Cache Valley Family Leaves Lasting Legacy

Nov. 1, 2015 - It was standing room only at an Aug. 25 special event where the College of Engineering honored two fellow Aggies and longtime supporters who are helping more young people graduate with a degree in engineering.

Faculty, students and university officials gathered to celebrate the ongoing support of Richard and Moonyeen Anderson of Wellsville, Utah. At the special ceremony, Mr. Anderson and USU President Stan Albrecht pulled the cords on a 30-foot-wide veil, uncovering the new name of the 12-year-old engineering classroom building.

The newly-named Richard and Moonyeen Anderson Engineering Building is home to approximately 2,680 undergraduate and graduate students who represent six academic departments. The take-home message from the event was ‘gratitude.’ College of Engineering Dean Christine Hailey jokingly told the crowd that she got the last word at the ceremony, saying she wanted those in attendance to walk away with a sense of thankfulness.

The Andersons’ lifetime giving and most recent financial commitment total more than $5 million – a level of support that will ensure the long-term success of the Richard and Moonyeen Anderson Scholarship fund.

The Andersons have maintained a strong relationship with Utah State University throughout their nearly 40-year career at Hewlett-Packard. Val Potter, executive director of development for the college, said through their involvement with USU, the Andersons have recognized an opportunity to expand student scholarship funding and provide support for faculty research and facility improvements.

“Many years ago, the Andersons made a decision to give back to USU and established a scholarship fund for incoming freshman from high schools in Cache and Box Elder counties in Utah,” said Potter. “What a great incentive for high school students to excel in their studies knowing that a scholarship in engineering is available to them. Through this scholarship fund nearly 100 students from Northern Utah have graduated from USU with degrees in engineering. Richard
and Moonyeen have ensured that this scholarship fund will continue to offer assistance to engineering students for years to come. This is a legacy that will live on forever in the lives of our successful engineering graduates.”

Potter said the Anderson scholars he has known over the year have expressed a deep sense of gratitude for the help they received in paying for their education.

“It allows them to focus on maintaining their grades and college pursuits without the worry of excessive outside debt,” he added. “The College of Engineering is a much better institution thanks to the support from generous people like Richard and Moonyeen.”

Prior to the naming event, the Andersons spoke with Potter about their motivation for giving.

“There are so many young, wonderful people in the world today who just need a little help, a little boost and a little understanding of the opportunities that are out there,” said Mr. Anderson. “And for those of us who have enjoyed some success, we would be derelict in our responsibilities if we didn’t share and give something back.”

Mrs. Anderson has also played an active role at USU. She’s been a strong advocate for the scholarship fund, and in 2005 she and her husband received the university’s Distinguished Service Award.

“I fully support Richard on this because when I was school, I went all four years on a scholarship,” she said. “Without it, I probably wouldn’t have had that opportunity.”

The College of Engineering is honored to name our flagship classroom building after the Andersons. Their example, generosity and kindness are a lasting legacy for the many students who will walk these halls and aspire to the many opportunities an engineering degree can bring.

The Andersons say providing the scholarship fund has been a joy, knowing their assistance is helping Aggies complete their engineering degree.

“I promise you from personal experience that that which you give with a spirit of love and thanksgiving for what you have, you’ll never miss,” said Mr. Anderson. “You’ll never miss it at all.”