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 Edgar’s 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 Edgar’s 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 undergraduate 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’ve 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 Jodi. “We have so many professors who go above and beyond for the students, it’s hard to not want 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.

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.

Hooding and Awards

Faculty, donors and students gather to recognize accomplishments at McCoy College

Honoring Achievements

Spring 2015 Master’s Degree Hooding Ceremony

M ASTER’S DEGREE HOODING CEREMONY

Earning a master’s degree is a significant accomplishment. The biannual hooding ceremony, designed to celebrate this academic milestone, has become a popular highlight of the McCoy experience.

In the fall and spring semesters, students in all of the McCoy master’s programs – MSAT (Accounting and Information Technology), MACS (Accountancy), MBA (Business Administration) and MSHRM (Human Resource Management) – are invited to participate in the Master’s Degree Hooding Ceremony. They may nominate a business professor who has made a special contribution to their graduate journey to take part in this special day.

“We have so many professors who go above and beyond for the students,” says graduate advisor Brittany Naylor, who notes that faculty mentorship can have an enormous impact on a student’s career path. During the ceremony, the chair of the graduate program or a nominated professor will place the academic regalia hood over the student’s robe. Each student submits comments to be read on their academic highlights, such as internships, study abroad experiences, and honor societies and organizations. Thirty-two students and five professors took part in the inaugural McCoy College Master’s Hooding Ceremony in 2010; the spring 2015 ceremony recognized the achievements of 78 students, 30 professors participated, and close to 600 family and friends attended.

During their time at Texas State, Jodi credits her undergrad mentor, Letitia Tunnell, “and really enjoy making a connection with our deserving students.”

Awards Day is a major highlight of the academic year. And, as an extra cause for celebration, the event coincides with the spring recognition ceremony for new members of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), the honor society for accredited schools of business. In addition to recognizing new members, the chapter may honor a faculty member or business professional. In spring 2015 McCoy College awarded 104 scholarships with 16 donors participating. The BGS chapter recognized 85 new members, and the chapter honored Mr. Brian McCoy, president and CEO of McCoy’s Building Supply.