“Texas State has given me some of the best memories of my life,” says Kathy. “Maybe I didn’t know it at the time,” Richard laughs, “but my degree and my career are very much thanks to Texas State.”

Throughout the years, the Petitts have maintained a connection to the university and its students. The endowment assists McCoy College faculty members as they undertake research to understand and address business challenges, learn new skills and pursue classroom enhancements.

“Texas State has given me some of the best memories of my life,” says Kathy. “There’s a lot to keep bringing us back.”

There have been many changes to the campus since the Petitts’ college heydays. In 1967, the student population of the entire university was approximately 5,000, resulting in an atmosphere that easily lent itself to students receiving personal attention and feeling like they were part of a close-knit family.

“Texas State is no longer a sleepy college on the hill,” says Kathy. “There has been a tremendous growth in stature and programming. So many people think of growth only in terms of numbers, but many don’t know about the wonderful achievements of the students and professors.”

To support this growth, the couple, both lifetime members of the Texas State Alumni Association, has founded the Petitt Family Faculty Development Endowment so McCoy College can continue its expansion of programming and commitment to the intellectual growth of its faculty.

The endowment assists McCoy College faculty members as they undertake research to understand and address business challenges, learn new skills and pursue classroom enhancements.

Through the generosity of their time and financial contributions, the Petitts extend to others the same opportunities that helped shape their own lives.

“We’re both so connected to the university,” says Richard. “It was — and still is — a big part of our life. We feel it’s our responsibility to help the current generation of Bobcats.”

The code of ethics that guides a company can determine whether the organization becomes a trusted household name or the organization becomes a pariah. The professors genuinely cared about us,” Kathy recalls. “I think they set some great moral and ethical standards. We both feel fortunate that we were there in that type of atmosphere. It really was so nurturing.”

Despite decades of growth and record-breaking enrollment — McCoy College now boasts an enrollment of more than 4,000, and the entire university is home to more than 36,000 Bobcats — that student-focused feeling remains one of McCoy College’s trademarks. The Petitts measure the university’s growth in terms of student achievement and its faculty’s capacity to nurture and prepare graduates for vibrant careers.

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