Recruiting and retaining top-caliber faculty to teach, lead, and mentor students is of the highest priority for the university. Faculty awards and professorships are instrumental in meeting this goal. James R. Cox, of Knoxville, understood the importance of faculty support. Through a planned gift, he established the James R. Cox Professorship. In 2015, Paul Armsworth was selected as a recipient of the three-year Cox Professorship.

Paul left his native Scotland as a teen, and his studies and research career took him all over the world before he joined the UT faculty in 2009. His background is interdisciplinary—he earned his first doctoral degree in mathematics in Australia before shifting continents and disciplines to obtain a second PhD, in biology, in the United States.

His work includes helping organizations implement conservation strategies. With an interdisciplinary research team, he studies the way conservation efforts interact with population and community dynamics. His work also focuses on many resource-management areas, including the protection of natural habitats, conservation of species, and water quality.

“We research and develop ways to help organizations grow the positive and minimize the negative ways they are impacting...
the environment,” he says. “Governments and conservation organizations invest billions of dollars each year in conservation efforts. These investments are intended to slow ongoing losses of biodiversity, and to protect the flow of life-sustaining and enhancing services provided to people by ecosystems. In our work, we collaborate closely with federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and businesses to help them design these investments to be more targeted and effective.”

To accomplish his conservation efforts, Paul works closely with his lab group. “Science is a team sport, and we are a big team,” Paul says. “There are undergraduate researchers, master’s students, doctoral students, post-docs, and other colleagues. We conduct a variety of research because our studies involve mathematics, ecology, statistics, and economics. We also go out into the field to get our boots on the ground and talk to people involved. The generosity of the professorship allows us to do these things.”

Because of the resources provided to him through the Cox Professorship, Paul attended the National Land Conservation Conference in Minneapolis in October 2016. At the conference, Paul met with other researchers and scientists in his field and discussed conservation issues facing the Appalachian region, as well as apprising his peers on what UT is accomplishing.

“It was such an honor to be a recipient of the Cox Professorship knowing the stellar people who have preceded me,” he says. Previous recipients have been Beauvais Lyons of the Department of Art and Gary McCracken and Nathan Sanders of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Are you looking for ways you can create opportunities like the James R. Cox Professorship at UT? Contact the Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@utk.edu or 865-974-2370 for more information on making a planned gift to support future Volunteers.

SHARE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We all have principles and ideas that guide our lives. As you prepare for the future, make sure your loved ones are aware of how you want to be remembered long after you’re gone. Our complimentary guides 7 Questions to Help Build Your Legacy and Your Will Planning Timeline can help you get started. Request your copies today using the enclosed reply card.
WHY A WILL?
Passing away without a will can create havoc and dissension among even the tightest-knit families. When you don’t specify your wishes for your loved ones, they’re left to speculate about what you might have wanted to happen in the event of your passing. A will is also important to the organizations and causes you care about so that they receive the support you intended for them. **A will can**
- Direct the division of your property the way you choose, not the way the state decides.
- Outline special financial arrangements for family members who are minors, have special needs, or are unfamiliar with money management.
- Support charitable institutions like UT that are important to you.
- Identify an executor (chosen by you) who is qualified to settle your estate promptly and economically with careful attention to your wishes.
- Provide guardianship for any minor children.

GET STARTED TODAY
Ready to lay the groundwork for your future and ours? **Start your journey toward making your wishes known:**
- List all of your major assets.
- Decide which individuals or institutions you want to receive specific possessions or a share of your assets.
- Contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning.
- Determine who will be your executor.
- Have your attorney draft your will.
- Sign and date it before witnesses. (In some states, it must be notarized to be valid.)
- Keep the document in a safe place and make sure others know where it is and have access to it.

NEED HELP?
If you need help getting started or have questions about how you can include UT in your will, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@utk.edu or 865-974-2370. We’d be happy to help!

ALREADY HAVE A WILL?
If you have already created a will, make sure it's up to date. Life changes such as births, deaths, or marriages; increased estate values; or a move to another state should trigger you to meet with your estate planning attorney to review your will.
How to Be Generous in Uncertain Times

A Future Gift Can Make a Big Impact at UT

If you're feeling uneasy about the state of the country today, you're not alone. With new leadership, change is inevitable, and what was policy four years ago could change tomorrow.

In these changing times, you might be wondering how—or if—you can continue to support charitable institutions like the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, without tapping into the funds you need to live day to day.

Through a special future gift that you carefully plan, you can choose a method of giving that protects your family's needs and offers greater tax savings. Because planned gifts are not typically made from your current income, they are especially appealing during times of change.

Here are two ways you can give to UT in the future:

■ **Include us in your will or trust.** This is an easy and flexible way to extend your support. You can give a specific amount or leave a percentage of your estate. As little as one sentence in your will is all it takes to complete your gift.

■ **Donate retirement plan assets.** By making a simple designation on your plan’s beneficiary designation form, you can save your heirs from a significant tax burden while supporting future Volunteers.

If you’d like to learn more about the various ways you can make a planned gift to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, please contact the Office of Gift Planning today.