



Texas State alumni and donors Matt and Jodi Edgar

## Game Changers

Past inspires alumni to take action to help current students

By Audrey Webb

College experiences can do far more than remain happy memories. They can also spur alumni into taking action to assist current students, thus starting a cycle of continued involvement. For McCoy College graduates Matt and Jodi Edgar, remembering the financial support that assisted them with their studies has prompted them to give back to the school that launched their careers, which in turn provides them with a feeling of strong connection and purpose to others.

While pursuing her MBA in 2002 – 2004, Jodi received a sizeable scholarship that made a significant impact on her graduate education. “It was a huge game changer,” she says. “We were newlyweds; we were young and just starting out. It really eased a lot of burden. I think about that to this day. The scholarship helped us out a great deal.”

With vivid recollections of how a donor made a difference to their lives, the Edgars are eager to help out others. Now established in their careers — Jodi is a controller for a manufacturing company, and Matt is a principal at a capital management firm — the Edgars seize opportunities to assist McCoy College students advance toward their goals. In spring 2015, the Edgars took part in launching an inaugural business plan competition that bears their name, including serving as judges for the final presentation round. Teams of undergraduates and recent Texas State graduates presented business plans in a four-round submission and presentation competition designed to promote entrepreneurship and small-business success. All participants received feedback from a panel of judges, and the top three placing teams were awarded a share of \$5,000.

The Edgars enjoyed interacting with the competition winners during the presentation ceremonies. A week later they attended the McCoy College of Business Awards Day scholarship presentation ceremony to meet the recipients of two Edgar Scholarships. Speaking with the beneficiaries of their generosity provided Matt and Jodi with the knowledge that their contributions are helping students make happy memories of their own. “It’s a great feeling to help students,” says Jodi. “Hearing them speak, I could tell that the money went a long way to helping them attend college.”

Matt adds that becoming involved in McCoy events is an addictive experience. “Every time we’re engaged in a McCoy event, we get such a self-fulfilled feeling and such a rewarding experience,” says Matt. “It sustains us until the next time we get involved. We can’t stop, really!”

Although they now reside in Houston, the Edgars participate in on-campus events as frequently as if they were locals, and their involvement extends far beyond McCoy Hall. Since 2013, Matt has served on the board of the Texas State University Development Foundation. Together, the Edgars have attended cultural events at the Performing Arts Center, and since 2009, they’ve held season tickets for Bobcat football games.

“It’s nice to have a reason to take a road trip to San Marcos,” says Matt. “I’ve been to every home game but one since 2009.” Jodi notes that she has missed two — one when her firstborn, Heidi, was six weeks old. (Heidi is now 6 years old and has been joined by a brother, Jeffrey, who is 3.)

It seems that the more the Edgars come to campus, the more ways they discover to stay active in the Texas State community. “There’s always so much going on at Texas State,” says Matt, “whether it’s McCoy College, athletics, academics, building projects ... in every part of the university. To be associated with it and to play some part in it is exciting.”