

Lyons Charitable Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship

Established in 2016 by the Lyons Charitable Foundation



John W. "Bill" Lyons Jr. Class of 1959

Bill Lyons was a genuine Texas giant and the epitome of the Aggie Spirit. His love and devotion for Texas A&M was only exceeded by his enormous commitment to youth and people on the Gulf Coast. With a personality twice his size, Bill quietly affected the lives of many Aggies and his legacy will live on for many years, said Dr. Eddie J. Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation during Bill's funeral in 2014.

Bill was a scientist (graduating in 1959 with a degree in biology), an attorney, a banker, an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a fisherman, an avid outdoorsman, an environmentalist, a community leader, and a diehard Aggie Football enthusiast.

He funded multiple prestigious endowed chairs, scientific (and specifically fisheries) research, renovation of Kyle Field, direct academic support for student athletes, Sea Camp scholarships, and a myriad of special projects. His generosity was even larger than his personality.

Although he had many financial successes, he came from humble roots. His father served as the Galveston Postmaster and the post office on Broadway street in Galveston still carries his name. Bill graduated from Ball High School in Galveston before attending Texas A&M so the island was a special place to him.

Like the Lyons Charitable Foundation Transfer Student Scholarship, this study abroad scholarship was founded by the generosity and commitment of John W. "Bill" Lyons Jr., Class of 1959. As noted above, Bill was dedicated to empowering young people on the Gulf Coast through education and opportunity. The study abroad scholarships allow students from Galveston County to see beyond their own experiences. Mr. Lyons would applaud these students for seeking new challenges and pushing their own boundaries, but he would always follow it up with "now, what are you going to

do with it?”. As a scholarship recipient, use these funds to expand your own horizon but always consider how you can use that knowledge to make the world better.