

Degrees of Involvement

By Audrey Webb



Will Holder with scholarship recipient Alix Pivetta

Earning an undergraduate degree in business in 1977 from McCoy College launched Will Holder into a career in the homebuilding and residential land development industry. Now, through the establishment of student scholarships, support of professional development for Texas State’s faculty and membership on the McCoy College of Business advisory board, Holder helps students look forward to lengthy and prosperous careers of their own.

Holder’s involvement with McCoy College gives him an ongoing sense of pride in his beginnings and in the impact the various degree programs have in students’ lives. “Business students in general are very excited about their careers and their future. It energizes me to be around these students and see their excitement,” he says. “I’ve been able to be a judge in an entrepreneurial competition; I’ve seen students speak on their studies and their field and the skills

they’re developing. It gives me a lot of confidence about their future in the business world. It’s just fun to see young people beginning what is likely to be a 40-year journey.”

In 2015, Holder established an endowed scholarship to support the academic pursuits of McCoy students. He further enhances the academic opportunities available to students through participating in the faculty externship program, helping to ensure that McCoy faculty members are current on business trends and their implementation in the field.

“In an externship, professors gain exposure to the discipline they teach. Professor Robert Davis came to our company and we showed him our methods of production, managing, measuring and controlling production,” says Holder. “It gave him some context for his future teaching, and it gave us the opportunity to give him some input on what technical skills we’re

interested in seeing future employees gain from their education. The externship allowed us to contribute and advise on what students are expected to understand when we hire them in our industry.”

Although Holder left San Marcos after receiving his B.A. to pursue a master’s degree and career opportunities elsewhere, his journey has taken him full circle. Although he currently works and lives in Houston, Holder plans to make San Marcos his home once again. There have been changes to the city, Holder notes, but the core values of Texas State University and McCoy College remain the same.

“Texas State is bigger now, but it’s really not different. It has the same flavor,” he says. “There is a lot of support for students here. I’m proud of what the university has done to maintain a very tight community within itself. Students know each other and their teachers. There is lots of camaraderie and dedication to the school.”

Holder, who also proudly supports the Texas State women’s tennis team, is frequently on hand for the many cultural and athletic events held at Texas State, and he hopes his fellow alumni will take advantage of all that the university has to offer. “I encourage anyone who has a history here and has fond memories to re-engage with the school. Whether it’s financially or just experiencing the school by coming to a football game or a play — if they do it just one time, they’ll find that a whole world of opportunity is waiting for them again,” he says.