

**CHARLES “CHARLIE” ROGERS ‘63**  
**College of Business**

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“Aggies reaching out to help other Aggies, that’s the opportunity we all have. Stay involved, help out where and how you can.”

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During his career, Charlie Rogers, born in the eastern New Mexico village of Fort Sumner, made working conditions better for generations of people throughout the world. In the mid-1990s, major American corporations hired Charlie to investigate unsafe labor practices in their offshore manufacturing facilities and create a system to improve conditions and create accountability. He inspected facilities across the globe, uncovering human rights violations including child labor, forced and unpaid work, and dangerous conditions.

Consequently, Charlie created a pioneering assessment methodology and inspection guidelines for offshore manufacturing facilities. His processes are now used across industries to ensure safe working conditions and fair compensation. “Seeing the improvements made in thousands of factories worldwide gave me great satisfaction and makes me very proud.”

Charlie’s career path came about simply by seizing interesting opportunities that presented themselves. “Finding an opening in a new, expanding field was what worked for me, and most importantly, NMSU gave me the foundation to build on.” His experience working at La Posta while in college opened the door to his first management position at the Hotel Cortez in El Paso, which led to a customer service position in the apparel manufacturing industry, and then to his career in compliance for major multi-national concerns.

Today, Charlie is busy making things better for fellow Aggies, and his Aggie enthusiasm is legendary. He’s a member of the College of Business Advisory Council, has been on the board of the Alumni Association, co-founded the Lujan Dinner fundraiser for Aggie athletics, organized golf tournaments for donors, and arranged “senior sendoffs” for Albuquerque high school students attending NMSU. He’s also an Aggie football and basketball season ticket holder—regularly driving six hours round-trip between Albuquerque and Las Cruces for home games.

One of Charlie’s true labors of love was publishing *Magic in the Desert*, a book that chronicles the undefeated 1960 NMSU football team. Written by NMSU alum Dan Perry ‘62, who passed away before the book was finished, Charlie recruited two other alumni and led the project through to completion. All proceeds from sales go toward NMSU scholarships in journalism and athletics.

An even greater love was his late wife, Suzan Reeder Rogers, a triple NMSU graduate. Charlie and Suzan met while attending NMSU and married 30 years later. Charlie established a nursing endowment at NMSU in her name, and he is active in an Alzheimer’s support group that mentors and coaches people caring for a loved one with the disease.

Charlie's advice for students is to never give up on your dreams and to keep your eyes open, because you never know what door might open in front of you. "Jump on in—you're going to make mistakes, but that's how you learn. Start something and see if you like it, and if you are learning and interested then keep going down that path."