

HEALTHY INVESTMENTS



FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2022

NEW MEDICINAL GARDEN NAMING HONORS AND SHOWCASES “BODY, MIND, SPIRIT” OUTLOOK

The Museum of Osteopathic Medicine’s Historic Medicinal Garden is named *Elsie’s* Medicinal Garden through a generous gift from Elsie Gaber, PhD, and Ron Gaber, DHL.

Dedication of the garden and its naming was held during the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine Relaunch Ceremony, which celebrated the museum’s accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums as part of A.T. Still University’s 2022 Founder’s Day activities.

Elsie’s Medicinal Garden integrates the University’s and the osteopathic profession’s emphasis on body, mind, and spirit.

“It is a place where the campus and visitors can explore history and find peace and solitude,” Ron explains. “With Elsie’s service as a master gardener and with our appreciation and support of nature, ATSU, and the museum, the medicinal garden was something we wanted to provide for, with lasting support.”

Elsie says she is “honored and humbled” to support the museum and garden with a major charitable gift.

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Drs. Elsie and Ron Gaber

“Through the incredible leadership of the museum director, Jason Haxton, MA, and the accreditation of the museum, the world will be reminded of the impact of the osteopathic approach to health and wellness.”

—Drs. Elsie and Ron Gaber

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“Primarily we wish to provide a lasting endowment that will help fund and preserve, in perpetuity, valuable osteopathic history through the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine. Secondly, our contribution recognized the University’s outstanding physicians, faculty, staff, and students,” Elsie reflects.

The Gabers’ gift has been preserved and invested in a dedicated fund named *Elsie’s*

Medicinal Garden Endowment at A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. The purpose of this endowed fund is to provide support in perpetuity for *Elsie’s* Medicinal Garden, including but not limited to education, costs for garden publications, plants, and materials and labor to maintain the garden.

To learn more about supporting *Elsie’s* Medicinal Garden and the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, including additional naming opportunities within the garden and museum, please contact Brad Chambers at bradchambers@atsu.edu or 660.626.2494.

SHINE A LIGHT ON YOUR VALUES

Taking time to think about and document what’s important — and why it’s important — can help you connect more deeply with the people and places you hold dear.

For example, caring supporters of A.T. Still University share a commitment to our mission of continuing our osteopathic heritage and the success of our students.

Here are some ideas for how you can forge more meaningful connections and pass along your generous spirit.

- Have you done an activity recently that made you happy? Consider a cause related to that activity. For example, if you enjoy a particular hiking trail, find a local conservation group to support.
- If you feel connected to a current event, see if nonprofits you support are responding and ensure they are set up for success.

- Go beyond dollars and cents. Volunteering is a great way to give back, especially for local charities that may not have the administrative staff that their larger counterparts do. Also, inviting friends and family can be an effective way to introduce them to your passions.
- Your values can unlock others’ generosity. Letting loved ones know what you care about can help you connect. It could even bring them to support the causes you cherish.

Tell your story by keeping a running document (a generosity journal or ethical will) that gives an account of who you gave to, why you gave to that nonprofit, how it made you feel, and how that nonprofit’s mission fits into your overall value system.

To learn more about ways a gift in your estate plan can make an impact for our students, contact Brad Chambers for assistance.

THE INTANGIBLE PARTS OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Your estate plan serves two purposes: It takes care of practical matters (like directives for medical care) and personal matters (like providing for loved ones and charitable organizations that express your most cherished values).

Yet, despite the essential nature of an estate plan, there are a handful of things people often forget — and it can jeopardize their legacy:

1. **Forgot to designate beneficiaries**

Naming beneficiaries for important assets like your retirement plan accounts or life insurance policies is critical because these pass outside of your will. Without this step, the assets will go to your estate. How these assets are eventually distributed depends on a variety of factors, including where you live, if you have a will, and any outstanding debt.

2. **Forgot to update with life changes**

When an important milestone occurs, ask yourself: Will this event influence my plan? If you fail to update your will or beneficiaries,

you might accidentally leave an inheritance for someone or something you no longer wish to support.

3. **Forgot to talk to loved ones**

It might be tempting to keep your plan to yourself. Instead, share it with loved ones. Show them how your values have informed what you wish to leave behind. If you've included a charitable organization, like ours, in your plan, let us know so we can ensure your gift is used as you intend.

Your estate plan should reflect where you are in your life. Don't treat it as something to put away as soon as it is completed. If you do, you risk losing the ability to let your legacy evolve with you.

Use your estate plan to make a difference for our students — we can show you how. Contact Brad Chambers at 660.626.2494 or bradchambers@atsu.edu to discuss the best option for you.

Museum of Osteopathic Medicine receives national recognition

The Museum of Osteopathic Medicine has achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded to the nation's museums.

Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, governments, funders, outside agencies, and the museum-going public. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, fewer than 1,100 are currently accredited.

"Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves

publicly accountable to excellence," said Laura L. Lott, AAM president and CEO. "Accreditation is a significant achievement of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud."

The collections of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine include more than 100,000 objects, photographs, documents, and books dating from the early 1800s to the present. The core of the collection consists of artifacts from the professional and private life of A.T. Still, DO.

SHAPING YOUR LEGACY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

The act of giving through your estate plan involves reflection and forethought. It also warrants a conversation. As you shape your long-term plans, find out how they stack up to A.T. Still University. Here are four key questions to ask when considering a legacy gift.

1. How will my gift be used?

Why it matters: Every nonprofit abides by accounting standards and makes financial information — like budgets and spending — available to the public. This information can be useful whether your gift will be invested long term or spent to fund immediate needs. If you want your gift to make a broad impact or to be used for a specific purpose, have a conversation with us about your goals.

2. What is the vision of the organization?

Why it matters: A vision statement shares where an organization is headed. Because a legacy gift provides support well into the future, make sure the plan aligns with your values.

3. What is your 10-year plan?

Why it matters: Details on strategic plans, rainy-day funds, board bylaws, and fundraising guidelines are clues that an organization will remain viable.

4. How will my gift be recognized?

Why it matters: Philanthropy is always worth celebrating, but you have the right to opt in or out of recognition. Express your preferences. It's OK to ask to be removed from a list, or to see your name in lights. Whether your gift is celebrated in a public or private way is completely up to you!



Let's have a conversation

We can help with all of these questions and more. Contact us to have a conversation about your legacy.

ATSU | A.T. Still
University
FIRST IN WHOLE PERSON HEALTHCARE

Craig M. Phelps, DO
President

Shaun Sommerer, PhD
Vice President for University Advancement
866.626.2878, ext. 2395
atsu.myplannedgift.org

ARIZONA CAMPUS

Trish Bere'
Senior Director of Development
Karen DeCarlo
Director of Development

MISSOURI CAMPUS

Robert J. Behnen
Associate Vice President for University Advancement
Brad Chambers
Director of Development
Scott Simmons
Director of Development
Dalton Rolland
Associate Director of Sustained Giving