

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION



## Insights

FALL 2023

# Meaningful Mentors Lead to Impactful Legacy

**William “Bill” Mahan (’61)** has had many mentors over the course of his career in architecture, but none as influential as those he had as a student at Iowa State University.

When Bill’s GI Bill ran out halfway through his senior year, he was fortunate to be hired by Charles “Chick” Herbert, a well-known architect in the Des Moines area behind notable projects like the Des Moines Civic Center and the Meredith Corporation headquarters. Also working for Chick was another skilled architect, John Locke, who became a tutor to Bill.

“Chick, with his exquisite taste for contemporary architecture, was always looking over our shoulders, but John was my real mentor,” Bill said. “He was not only a fine architect, he was a great teacher.”

After working for a year in Chick’s office, Bill returned to Iowa State to complete his education. The day before graduation, he received sage advice from another mentor, Professor Leonard Wolf, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and head of the Department of Architecture: “Success is meeting the needs of your client, your community and yourself. Work for experience until you’re 40, and only then work for money.”

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Nyna and  
William Mahan

# Meaningful Mentors Lead to Impactful Legacy

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And that's what Bill did. Throughout his career as a principal architect at multiple partnerships in Santa Barbara, California, he saw evidence of the value of his Iowa State education time and again. Knowing the rising costs of a college degree, he made the decision to give back.

"While receiving a professional education in architecture, I also received an education in liberal arts at Iowa State," Bill said. "This, I believe, has greatly influenced my life and career."

When Bill and his wife, Nyna, were about to fund a scholarship at Iowa State, Bill's mentor John Locke passed away. Immediately, he decided to give the scholarship in John's name. Using a blended giving approach, the Mahans funded the John Locke Architecture Scholarship, which is awarded to one deserving architecture student each year.



***Students always try to do their best, but they can be taught to do better. That is my wish, my hope, and my goal. The best professors will get the best out of their students, and those students will become successful architects and, hopefully, Iowa State University Foundation philanthropists."***

**— WILLIAM "BILL" MAHAN ('61)**

# SETTING SIGHTS ON A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Life hasn't always been easy for **Timothy Zhang**, who is a first-generation American. His parents immigrated to the United States in the '90s with only \$200 to pursue his father's education. They stressed the importance of school to their children from an early age.

"My parents worked hard and studied to give me and my older sister a life in which we could pursue our passions," Timothy said.

For Timothy, that passion is architecture. He knew the field would be a perfect fit when he discovered art and environment could be combined into a built environment, fueled by creativity while also serving an important function. Timothy plans to graduate in the spring of 2024. When that day comes, he knows he won't forget the help that got him to the graduation stage: the sacrifices of his parents and the generosity of donors like Bill and Nyna Mahan through the John Locke Architecture Scholarship.



***As a first-generation American, financial support is incredibly important for me so I can pursue my academic career and professional experience. This scholarship provides me with the opportunity and financial support to achieve the goals I otherwise would not have."***

**— TIMOTHY ZHANG**  
*Locke Architecture Scholarship Recipient*

One day, Timothy hopes to pay it back, too. His goal is to take care of his parents the same way they took care of him, possibly allowing them to retire early or helping his mom achieve her dream of owning a small bookstore. His plan for doing that? Graduating with his architecture degree, getting licensed, getting a job at an architecture firm, and eventually starting his own firm where he can emphasize sustainability and social justice activism.

## You Can Honor Someone Special

Have you considered honoring someone special in your life? By making a gift to Iowa State in their name, you are paying tribute to the special role they played in your life while also lifting up others through your generosity. Contact us at 800.621.8515 to explore the possibilities.

# You Can Give the Gift of a Lifetime

There are two easy ways you can help Iowa State University educate future leaders and citizens with a global perspective, conduct research and scholarship of international significance, and share our knowledge to benefit Iowa, the nation, and the world.

Using these assets to make a gift to Iowa State can also be a powerful way to honor someone who has had a profoundly positive impact on your life.

## 1 YOU CAN INCLUDE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST.

There are many ways to structure a gift to the Iowa State Foundation in your will or living trust, including designating a certain asset, a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate go to Iowa State. Consult your estate planning attorney or contact us to talk about your options. Because you're not giving away any assets until after your lifetime, you can easily alter your plans.

## 2 YOU CAN MAKE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION A BENEFICIARY OF A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT.

Making the Iowa State University Foundation the full or partial beneficiary of a retirement account such as an IRA, life insurance policy, donor advised fund, or commercial annuity is an easy way to support future Cyclones. Contact your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank, or financial institution for a change-of-beneficiary form or ask how to change beneficiaries online. On the form, list the percentage you would like us to receive. As with a will, you can always change your beneficiary designation if your wishes change.



## Make a Big Difference With a Small Percentage

Giving the gift of a percentage of your estate or residual estate ensures that your donation will remain proportional to your estate size, no matter how it fluctuates over the years.

## Our Gift for You

Helping others is more important than ever before. Our new guide, ***Creative Ways to Stretch Your Charitable Dollar***, gives ideas on maximizing your donations and making the most impact with your charitable giving. Simply send back the enclosed reply form for your complimentary copy.



# Have You Notified Your Beneficiaries?

## Save Heartache With This One Step

By naming a loved one or a favorite nonprofit as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan asset, you are choosing a heartfelt way to make a lasting impact. Go one step further and notify those beneficiaries of your decisions.

Many people and charities aren't aware that they have been named to receive a gift. Informing them helps preserve your intentions and ensures your beneficiaries can follow your wishes.

### **PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND CAUSES YOU LOVE BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE STEPS:**

- 1 Review your beneficiary designations periodically, as circumstances may change.
- 2 Alert your beneficiaries that you have named them as a life insurance policy or retirement plan beneficiary.
- 3 Share the location and details of the policy or plan with them.

As you update your beneficiary designations, consider making a gift of a life insurance policy or retirement plan to the Iowa State University Foundation to help future Cyclones reach for their dreams. **Then notify us of your decision so we can thank you for your gift and take important steps now that ensure your wishes are fulfilled.**

### *We Want to Hear From You*

If you have already named Iowa State as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan assets, please contact the office of gift planning at 800.621.8515 or visit [isugift.org](http://isugift.org) today. If you are still creating your estate plan, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have about making this type of gift.

