



## Valerie Landry: Why I cherish The Sanford House

**T**he Sanford House has been a labor of love for multiple generations of my family. It started with my grandparents as they were looking for the next step in their careers as they neared retirement. They lived on-property and managed the guests and the beginnings of our event business.

I remember coming to stay with them when my sisters and I were little. What started as Easter egg hunts and picking up pecans grew to cleaning rooms, pulling weeds, and ironing the linens. When I finally graduated to working the front desk, I thought that would be the culmination of my career with The Sanford House. My mom and dad worked with various managers over a period of time until, eventually, I happened to be nearing college graduation. The Sanford House was at a time of transition, and my family offered something priceless – the opportunity to come home and work in the family business.

Through various seasons of life, I have worked with my grandparents, my parents, and my sisters. There have been tough times when we were scraping the bottom of the barrel for ideas and resources, and there have been times that our progress has grown by leaps and bounds. Throughout my time with The Sanford House, I have learned and grown in ways I never thought I would or could. I hope to someday show my daughters what can happen if you're willing to work hard and stay close with the people you love most dearly.

From my grandparents' inception of the business, to my parents, who have been the constant backbone of our progress, to me, the curator of our future, I wouldn't trade a day of it.

I invite you to come see the expansion of Restaurant506, which now includes outdoor dining available on our patio. Come visit our team at the Spa and Salon or treat yourself to a staycation to escape from the craziness of the world right now. Our family welcomes you to come relax, rejuvenate, and prepare for a more wonderful tomorrow to come.

For more: [thesanfordhouse.com](https://thesanfordhouse.com).

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# Sam Mahrouq gives back to his alma mater

**M**any local people know MEI Group Chairman and CEO Sam Mahrouq as an entrepreneur and global businessman. Sam's portfolio includes 11 car dealerships, a prominent Dollar Rent-a-Car franchise, MEI Auto Finance, a real estate investment group and his new project, iKON Technologies, a vertical expansion of his business products and services in the automotive industry.

In addition to that collective commercial success, an equally important trait that defines Sam is his philanthropic interest in higher learning, in particular his benevolence toward his alma mater, the University of Texas at Arlington.

Thanks to his generous donation, the UTA College of Business celebrated the completion and official unveiling of the Sam Mahrouq Financial Markets Lab in September 2019. Mahrouq's donation covered costs associated with the lab's construction, terminals, technology and furniture, and provides scholarships for the "Student Managed Investment Fund."

Upon completion of the lab, UTA Senior Associate Dean Dr. Greg Frazier noted that "employing the latest and most widely used financial technology gives our students the same advantage as the top elite universities in the country."

And that, says Sam, was the point – not only of the specific donation, but of his support of the university's business department, in general.

"There is no doubt in my mind," he says, "that our North Texas economy reaps tremendous benefits from the unique academic and experimental programs that the College of Business is always enhancing."

He says his heart for entrepreneurship has inspired a quest to help others – notably aspiring businesspeople cutting their teeth at the same university that helped prepare him. And, as he notes, there is no better time to invest in the future commercial well being of his community than the present.



"I find it fascinating that nearly 54 percent of all businesses in our metro area have fewer than 500 employees," he says. "At the same time, we boast the third-highest concentration of Fortune 500 countries in the U.S."

By taking an altruistic lead, Sam says, he not only can put into action tangible projects that ultimately can benefit the community, he hopes his efforts will serve as a model for those who join him in the local commercial arena upon graduation.

"I enjoy encouraging entrepreneurship when I have opportunities to talk with students in their classrooms or at special symposiums," he says. "I want them to always look to the future."

For all his successes, he counts his college experience near the top of his accomplishments.

"UTA provided me with an understanding of what makes a business successful: proven

approaches, solid planning, management guidelines, and on-going assessments of profits and losses," he says. "Soon after I graduated, I formed Mahrouq Enterprises International, rolled up my sleeves and identified those business niches where I believed I could be successful. In my conversations with students, I emphasize hard work and integrity."

In addition to being a benefactor, Sam is a board member of UTA's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Innovation. The center supports students, scholars, and researchers who are striving to innovate, commercialize new technologies and pioneer new companies that will impact the North Texas and global economies for decades to come.

For more: [MEI Group, 1161 Corporate Dr. N., 817-469-6008.](#)

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# Lively & Associates: This boutique law firm gets **BIG** results



Daniel Aguilar, John R. Lively, David F. Farris and John R. Lively Jr.

The law firm of Lively & Associates, PLLC, is a boutique business and litigation firm located in Fort Worth. The firm's primary areas of practice include business law, business litigation, civil appellate law, creditor rights, estate planning and probate, oil and gas, real estate and alternative dispute resolution.

The firm's attorneys – John R. Lively; John R. Lively, Jr.; Daniel Aguilar and David F. Farris – are licensed to practice in all courts in Texas at both the state and federal levels and the United States Supreme Court. Lively & Associates (301 Commerce St., Suite 2900) is committed to providing its clients with prompt, efficient and effective legal counsel while striving for the highest quality of representation in order to obtain the best possible results.

Founded in 2008, Lively & Associates focuses on its clients, keeping them informed and involved throughout the legal process.

“Legal strategies are developed to fit the client's specific needs, goals and objectives,” says John R. Lively, Jr. “We possess a broad knowledge of business that allows us to identify and seize upon critical issues specific to a wide range of business practices.”

The team of attorneys at Lively & Associates has served the community and surrounding areas for more than five decades. As a small firm that has established deep ties to the community, Lively & Associates is uniquely positioned to provide personalized legal counsel throughout North Texas.

“The strengths of the firm lie in the skill and experience provided to our clients by our team of dedicated attorneys,” Lively says. “Rarely found in a firm of this size, the attorneys

and support staff possess the technological capabilities and resources of a large law firm while retaining the personal attention of a small firm. With over 80 years of combined experience in the courtroom, we have a vast knowledge of the judicial process as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution.”

Lively and his father specialize in business law to protect clients

who have family businesses both big and small. That family dynamic, along with the attorneys' years of experience, help set the firm apart. “Working together with my father,” he says, “has allowed us to truly understand the personal side, as well as the daily operations of these businesses.”

For more: [LivelyLLP.com](http://LivelyLLP.com).

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## Jim Williams Plumbing is all about the community

Jim Williams has been providing plumbing services in Arlington since 1987, but it's his time with the company he founded in 2018 where he has been able to answer a calling.

"After 30 years, I started noticing a change in all of our local trades," he says. "Prices were going up, and service was going down. Other companies were making mistakes, and I was fixing them. We decided it was time to make a change and take care of those in our community."

In January of 2018, he gained his Master and Responsible Master Plumber license, and Jim Williams Plumbing, LLC officially began servicing the neighbors in and around the Arlington, Mansfield and Grand Prairie area.

"We pride ourselves with high-quality service at a reasonable price," he says. "We started with myself and a truck and have grown to four plumbers and three trucks in less than three years. Our employees are licensed family and close friends that have grown up in the industry, as well."

As part of his commitment to his community, Williams and his team support local charities, attend career days at elementary schools and sponsor many children through library book fairs so that they and their siblings will have plenty to read over the summers. "We have stuffed the cargo trailer with bicycles, we play BINGO with Seniors, and we've even gone as far as to support a local individual who is working towards the New York City Marathon supporting the John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health," Jim says.

Williams' team is composed of hard-working family men who are top-notch Plumbers and great members of their community. "My wife, Anna Williams, runs the office side of things as Co-Owner of JWP and managed to win 2018 Realtor of the Year while helping me make the biggest change in my life," Jim says. "She's also done amazing things through her volunteer-ism at the Arlington Board of Realtors as a Director and volunteering on various committees. She's always planning some kind of party to raise money for something at the board and donating to various charities throughout Tarrant County."

Jim Williams Plumbing starting off with a BANG, winning the 2018 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Fort Worthy and 2018 and 2019 Nextdoor Neighborhood Favorite awards and earning All Star status from the readers of *Arlington Today* each of the past two years. "At the end of it all, I've been here all my life and love this great city of Arlington and will continue to serve here for many years to come," Williams says.

## Georgie Zang can help you meet your real estate needs

My name is Georgie Zang, and I will be the first to tell you that I'm as surprised as anyone as to where I am today. What started out as a quest to find a suitable home for a family member, has led me to opportunities most could only dream about. It's exciting and humbling all at the same time as I feel extremely blessed to be doing what I am right now.



My husband and I have been married over 27 years. We are part of a very large family, all of which call Arlington home. We have two amazing daughters, and we're excited to say that this fall is the first time we aren't paying college tuition in over seven years!

Our oldest, Lauren, graduated from SMU Law School in May, and our younger daughter Andie is getting her Doctorate and PHD from

UT Dallas and just received a scholarship for the remainder of her education.

Back in 2018, I made a big career change. I went from owning a telecom consulting company, to full-time real estate. Since 2007, I had managed our personal real estate investments, but it wasn't until this last couple of years that real estate has become my primary focus.

Being a part of the Main 7 team has given me tremendous experience and exposure. It has been remarkable to see it all come together. I've had the blessing of working with one of the top architects and developers in the city, Mojoy Haddad. Mojoy has become a mentor to me in more ways than one, and I will always be grateful for all he's done to put me in the position I'm in.

I enjoy looking at the possibilities of real estate, looking at an old building and seeing what it could become. I love coordinating efforts that can help our city improve housing options for all our citizens. Seeing the possibilities and being bold about making them happen, I think that's a strength I have, and one that has allowed me to work with some of the best in this business.

In March, I had the opportunity to collaborate with Jamie Adams. We were introduced through a mutual friend, Jim Ross, who saw the potential in this partnership even before Jamie or I did – and what a partnership it has become! Jamie and I have started Zang/Adams Real Estate Advisors, allowing us to focus on service and solutions for our clients in strategic ways. We believe that taking care of our people, staying service minded above all, and seeing our clients as "family" is what sets our organization apart.

Of course, those that know me also know that I'm passionate about making our city the best it can be. I believe that if there's an Arlington business that can do the work, then they should get the jobs. When people drive by our projects, I want them to think "that's my project" because they contributed in some way to making it happen. I want people to be proud of what we're creating, I want our city to be strong from the inside out. It's this fundamental passion that fuels the ideas that swirl in my head, and I am just very blessed that I'm surrounded by people who get excited about the vision. I am truly living my dream job!

For more: [thezanggroup.com](http://thezanggroup.com).