

SPIRIT



SPRING 2008 The establishment of the first five faculty chairs at Texas A&M University at Galveston through gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation have strengthened the ties between two Texas A&M campuses. *See page 18 for the full story.*

Meet Me at the MSC

Sometimes a building takes on a life of its own. You know what I mean. When someone mentions it by name, you easily relate. The sight of it evokes a sense of calm acquaintance. And when you take off your hat and walk inside, its unique aroma stirs memory, emotion and hope.

Some of us remember the good times long since past; others build hope of experiences yet to come. But whether you are in the Class of '62 or '02, the Memorial Student Center is akin to home.

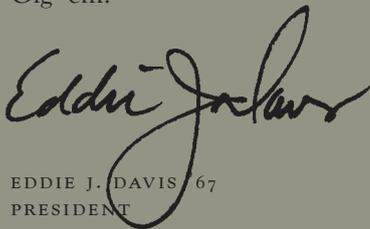
The MSC is as much a tradition on the Texas A&M campus as the Aggie Ring or Muster. It is the physical heart of Aggieland that invokes and inspires so much of our spirit. I learned more about life, culture and the practice of leadership at the MSC than I did in the classroom. It does more than just attract leaders; it shapes them.

It is a learning laboratory as much as it is a meeting place. It's the living room we all love and its student programs develop the character of integrity that define a Texas Aggie. From the MSC Council and program committees, to leadership conferences and excursions, to a simple coffee with a colleague or faculty mentor, the "C" turns ordinary college students into extraordinary Aggies.

Our current students and a lively group of former students have endorsed a vision of a new MSC. Already they have made a sizeable financial commitment, and a feasibility study is underway to ensure it can be done.

For all these reasons and more—for J. Wayne Stark, Jim Reynolds, Carolyn Adair and John J. Koldus; for "MSC rats" past and future; and above all, for the brave soldiers it honors, I ask you to read the story on Page 28 and consider your role in preserving and expanding our Memorial Student Center.

Gig 'em.



EDDIE J. DAVIS '67
PRESIDENT
TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION





While the Aggie spirit embodied in the MSC is alive and well, the building itself is in desperate need of expansion, renovation and repair.

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Thanks to the donors of the Endowed Opportunity Award scholarship program, David Pitcher '09 and his brother, Andrew '11, won't face a crippling amount of student loans upon graduation. » p.14



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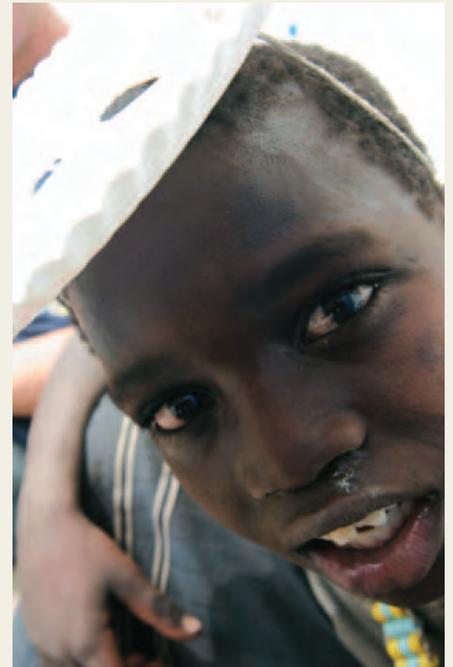
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The Texas A&M University at Galveston campus.

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To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit you and your family, please contact Glenn Pittsford in the Office of Gift Planning at g-pittsford@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310. We will describe how such plans work and design a personalized illustration that fits your particular situation. We also consult with you and your advisors throughout the process as you consider a charitable gift.

The Triple Benefits of a Charitable Trust

AGGIE TRACK STAR GIVES BACK WITH BEQUEST AND SERVICE

Although Beaumont High School track star Paul Leming Jr. '52 was heavily recruited by universities across the country, he chose to stay in his home state, near his high school sweetheart (and now his wife), Betty, and attend Texas A&M University.

Leming, a track and field letterman at the university, earned his bachelor's degree as part of the university's first business class. He was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer and had a successful 30-year career as a fighter pilot and senior officer in nuclear safety. After many years over-

seas and Leming's retirement as a full colonel, the couple settled in College Station.

Back in Aggieland, Leming officiates Texas A&M track meets, serves on the 12th Man Foundation Board of Directors and volunteers at the Letterman's Association sports museum.

Financial savvy helped Leming recognize a great opportunity when he saw it in the form of a planned gift for Texas A&M. The couple used mutual funds to establish a charitable trust through the Texas A&M Foundation Trust Company that benefits them and their family, and later will provide significant resources for Texas A&M.

"We gained tax advantages by getting the securities out of our estate, and we receive annual payments that we plan to distribute equally to our children. Eventually, these funds will benefit Texas A&M programs that are important to us," Leming said.

After Paul and Betty's lifetimes, the trust will provide lifetime payments to their three children. Then, when the trust ends, the remaining balance will create scholarships for business students and cadets, as well as support athletic and former student programs.

"It is a win-win-win—for us, our kids and Texas A&M; it's hard to find opportunities like that these days," Leming said. "This is the best way we can help the university achieve its future objectives." ❧

BETTY and PAUL LEMING JR. '52 at the TEXAS A&M SPORTS MUSEUM



OnCampus



Texas A&M University now ranks among the top 10 institutions in the country in enrollment of National Merit Scholars.

Texas Monthly Cites Three Faculty as Key Leaders

Texas A&M University faculty members Bruce McClure, Mark Westhusin and Pliny Fisk III were selected for *Texas Monthly's* list of "35 People Who Will Shape Our Future." The list was published in the February 2008 issue to commemorate the magazine's 35th anniversary.

McClure, a professor and agricultural economist, shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore and 2,000-plus research associates who study climate change. McClure's research for the past 20 years has centered on the potential effects of global warming on farming and ranching.

Westhusin, who directs the Reproductive Sciences Laboratory at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, helped clone the first cat, the first white-tailed deer, bulls and goats. He and his colleagues are also working to produce cattle that are both resistant to various livestock diseases and provide more meat.

Fisk, who has a joint appointment with architecture and landscape architecture/urban planning at Texas A&M, was listed with his wife, Gail Vittori.

They are known as pioneers in "green building," particularly in health care facilities. Together they co-direct the nonprofit Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, which has collaborated on projects ranging from a homeless shelter in Austin to a model village in the Szechuan Province of China.

Texas A&M Ranks 10th in National Merit Scholar Enrollment

Texas A&M University now ranks among the top 10 institutions in the country in enrollment of new National Merit Scholars and had the second-largest increase among all schools, according to figures in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Corp. annual report.

Last fall Texas A&M enrolled 173 freshmen who earned National Merit Scholar status, representing a gain of 39 such students compared to the previous year. Only Northwestern Uni-



versity, with a 51-student increase, had a larger gain.

The rise in the National Merit Scholars rankings is particularly gratifying to university officials as Texas A&M placed 16th in the overall rankings last year.



Reveille VII Retires

Reveille VII, Texas A&M's mascot and the highest-ranking member of the Corps of Cadets, retired after the traditional year-end Final Review of the Corps in May.

A registered Collie, Reveille VII was six months old when she was officially inducted as the university's mascot in April 2001 during Parents' Weekend.

A 16-member committee, including students, staff, faculty, former students and representatives from the Corps, athletics and Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs, was appointed in March to make recommendations for the new mascot.

According to the committee, the new mascot should be a mature female with a Collie-like appearance or have the physical attributes similar to a Golden Retriever. She should be positively motivated with an outgoing personality, be at ease in crowds and not be highly reactive or afraid of loud noises. A recommendation for the new mascot is expected by the end of the summer.

Student Leaders Pass the Torch

Mark Gold '09, a biomedical science major from Palestine, was elected student body president of Texas A&M in April.

Cadets Jordan Reid '09 and Andrew Davis '09 will lead Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets during the upcoming school year. As cadet colonel, Reid, a political science major from Whitehouse, will be the highest-ranking cadet in the Corps. Davis, an international studies major from Longview, will assist in leadership of the Corps as the deputy corps commander for operations.

Cadets Elliot Stump '09, Adam Broussard '09 and Samantha Kropp '09 will lead the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Stump, a communication major from Crosby, will be the combined band drum major, Broussard, a political science major from Katy, will be the infantry drum major and Kropp, an architecture major from El Paso, will be the artillery drum major.

Newly elected yell leaders for the upcoming year are: Fletcher Massie '09, an industrial distribution major from Dallas; Lans Martin '09, a kinesiology major from Seguin; Ben Debayle '09, a business major from Houston; Casey Schaefer '10, a business major from Katy; and Weston Wilcox '10, an agriculture major from Rockwall.

One Lap Closer to a Cure

Nearly 2,000 Texas A&M students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at the Anderson Track and Field Complex in April to help beat the hell outta cancer. The 158 teams at the third annual Aggie Relay For Life raised more than \$150,000 through online donations and fundraisers at the event for cancer research, education, advocacy and programs from the American Cancer Society.

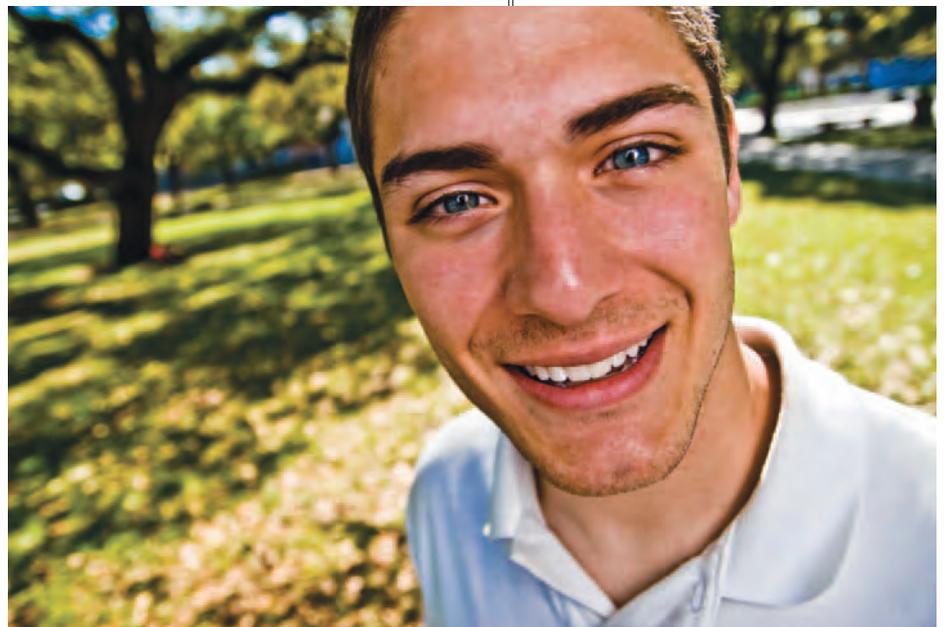
"We cannot express our gratitude to the Aggie family for their support and generosity," said 2008 Aggie Relay For Life Co-Chair Kait Sutton '08. "You continue to amaze us!"

Performances by student groups such as the Aggie Wranglers and Apotheosis entertained the crowd as they walked or ran laps on the track throughout the night. A survivors' lap and luminaria ceremony honored those battling cancer and those lost to the disease.

To date, Aggie Relay For Life has raised more than \$430,000 for the fight against cancer, and they're not done yet. Contributions for the 2008 event will be accepted through August, at which time the committee will begin to prepare for the 2009 event.

To learn more about Aggie Relay For Life, see the winter 2008 issue of *Spirit* magazine. To make a contribution to the 2008 Aggie Relay For Life, visit aggierelay.tamu.edu.

Mark Gold '09 of Palestine took office as the 2008-2009 student body president on April 21.



Lab Work



Dr. Gunnar Schade, assistant professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M's College of Geosciences, is measuring Houston's surface winds and concentrations of air pollutants as part of an effort to bring its air quality into compliance with national standards.

Yellow Cab Aids Houston Air Quality Study

Yellow Cab in Houston is making a unique contribution to air quality control research. The company has allowed Dr. Gunnar Schade, assistant professor of atmospheric sciences in Texas A&M's College of Geosciences, to install sensitive instruments that measure surface winds and concentrations of air pollutants on its 300-foot-tall communications tower at no charge.

"To obtain accurate measurements, we needed to mount these instruments on a structure that does not influence the wind itself," explained Schade. "A free-standing tower, with its small footprint and lattice structure, is just that."

The location of the tower and facilities, only 2.5 miles north of downtown, is ideal for measuring air emissions from traffic in Houston's residential, commercial and recreational areas.

"We are providing crucial input data for people who model air pollution in Texas," said Schade. "Our measurements can provide an independent validation of the state's pollutant emissions' inventory and thereby contributes to efforts bringing Houston into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards."



Birth Control for Bambi*

Researchers at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Bio-

RIGHT: Officials with the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) Consortium, which includes Texas A&M University and eight other partner institutions, announced that the GMT will be constructed in the Andes Mountains in northern Chile.

medical Sciences are developing a birth control pill for animals. Dr. Duane Kraemer, a professor in veterinary physiology and pharmacology and a world leader in embryo transfer, is heading up the team that is testing the contraceptive for use on wild animals through pills in baited food. The contraceptives would be used in much the same way as in humans, and the results are promising, Kraemer said.

"The pill inhibits maturation of the egg and therefore prevents fertilization," said Kraemer. "The animals continue to cycle, so it will not yet be ideal for many pet owners, but there is an advantage for use in wild and feral animals." The compound in the pill can be mixed with animal feed and served daily during the critical time, or it may be encapsulated to decrease the dose frequency.

The research team has started tests on domestic models for predators—animals such as feral pigs and cougars. If successful, the pills could be used on a variety of animals, including coyotes, deer, dogs and cats.

** Yes, we know Bambi is a boy, but what a great headline!*

Aggie Sociologists Study Poverty in Nation's Poorest Regions

A team of professors from Texas A&M University and Louisiana State University are using a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to study the

dynamics of poverty along the Texas border and the lower Mississippi delta. The results could influence public policies aimed at reducing poverty levels in these regions.

Drs. Dudley Poston and Rogelio Saenz, sociology professors at Texas A&M, said the study is timely because the two regions are working to rebuild in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Prior research shows the gap in poverty between whites and minorities is greater in the borderland and Mississippi delta than in the nation as a whole. In 1999, poverty rates for African-American and Latino families—the groups examined in this project—were at least twice as high as those of their white counterparts. The team is trying to determine whether the characteristics that are related to poverty for Mexican-Americans are similar to or different from those related to poverty for African Americans.

“We will be making recommendations for policies and practices to create and sustain rural community vitality and prosperity in our nation’s two poorest regions,” Poston said.

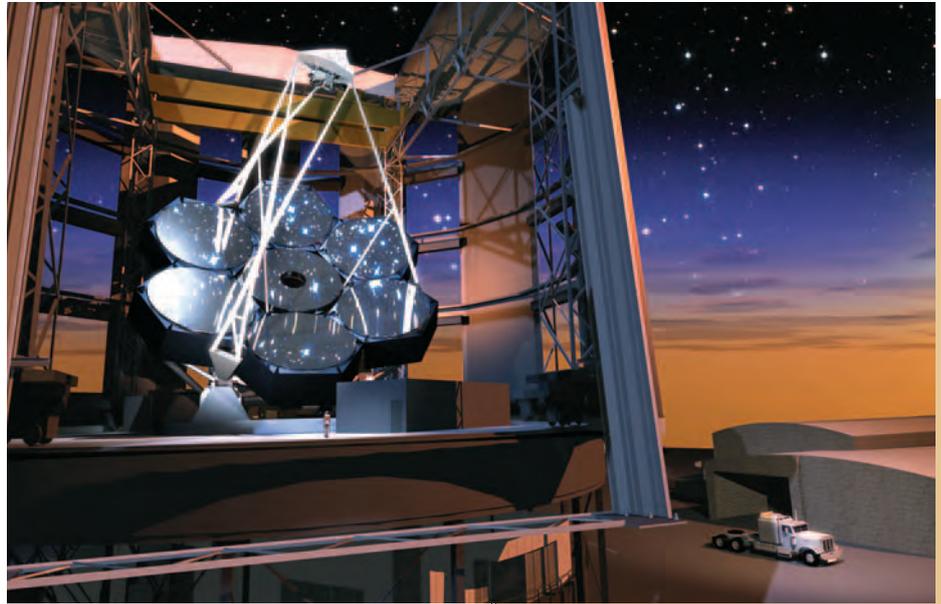
The Texas A&M Architecture-Asthma Connection



Dr. James Varni, a professor in Texas A&M’s College of Architecture and vice chair for research

in the pediatrics department at the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center’s College of Medicine, is teaching the families of low-income Hispanic children suffering from asthma how to cope with the challenges associated with this chronic condition.

Varni has worked with children’s hospitals for more than 30 years as a pediatric psychologist specializing in pediatric chronic health conditions. As a professor in the Department of



Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Varni conducts research and evaluation projects into the healing environment of children’s hospitals. He focuses on the effect of the built environment on child, parent and staff as a basis for evidence-based architectural design for pediatric healthcare facilities.

In the \$1.8 million federally-funded study, Varni walks the primarily Spanish-speaking families through problem-solving exercises to help them get a grasp of their problems and move toward resolving them. The research involves several hundred families who work with trained community coordinators—native speakers called *promotoras*—at community service sites in San Diego.

“Through the intervention, these families can begin the process of advocating for themselves and finding some of their own solutions, using problem-solving techniques,” said Varni. “Once the families learn these steps, they can use them to address other childhood challenges besides asthma—even those outside the realm of healthcare.”

For a more in-depth look at Texas A&M’s research activity, visit giving.tamu.edu and click on “publications” to request copies of Advance magazine, which is produced by the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

Andes Mountain Site Selected for Giant Magellan Telescope

A rocky plot of ground nestled high in the Andes Mountains in northern Chile was selected as the new home for the future of astronomy, the \$550 million Giant Magellan Telescope.

Officials with the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) Consortium, which includes Texas A&M University and eight other partner institutions, announced in October 2007 that the GMT will be constructed at Cerro Las Campanas, a site 7,800 feet above sea level and considered ideal because of its dry climate, clear skies, high altitude and access to the southern skies.

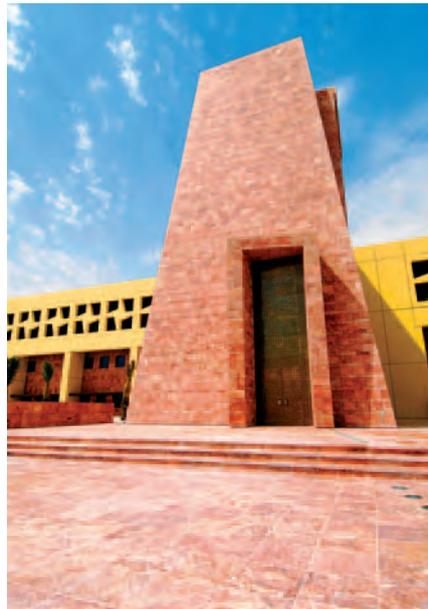
Scheduled for completion in 2017, the GMT will be the first of a new generation of ground-based telescopes. Because of its size—seven mirrors placed in a hexagonal shape totaling about 80 feet in diameter—it will offer exceptional resolving power, producing images up to 10 times sharper than the Hubble Space Telescope.

“Put it this way,” says Texas A&M astronomer Dr. Nicholas Suntzeff, “if you were standing in Dallas holding up a coin and the GMT was placed at Texas A&M (about 175 miles away), it could tell you if it was a penny or a dime.”

Texas A&M’s membership in the GMT was made possible by an initial \$1.75 million gift from Cynthia Woods and George P. Mitchell ‘40 of The Woodlands, Texas. To learn more, visit www.gmto.org.

New Gifts

A fellowship endowed by Dr. Charles H. Bowman '59 and his wife, Lynn A. Holleran, will support engineering faculty members at Texas A&M interested in serving at Texas A&M University at Qatar. The engineering program at Qatar is housed in the Texas A&M Engineering Building (right).



Holleran-Bowman Fellowship Has Qatar Ties

A \$100,000 gift to the Texas A&M Foundation from Dr. Charles H. Bowman '59 and his wife, Lynn A. Holleran, will endow the Holleran-Bowman Faculty Fellowship in Engineering.

After the fellowship is fully funded, annual recipients will be an assistant or associate professor in one of the Dwight Look College of Engineering's 12 departments, with preference to those interested in serving at Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ).

"We wanted to do something supporting the engineering program to attract and retain young, high-quality faculty," said Bowman, TAMUQ dean emeritus and professor emeritus at the College Station campus. "At the same

Gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation Inspire Spirit and Mind

time, we wanted to assist the Qatar campus."

Bowman played a significant role in establishing Texas A&M at Qatar. He led the earliest negotiations that created the branch campus and served as interim dean and chief executive officer when the campus opened in 2003. He filled those roles again in 2006 prior to the arrival of the current dean and CEO, Dr. Mark H. Weichold. Bowman still serves on the TAMUQ Joint Advisory Board.

"Dr. Bowman has a distinguished record of contributing to Texas A&M that spans almost five decades," Weichold said. "With this gift, his and Lynn's dedication to Texas A&M at Qatar will become a long-lasting legacy, and it will ensure that we continue to get the best-caliber faculty."

Aggies Celebrate Texas 4-H Centennial with Generous Gift

Mildred and Garland Powers Jr. '45 established a scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation in honor of the Texas 4-H Centennial celebration. "4-H is truly a magical thing for young people, and I'm constantly amazed at what it can do," Mildred said.

The College of Agriculture Development Council (COADC) matched the Powers' \$50,000 gift 1-to-1 to fund a \$100,000 endowment. The COADC Mildred H. and Garland A. Powers Jr. '45 Texas 4-H Council Scholarship



will support one or more full-time students in good standing pursuing a degree from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The Powers have strong connections with the Texas 4-H program and Garland has a long family history with Texas A&M. Garland is a third-generation Aggie who earned his degree in animal husbandry in 1948 after delaying his education to join the U.S. Marines during World War II.

"This Texas 4-H Council Scholarship is special because 4-H has been a blessing in my life," Mildred said. "It was a good way to show how Garland and I feel about the great things the organization does for young people."

Real Estate Executive Plans \$500,000 Endowment

Howard Horne '47 recently included Mays Business School in his estate plan with a gift of \$500,000. "I wanted to give back to the school what I felt it's given to me," said Horne. "I know that part of all the success I've had has ties to Texas A&M." Horne's gift will establish the Howard Horne '47 Endowed Professorship in Commercial Real Estate, which will be used to recruit and develop faculty.

Mildred and Garland Powers Jr. '45 established a scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation in honor of the Texas 4-H Centennial celebration.

"One of the most gratifying parts of my job is when successful former students recognize the importance of giving back to the institution that helped them become successful," said Ricky Griffin, interim dean of Mays Business School. "We are appreciative of Howard Horne's generosity. His gift will no doubt help us advance our real estate program."

After putting his education on hold to join the U.S. Air Force during World War II, Horne graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in business. He returned to his hometown of Houston to join his father's business, the W. A. Horne Co., after graduating in 1948. With Horne's help, the company flourished, growing from a three-man operation to a profitable real-estate brokerage with 250 employees.

Horne hopes that, through his gift, the next generation of Aggie business grads will receive the training necessary to enter this exciting field.

Houston Couple Supports Bush School Graduate Students

Harriet and Joe B. Foster '56 of Houston established a 20-year term-endowment through the Texas A&M Foundation to provide fellowships for graduate students at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. During the term of the endowment, it will provide \$10,000 a year to a full-time graduate student with a demonstrated propensity for leadership, public service and public volunteerism. Students seeking the fellowship must also plan to pursue employment in the non-profit sector after graduation.

Foster graduated from Texas A&M in 1957 with degrees in petroleum engineering and business administration. He received the Alumni Honor Award from the College of Engineering in 1983, was named a Distinguished Alumnus by The Association of Former Students in May 1997 and was inducted into the Corps Hall of Honor in 2006.

The Fosters also have funded a faculty chair in the Mays Business School, three President's Endowed Scholarships, two Sul Ross scholarships and a Nelson's scholarship in petroleum engineering.



Harriet and Joe B. Foster '56

Give a Guarantee

HOW THE REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP
CHANGED MY LIFE

What is the Regents' Scholarship?

- ◇ Created in 2003 by Dr. Robert Gates, then-Texas A&M president, to help first-generation students achieve their educational goals.
- ◇ Originally, the Regents' Scholar Program was funded each year through the university's operating budget. New Regents' Scholarships are supported by endowments funded through donations to the Texas A&M Foundation from former students and other individuals, corporations, foundations or other groups.
- ◇ You can create, name and designate a Regents' Scholarship for a minimum \$100,000 gift to the Texas A&M Foundation. The interest on your endowment will generate annual stipends that will fund the student's scholarship.

Growing up in a lower-middle class family, little has ever been guaranteed for me. As a result, I have spent my life working hard and taking chances. The Regents' Scholars Program at Texas A&M University was an opportunity that guaranteed college would be in my future.

Thanks to the guidance I receive from this program I have been able to overcome many of the challenges I face as a first-generation college student. The Regents' Scholarship is an asset for which I am extremely thankful.

More than just a scholarship, the Regents' Scholars Program paves the way for first-generation students to succeed in higher education with help from advisors, peer mentors and academic success programs. As the first in my family to attend college, I began my journey as an Aggie somewhat apprehensively; I was unaware of what Texas A&M and college life in general would have in store for me. The Regents' Scholars Program made my transition from high school to college as painless as possible, offering a fall orientation before classes began. There, the featured skits combined entertainment and scholarly knowledge that allowed me to avoid common mistakes made by many freshmen. With the recipients as the No. 1 priority, the Regents' Scholars Program goes that extra step to ensure we have the resources we need to succeed academically; it continues to reassure me that I made the

right choice to attend Texas A&M.

Most notably, the Regents' Scholarship has given me a voice and the opportunity to give back. Selected by the program to serve as a Regents' Scholars blogger, I have a rare opportunity to share my daily Aggieland experiences with current, prospective and former students. The program took a chance on me, so I am proud to give whatever I can to help someone else. I know former Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates, the mastermind and impetus behind the scholarship program, would be amazed by what his creation has become.

“The Regents' Scholars Program made my transition from high school to college as painless as possible.”

The Regents' Scholars Program is my motivation, my chance and my voice. It influenced my decision to attend Texas A&M, but more important, it is the reason I am honored to be an Aggie. It inspires me to succeed academically and personally because



MALCOLM WILSON '11

they took a chance on me. The scholarship program gave a hard-working young man an opportunity to succeed—an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise due to financial hardships. My future is proving more rewarding than I ever could have anticipated. ☞

—BY MALCOLM WILSON '11

To fund an endowed scholarship of your own, contact:

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Assistant Vice President for Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161
c-jaedicke@tamu.edu
giving.tamu.edu*

*To learn more about the Regents' Scholars Program, visit:
scholarships.tamu.edu*

*Read Regents' scholar blogs at
financialaid.tamu.edu/regentblog*

To date, two individuals, one foundation and an A&M club have established endowed Regents' Scholarships. They are:

- ◇ Lea J. '95 and Loftus A. Fitzwater III '93
- ◇ Hygeia Foundation
- ◇ Houston A&M Club



Viewpoint

The horse cavalry at Texas A&M was founded in 1919 as part of a program to commission reserve officers into the U.S. Army Cavalry. The unit thrived until 1943 when the horse branches were considered obsolete and disbanded. In 1972 three motivated cadets approached Col. Tom Parsons '49, then-Corps of Cadets commandant, and asked for his help in reviving the cavalry. Parsons Mounted Cavalry volunteers are sophomore, junior and senior cadets who strive to preserve the traditions and heritage of Texas A&M.

To learn more about Parsons Mounted Cavalry visit pmc.tamu.edu and watch for a feature story in the winter 2009 issue of Spirit magazine.



A

Andrew Pitcher '11 readily admits that “whipping out” to his older brother took some getting used to.

“It’s kind of weird having to call him, ‘Mr. Pitcher, sir!’” Andrew said of his brother, David Pitcher '09. But Andrew knew when he joined the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets that shouting the traditional greeting to upperclassmen—including his own brother—was part of the package.

In terms of their lives at Texas A&M, the Pitcher brothers have much more in common than their Corps membership. Both march in the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band, where David plays the baritone and Andrew plays the French horn. Both are in A-Battery. And both are funding their Aggie educations with help from Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) scholarships managed by the Texas A&M Foundation

The EOA program has been around for more than 50 years, supporting highly motivated incoming freshmen in need of a financial boost. Donors give \$25,000 to fund an EOA endowment, and the interest from that endowment provides a yearly stipend for the student of \$1,250 for four years. By establishing an endowment, donors will be able to support students in perpetuity with their gift.



How Endowed Opportunity Award donors turned Brenham brothers



into Aggie cadets

Brotherhood



The Road to Aggieland

Growing up in nearby Brenham, David and Andrew were familiar with Texas A&M, but had no real connection to the school. Their father, a retired Marine and Gulf War veteran, and their mother, a nurse, didn't have the opportunity to attend college—but they hoped their sons would.

As a senior in high school, David considered enrolling in several different colleges. It wasn't until that December, though, that he looked at Texas A&M.

"I heard good things about A&M from a lot of people, and I just realized I wanted to go to a place that I had

Texas A&M was the only place that seemed proactive and really wanted me to enroll. But I knew I had to pay for it somehow, and I didn't know what that would entail. I'm just fortunate to have come to a place where people are really generous."

— David Pitcher '09

some pride in—a place where people believe in big ideas," he said.

David likewise hadn't considered joining the Corps until he participated in its Aggie Eagle Program, which introduces Eagle Scouts like the Pitcher brothers to cadet life.

"Someone said the Corps was a challenge and that you'd never be the same," David said. The word "challenge" stuck with him, and he was soon an Aggie cadet.

Along with the Noreen Grote and M. J. Grove Endowed Opportunity Award, David was awarded a Class of '61 Sul Ross Scholarship, an H. M. Williams Foundation Excellence Award scholarship, and scholarships from the Brenham community.

"A&M was the only place that seemed proactive and really wanted me to enroll," said David, who's majoring in communications. "But I knew I had to pay for it somehow, and I didn't know what that would entail. I'm just fortunate to have come to a place where people are really generous."

In David's case, that generosity came from a surprising source.

The Texas A&M-Yale Connection

The late M. J. Grove of Frederick, Md., was a graduate of Yale University. As a Naval officer in the late 1930s and early 1940s, he was stationed in Baltimore, where he met Texan Noreen Grote. The two soon married, and M. J. began a career in banking and investments.

In the 1960s, the couple moved to Texas where M. J. became a financial

Andrew Pitcher '11 (left) and his older brother David '09 (right) are both funding their Aggie educations with the help of Endowed Opportunity Award scholarships.

adviser for the University of Texas at Austin (U.T.). Eventually, the Groves moved to Brenham to be close to Noreen's sister. While living there, they fell in love with Texas A&M.

"He felt a certain kinship to the school and he and Noreen decided to endow an EOA," explained Noreen's nephew, Joel Hueske. "They felt very strongly about supporting the university."

According to Hueske, M. J. felt that U.T. was becoming far too liberal for his taste. He found Texas A&M much more in line with his principles, and he and Noreen felt very strongly about supporting the university. With help from the Texas A&M Foundation, the couple designed their EOA to provide scholarships for students from Washington County.

Although the Groves have both passed away since returning to Maryland in the 1990s, their legacy will live on through their endowment, which will support students like David in perpetuity.

Little Brother Bleeds Maroon

Like David, Andrew didn't originally consider Texas A&M for college. Instead, he planned on attending school out of state. But when he visited David at Texas A&M, his out-of-state plans quickly changed.

"I saw him in the Corps and watched all the things he did," Andrew said. "I thought, 'Wow, that's really cool. I want to go to school here and have all these experiences.'"

He's never regretted that decision.

"It's not like other college campuses where people are just there to get a degree," Andrew explained. "Everybody really wants to be here. That makes me want to be here, too."

In addition to the Alice and Paul Wood '49 EOA, Andrew receives support from the Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ruff '49 President's Endowed Scholarship, a Regents' Scholarship, a Corps 21 Scholarship and a scholarship from the Washington County Rotary Club.

It was not only financial need, but his decision to major in aerospace engineering that qualified Andrew for the Woods' EOA.

Hooked on Flying and Philanthropy

Paul Wood came to Texas A&M from Deport—near Paris, Texas—to study aeronautical engineering and fulfill his lifelong quest to learn how to fly. He joined the Air Force upon graduation, went through pilot school, then flew 100 combat missions in the Korean War. After finishing out his military contract, Wood joined what was then Chance Vought Aircraft as a design engineer, crafting everything from airplanes to missiles over a 40-year career with the company.

"Once you get hooked on airplanes, you never get rid of it," Wood, of Irving, said. "It's kind of like being an Aggie."

Wood said his wife, Alice, who passed away in 2004, was also an avid Aggie supporter. In fact, she not only approved of the idea to create an EOA

endowment, but funded it with her own inheritance money.

"The degree that I earned in aeronautical engineering has been valuable to me, and Alice and I thought an endowment helping others to get a degree in what is now aerospace engineering would be the thing to do," he explained.

To Andrew, this financial support is making all the difference. Not only does he not have to work his way through college, but he won't face a crippling amount of student loans upon graduation. This is particularly meaningful to him when he sees the difficulties faced by fellow students.

"There are some of my buddies who don't know how they're going to make their next tuition payments," he said. "I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be here without the scholarships." ❧

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

You can establish an Endowed Opportunity Award through a tax-deductible gift to the Texas A&M Foundation that is most convenient for you, whether it's cash, negotiable securities or real estate. You can also choose to pay for your gift over five years and use your corporate matching-gift program. To learn more, contact:

Marcy Ullmann '86

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"We know Texas A&M's College Station campus has a lot of competent researchers who are very talented. In Galveston, we are intimately familiar with what they do. By endowing this chair, we hope to stimulate collaborative activities between the two campuses."



MARK A. LYONS





T I E S T H A T B I N D

*Faculty chairs strengthen the relationship
between Texas A&M and its Galveston campus*

The McDaniel Charitable Foundation values its research. Thomas W. Powell '62 praises its engineering programs. And Cynthia and George P. Mitchell '40 have been its most stalwart supporters from the beginning.

By establishing the first five faculty chairs at Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) through gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation, these donors have once again shown their support of Texas A&M's island campus. And by coupling these five chairs with gifts supporting Texas A&M University in College Station, the donors also stress the importance of strengthening the ties that link these two Texas A&M campuses.

Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, TAMUG vice president and CEO, says the five faculty chairs are important not only to TAMUG, but beyond campus borders. "The generosity of these donors makes it possible for us to attract and retain the very best faculty members who conduct research critical to our region and provide education important to our students and community," he said.

**THE MCDANIEL CHAIR IN
SUSTAINABLE MARINE FISHERIES**

As lifelong recreational fishermen, John W. "Bill" Lyons Jr. '59 and his son, Mark A. Lyons, have seen firsthand the devastating effects of humanity on the environment.

From living and working in the Houston and Galveston areas, the Lyonses are particularly concerned about the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. With its large size and plethora of marine life, they believe the Gulf is the ideal laboratory for advances in marine biology research — the type of research that could be applied to similar bodies of water worldwide.

With top-notch researchers already in place, it was clear to the Lyonses that collaborative efforts across Texas A&M's two campuses would further research progress for everyone. They decided that the best way to encourage these efforts was through the creation of faculty chairs.

Members of the board of the McDaniel Charitable Foundation—where Mark Lyons serves as president—share the Lyonses’ interest in the Gulf. They also believed that creating a faculty chair complemented the Texas City-based foundation’s goals of supporting education, conservation, animal/fishery habitat management and health care.

So with a \$1 million commitment in December 2006 to the Texas A&M Foundation, the McDaniel Charitable Foundation created the first endowed faculty chair at TAMUG—the McDaniel Chair in Sustainable Marine Fisheries.

A few months earlier, in March 2006, Bill Lyons endowed the first chair in biology at Texas A&M’s College Station campus through a \$1 million gift to the Texas A&M Foundation. The attorney, businessman and former chairman of the TAMUG Board of Visitors said his primary goal in establishing the John W. “Bill” Lyons Jr. ’59 Endowed Chair in Biology was “to cement the relationship between Texas A&M at Galveston and the College Station campus.”

“The Galveston and College Station campuses have the same degrees, the same ring, the same everything that exemplifies Texas A&M,” Bill Lyons said. “Bringing the two campuses together will allow professors an exchange of ideas and provide an interdisciplinary approach that will benefit students at both campuses.”

Mark Lyons said the two chairs bring the campuses together in other ways, as well. Endowed chairs help attract

and retain superior faculty members. The prestige they bring sheds more light on faculty research, which encourages collaboration. And by bringing greater attention to TAMUG’s unparalleled marine biology and marine fisheries programs, the McDaniel Chair bolsters Texas A&M as a whole.

“We know Texas A&M’s College Station campus has a lot of competent researchers who are very talented. In Galveston, we are intimately familiar with what they do,” Mark Lyons said. “By endowing this chair, we hope to stimulate collaborative activities between the two campuses.”

THE GEORGE P. MITCHELL ’40 CHAIRS

Upon receiving an honorary doctor of letters degree during TAMUG’s spring 2007 commencement exercises, George P. Mitchell ’40 was described as “a true visionary.”

In terms of TAMUG, that vision began in 1968 when Mitchell and his wife, Cynthia—along with the Mitchell-Dobbins Land Corp.—donated 100 acres on Galveston’s Pelican Island for the creation of TAMUG’s main campus. Thirty-nine years and a multitude of gifts later, a \$1 million gift by the Mitchells to the Texas A&M Foundation endowed the George P. Mitchell ’40 Chair in Marine Science at TAMUG.

“Texas A&M at Galveston has made tremendous academic strides in marine science, especially in recent years,” Mitchell said. “I am very pleased to participate in their growth by giving this endowment.”

The importance of the Mitchells to TAMUG isn’t lost on Loftin. “Mr. Mitchell’s support of our campus,” he said, “has been a key factor in our success.”

The Mitchells’ support of Texas A&M’s College Station campus is just as strong. Over the years, their generosity has bolstered the petroleum engineering department and the tennis program. But it’s the more than \$51 million in gifts benefiting the College of Science that has secured their place as Texas A&M’s most financially supportive benefactors of the modern day.

Included in their gifts to the College of Science is \$37.3 million toward construction of the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy and the George P. Mitchell ’40 Physics Building. Their contribution marked the first step in an \$82 million construction program designed to help propel Texas A&M into the forefront of fundamental physics and astronomy.

◆ Dr. Jay R. Rooker

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF MARINE BIOLOGY
HOLDER OF THE MCDANIEL CHAIR IN SUSTAINABLE
MARINE FISHERIES





"Excellent research in maritime culture is important for Texas and the nation, and Texas A&M at Galveston has an important role to play in providing this research."



GEORGE P. MITCHELL '40



"The Aggie spirit can be duplicated anywhere that proud Aggies pursue excellence by working hard, by competing fiercely and fairly and by giving back to mankind. And that's exactly what is happening at the campus on Galveston Island."



THOMAS W. POWELL '62



Dr. William J. Merrell Jr. ♦

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES
HOLDER OF THE GEORGE P. MITCHELL '40
CHAIR IN MARINE SCIENCE

"I'm interested in helping Texas A&M become one of the world's leading institutions in scientific research, from the far reaches of deep space to the very near halls of higher learning," Mitchell said.

And the Mitchells' support of Texas A&M isn't finished. In April the couple pledged a total of \$2 million to fund two additional chairs at the Galveston campus to encourage coastal and fisheries research.

The George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Sustainable Coasts will support a faculty member involved with TAMUG's Center for Texas Beaches and Shores. The center was established by the Texas Legislature in 1993 to address beach erosion and wetlands loss throughout the state.

And the George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Sustainable Fisheries will support a TAMUG faculty member whose research focuses on marine fisheries, particularly in regard to their long-term viability in Texas, national and international waters.

"Excellent research in maritime culture is important for Texas and the nation, and Texas A&M at Galveston has an important role to play in providing this research," Mitchell said.

THE THOMAS W. POWELL '62
CHAIR IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Growing up on the east side of Houston, Tom Powell '62 spent many memorable days on Galveston beaches with his family. After earning a mathematics degree at Texas A&M, Powell returned to Houston to build his family's small business into Powell Industries, a global provider of packaged electrical engineered-to-order solutions for power, water, wastewater, transportation and petrochemicals processes.

Now a resident of nearby Tiki Island, Powell's fondness for Galveston from childhood remains. That affection extends to TAMUG, where for 10 years he served on the board of visitors, including time as board chairman.

But it's not just location that has made a TAMUG supporter out of Powell; he's a firm believer in the university's academic strengths, especially when it comes to engineering. So in his latest major gift to the Texas A&M Foundation, half of his gift—an endowment of \$1 million—established the Thomas W. Powell '62 Chair in Engineering and Technology at TAMUG. The remaining \$1 million endowed the Thomas W. Powell '62 Chair in Mathematics at the College Station campus, marking the second faculty chair in that



department. With this two-fold gift, Powell is both thanking the department that prepared him for his career and supporting the island campus he's grown to love.

When it comes to the relationship between the College Station and Galveston campuses of Texas A&M, there is a common misconception that all the benefits flow to Galveston. But Powell has a different perspective; he points to the research opportunities, maritime and environmental programs and unique engineering offerings of TAMUG, stressing that such strengths contribute to a greater Texas A&M.

"This is the main campus' window to the sea," Powell said of TAMUG. "You can't take the sea to College Station." ♦

— BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

To learn more about how you can support Texas A&M University at Galveston or the College of Science, contact:

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Ken Williams '45 spent more than four decades pulling oil from the ground. Now he's pulled a leading-edge climate-change research facility into being. ⬠ In the late 1950s, Williams and his partners created an independent oilfield operating company on handshake deals and a shoestring budget. It grew to a \$1 million payroll with 300 wells in Texas and seven other states. Looking back, Williams says it was avant-garde to emphasize scientific and geological expertise in oilfield exploration. ⬠ "I became conscious with where geology fit in back in the 1960s," said the mechanical engineer turned oilman. "The geosciences were a natural fit for me." ⬠ With Jane, his wife of 50 years, Williams is again using his scientific expertise to make a difference with gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation. All of their gifts are funding students, faculty and programs in the College of Geosciences.

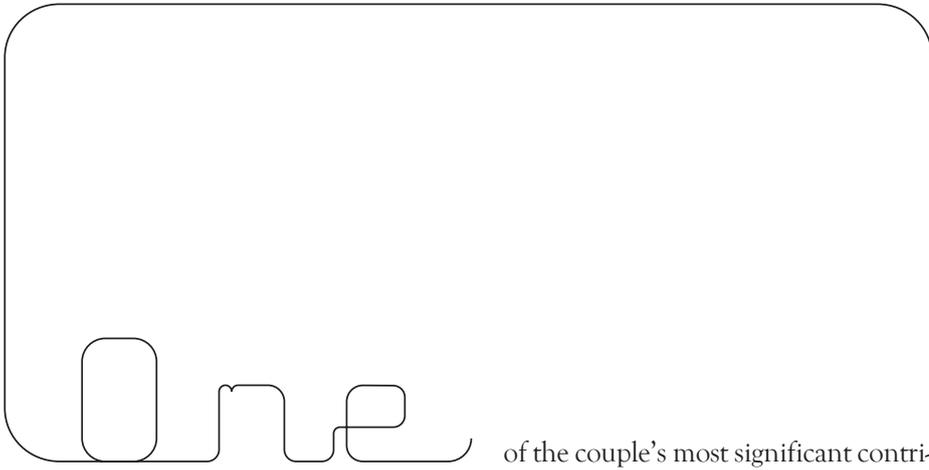
Welcome to the

Clean

Room



*Jane and R. Ken Williams '45 in the unfinished
R. Ken Williams '45 Radiogenic Isotope
Geosciences Laboratory in February 2008.*



of the couple's most significant contributions totaling nearly \$2 million is funding the new Radiogenic Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, which was dedicated in his name and officially opened in a May ceremony. Students and faculty will use the lab for interdisciplinary research and teaching in marine geology and global tectonics. Its technology-rich "clean room" chemistry laboratories allow analysis of heavy isotopes such as uranium, thorium, lead and strontium.

Dr. Bjorn Kjerfve, dean of the College of Geosciences, predicts the laboratory will position the university to be a leader in geochronology, environmental and climate-change research and will attract quality faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students to Texas A&M.

"Ken's commitment to this is just fantastic," Kjerfve said. "Without the support of a private donor like Ken,

The lab will directly benefit about 10 faculty members in five departments and aid the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program. The professors who helped create the radiogenic lab in the Michel T. Halbouty Geosciences Building also demonstrate the diverse research the facility will serve. From the geology and geophysics department are Drs. Franco Marcantonio and Brent Miller. From the oceanography department is Dr. Debbie Thomas. The husband-and-wife team of Thomas and Miller did much of the early research into the need for such a facility.

"Brent and I looked at the top 20 geosciences programs across the country, and it was obvious this was the type of lab we needed to elevate the program's research capabilities to where we aspire to be," Thomas said. "We can't teach students the way they need to learn if we don't have the right equipment."

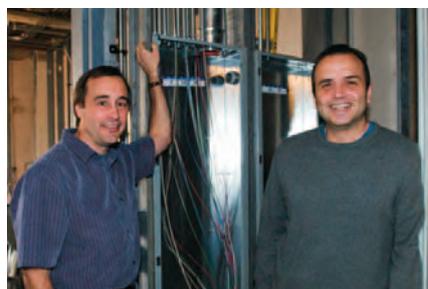
"Without the support of a private donor like Ken, it could not have happened. This will no doubt help vault Texas A&M into the top tier of American universities."

—DR. BJORN KJERFVE, DEAN, COLLEGE OF GEOSCIENCES

it could not have happened. This will no doubt help vault Texas A&M into the top tier of American universities."

Thomas is studying deep-ocean sediments up to 330 million years old to learn about ancient climates. Such sediments can be analyzed and dated in the new facility. Miller, on the other hand, is using the radiogenic lab to examine individual grains of rock much smaller than a human hair. It will promote cross-discipline collaboration and answer questions on early human and animal migration patterns,

Texas A&M College of Geosciences' faculty, Dr. Brent Miller (left) and Dr. Franco Marcantonio (right).



Construction of the R. Ken Williams '45 Radiogenic Isotope Geosciences Laboratory began last October, but the project has been in the planning phase for over four years.



climate change and other momentous scientific issues.

Williams enrolled at Texas A&M in 1941 and left in 1943 to join the U.S. Army. After service that included a 1945 stint in Okinawa, he returned to Aggieland in 1946 to complete a mechanical engineering degree. He was a proud member of the Texas Aggie Band and still supports it today.

Without the timely financial intervention of this devoted Aggie, the radiogenic lab would not have come to pass, said Dr. Luis Cifuentes, interim vice provost and professor of geology and geophysics.

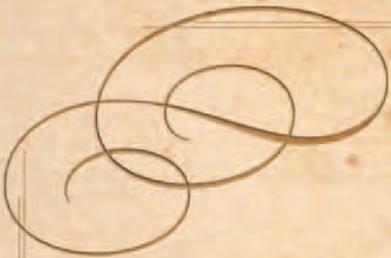
“Mr. Williams cleared some critical obstacles, and things have been rolling steadily ever since. This is an example of an individual who latched onto a scientific idea and understood its importance. He is genuinely eager about and involved in the lab, and he increased his generosity partway through the project. It’s fair to say the radiogenic laboratory is one of the biggest things to happen for the geosciences college in decades.”

—BY MIKE DOWNEY

Learn how to support the College of Geosciences by contacting:

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Leave a Legacy

The beloved Memorial Student Center—learning laboratory and home away from home—is in need of a critical restoration. 

You've got to love Aggie moms. More than 70 years ago, at the urging of their sons, the Bell County Mothers' Club donated \$6 toward construction of a student union. It seems the classes of '35 and '36, which included their sons, were convinced Texas A&M students needed a centrally located gathering place, so they used their class gifts to establish a student union fund. By donating funds for a building that would be constructed years after their own stay in Aggieland, those cadets and their mothers demonstrated a concern for the greater good that has always been a hallmark of the Aggie spirit.

That same remarkable spirit of giving to future generations of Aggies lives on. Since ground was broken on the building in 1947, the Memorial Student Center has been funded and maintained through the loyal support of current and former students. It continues to inspire generosity.

Students and the Class of '62 Endorse the Vision

In a referendum held in October 2007, students approved by an overwhelming margin a \$60 per semester increase in the Student Center Facilities Fee, raising the fee to \$100 per semester. They did so because they embrace a vision of an expanded, renovated, contemporary MSC and consider the added fee revenue their contribution to future Aggies.

“It’s our turn to leave a legacy,” said 2007-2008 Student Body President Conner Prochaska.

The Class of '62—moved by the same spirit—has already followed their example by pledging a class gift of \$500,000 toward the project. Hopefully, other groups of Aggies will do the same.

To Honor Fallen Soldiers

After the two world wars, what was originally envisioned as a student union by students and a memorial by alumni quickly became a compromise to build them both together. That early dream was eventually realized, beginning a 60-year love affair between Aggies and a building that was always meant to be much more than bricks and mortar.

During Aggie Muster in 1951 the MSC was officially dedicated to the memory of Aggies who gave their lives in the service of our country during World Wars I and II. In 1952 visitors began to remove their hats when they entered the building. Sometime after that (although history is unclear about exactly how or when this cherished tradition was born), Aggies and visitors to campus were urged to honor the memorial by keeping off the grass. In 1976 the MSC was rededicated to honor fallen Aggies of every war, past, present and future.

A Place Where Leaders are Shaped

In addition to serving as the “living memorial” in the heart of campus, the

MSC Student Programs Office (SPO) evolved into what current MSC President Jonathan Glueck calls a “leadership learning laboratory”—a training ground for leaders of tomorrow and a place where students put into practice the principles they learn in the classroom.

“Service on the MSC Council and on some of its committees, such as SCONA, provided me insight into the world beyond the borders of the State of Texas,” says retired Brig. Gen. and former MSC President Michael Schneider '62. “I also learned a great deal about organizational dynamics during my tenure as president of the council. Those lessons paid big dividends later during my 30-year military career.”

Robert T. Bisor III '86, associate vice president in the Office of the Vice President for Finance, also appreciates the unprecedented learning opportunities provided by the MSC. “Not many people get to run a multi-million dollar corporation,” he points out. “As 1986–87 MSC president, I did, and that was before I graduated from college.”



Since ground was broken on the building in 1947, the Memorial Student Center has been funded and maintained through the loyal support of current and former students.



During Aggie Muster in 1951, the MSC was officially dedicated to the memory of Aggies who gave their lives in the service of our country during World Wars I and II.



When the building was dedicated in 1951, only 6,583 students attended Texas A&M. In the 2007-2008 academic year, 46,542 students were enrolled, and the numbers continue to rise.

The number of Aggies looking to benefit from the “leadership learning laboratory” has skyrocketed. When the building was dedicated on April 21, 1951, there were 6,583 students attending Texas A&M. By the time the renovation that included the addition of the J. Wayne Stark Galleries began in 1991, the student body had grown to more than 41,000. In the 2007-2008 academic year 46,542 students were enrolled at the university, and the numbers continue to rise.

Imagine the New MSC

While the Aggie spirit embodied in the MSC is alive and well, the building itself is in desperate need of expansion, renovation and repair. That undertaking, which will soon move from planning to the design phase, will be among the most expensive construction projects in Texas A&M history.

“Not only will this project put us in a position to serve a growing student population into the 21st century, it also will help refocus attention on the traditions and qualities that set this university apart from all others,” said MSC Director Luke Altendorf. “This

building will show the world what it means to be an Aggie.”

Although increased student fees and the generous gift from the Class of '62 have jump-started the project, there's still much to be done. Private donations of at least an additional \$20 million will be the key to realizing the dream of a new MSC.

According to the conceptual drawings for the renovation, a sweeping, glass-enclosed grand entrance hall between the MSC and Rudder Tower will feature 12 supporting columns hewn from Texas limestone. The names and stories of fallen Aggies will be prominently displayed in a Memorial Hall of Honor, dedicated to commemorating their heroism and sacrifice. A 1,000-seat ballroom will be constructed overlooking the J. Wayne Stark Galleries which will move to the second floor.

Once the project is completed, the addition of about 100,000 square feet will give students 150 percent more space to gather, study and enjoy the wide range of programs and activities offered by the Student Programs Office. State-of-the-art infrastructure

will result in significant utility savings for the university, and the renovation will bring the MSC into compliance with updated fire codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

And although the generosity of current and former students will leave a lasting impact on the Texas A&M campus, the name of this Aggie landmark will not change. Translating the vision of a new MSC into a physical structure is now job one. ☺

— BY KATHY DISANTO
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

To contribute to the MSC renovation or to learn about naming opportunities, contact:

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msclivingtradition.tamu.edu

In addition to serving as a “living memorial,” the MSC Student Programs Office has evolved into a “leadership learning laboratory”—a training ground for leaders of tomorrow.



The College of Science takes great pride in preparing Texas A&M students to become the next generation of scientific leaders while delivering scholarly research and technical expertise to the world.

Powered by world-renowned faculty, top-tier departments (biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and statistics) and interdisciplinary centers and institutes, we advance discovery and solve real-world problems. We also play a key role in helping Texas A&M succeed in its mission to become one of the nation's top public institutions by the year 2020.

Our scientific ingenuity helps to feed a global appetite for innovation, resulting in hundreds of top-notch graduates and nearly \$38 million in sponsored research projects annually. Our graduates hold leadership positions in industry, academia, health care, business and government. They are tangible examples of what Texas A&M is all about: teaching, research and service.

Donors make the difference in maintaining the quality of public institutions like Texas A&M and our ability to produce the next generation of scientific solutions.

Priority 1: Endowed Faculty Chairs and Professorships

Recruiting and retaining the best faculty requires exceptional resources, from

chairs and professorships that encourage sustained excellence in competitive academic and research areas, to technology-rich facilities that ensure success is not only possible but a priority.

Faculty chairs are elite academic positions held only by top professors. The endowed funds generate an annual income from which expenses, such as the professor's research, graduate assistants and travel costs, are paid. Professorships also honor outstanding professors, but at a different minimum endowment level. Most chairs and professorships bear the name of the donor, although some are created and named in honor of another individual.

Priority 2: Endowed Graduate Student Fellowships

Ready access to quality graduate students is an important factor in recruiting and retaining top faculty. They understand better than anyone how graduate students personify the promise and vitality of the entire research enterprise, particularly at a leading research institution like Texas A&M.

Because the state contributes limited funds to Texas A&M's graduate programs, private support makes

a tremendous difference. You can fund a graduate fellowship as a one-time gift or create and name an endowment to fund graduate students in perpetuity.

Priority 3: Endowed Undergraduate Scholarships

College of Science students annually receive more than \$5.3 million in aid—an average of nearly \$2,300 per student. However, scholarships within the college account for less than \$200,000 of that support. As tuition and fees continue to rise, the need for additional scholarships and financial support dedicated to the college is crucial. It encourages undergraduates to choose Texas A&M and to major in demanding and time-consuming fields such as science and mathematics.

Because an endowed scholarship established through the Texas A&M Foundation will fund a student with only the earnings on the principal, the gift keeps giving, decade after decade. The Foundation also handles pass-through scholarships, which are awarded for a single year or semester. Creating a scholarship of your own design rather than giving through one of our existing programs is possible as well.

Priority 4: Educational Outreach and Enrichment Support

To reach the next generation of scientific leaders at what research shows is the most critical stage of their career selection and development—grades five through eight—we must also increase our outreach efforts in elementary and

Thanks to generous investments in our future under Texas A&M's recent *One Spirit One Vision Campaign*, the College of Science is \$129 million closer to new heights in several unprecedented areas. In addition to two physics buildings and financial support for our burgeoning astronomy program, we received commitments to fund the first chairs in biology and statistics. In combination with past chairs, fellowships and scholarships, these gifts are helping to attract faculty and graduate students to fulfill the promise of our current faculty reinvestment program and our broader global mission.

You also can make a lasting difference for the college by volunteering your time, ideas and inspiration. Consider hosting a fundraising dinner or reunion. Come back to campus to share your experiences with a class or student organization as you make a name for your company in the minds of talented, prospective employees. Internships and shadowing opportunities are other popular methods of starting your own network of possibility. ☺

—BY DR. H. JOSEPH NEWTON
DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
COMPILED BY SHANA HUTCHINS '93

For more information on how you can support the College of Science, contact:

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Dr. Daniel Romo, professor of chemistry at Texas A&M, is a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar funded by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. Romo receives support to enhance the undergraduate research experience.



Key undergraduate academic scholarship programs include the President's Endowed Scholarship, the Foundation Excellence Award, the Endowed Opportunity Award, the Regents Scholars and study abroad scholarships. Our college also has many college- and department-based scholarships.

middle schools. The College of Science is one of the state's most prominent scientific educational resources, so we must stay at the forefront of public education reform and equality.

Each year we sponsor educational science activities for K-12 students, as well as events tailored to women and minorities; with additional funding, we have the opportunity to do more.



John Stropp '66

Stropp Accepts Top Position at UNM Foundation

John Stropp '66, senior vice president for administration and operations, has been appointed as the first president of the University of New Mexico (UNM) Foundation. Stropp announced his resignation in May after 24 years of service with the Texas A&M Foundation.

Stropp joined the Foundation in 1984 as vice president for finance and administration after almost 20 years in industry. During his time at the Foundation, assets have grown from \$70 million to \$1.3 billion. He helped guide Texas A&M through two major capital campaigns and an era of tremendous growth and change in higher education philanthropy. He served as interim president of the Texas A&M Foundation for a year while Dr. Ed Davis '67 took leave to work as the university's interim president.

Stropp has served as senior vice president for administration and operations of the Foundation since 1997. In that role he has provided leadership to senior staff; coordinated board and committee meetings; directed investments, finance, real estate and human resource activities; and worked closely with the executive staff and Board of Trustees to establish and implement policy. Stropp also has a master's degree in business administration from Texas A&M.

Blomstedt Shifts to Education College



Steve Blomstedt '83 is now working as director of development for the College of Education and Human Development after serv-

ing two years as one of the Foundation's development directors in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. Blomstedt replaces Susan Gulig '81, who after seven years of service left the Foundation in November 2007.

Wilkinson, Ford Named Interim Directors

David Wilkinson '87 has been named interim director of development for student affairs. He temporarily replaces Brian Hervey '92,



who left the Founda- *David Wilkinson '87* tion in January after seven years of service to direct fundraising for the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center. Wilkinson began his career at the Foundation in 1999 as a director of development in the College of Engineering. In 2002 Wilkinson moved to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences where he served as the director of development until being promoted to direc-



tor of major gifts in 2006.

Jody Ford '99 was appointed interim director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Ford has served as assistant director of development in the college since 2005. He temporarily replaces Chad Wootton who was named vice president for development and strategic outreach for the university by President Elsa Murano in January.

Two Honored for Dedication



Two staff members were honored in February with the prestigious Trustee Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by Texas A&M Foundation employees.

Assistant Controller Linda Jackman '88, who has worked for the Foundation for 18 years, handles general ledger accounting and fund disbursement. Director of Development Operations Sharon Richmond '79, a 26-year veteran of the Foundation, supports the development staff through training, prospect coordination, evaluation and administrative management.

The annual award recognizes their accomplishments in creatively improving performance, advancing development efforts and promoting understanding of the major-gift fundraising and asset management services of the organization. Foundation trustees choose winners from a pool of employees who are nominated by their colleagues.

“The loyalty and dedication of both Linda and Sharon have no doubt moved the Foundation forward in its

mission to support Texas A&M,” said Bob Surovik '58, chairman. “Many of our donors never meet the diligent people working



behind the scenes who help make the Foundation such a fine-tuned business. They have dedicated much of their lives to this organization and have earned our respect.”

New Foundation Faces

Brady Bullard '95 joined the Foundation team as director of development for the Departments of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering. Bullard has



worked in pharmaceutical sales for the past 12 years, including time as a territory manager for Oscient Pharmaceuticals. He has a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a master's in educational administration. He and his wife, Jackie, have three sons, Brady, Noah and Jackson.

Mark Matthews '80 is the Foundations' new gift planning officer for the Dallas-Fort Worth and northeast Texas region. He also will serve donors in the northeastern United States.

Matthews earned an undergraduate degree in finance from Texas A&M and a master's from the Edwin L. Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. Before joining



the Foundation, he worked in commercial real estate in Dallas and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Most recently, he served as a financial advisor in Austin.

He and his wife, Julie '81, have a son, Cliff '11, and a daughter, Abbie, who's in high school.

Maroon and White Trustee

Jon L. Hagler '58 paid a visit to Aggieland April 21 to attend his 50th class reunion, the Maroon and White football game, Aggie Muster and visit with the staff of the Texas A&M Foundation.

Hagler is the lead donor to and namesake of the Foundation's headquarters. A resident of Dover, Mass., he is director of Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, a Boston-based investment firm. He was a member of the Foundation's board of trustees for seven years, serving as chairman in 1999. In recognition of his dedication and leadership, the Foundation named him “trustee emeritus” in 2003, only the second such honor to be bestowed in the Foundation's 55-year history. Hagler also is the 2005 recipient of the Foundation's coveted Sterling C. Evans Medal.

Among his numerous gifts to Texas A&M are a \$5 million commitment to the *One Spirit One Vision Campaign* and extraordinary support of the Foundation Excellence Award scholarship program. Hagler was a leader in Texas A&M's landmark strategic planning initiative, *Vision 2020*, serving as co-chair of the Executive Committee and later as co-chair of the Advisory Council.



Jon L. Hagler '58

Postscript



When Titus Meets an Aggie

At the stroke of midnight we stopped our game of Skip-Bo to toast the New Year. It was a quiet celebration, and certainly one I will never forget. As I sat silently with my fellow Aggies, I could not help but think of the images of displaced families, burning homes and machete-armed mobs that we had seen earlier that night.

We arrived in Kenya just two days before the 2007 presidential election. People were speculating foul play as the numbers for President Mwai Kibaki suddenly soared with only a few hours left in the election. Political tensions grew hourly, and by the time Kibaki was finally announced victor over Raila Odinga, ethnic violence erupted as political parties took their anger to the streets.

This was my third trip to Kenya, and I was leading a group of five other students from Aggies for Christ (AFC) to work with a ministry 30 kilometers east of Nairobi called Made in the Streets. The organization works to rehabilitate street children that live in the slums surrounding Nairobi, taking them to a farm where they educate them, feed them and most importantly, provide the stability and unconditional love that every child craves.

Completely discarded by society, nearly 60,000 street children make their homes in piles of trash, finding comfort in glue fumes, which they sniff to ease their hunger pains. If Kenya had a social ladder, these children would not reach the bottom rung.

For the last several years, students from AFC have spent their semester breaks working with Made in the Streets, and the street children have come to love Aggies and look forward to their arrival. According to local missionaries, the Aggies are different than other Nairobi missionary groups: They will “go anywhere and do anything—no matter how dirty or difficult the work.”

Titus, a wonderfully mischievous boy, was orphaned at the age of 7 and forced to live on the streets. He once spit in my face when I refused him money for glue, but then cried in my lap 10 minutes later when I offered him a plate of food. Meeting Titus for the first time, in the midst of sewage and decaying waste, was like learning to breathe again. As if I had held my breath my entire life until that very moment.

For two long summers we tried fruitlessly to get Titus off the streets, and finally, this time back, I was ecstatic to see that he was finally in the rehabilitation program and off drugs.

Working with kids like Titus has become my life’s passion. Which is

why, even as two congressmen, the State Department, a specialized evacuation company and our parents frantically worked to get us out of the country, I still could not picture myself anywhere else in the world.

Exactly one week after the violence began we were evacuated to Tanzania on a chartered bush plane. As we flew toward the border, Mount Kilimanjaro on the horizon, I felt a mix of sadness and relief that we were finally getting out.

My life has not been the same since my first trip to those slums. There is something about Kenya and all the Tituses of the world that make this work undeniably worthwhile. I go because, like other Aggies, I am called to selfless service. Such service is part of who I am and who God has called me to be; attending Texas A&M has only further ingrained this idea within me.

So when people ask me if we were scared or upset that we had to cut our mission trip short, I only pull out a picture of a young boy and say, “Let me tell you about Titus...” ☁

— BY REBEKAH NORWOOD '06

To learn more about Aggies For Christ or Made in the Streets, go to www.aggiesforchrist.org or www.made-in-the-streets.org

ABOVE: Titus, a Kenyan street orphan

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You are *Spirit* Magazine

We hope you like this issue of *Spirit* magazine. We research and write each and every article with you, our readers, in mind, and we want to know what you think.

You may have noticed that our format includes a regular guest column: "One Voice." We thank Malcolm Wilson '11 for writing the column in this edition, and we invite other faculty, staff, students, former students and corporate partners to submit commentaries on their experience with the Texas A&M Foundation.

Whether you are on the giving or receiving end of philanthropy at Texas A&M, we know your stories are moving and we hope you will share them with other readers.

If you have a question or comment about anything you have read in this issue or would like to submit a guest column, please take a few minutes to fill out and mail back the attached reply card. You can also send an e-mail to amfoundation@tamu.edu, or give us a call at (800) 392-3310.

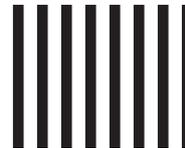
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