

SPECIAL EDITION—TWO NEW DEPARTMENT ENDOWMENTS

**NEW ENDOWMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR FACULTY, STUDENTS IN
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

A generous gift to Abilene Christian University will provide funding for faculty in the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice, and a student scholarship in the Department of Music. Dr. Neal Coates, professor and chair of political science and criminal justice, established the endowments in honor of his late wife, Cynthia Coates.

The \$1 million Cynthia Coates Endowed Chair for Political Science and Criminal Justice will be designated for faculty support, research and development. Funds may also be used for guest and part-time professors or for other designated needs of the department.

In the Department of Music, students will benefit from a separate gift establishing the Cynthia Coates Endowed Flute Scholarship. The award will be given to an instrumental education major (with preference given for flute majors) upon entering the clinical teaching semester or to an outstanding flute major who is a leader in the Big Purple Band and exemplifies a life of service.

"These incredible gifts will benefit students and faculty for generations," said Dr. Robert Rhodes provost. "An endowed chair in Political Science and Criminal Justice will be instrumental in attracting and retaining talented faculty for decades to come. Likewise, the endowed scholarship in music will be a blessing to the student recipient and an important way to support outstanding students in this major."

Cynthia Coates graduated from ACU in 1987 and died Sept. 14, 2021, at the age of 57. As a student, she was a proud member of the Big Purple Band and first-chair flute in the Symphonic Orchestra. After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education, she served as an elementary English as a Second Language teacher and school district coordinator. Cynthia was active in youth and children's ministry with Church of Christ congregations in Kansas, Connecticut and Texas. In addition to being a mother of five, she was a den leader for Cub Scout Packs in Abilene and a volunteer at Taylor Elementary School and Abilene Christian School. She served for a decade as the children's minister at the Hillcrest Church of Christ and twice as a house parent at ACU's Study Abroad program in Oxford, England.

She also helped found the Anencephaly Support Foundation, was a board member for the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center, and was instrumental in the creation of a Birth Defects Registry in the Texas Department of Health. Those commitments grew out of her love and appreciation for life and for her son, Samuel, who died as an infant. A highlight of Cynthia's advocacy was her testifying at the American medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs to reverse a rule allowing organs to be harvested from anencephalic infants.



NEW ENDOWMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNSHIPS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice is pleased to announce the creation of a new scholarship, the Cartwright Family Internship Endowment, to benefit students wishing to intern in Washington, D.C.! Former student and alum Nick Cartwright (2017) was involved in several internships during his college career, and recognized the value of these experiences for public service and later employment. The Department is very grateful for this gift, made possible by Nick and his mother, Dayna Cartwright, of Boerne, Texas.

During college, Nick served in multiple internships in the U.S. House Of Representatives. While at ACU, he was a “big” at Big Brothers Big Sisters, led the College Republicans, and was a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. Nick also earned a master’s of public administration from the Texas A&M University Bush School of Government and Public Service 2020, and he is now a Legislative Liaison at the Space Force Association.

Nick and Dayna Cartwright have created the endowed scholarship for students in the Department because they understand the value of internships in the nation’s capital. The Department will be able to assist students with funding for travel and other expenses related to internships in Washington, D.C.

Pictured is a photograph Nick took during one of his internships in the U.S. House of Representatives as an undergraduate.

Thank you Nick and Dayna!

