Elizabeth “Liz” Edmiston Padgett ’93 came to Lehigh with big ambitions: to pursue an international business degree, at a time when not many universities were offering that major. Since graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international careers, she has made her dream come to life in successful roles with global brands like Ralph Lauren, Tory Burch, Victoria’s Secret, Gap and Calvin Klein.

She and her husband, Jordan, and their son recently returned to North America after seven years in Hong Kong, moving to Montreal, Quebec, in 2020. Padgett is president and CEO of Groupe Dynamite, Inc., a Canada-based clothing retailer.

Padgett credits Lehigh for giving her a multifaceted foundation upon which to build a successful career. She says her two study-abroad experiences in Ghana and Guatemala were “the greatest gift—an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. They changed my life and opened up my world.”

Wanting to give others that same opportunity, Padgett established the Dr. Andrew J. Edmiston Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide study-abroad scholarships for Lehigh students. The fund is named in honor of her grandfather, who was the director of counseling services at Lehigh for 20 years and was on the committee to welcome female students to Lehigh in 1971.

As Lehigh prepares to celebrate 50 years of coeducation, Padgett encourages women to review their financial portfolios with an eye toward charitable giving. “Education is such a gift, so why not give to Lehigh, where you can be as involved as you want and understand how your money is being used?” Padgett says. “Connecting charitable giving to something that gave us all such a great start—that’s just a wonderful cycle of giving.”

By Cynthia Tintorri
THE KEY PARTS OF EVERY WOMAN’S ESTATE PLAN

You’re used to caring for others: your children, your spouse, your friends and even your parents. Ensure you protect the people you care about after your lifetime as well by planning your estate.

Whether you’re single, married, divorced or widowed, having an estate plan is important. A solid future plan allows you to create a legacy that protects your loved ones and ensures your support for the places and causes you care about most continues after you’re gone.

KEY PARTS OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN INCLUDE:

A will: Your will ensures your assets, such as money, property and even jewelry, are distributed the way you intend. You can also name a guardian for any minor children in your will.

Powers of attorney: A health care power of attorney allows you to appoint a person to make medical decisions on your behalf should you be unable to do so. It’s also a good idea to have a durable power of attorney for financial matters who can act in your stead should you become incapacitated. They can be the same person, or you can select two different people.

Life insurance: Having a life insurance policy that can cover your debts helps ease the burden on your family. It’s important to have a policy big enough to cover all your debts including your mortgage and outstanding loans.

BUILD AN EXPERT TEAM

If you’re ready to start planning your future, be sure to consult the experts. Though do-it-yourself planning can be tempting, having an estate planning attorney and financial advisor helps you make sure your future plans do exactly what you want them to.

WE CAN HELP

By planning your estate now, you not only support your loved ones, but ensure the organizations you care about, like Lehigh, continue to receive your support as well. Contact the Office of Planned Giving at (610) 758-4749 or intower@lehigh.edu to learn more about including us in your future plans.

FIND THE GIFT THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU

In order to know which type of charitable gift best meets your current and future needs, it helps to understand the different charitable gifts and the benefits associated with each. Simply return the enclosed reply card to receive your free brochure Your Personal Guide to Gift Planning.
THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNED GIVING

Why Your Future Gifts Matter

At Lehigh University, we rely on donations from friends like you to help students achieve their goals and realize their dreams.

But what about the future? Though we’ve accomplished a lot, there’s still much left for us to do. Planned gifts help us get there.

When you make a planned gift to Lehigh University you:

• Provide us with solid financial footing
• Help us plan for the future with confidence
• Ensure we can adjust our offerings to meet the changing needs of those we serve

There are several ways you can make a planned gift to Lehigh, many of which offer you benefits in return. Some popular gifts include:

• Giving a gift in your will or living trust. This gift costs you nothing today and is easy to change as needed.
• Naming Lehigh University as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets. A simple form is all that’s needed to make this gift.
• Donating appreciated stock. When you give stock that is worth more now than when you bought it, you can avoid capital gains tax.
• Establishing a life income gift. Give a gift and receive steady income in return. You may even qualify for a tax deduction in the year you make your gift.

FIND YOUR GIFT

A planned gift is more than just another way to give. It’s a way to help create the future you want to see by ensuring your support for our work continues even after your lifetime. Contact the Office of Planned Giving at (610) 758-4749 or intower@lehigh.edu to learn more.
desire to help our mission in the future is easier than you may think, thanks to percentage giving.

Conversation Starters
• “Providing for you is one of my top priorities.”
• “I also want to help others and change lives after my lifetime. That’s why I plan to give ____% of my estate to Lehigh University.”

YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNER
Reach out to a trusted advisor to ensure your charitable vision aligns with your financial goals.

Conversation Starters
• “I want to make a difference in my community through charitable giving. How can I make it fit with my long-term financial plan?”
• “What are the best gift vehicles for my personal financial situation?”

YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFITS
We are always happy to answer your questions. Plus, notifying us about your gift ensures that your wishes are carried out as you intend.

Conversation Starters
• “How will my gift impact students now and in the future?”
• “What are Lehigh’s plans and goals for the future?”

LET’S TALK!
Contact the Office of Planned Giving to start the conversation about your future impact today.