.

Charles M. Harper, MBA’50,* whose 2007 gift to Chicago Booth named its Hyde Park building, established and endowed a professorship fund at Chicago Booth for a distinctive teacher and scholar in leadership studies.

Betty S. Hess, SB’50, supported the College, Court Theatre, the Biological Sciences Division, the Oriental Institute, and the Division of the Physical Sciences.

Marjorie M. Hyer, AM’47,* supported the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion.

John C. Light, former professor of chemistry, provided fellowship support for graduate students in the field of theoretical chemistry.

Emmet V. Mittlebeeler, AM’50, PhD’51,* supported International House.

Kathleen Rubin, LAB’54, AB’65, provided support for scholarships at the Laboratory Schools.

Allen M. Singer, JD’48,* established scholarship and professorship funds at the Law School.

Ellen Spalding, AM’63,* established and endowed an Odyssey Scholarship in the College.

* Phoenix Society member. The Phoenix Society recognizes donors who reveal estate or life-income gifts to support UChicago during their lifetime. For more information visit phoenixsociety.uchicago.edu.

Naming gifts can be a statement about your own values or a meaningful way to honor a family member or friend.

Whether you name a seat in the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts Performance Hall ($2,500) or a shark tank at the Marine Biological Laboratory ($100,000), we can work with you to find the right expression of your support.

For more information about named giving opportunities, contact Andrew Knap, senior associate director of campaign management, at aknap@uchicago.edu.

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We’ve raised the bar

This past March, the University raised its fundraising goal for the University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact from $4.5 billion to $5 billion. In conjunction with that increase, the Phoenix Society has raised its membership goal from 1,800 to 1,900, which would add more than 1,000 new members from the start of the campaign to its close in 2019.

Help us reach our goal. Become a member simply by notifying us that you’ve included a gift to the University in your estate plan. Use the enclosed response card or online membership form at phoenixsociety.uchicago.edu/join.