

# The University of Texas System Administration



## GIVING IT FORWARD

*A Family Legacy That Spans Four Successive UT Generations*

Susan and Ed Auler's earliest memories of The University of Texas begin with family: Susan's three siblings attended UT Austin, as did both of Ed's parents. Ed's father was a UT baseball player for "Uncle Billy" Disch and as a young boy, Ed was excited to sit in the dugout during UT baseball games. During his childhood, Ed spent a lot of time in Marfa fascinated with the McDonald Observatory and was amazed upon learning it was part of the UT family – later this devotion would come full-circle when Ed served on the Observatory's Board of Visitors.

Proud graduates (Susan graduated in 1967, and after earning a BA, Ed graduated UT Law School in 1969), the tradition and memories continued with their two sons, Chad and Mark, earning their undergrad and graduate degrees from UT institutions. They both agree that UT was the place for them, "We did not apply to any other schools just in case we were accepted to another university. We did not want to have *that* conversation with our parents."



**The Auler Family** (above: Stacy and Chad Auler, Susan and Ed Auler, Clary and Mark Auler)  
As Ed and Susan led by example and inspired their sons to follow in their footsteps, the Aulers hope to persuade others to carry it forward to the next generation: giving to UT System by establishing endowments, investing in sustainable support for the leaders of tomorrow.

Chad, BA '92 and MBA '03, recalls his first memories of UT football games, "When I was six years-old, you could go onto the field after each game. I remember meeting my childhood hero Earl Campbell and getting his autograph in the Burnt Orange Room. From that age on, I knew I always wanted to go to UT." He and his wife Stacy are proud parents to a UT freshman, the fourth generation of Aulers attending The University of Texas.

Neuroradiologist Mark's fondest – and most vivid – memory is flying with his dad to Galveston during a dreadful storm en route to his medical school interview at The University of Texas Medical

Branch. Mark had taken an aerospace engineering course at UT and was in the UT Flying Club so he was familiar with the route. Although Mark was terrified in the flight, Ed was determined to get his son to UTMB. Needless to say, it paid off. Mark (BA '97 and MD '01), and his wife Clary (BA '99, JD '01), will have five UT degrees between them, but as Clary states, they are also focused on setting the example for the next generation, "Mark recently went back to earn his Executive MBA at McCombs and this is a wonderful lesson for our children that you are constantly learning and never stop learning regardless of age."

It is quite clear that the Aulers have never left UT. After graduation they served on a number of boards across different UT schools and institutions, including The University of Texas System Chancellor's Council. A lot of worthy organizations are competing for their love and trust, but the Aulers have really demonstrated their loyal commitment, placing their faith and support in the UT System. Their desire to carry

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it forward to the next generation prompted the Auler family to give to the UT System establishing endowments: *the Susan and Ed Auler Chancellor's Excellence Endowment, the Stacy and Chad Auler Chancellor's Excellence Endowment, and the Clary and Mark Auler Chancellor's Excellence Endowment.*

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Chad explains, “The UT System is the perfect example of a public-private partnership from which we all have benefitted and continue to benefit. It is important for us to give back to ensure that future generations can enjoy the UT System the way we have. Our daughter, a UT freshman, is the fourth generation of Aulers attending a UT institution. The purpose of an endowment is for the future. We want to make sure that with our gift, the UT System is healthy for the long-term so that we can see our children and grandchildren there one day. It’s a generational thing: establishing endowments to provide funds in perpetuity for the next generation.”

## GREAT PEOPLE, GREAT EDUCATION

Like all young law school students, Ed was scared to death of his law professors but interestingly, shortly after graduation some of them became some of his closest friends. “Our involvement is an extension of not only the activities but of the people. I told my boys that you can get an education at a lot of different places, but there is something about UT, in that you will make friends and contacts for a lifetime.”

With 18 UT graduates in the immediate Auler family, Mark echoes his father’s sentiments, “It is the quality of the professors, the quality of the program, but also an amazing opportunity to meet quality people, including our spouses. Literally what happens at UT changed and still changes my world. It always has and always will attract quality teachers, students; excellence breeds excellence.”

The family values the investments in education and research, particularly the Quantum Leaps. Neuroscience is near and dear to Mark’s heart, so the advances in traumatic brain injury gives him hope in the future, coupled with the bright leaders in UT institutions. “One thing that is extremely important is leadership. Leadership will only become

more important as we as a nation face some of the most challenging issues and questions because of the innovation and technological advances; we are going to need some qualified leaders to make some tough choices and decisions.

I am really excited about the excellence and dedication that is being championed by our UT leaders.”

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## FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Aulers are true advocates of ensuring the success of the university and the talent in Texas for the future. As Ed and Susan lead by example and inspire their sons to give, Chad and Mark hope they will persuade others to follow in their family’s footsteps, investing in sustainable support. “We would encourage others to give to the UT System for our future generations. When you give to the UT System in the form of an endowment, you are ensuring that they will have access to this great product that we’ve all been blessed to experience; by giving, you are ensuring that our leaders of tomorrow have the same opportunities at a great education and a great future.”



### Building a Legacy

Four generations of Aulers have attended UT institutions.

Susan and Ed Auler

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