

# Trust in the Future

-By Lynne Musgrave



Former Ohio University Southern Campus Director of Equine Studies Connie Mays introduces the Steenbergens to a future land user.

As students on the Ohio University Southern Campus visit the Ohio Horse Park and gaze across State Route 52, they can see beyond the steep inclines and level plains. They can witness more than serenely rolling hills and grassy bluffs. Instead, these students can envision future winding paths of picturesque bridle trails, varied terrain for equestrian training and a potential public arena and horse park. And the students can thank Bob and Phylliss Steenbergen.

In 2003, the Southern Campus received a charitable remainder trust from the Steenbergens, but unlike most, this trust was not a cash gift. The Steenbergens put a creative spin on a gift by using 155 acres of land to fund the trust. This land adjoins the existing land owned by the Southern Campus Ohio Horse Park and was unusable due to the steep terrain. This land transfer benefits Ohio University and its students in two ways. First, it creates a highway entrance to the riding ground, which was previously cut off to most riders due to inadequate road access and extreme terrain inclines. This new highway entrance will allow the use of horse trailers, increasing public and student activity. Second, this property provides the Southern Campus with an ideal layout for future bridle trails and a large public arena – both great campus improvements.

The ability for the Steenbergens to give personal property to the University is made possible through a charitable remainder trust. A charitable

remainder trust provides an income stream for life, a bypass of capital gains tax on the trustee's assets, and a charitable income tax deduction. The trust may be funded with any marketable asset and allows for creative charitable giving. In addition to traditional estate planning uses, charitable trusts also may be effective tools in business liquidations and transitions.

Considering their continual involvement in higher education, it comes as no surprise that the Steenbergens chose to donate their property to a University. Mr. Steenbergen, a former naval pharmacist mate, has served on the boards of trustees for the Nazarene Bible College of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Trevecca University of Nashville, Tennessee; and Mount Vernon Nazarene University of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Mrs. Steenbergen actively participated in the philanthropy associated with all three of these universities. She explained, "we're very interested in education and we appreciate all the University does. The land was just another way to support the students."

As residents of Ashland, Ky., since 1947, the Steenbergens have become well acquainted with Ohio University and its Southern Campus operations. "This area and the people here get a lot from the campus," said Mr. Steenbergen. "The students are so involved, and we like being a part of that."

The land that the Steenbergens have donated will expand the Ohio Horse Park, which currently includes indoor and outdoor lighted arenas, a dressage ring, a 40-stall barn, and a breeding facility. In order to accommodate the increasing number of riders at the park, this new property also will become home to the new Steenbergen Stable. The ever-expanding and improving facilities of the Southern Campus are intensely preparing students pursuing careers in the equine industry.

The goal of Ohio University is to make the dreams of its students attainable, and the Southern Campus can achieve this thanks to the graciousness of people like Bob and Phylliss Steenbergen.

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