

SPIRIT

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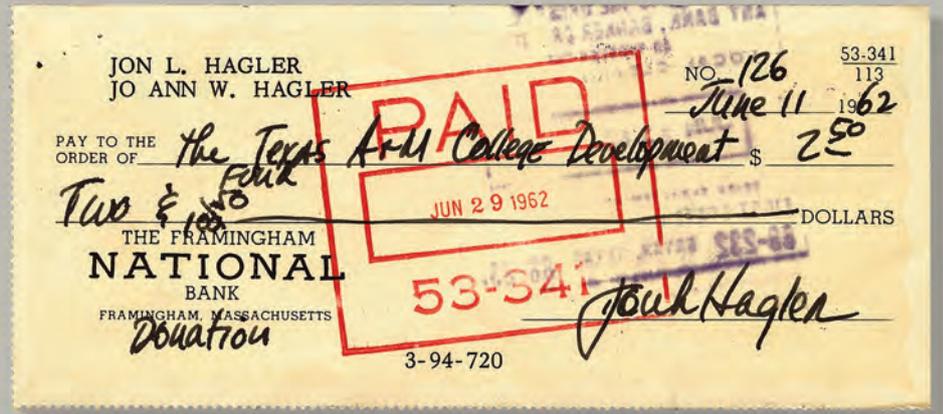
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Esprit de Corps

Memorial scholarships honor
'eternal seeker of knowledge'



Reveille



‘Whopper of a Donation’

Recently I received a remarkable letter from Jon Hagler '58, whose scholarship gifts you may have read about in the [fall 2010 issue of Spirit](#). Jon is one of only two people named “Trustee Emeritus” at the Texas A&M Foundation and received our revered Sterling C. Evans Medal in 2005.

As the lead donor to the Jon L. Hagler Center, he ushered in a new Foundation era through his vision of our headquarters building as an investment in A&M’s future. He also led the modernization of the Foundation’s endowment portfolio during seven years as a trustee.

This former Corps Commander is a Distinguished Alumnus and was a co-chair in A&M’s landmark strategic planning initiative, *Vision 2020*. Among his numerous gifts to A&M are scholarships that support hundreds of Aggies who qualify for the Foundation Excellence Award. These scholarships help outstanding undergraduates from historically disadvantaged groups, including minorities and those who face significant economic or educational hurdles.

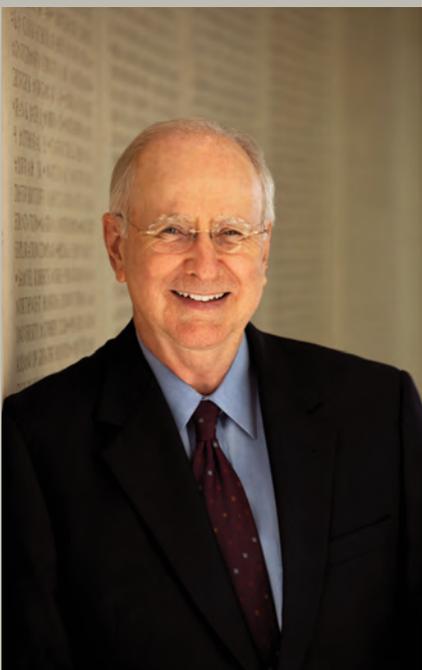
You won’t meet many men with such wisdom, insight and commitment. I’m honored to call Jon my friend and proud to work in a building that bears his name. His handwritten note was brief:

*“Ed — Here’s a whopper of a donation. At least I was determined to give something!
My best, Jon”*

Attached was this faded check sent shortly after Jon completed studies at Harvard Business School.

This old canceled check from Jon Hagler epitomizes Aggie philanthropy and makes my job worthwhile. I’m sure it’s just one of many from Aggies who, despite limited means, feel moved to give back. In 1962 Jon could not foresee his future success, but he shared a few dollars to help others experience Texas A&M and the opportunity it gave him. Since then he has multiplied that early gift a million times over. That’s the Aggie spirit.

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





Memorial scholarships honoring Tom Gillis '42 will help Aggie cadets make their mark on Texas A&M as he did. » **p.26**

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A gift from the Chevron Corp. expands a multidisciplinary engineering project management program that gives Aggie careers a boost. » **p.20**

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Cushing Memorial Library Archives

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by Reveille VIII (as told to Cody Guffey '13)



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COVER PHOTO

Reveille VIII breaks in a new mascot corporal every year. Cody Guffey '13 will hang up his leash later this spring.

The Legacy

To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit A&M, you and your family, contact Glenn Pittsford '72 in the Office of Gift Planning at g-pittsford@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310. He or another gift planning officer can describe how such plans work and provide personalized illustrations. They consult with you and your advisers as you consider and implement a charitable planned gift.

James H. Johnson '86 will use his agribusiness expertise to develop a sustainable commercial agricultural sector in Afghanistan.

Aggie Creates Gift Before Starting Afghanistan Job

Before James H. Johnson '86 started a new job in Afghanistan this year, he wanted to finish an important item on his to-do list: establish a planned gift for Texas A&M University. Johnson decided that a [revocable living trust](#) was the best giving vehicle for him. "It's easier to revise than a will. I can move and manipulate the trust distributions when my circumstances change."

Johnson, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from A&M, accepted a job with the Texas A&M-based Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture in 2010. He will improve stability and growth of commercial agriculture in Nangarhar Province. "I had been thinking about my trust creation for five or six years. Then I met with a lawyer in Georgetown, and we set it up within about a week."

The revocable living trust makes provisions for the university and other beneficiaries of his estate, and Johnson chose a trustee who will carry out his wishes exactly. As he made his gift to the Texas A&M Foundation for the benefit of Texas A&M, Johnson was surprised how specifically he could customize it. "Everything I did is a reflection of who I was and what I became through A&M."

His trust will fund a Memorial Student Center (MSC) Fall Leadership Conference endowment that will develop future Aggie leaders in perpetuity.

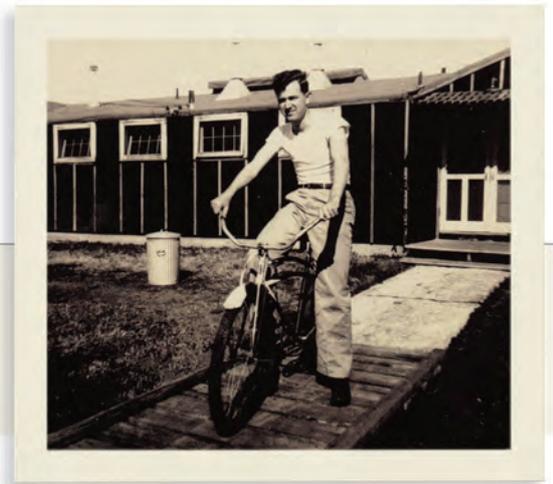
In addition, Johnson will establish four endowed scholarships. Two will be [Southerland Aggie Leader scholarships](#). Two more will assist freshmen or sophomore agricultural economics majors with a preference for Future Farmers of America (FFA) members. "Through FFA involvement, I got my Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship. It let me be active in student organizations instead of working to pay for school. I wanted to give back to someone like me years from now.

"A planned gift is the perfect vehicle for me. It's a way of giving to A&M in the future without any financial impact on me today. I've always felt A&M was welcome to use my money to help others—after I get through having fun with it," Johnson said with a big laugh. ☺

— BY MARY VINNEDGE '75



Letters



CORRECTIONS

The A&M Legacy Society list, published as part of the 2010 annual report in the fall issue of *Spirit*, placed the names of Claudia & Roderick D. Stepp '59 in an incorrect category. The Stepps' names should have appeared under the \$1,000,000-\$4,999,999 heading.

On Page 10 of the fall 2010 issue, Mays Business School's Center for Executive Development was described incorrectly. The center educates executives.

A caption on Page 21 of the fall 2010 issue contained an error. Christina Uriegas Austin '07 '11 is a fourth-year medical student.

Editor's note: The next two letters, responses to an essay by J. Decker White '51 on [Page 38 of the summer issue of Spirit](#), arrived too late for insertion in the fall 2010 issue. But we thought readers would belatedly enjoy more about life at the Texas A&M Annex.

LIVING/WORKING AT THE ANNEX

My wife, Leota, and I—along with our friends Tom and Willie Fae Atkinson—headed for Texas A&M in August 1946. Tom and I were using the GI Bill to pay for agriculture degrees. We were informed we could be in the freshman class at the A&M Annex at the former Bryan Air Base because there were too many students at the main campus.

In the application process, we asked if there were any part-time jobs available. They referred us to Mr. Hickman, head of campus security.

Mr. Hickman hired me to be in charge of answering the phone after the main office at the annex closed each day and on holidays. I took all calls and delivered messages by bicycle all over the annex campus from fall of 1946 until I graduated in June 1949. Most calls were long-distance, and students went to pay phones to return calls.

Leota managed the snack bar at the annex until January 1949. The college provided us with a barracks where we lived for the entire period.

Willie Fae Atkinson was telephone operator at the annex, and she and Tom lived in the telephone building until he graduated.

After my freshman year at the annex, I commuted to the main campus each day, which led to small jobs. I took sandwiches made by the annex snack bar to the YMCA on main campus. I also picked up *The Battalion* and movies on main campus and took them to the annex, and then returned films to the main campus. I earned a small fee for these errands.

I appreciate your interest in keeping memories of the annex alive. It was a big part of our lives.

— MARVIN A. DANIEL '50
Fredericksburg

MORE ABOUT THE A&M ANNEX

I enjoy your magazine. Some of your articles bring back the old times—keep 'em coming. I would like to point out a misstatement in the lead-in to the article "Postwar Life at the A&M Annex" in the summer 2010 issue.

The lead-in states, "for four consecutive years, all A&M freshmen 'learned and lived at the A&M Annex.'" I entered A&M as a freshman in the fall of 1946 assigned to D Troop Cavalry on the main campus. I don't know the percentage of freshman

Marvin Daniel '50 (shown in 1947) earned money delivering phone messages by bicycle to students living at the Texas A&M Annex.

on the main campus at that time versus those at, as we called it, Bryan Field, but there were at least several hundred in the ROTC units on the main campus. D Troop (one of four cavalry troops on the main campus) had 32 freshmen at the start of the fall semester.

At that time physical hazing was a serious problem on the main campus, especially in the cavalry units. Only seven of those 32 freshman finished spring semester 1947. I think most who left did so because it was nearly impossible to get in the necessary study time, not just because they couldn't "take it." The D Troop commander was relieved before the second semester ended, and the unit was disbanded before the fall semester of 1947. I finished my education at A&M as a member of A Troop in 1950.

I would like to see someone write an article about this particular period on the main campus. Although it was not such a pleasant time to be a freshman there, it was a historical part of the scene at A&M.

— BOB MCDONALD '50
Athens

Editor's note: If Aggies respond, we'll share their recollections about the mid-century era in Spirit.

DOES THIS NAME RING A BELL?



John Harold Allen '42

My husband is an A&M graduate of 1973, and we receive *Spirit* magazine, where I read an article (summer 2010) about Lawrence DuBose '42.

My uncle was John Harold Allen, a 1942 mechanical engineering graduate. He died in the war in December 1943. My mom has also passed away, so I thought Dr. DuBose might have memories of my uncle. Our family did not talk about him much,

except Mom said that when she visited A&M, Uncle John had to "walk the bull pen" because he was in trouble. He must have been a character!

I've included my address if Dr. DuBose has an interest in writing to me. Thanks in advance for any help you can give me.

— NANCY BOOK
Vancourt

Editor's note: We maintain the confidentiality of our donors' records, but we sent Dr. DuBose an e-mail regarding this request. His response follows.

Dear Nancy,
I have looked in my 1942 yearbook and see that your uncle, John Harold Allen, was in the field artillery and a mechanical engineering graduate.



Lawrence DuBose '42

I graduated civil engineering and was in the coast artillery. At that time the field artillery, along with the infantry, signal corps and chemical engineering, were housed in the 12 dormitories that were completed before September 1939. So we attended different classes, ate in different mess halls and lived in different areas. I regret to say I did not know your uncle.

There was no disgrace to "walk the bull pen" as minor infractions sometimes earned the cadet that privilege.

Once, as a fish, an upperclassman allowed me the opportunity to do the "walking" (which was more like a shuffle) in his place as he relaxed in the dormitory. How could I refuse such an offer to please a no-good (my opinion now) sophomore?

But A&M was a great place for an education with a football team that lost only to Texas.

Sorry I have been of no help. Unfortunately, there are fewer survivors in the class of 1942 each year.

— LAWRENCE DUBOSE '42
Carol Stream, Ill.

'SPIRIT' EVOKES AGGIE PRIDE

I have been meaning to write, but like many things in my life, it just hasn't happened. I think your journal is one of the most professional publications that comes out of Brazos County. The publication reflects Aggie quality at the highest possible level. That includes writing, editing, photography, design, and the list goes on and on.

I have been involved with all aspects of organizational communications for nearly half a century. This involvement includes a stint years ago editing the *Texas Aggie* for The Association of Former Students. Every time I receive *Spirit*, the publication makes me even prouder of my Texas A&M heritage.

— CONNIE ECKARD '55
Richland, Wash.

A BRIGHT SPOT INDEED

"Howdy" and congratulations to the Texas A&M Foundation on another spectacular issue of *Spirit*. I read with great interest about the continued success the Foundation is having and its growing impact on the educational enterprise at A&M. I always enjoy reading the profiles of students, faculty and former students in your magazine—from my perspective, one of the best of its kind in the nation.

Recognizing that these are challenging times for higher education in the U.S. and for fundraising to support our country's great academic institutions (particularly those facing significant budget cuts), the advances the Texas A&M Foundation continues to make and the resources you continue to generate for A&M are a bright spot indeed. I am glad A&M continues to occupy this privileged position, which further underscores the extraordinary generosity of the former students. I wish you and the entire Foundation a productive and prosperous New Year.

— DAVID V. ROSOWSKY, PH.D.,
P.E., F. ASCE
Dean of Engineering
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.
(Head of Texas A&M's Zachry Department
of Civil Engineering, 2004-09)

OnCampus



Aggie 100 winner Tom Bieschke '95

Aggie 100 Top 10 for 2010

1. Caltex Energy Inc.
Tom Bieschke '95
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
2. Republic Landscapes
Brandon Spears '94
College Station
3. Brazos Technology
Michael McAleer '92
College Station
4. Opportune LLP
David Baggett '81
Houston
5. Improving Enterprises Inc.
Curtis Hite '91
Dallas
6. Monico Monitoring Inc.
Doyle Taylor '82
Spring
7. Employer Flexible
Michael Greathouse '98
Houston
8. Salvaggio, Teal & Associates
Mitt Salvaggio '82
Austin
9. Internet Contrasts Co.
Brandon Zumwalt '99
Helotes
10. iSpeak Inc.
Russ Peterson Jr. '91
Round Rock

Canada Firm Tops Aggie 100

The Aggie 100 recognizes the world's fastest-growing Aggie-owned or Aggie-led businesses. Topping this year's list is Caltex Energy, a Canada-based oil and gas exploration company. President Tom Bieschke '95 started Caltex Energy five years ago, and despite the recession has grown it into a highly successful business.

Companies representing six states and three countries were ranked according to the compound growth rate in the last two years. Caltex Energy grew more than 224 percent, and second-place Republic Landscapes of College Station grew 127 percent from 2007 to 2009.

More than 600 guests attended the Aggie 100 celebration held at the Zone Club in Kyle Field on Oct. 22. For more information, visit aggie100.com.

Veterinary Team Will Treat Pets and Livestock in Disaster Areas

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences unveiled its Veterinary Emergency Team on Dec. 1. This mobile unit can respond to disasters and go into hazardous sites throughout the south to help pets and livestock for up to two weeks.

When a governor declares a disaster area, the emergency team—which includes veterinarians, students and other staff—will perform minor surgeries and provide other care as needed.

Watch the video (right) for a personal tour of Texas A&M's Sterling C. Evans Library with Dr. Steven Smith. Click the white arrow to start.

"We want to limit animal suffering," said Dr. Wesley Bissett, assistant professor and the team's coordinator. "Being able to respond when animals are in need is in our tradition of service."

Start-up costs, which included purchases of equipment and a four-wheel-drive crew-cab pickup, ran about \$450,000; funding and equipment were provided by multiple agencies and organizations.

Texas A&M Walks the Talk

Aggies can take pride in these recent accomplishments:

◇ Texas A&M University ranked second (behind Penn State) among recruiters' favorite schools, according to a *Wall Street Journal* survey of major recruiters whose companies hired 43,000 new graduates in 2009. A&M was the only Texas school in the top 10 of the survey of 479 corporate, nonprofit and government recruiters released in September.

◇ *U.S. News & World Report* placed Texas A&M second in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category behind the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Dwight Look College of Engineering maintained its No. 9 status for engineering programs at public universities.

◇ The Princeton Review listed Texas A&M among its 10 best-value public colleges based on available financial aid



and cost to attend. A&M also ranked No. 1 for most conservative students and No. 5 for best athletic facilities.

♦ A&M's annual expenditures in science and engineering research topped the \$600 million mark for the first time in history. Based on that spending, the National Science Foundation ranked Texas A&M in its Top 20 Academic Research Performers for the second consecutive year.

♦ The university's undergraduate and graduate landscape architecture programs ranked No. 2 and No. 3 respectively in 2011 rankings by the Design Futures Council, a leading design industry collaborative.

♦ The George Bush School of Government and Public Service is one of five schools selected to participate the next academic year in a new national program to prepare top graduate students for federal government careers in international relations and related fields. A&M's Robertson Fellows Program will be funded by a \$386,400 four-year gift from the Robertson Foundation for Government, which was established by the family of the late philanthropists Charles and Marie Robertson.

♦ *Military Times Edge* magazine rated A&M No. 7 among 101 schools on its list of veteran-friendly universities.

♦ Nearly half (49.8 percent) of Aggies entering in 2005 received degrees in

four years, according to the Texas A&M Office of Institutional Studies and Planning. That's up from 36 percent for Aggies entering in 2000.

So You Think You Can Dance?

Step right up: Texas A&M now offers a dance science degree. This 120-hour degree focuses on dance research, anatomy, nutrition, injury prevention, psychological aspects of the dancer and biomechanical principles of technique.

Graduates, who earn a bachelor of science degree, may become professional dancers, researchers, dance therapists and teachers. Admission into this program, offered through the Department of Health & Kinesiology, requires an audition.

Watch the instructors and dancers come to life in the video below. Click the white arrow to start.

New Campus Apartments Open

In August 2010 the Department of Residence Life opened 250 furnished apartments, the first new on-campus housing since 1986, near the intersection of University Drive and College Avenue. This housing is phase one of [The Gardens at University Apartments](#), built at a cost of \$35 million.

The Gardens' one- and two-bedroom units cater to graduate students, veterans, married students and students with children, but any student with 30 or more hours may apply. Some units are handicap-accessible.

Phase two, opening in August 2011, will add 168 apartments. The third and final phase will be completed in five to seven years.

In 2013 A&M will open a new, 600-bed northside dormitory to replace Crocker, Moore and McInnis halls, which will close this summer.

[SCROLL OVER THIS TYPE](#) to see entries to the University Art Collections inaugural Art Pose contest, which invited A&M students to photograph themselves creatively complementing a sculpture or other artwork on campus. Winners Tiffany Creecy McElmurry '09 and her husband, Rick McElmurry '09 struck their pose with the Menos sculpture near the Engineering Physics Building. Their prize was a gift certificate to Grand Station

Lab Work

A freeze dryer expedites dehydration of the wooden remains of La Salle's ship, the La Belle, which sank in 1686.



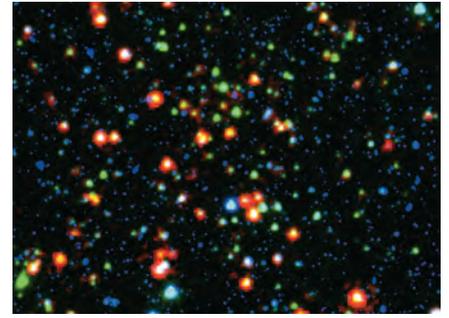
Aggies Save La Salle's Ship

Aggie researchers are using an unconventional freeze-drying process to preserve the wooden remnants of the *La Belle*, which sank in Matagorda Bay in 1686. The ship was one of four under the command of famed explorer Robert de La Salle when he hoped to establish a French colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The loss of the ship doomed his effort.

Dr. Donny Hamilton, director of A&M's Conservation Research Laboratory, explained that freeze-drying—

instead of direct dehydration—reduces preservation time by three years and cuts costs dramatically. The ship's parts will stay in a 40-foot-long, 8-foot-diameter freeze dryer at Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus in Bryan for up to six months.

Then they will be stored until 2013, when the historic ship's remnants will be reassembled and displayed at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin.



A&M astronomers discovered that this distant galaxy cluster forms hundreds of new stars each year.

More Stars Are Born

Using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, a research team led by Dr. Kim-Vy Tran discovered that some of the universe's oldest, most distant clusters of galaxies are adding new stars.

Tran, an assistant professor in Texas A&M's Department of Physics and Astronomy, and her team spent four months studying images from the telescope. They discovered that the galaxy cluster CLG J02182-05102 alone produces hundreds to thousands of new stars each year, a much faster rate than that of nearby galaxies.

The stellar birth rate is higher in the cluster's center than at its edges, which poses a mystery: It's the opposite of our sun's portion of the universe, where old stars fill the cores of massive elliptical galaxies.

The international team's discovery could ultimately reveal more about how huge galaxies form. "We will analyze new observations scheduled to be taken with the Hubble Space Telescope and Herschel Space Telescope to understand why these galaxies are so active," said Tran, a member of A&M's George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy. "We will also start looking at several more distant galaxy clusters to see if we find similar behavior."

Aggies Plan Bellville Makeover

Five Aggie graduate students have crafted a proposal to revitalize down-

town Bellville, population 4,500. Using a grant from the city's economic development corporation, the students outlined improvements to streets, building facades, pedestrian paths, natural landscaping, artwork, shade structures, lighting, drainage and more in the town 63 miles northwest of Houston.

The students—four in landscape architecture master's degree programs and one working on a Ph.D. in urban and regional science—began with surveys and base maps. After analysis, they developed design guidelines and met with Bellville's economic development corporation representatives for a preliminary review. With feedback from that meeting, the team developed and presented its proposal, which is online at www.bellvilleedc.com/BEDC-Revitalization.htm.

Veterinary DNA Specialist Trains Conservation Experts in Bhutan

Dr. Jan Janecka '06, a Texas A&M research assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, visited Bhutan last May to teach the Asian nation's conservation leaders the latest techniques for wildlife conservation and to produce a handbook on conducting wildlife research in remote rugged landscapes.

Janecka—who specializes in genetic analysis of cats such as the snow leopard—was part of an international team of scientists. The team taught Bhutan wildlife specialists how to set up a lab, conduct noninvasive DNA surveys, and extract DNA from tissue and feces. Genetic analysis aids understanding of species and their populations, which is important for conservation and management.

“By collecting and properly maintaining tissues and DNA samples in

Bhutan, there will be a wealth of possible studies that can be initiated,” said Janecka, the genetics research program director for the Snow Leopard Conservancy.

Family Values Can Cut Pollution

Family ownership and financial incentives can significantly decrease a company's pollution levels, according to two new studies co-authored by Dr. Luis Gomez-Mejia, management professor in A&M's Mays Business School.

When a family owns at least 5 percent of a company's voting stock, pollution levels are much lower. Companies also pollute less when the CEO receives long-term financial incentives such as stock options (rather than cash) for enacting pollution controls. The researchers based their findings on an analysis of actions by hundreds of companies documented in Environmental Protection Agency toxic emission reports.

Researchers hypothesize that when families' images and reputations are at stake through company practices, they push ecological responsibility. Generally speaking, family owners are more concerned with a company's overall quality and longevity while institutional investors can tend toward a shorter-term view, says Gomez-Mejia, who holds the Benton Cocanougher Chair in Business.

Texas To Keep Getting Hotter

A Texas A&M University climate expert predicts temperatures throughout the state could reach 5 degrees higher than present day by 2060. After analyzing computer models and projections from years 2000 to 2060, atmospheric sciences professor John Nielsen-Gammon expects temperatures to rise by about .5 to .8 of a degree Fahrenheit per decade.

“Barring some massive volcanic activity or a sudden decline in solar output, Texas is almost certain to continue getting hotter in the next 20 to 50 years,” said Nielsen-Gammon, who is also state climatologist. “By 2050 or 2060, we are likely to average 2 to 6 degrees warmer than temperatures back in 1981 to 2000.”

Highs of 100 degrees could become routine, with 105- to 110-degree days not that surprising. “The unusually warm summers in parts of Texas in 2009 and 2010 were a taste of the future,” he said. “They are likely to be the typical summers of mid-century, and the unusually hot summers will be that much hotter.”

Rising temperatures could lead to problems such as water shortages, increased farm and ranch irrigation, crop failures, and long, severe droughts. “There will also be some changes that most people would regard as beneficial, such as milder winters. But we may as well start planning for a climate that's different from the one we have now.”



A College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences researcher who specializes in snow leopards traveled to Bhutan to assist the Himalayan nation with wildlife conservation.

New Gifts

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



Reta Haynes recently provided \$500,000 to endow the Reta Haynes Learning Community in the College of Education and Human Development. She contributed \$400,000 for Corps and Singing Cadets scholarships.

Reta Haynes' Gift Honors Husband, Helps Her Favorite A&M Programs

Reta Haynes honored her late husband, Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46, and supported her favorite Texas A&M University programs by creating endowments totaling \$900,000 in August. "I have such respect and love for the university," she said. "Its values are close to my values."

Her gift provided an endowment of \$500,000 for the Reta Haynes Learning Community in the College of Education and Human Development. This learning community focuses on developing and retaining students planning careers in pre-K-12 education.

Haynes called this gift "a wonderful opportunity to do something worthwhile, not only for the A&M students who will become teachers, but also for their students and the future leadership of our country."

She also contributed \$300,000 for three endowed Corps of Cadets 21st Century Scholarships that took effect in fall 2010. The scholarships honor her husband of 64 years, a 1972 Distinguished Alumnus, and pay tribute to all current and former Corps of Cadets members.

Her additional gift of \$100,000 established the Reta Haynes Singing Cadet Endowment Fund to support the group's activities and future development.

COLLEGE IMPACT

Dow Continues Support of Engineering

A recent Dow Chemical Co. gift will benefit Aggie engineers in three ways. Dow directed \$200,000 to support the Chemical Engineering Endowment account and the Dwight Look College of Engineering Excellence Fund. And the company specified that an additional \$100,000 be used to upgrade and sponsor the fluid-flow and heat-exchange units in the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering unit operations laboratory.

The company enjoys a close relationship with the department, heavily recruiting chemical engineers and participating in department activities, said Dow representative Mike Walzel '82, who serves on the department's advisory council. "Texas A&M chemical engineering graduates are known for their hands-on approach to solving problems and making improvements, and the unit ops lab is a place where these skills are developed," he said.

For decades Dow Chemical has made generous outright and matching gifts to chemical engineering faculty, students and facilities as well as to many other A&M programs.

STUDENT IMPACT

Former Students Boost Sociology

Aggie graduate students in sociology will benefit from two after-lifetime



Monica Greene '14 is the first recipient of a one-year endowed scholarship funded by the Class of '94 as part of its class gift. The scholarship is awarded for academic achievement and extracurricular activities with preference to relatives of a member of the Class of '94 or relatives of other 1990s graduates. Greene's parents — Mindi and Matthew Greene of College Station — are both Class of '94.

gifts recently established through the Texas A&M Foundation.

Gabriela M. Guazzo '09 will fund fellowships for doctoral students through an estate gift. "During my time as a graduate student, I received funding via a departmental graduate assistantship. But I found that even with these funds, it was still financially challenging to complete my degree," Guazzo said. "Knowing that other students may be in a similar situation, I plan to donate a portion of my estate to the Department of Sociology to assist Ph.D. students by providing additional funding over and above the departmental assistantship."



Gabriela M. Guazzo '09

Dr. George W. Ohlendorf '60 and his wife, Dorothy, will fund sociology fellowships for full-time graduate students through a charitable gift annuity. He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Texas A&M and then worked 29 years at Louisiana State University's Departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology and its School of

Veterinary Medicine. "Dorothy and I have strong feelings for what the sociology and rural sociology program provided during our lives," said Ohlendorf, who was encouraged to do graduate work by the Aggie faculty. "We wanted to be able to give others an opportunity to benefit from the excellent program that has emerged."

Huddlestons Establish Fellowship

Last spring, Kathy B. '81 and Peter D. '80 Huddleston established a \$50,000 endowed fellowship at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. "Kathy and I are honored to be able to provide support to the Bush School," Peter Huddleston said. "We have been moved by the school's mission of service and have been highly impressed by the character and talents of both the faculty and students. We plan to add to the fellowship in the future."

The Huddlestons, longtime A&M benefactors, have made other gifts to the Bush School, Department of Petroleum Engineering, The Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation. Both are petroleum engineering graduates.

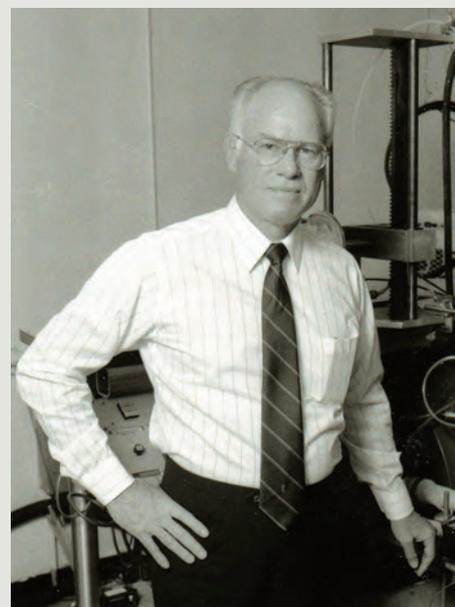
Fellowship Honors Lunsford '57

Graduate students conducting research in surface science and catalysis will be eligible for a chemistry fellowship funded in honor of Dr. Jack Lunsford '57, a Texas A&M professor who retired in 2008. Lunsford was Corps of Cadets Commander and followed his Aggie bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a Ph.D. from Rice University in 1962. After Air Force service, he returned to A&M in 1966 to teach chemistry.

"The Lunsford Fellowship will provide important financial support for next-generation scientists working in surface chemistry and catalysis," said Dr. David H. Russell, chemistry department head. "Of even greater significance is the recognition afforded to Jack Lunsford. Members of the Texas A&M faculty, especially those in the Department of Chemistry, have immense respect for Jack's scientific contributions and for the person that he is. To many of us, he truly represents the scientist's scientist."

If you or your company would like to support the fellowship, contact Sharon Allen at (979) 458-4393 or sharonallen@tamu.edu. To contribute online, go to giving.tamu.edu/SupportLunsford.

Dr. Jack Lunsford '57, former Corps Commander, taught chemistry at Texas A&M for more than 40 years.



Our Campus Living Room

THE MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER LIES AT THE HEART OF THIS AGGIE'S FAMILY LEGACY.

“No trip to Texas A&M University would be complete without a visit to the Memorial Student Center—‘the living room.’”

—AMY BACON '91

in *Building Leaders, Living Traditions: The Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M University*

Amy Bacon's statement perfectly conveys what thousands of Aggies feel about the Memorial Student Center (MSC). But why do we call it our “living memorial” and “campus living room”? As the 61st MSC president, I think I can answer that question by first looking back two generations before me and then understanding what's right in front of me. You see, the MSC is found in almost every chapter of my Texas A&M story, from beginning to end.

My Aggie story began more than four years ago, sitting around the kitchen table with my parents, discussing college life—the experiences, the challenges, the successes and the impact it would have on me. I am the oldest of five, so I was the first child to attend Texas A&M. But this university was nothing new to me: I am a third-generation Aggie, part of a Laden family tradition that I hope my children will carry on.

My grandfather, Sam Laden '55, arrived at Texas A&M during an epic time in the university's history. As a fish entering in 1951, he visited the new Memorial Student Center, a place of reverence and inspiration, a home for campus activities, and an edifice

that would become an iconic symbol of selfless sacrifice for Aggies everywhere.

Construction began in the 1940s, and the MSC dedication occurred the same day as Aggie Muster in 1951.

The memorial pays tribute to Aggies who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others. It was dedicated to honor Aggies who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. Later it evolved to honor those who sacrifice their lives in all U.S. wars.

The MSC serves as a training ground for student leaders and future world leaders. It is a landmark for all Aggies and campus visitors.

Shortly before my freshman year, my parents and I visited the A&M admissions and scholarship offices, met with academic advisers, and later went to the MSC.

As we walked its hallways, my dad, Gary Laden '81, told of his memorable meetings on a green couch in the office of Wayne Stark, who was MSC director for 33 years until retiring in 1980. Stark encouraged my father and many other students to travel, experience the visual arts and study leadership to broaden their horizons. My dad attributes his leadership development to his time with



MSC President Collin Laden '10 has experienced the valuable leadership-building programs of A&M's Memorial Student Center.



Like his father, Gary Laden '81, and grandfather, Sam Laden '55, Collin Laden appreciates the MSC as a memorial, as the campus living room and as a hub of leadership training on the A&M campus.

the MSC's annual Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) and other MSC programs.

We also visited the Flag Room, where students gathered to study, exchange stories and plan events. When I left the MSC and Aggieland that day, I knew I would return to the MSC, but I had no idea what valuable opportunities awaited.

During my first few weeks as a freshman, I quickly realized the endless possibilities for involvement and Aggie experiences. I joined MSC Freshmen in Service and Hosting (FISH), which gave me the chance to network with incredible student leaders, U.S. and international diplomats, and influential former students who told me to dream *big* and dream *now*.

As a sophomore and junior, I continued as assistant director and later chairman of FISH. My most rewarding experience came through initiating and leading an international service-learning trip to the Texas A&M Soltis Research and Education Center

in Costa Rica. It was a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery with lessons that will stay with me.

The challenges, successes, networking opportunities and international immersion in programs such as FISH illustrate why the MSC is a leadership laboratory for thousands of Aggies.

It increases opportunities for students to grow, learn and serve in many ways. Examples include SCONA, which attract students from around the world to develop policies on issues facing our generation and the next; MSC LEAD's Whoop! for Troops, which collects and sends Christmas cards and goods to U.S. military personnel stationed overseas; the Abbott Family Leadership Conference; the Wiley Lecture series, which showcases internationally renowned speakers on issues of global significance; the Carter G. Woodson Black Awareness Committee and Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, which enrich the multicultural experiences of the campus community;

and Town Hall musical events, Aggie Cinema films and student art exhibits that enhance campus life.

Perhaps most amazingly, hundreds of these opportunities continue as the facility undergoes substantial renovation and expansion. The three-year project, which began in 2009, will improve the lives of Aggies by accommodating our ever-changing student population; by echoing the history, tradition and spirit of Aggieland; and by honoring the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

While the structure, functionality and appearance of the MSC are significant, its purpose as a memorial to fallen Aggies and as a place that molds leaders are what make it a remarkable A&M landmark. It's our "campus living room" because Aggies are comfortable chatting, relaxing, studying and reflecting there.

As I prepare to graduate, I am content knowing the Memorial Student Center will live on inside me as it has in my grandfather and father, and as it does in all Aggies. ☺

—BY COLLIN LADEN '10
MSC PRESIDENT

To support the MSC renovation, contact:

David Wilkinson '87
Senior Regional Director of Major Gifts
Texas A&M Foundation
d-wilkinson@tamu.edu
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161

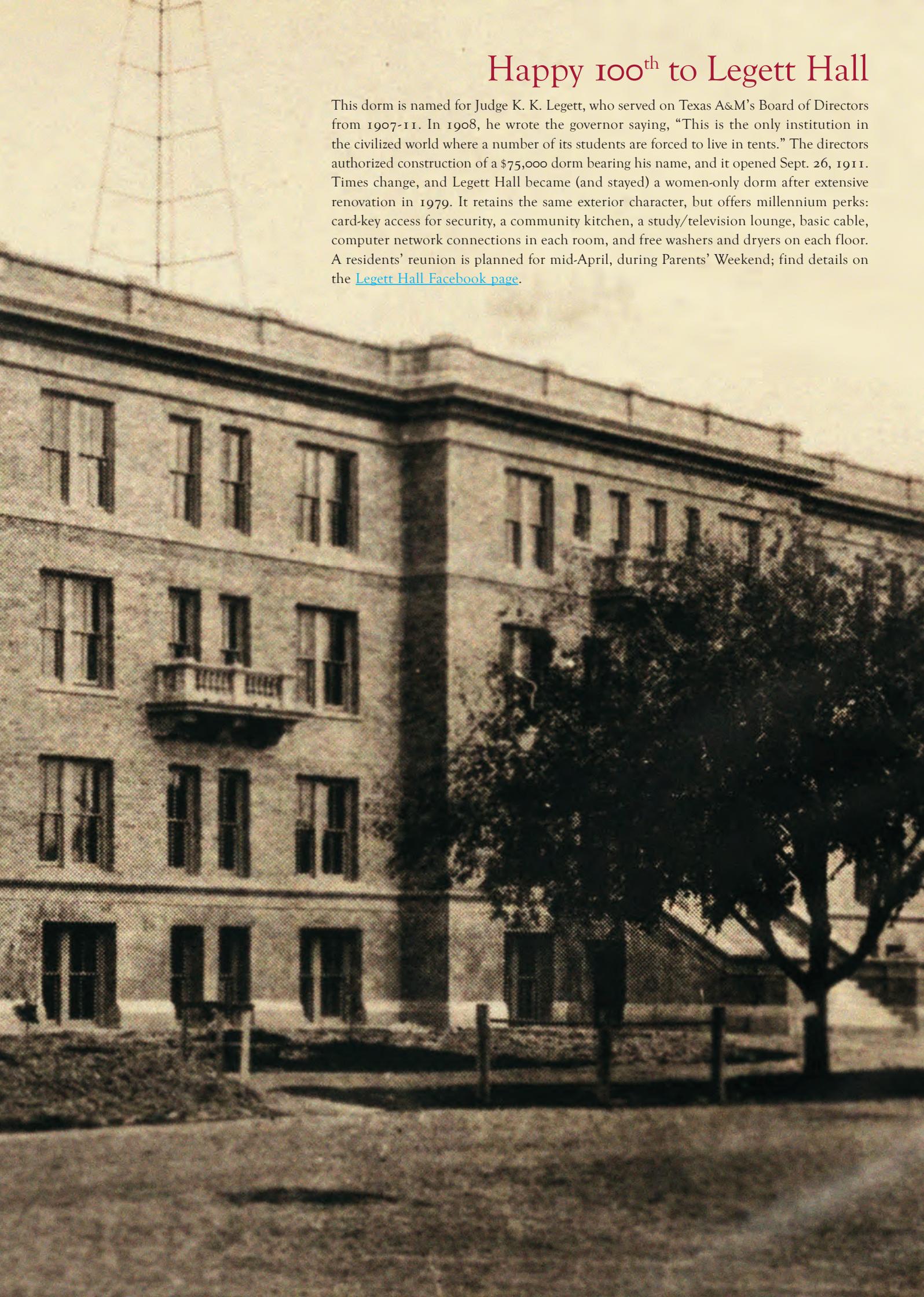
To make an online donation, go to giving.tamu.edu/SupportMSC.



Viewpoint

Happy 100th to Legett Hall

This dorm is named for Judge K. K. Legett, who served on Texas A&M's Board of Directors from 1907-11. In 1908, he wrote the governor saying, "This is the only institution in the civilized world where a number of its students are forced to live in tents." The directors authorized construction of a \$75,000 dorm bearing his name, and it opened Sept. 26, 1911. Times change, and Legett Hall became (and stayed) a women-only dorm after extensive renovation in 1979. It retains the same exterior character, but offers millennium perks: card-key access for security, a community kitchen, a study/television lounge, basic cable, computer network connections in each room, and free washers and dryers on each floor. A residents' reunion is planned for mid-April, during Parents' Weekend; find details on the [Legett Hall Facebook page](#).





Sydney Van Wyk '13 will pursue a humanitarian career because of an experience as a freshman at Texas A&M.

Through endowed Regents' Scholarships, these two Aggies will eclipse their parents' educations by earning college degrees.

As a young girl, Sydney Van Wyk '13 dreamed of singing country music standards on the storied stage of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. Attending Texas A&M with the support of a [Regents' Scholarship](#) has given Van Wyk a new dream... and the education she needs to achieve it.

"This scholarship is more than a financial contribution," said Van Wyk. "It's a gateway to a new me."

Growing up in Harlingen in the Rio Grande Valley, Van Wyk devoted herself to horses, including competitive barrel racing. "As long as I can remember, I've been on the back of a horse. When things were hard, I could go out in the pasture and escape."

Her parents, who divorced when she was a youngster, believed in higher education even though they never completed their degrees. "They always inspired me and told me they wanted me to go to college," she said. Because of their financial situations, Van Wyk needed to pay for her college education with scholarships and a job managing a herd of miniature donkeys, miniature horses and stock horses on a ranch.

[She decided to major in agriculture leadership](#) instead of music while at Texas A&M. "I had a hard time seeing myself performing until I was 60, combined with the realization that I am most likely going to be the type of person who will never be able to truly retire," she said.

As a freshman at A&M, she read *Hope Rising* by Kim Meeder, which gave rise to a new dream. The book describes the Oregon ranch that Meeder and her husband established to assist children and horses who have suffered abuse and neglect.

"Halfway through the book, a lightbulb went off and I realized this is what I want for my life and those in it," Van Wyk said. "Singing gives me such joy, but I've learned that helping one person take a step toward a productive, promising future could give me more enjoyment than singing in front of thousands at the Grand Ole Opry."

STUDENT IMPACT

Gateway to

Dreams

VALLEY KIDS GET A BREAK ➔ As a trustee for Hygeia Foundation, [Lee Richards '56](#) established Van Wyk's Regents' Scholarship. He remembers his own hurdles, including taking an entrance test for admission to A&M when he was a young man. "I went to talk to this counselor about the results," the Harlingen resident said. "He started the conversation politely, but then told me that I wouldn't make it at Texas A&M with my ability level."

Despite the counselor's verdict, Richards persevered. "He didn't influence me to believe that I wasn't going to succeed. I knew I was going to make it at Texas A&M," said Richards, who hailed from an Aggie family. His father, Harvey '27, and

Uncle John '30 also worked at Hygeia Dairy; its Hygeia Foundation was started in 1954 and funded by the dairy, whose majority ownership later was held by the Richards family.

Since then Richards has influenced many young people—in many ways—to reach for their college dreams.

In 1990, he helped bring the Texas Scholars program to Harlingen. The program encourages high school students to complete college preparatory classes. He also was instrumental in creating the Harlingen Area Educational Foundation, and still works with its New Directions program to reduce the drop-out rate by nurturing students' realization that education is vital to their futures and by teaching skills they need to succeed in high school.

At Texas A&M, he assists aspiring Aggies from Harlingen through four Regents' Scholarships, including Van Wyk's. The Hygeia Foundation, which also funded an academic-based President's Endowed Scholarship, will terminate when all of the Regents' Scholarships are fully funded. "There are a lot of people in this area who can't afford to send their children to college, and many students don't have the grades to get academic scholarships," Richards said. "The Regents' Scholarship fills this gap."

Richards believes the Hygeia Foundation Regents' Scholarships will ultimately benefit both the recipient and the Harlingen community. "I put emphasis on education because I think it's the best way to help people become qualified for life's challenges," he said. "A lot of these kids will come back and become the leaders in area businesses and in our community."

HAND ME THE KEYS ➔ After nine years on the Harlingen Independent School District Board of Trustees, [Frank Boggus '49](#)—who established an endowed Regents' Scholarship in 2008—understands the challenges that Rio Grande Valley students face in seeking higher education.

"We have too many young people who are out there ready to do great things but can't afford a college education," said Boggus, CEO and chairman of Boggus Ford Lincoln Mercury in Harlingen. "I'm at the age and time in my life when I can create a scholarship that will do some good. And a scholarship to Texas A&M is the way to do it."

[Daniel Carmona '12](#), recipient of the Boggus scholarship, majors in physics. "I want to earn my doctorate and then work for the government researching new energy sources or engineering new types of air travel," he said.

Carmona, who also hails from Harlingen, considered other colleges, but eventually settled on Texas A&M. "I liked that they were really big on engineering and science," he said. "The Regents' Scholarship has helped a lot. We're not too wealthy. Now my mom doesn't have to worry about paying for tuition and covering my personal needs and expenses."

Regents' Scholars such as Carmona and Van Wyk look forward to stepping into leadership roles and eventually providing financial support for a future generation of Aggies.

"When you give an opportunity to someone as huge as attending Texas A&M on scholarship, you're handing them a set of keys to doors that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to open," Van Wyk said. "I want to spread that hope, that chance one day." 🌸

—BY DORIAN MARTIN

"I want to earn my doctorate and then work for the government researching new energy sources or engineering new types of air travel."

—DANIEL CARMONA '12

For information about how you can support the endowed Regents' Scholarship program, contact:

Jody Ford '99

Director of Development—
Scholarships

Texas A&M Foundation

(979) 845-8161 or (800) 392-3310

fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu

giving.tamu.edu

Daniel Carmona '12 is majoring in physics. The Regents' Scholarship makes his Texas A&M education possible.



How Regents' Scholarships Help Aggies

When he was university president in 2003, Dr. Robert Gates established the Regents' Scholarship program to help Texas A&M students become the first generations in their families to earn college degrees. The Regents' Scholars Program originally was funded through the university's operating budget, but endowed Regents' Scholarships are now established through and held by the Texas A&M Foundation.

A \$100,000 gift to the Texas A&M Foundation can establish an endowed Regents' Scholarship that will permanently provide one student at a time with an annual scholarship for four years. (The annual stipend varies based on an investment payout rate approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees; it's currently \$4,500.) Donors—whether individuals, corporations, foundations, A&M clubs or other organizations—may name scholarships in memory or in honor of a person, class or organization.

About 700 freshmen and about 1,700 upperclassmen receive annual financial support from Regents' Scholarships. Since its inception, the Regents' Scholars Program has assisted 3,595 students. Regents' Scholars have a 90 percent student retention rate at A&M, thanks in part to a structured academic and social assistance program. These scholars must live on campus during their freshman year and participate in a learning community; they also attend an orientation designed by sophomore, junior and senior Regents' Scholars.

To learn more about Regents' Scholarships, go to giving.tamu.edu/regents. Read the Regents' Scholar Blog at <https://sfaid.tamu.edu/RegentBlog> and the Regents' Review newsletter at FinancialAid.tamu.edu/RegentsReview.





WANTED: PROJECT MANAGERS

Within five years of his 1982 graduation from Texas A&M, Joe Gregory was managing multimillion-dollar projects for Chevron Corp. in Angola, Singapore and Korea. He had joined Chevron after graduating and worked up to those major assignments by managing smaller projects out of New Orleans.

“It was a great opportunity to build project management skills and grow in accountability,” said Gregory, a civil engineer who later managed a multibillion-dollar endeavor in Australia and now oversees Chevron’s major capital projects in the Gulf of Mexico. “Projects that cost hundreds of millions when my career began now cost billions, and industry performance expectations are greater. Graduates with basic knowledge of project planning, cost management, risk management and safety as well as international experience have a leg up when they join a global company.”

Chevron’s gift expands a multidisciplinary program that provides career advantages to Aggie engineers.

Paul Govan '11 (left), Jarod Stojanik '04 and Hannah Chartouni '10 discuss building specifications at a construction site.



Chevron, the Texas A&M Foundation's largest corporate donor, has provided transformational philanthropic support—more than \$41 million not including research funding—during its longtime relationship with A&M. Chevron's impact stems not just from its gifts but also from “listening to our needs, working with us and finding ways to respond,” said Dr. John Niedzwecki, Regents Professor, R. P. Gregory '32 Chair (no relation to Joe Gregory) and head of the

“The oil and gas industry is capital-intensive, so getting things done safely, on time and on budget is important.”

—MARK PUCKETT '73

Zachry Department of Civil Engineering.

That responsiveness is exemplified by Chevron's single largest gift to Texas A&M: \$2.5 million to expand a pioneering initiative that equips engineers with project management skills prized by industry.

Mark Puckett '73 guided that gift before retiring as president of Chevron Energy Technology Co. in 2008. “Chevron requires a high level of project management expertise,” Puckett said. “In the past, we hired the brightest engineers and

they learned on the job. Then we saw that engineers could gain many project management skills in the academic setting.”

Meeting “a Dire Need”

Puckett credits petroleum engineer J. L. “Corky” Frank '58 with starting the engineering project management initiative. Frank has served on A&M's Engineering Advisory Council since 1986. When he retired in 2001 as president of Marathon Ashland Petroleum, he wanted to help the industry and Marathon.

“Every oil company and major industry had a dire need for project management skills, so I thought this was a natural fit,” Frank said.

Through the Texas A&M Foundation, he gave the university \$500,000—which Marathon matched—to endow the J. L. “Corky” Frank/Marathon Oil Company Chair in Engineering Project Management. The endowment funds the faculty chair’s project management activities.

Dr. Kenneth F. Reinschmidt was named to that chair in 2002. He was educated at and taught civil engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before working 19 years for a Boston engineering firm. While advancing to senior vice president and a subsidiary president and CEO, he gained expertise in systems functions, project management and business development.

The certificate program grew out of discussions about possible activities and priorities for the Frank/Marathon chair with Niedzwecki (then in the dean’s office), other faculty and former students in industry. Together, Reinschmidt and Niedzwecki established the project management advisory council with Frank as its founding chair. Supported by a survey of several college advisory groups advocating more project management education for A&M

engineering graduates, they began developing the certificate program.

“Several universities had master’s degrees or short courses in project management,” Reinschmidt said, “but I am not aware of any that had this kind of program for undergraduates.”

Certificate Program Approved

The Undergraduate Certificate Program in Engineering Project Management, which produces graduates with basic project management skills, was approved in 2006. To earn the certificate, students must complete four three-hour courses. Two of the courses surpass the students’ degree requirements; they include a multidisciplinary project management course cross-listed by the departments of civil, mechanical, and industrial and systems engineering as well as a management process class at the Mays Business School.

Priscila Lonngi ’09 is one of 100 students who have earned certificates along with their degrees. She believes the certificate helped her obtain a job in manufacturing, her primary interest. A month after graduating with an industrial and systems engineering degree, she became a shop supervisor for Sercel Inc., which manufactures seismic equipment in Houston for the oil and gas industry.

From 2007 to 2010, Chevron contributed more than \$6.2 million to Texas A&M University through the Texas A&M Foundation. Chevron’s gifts, made through its University Partnership Program, have supported these programs:

- Engineering project management
- Petroleum engineering
- Facilities engineering
- Health, environment & safety—School of Rural Public Health
- Zachry Department of Civil Engineering
- Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering—Safety Certificate Program
- Earth science
- Information technology
- Human resources
- Accounting/finance
- Texas A&M University at Galveston.

More than 650 Texas A&M graduates work for Chevron, which recruits from information technology, engineering, finance, geology, process safety and supply chain programs.

CHEVRON PROGRAM DONATIONS



HELP BUILD THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

J. L. "Corky" Frank '58, chair of the Texas A&M Engineering College Advisory Council on Project Management, praises the univers-



ty and industry for their enthusiastic support of the engineering project management program. "It's a feather in A&M's cap and a service to students and industry. Since A&M got involved, quite a few universities have embarked on the same thing. We've made a great start and have a lot of room to grow, but there's still a big need for additional resources."

Dr. Kenneth F. Reinschmidt, who oversees the project management curriculum and envisions expanding the certificate program to the master's level, believes "every undergraduate in engineering should have project management experience, but that goal far exceeds our resources."

The certificate program enrollment, now at 109, is at faculty capacity, said Reinschmidt, noting that many students who do not pursue the certificate or apply for fellowships take the introductory project management course, an engineering elective.

"We need additional philanthropic support to expand the project management program," Reinschmidt said. "With donor help, we can add courses and the master's certificate program."

J. L. "Corky" Frank '58



"I enjoy the hands-on experience in manufacturing—using my engineering, technical and project management skills," said Lonngi, who supervises 100 employees and is responsible for materials ordering and delivery, planning, process improvement, and quality control.

Chevron Gift Creates Fellowships

In 2006, as the certificate program started, Chevron began examining its hiring relationships with universities worldwide, said Pucket, who is a member of A&M's Engineering College Advisory Council. Chevron began the University Partnership Program to strengthen support for key universities around the world and assigned him as A&M's liaison.

"The project management program caught our attention," Puckett said. "The oil and gas industry is capital-intensive, so getting things done safely, on time and on budget is important. Engineers with project management skills are immediately more hireable, more valuable."

In 2008, Chevron Energy Technology Co. gave \$2 million to endow the Chevron Project Management Fund and \$500,000 for initial activities. The fund elevated the certificate program by establishing the Chevron Undergraduate and Graduate Fellowships in Project Management.

Thirty fellowships have been awarded. Undergraduates receive \$4,000 per semester and typically assist project management faculty with research, create a case study or undertake another project approved by Reinschmidt. Graduate students receive \$15,000 per semester to teach or conduct research in project management.

Fellowship Recipients

Reid Dumas '11, a Chevron undergraduate fellow, introduced project management skills to Texas A&M's student chapter of Engineers Without Borders. This volunteer group built a storage facility in Del Rio that was later moved to Acuña, Mexico, for use as a community center.

The Acuña project was split into work packages and broken down by resources, team duties and time lines. Dumas said project management has "shown us how to plan, set goals, monitor progress, assess it and correct our course when needed."

Michael Mazzola '07 believes the Chevron fellowship and his Aggie connections helped him secure a job as a project engineer with the Houston civil engineering firm of Cobb, Fendley & Associates, where he is acquiring skills in road design, piping schematic design and contract development.



“I enjoy the hands-on experience in manufacturing — using my engineering, technical and project management skills.”

—PRISCILA LONNGI '09

Priscila Lonngi '09 is one of 100 Aggies who earned certificates along with their degrees.



Mazzola completed a master's in civil engineering in 2009 after earning a bachelor's in construction science. “The fellowship helped me complete my master's degree, ensured my success as a project engineer and will assist in furthering my career,” he said.

The Project Management Advantage

Another Chevron graduate fellow, Dr. Timothy R. B. Taylor '09, worked with Reinschmidt to develop and teach an introductory class in project management for engineering undergraduates. “Engineers

exposed to the project management curriculum have learned how their technical expertise fits with the business side of the industry,” said Taylor, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky and joined the faculty there after earning a civil engineering doctorate at Texas A&M.

Reinschmidt predicts “employers who once hired any Aggie engineer now will show a preference for graduates with project management experience. Everything that engineers do is a project. Engineers deal

with people in other disciplines, and project management cuts across all disciplines.”

—BY NANCY MILLS MACKAY

To provide additional support for the project management program, contact:

Don Birkelbach '70
Assistant Vice President for
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Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-5113
d-birkelbach@tamu.edu
giving.tamu.edu

ESPRIT = DE = CORPS

TOM GILLIS '42 MADE HIS MARK ON A&M SOME 70 YEARS AGO. THROUGH TWO FAMILY GIFTS, OTHER CADETS ARE POISED TO DO THE SAME.

Dan Lengyel never met Tom Gillis. But despite a seven-decade age difference, the two would have undoubtedly hit it off.

Both Gillis, Class of 1942, and Lengyel, Class of 2014, spent time living abroad. Both came to Texas A&M with plans to join the military. And both were attracted to the leadership training opportunities of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets.

Gillis, then, would surely approve of the selection of Lengyel for a scholarship that bears his name. Last fall, Lengyel became the first recipient of the Thomas S. Gillis Jr. '42 Corps of Cadets 21st Century Scholarship No. 2. The scholarship was funded in memory of Gillis by his son, Stratton Gillis '77.

Corps Values

Having an Aggie father meant that Lengyel, like most Aggie descendants, grew up as a Texas A&M fan. But when he graduated from high school, home was Fort Walton Beach, Fla. When scouting col-

leges, he considered Florida schools but ultimately felt his father's alma mater was the right choice.

The fact that Lengyel's parents—Diane and Col. Gregory Lengyel '85—live in Belgium certainly influenced the decision. With other family members residing in San Antonio, Lengyel has a place to go for holidays and weekends away.

Primarily, though, it was Lengyel's admiration for Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets that solidified his decision.

"I decided the Corps would be a good experience because I've seen how it helps people become leaders and learn life lessons," he said. Such knowledge and experience, he added, could help him achieve his goal of becoming an Air Force pilot like his father.

A self-proclaimed "military brat," Lengyel has lived in England, New Mexico, Florida and Washington, D.C. At every stop, he explored helicopters. "I always thought it would be pretty amazing controlling them in the sky myself," he said.

Lengyel plans to be commissioned into the Air Force upon graduation. An environmental studies major, he hopes to pursue a military career or become involved in environmental policymaking.



AGGIELAND
Studio
COLLEGE STATION, TEX.

Tom Gillis, Class of 1942



★ “I decided the Corps would be a good experience because I’ve seen how it helps people become leaders and learn life lessons.”

— DAN LENGYEL '14

“Eternal Seeker of Knowledge”

Like Lengyel, Gillis came to Texas A&M in large part to prepare for military service. Rather than facing a “war on terror,” Gillis and his fellow cadets were gearing up for deployment in World War II.

Family members said the Corps helped Gillis attain discipline and leadership skills. His abilities were so honed, in fact, that he joined Gen. George Patton’s 3rd Army Staff during the war, rose to the rank of major by age 26, and served as military governor of a German province at war’s end.

Those who knew Gillis during his student days expected nothing less of the Fort Worth native. Not only was he Corps Commander and class valedictorian, Stratton Gillis said proudly that his father “was the first straight-A student in Texas A&M’s 66-year history.” He was editor of *The Battalion* and a member of the Ross Volunteer Company. And he authored what is now a legendary compilation of Texas A&M traditions, the *Cadence*.

But Gillis was just getting started. His daughter, Amy Gillis Schwartz, said her father “reinvented himself” throughout his life. After returning from the war, he married Frances Roensch. He pursued careers as an accountant and lawyer, owned an oil tool manufacturing company, wrote a book still used in college business curricula, and taught entrepreneurship, serving at universities all over the world. “He was the eternal seeker of knowledge,” Schwartz said.

A Day to Remember

Tom Gillis’ experience at Texas A&M, his wife and children said, significantly shaped his life. So when he died in April 2010, it seemed fitting that he be laid to rest on Muster—a sacred day of remembrance for Aggies around the world.

In the Muster spirit, five members of the Corps attended the Bellville funeral, tangibly demonstrating that Gillis would always be a part of his beloved alma mater.

Cadets in Texas A&M’s Color Guard presented an American flag to Frances Gillis. But what happened next was something the Gillis family will never forget: Aggie Corps Commander Brent Lanier ’10

knelt in front of her, removed his four-diamond cadet colonel insignia, and carefully handed it to her.

All Frances Gillis could say to Lanier was, “Can I give you a kiss?” And, of course, she did.

Gillis family members had already planned to give \$100,000 to the Texas A&M Foundation to endow a Corps 21 scholarship in Tom Gillis’ name. But they were so moved by the cadets’ presence at the funeral and Lanier’s meaningful gesture that Stratton Gillis decided to endow a second Corps 21 scholarship. Although that scholarship, too, is in his father’s name, he created it to honor the five cadets who paid their respects to a man they never met.

In essence, Texas A&M’s influence on a cadet seven decades ago is preparing today’s cadets for leadership success in their lives. By establishing endowed scholarships, the Gillis family perpetually will provide students with financial assistance and honor Tom Gillis.

Lightening the Load

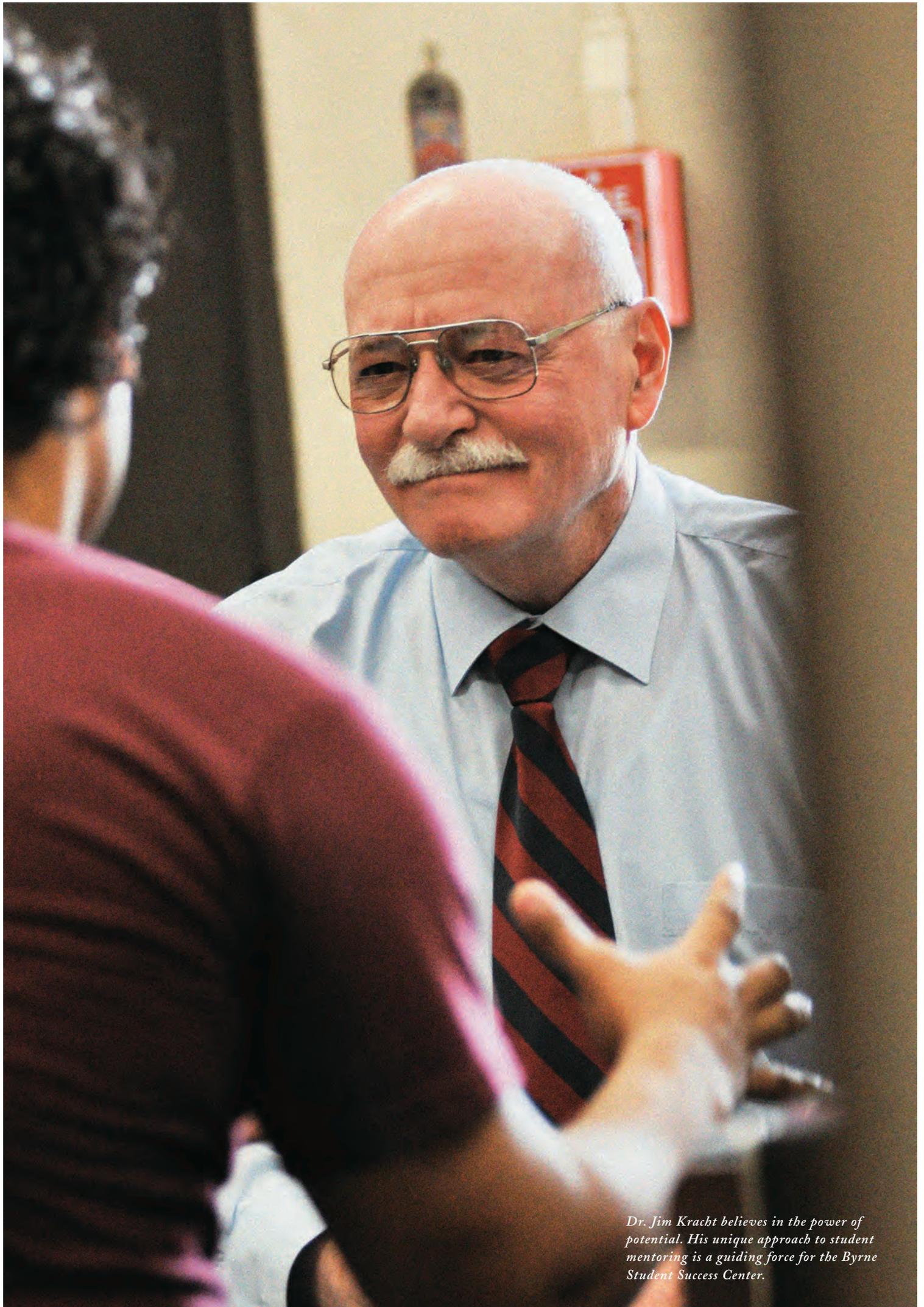
Lengyel’s Corps 21 scholarship—prompted by the generous act of five cadets—defrays the cost of his tuition and expenses by more than 20 percent.

“I’m really appreciative to Mr. Stratton Gillis for the scholarship. It means a lot that he and his family want to contribute to A&M like this,” said Lengyel, who—because his father is on active duty—receives other financial aid under the Hazelwood Act. “This scholarship lets me focus more on academics and on Corps activities without having to focus on financial issues. In the long run, I know my time in the Corps is going to be well worth it.” ☞

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

To learn more about supporting the Corps of Cadets, contact:

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Dr. Jim Kracht believes in the power of potential. His unique approach to student mentoring is a guiding force for the Byrne Student Success Center.

The miniature green tractors lining the shelves behind Dr. Jim Kracht's desk provide a clue to his passion. Kracht is a farmer. But instead of soil, this homegrown Hoosier's medium is the minds of students in the College of Education and Human Development. Kracht is helping to raise the next generation of leaders in education, allied health, human resources and sport management. As executive associate dean for academic affairs and holder of the Marilyn Kent Byrne Chair for Student Success, he has taught and mentored Aggies for more than 35 years.

 ONCE A
FARMER

NOW A MENTOR

The College of Education and Human Development's Byrne Student Success Center and Dr. Jim Kracht nurture Aggies to their full potential.

“I came to Texas A&M in the summer of 1974. Dr. David David offered me a job as an assistant professor in curriculum and instruction and social studies education. The college paid my airfare and hotel bill so I could visit the campus. I was told that if I didn’t accept the position, I would have to reimburse A&M for my travel expenses,” Kracht says. “I got here and just loved it. Yes, it is hot, but it is my kind of country.”

Dr. Robert Shutes, the department head at the time, asked Kracht what he thought about the job offer. “I told him that I didn’t know if I could afford to move here from Oak Park, Ill., where I was living at the time. I didn’t even have rent money. But if I didn’t accept the position, paying back the cost of the airfare would have been a stretch. He took me to a bank and introduced me to the president, who made sure that I had enough money to make the move, rent a house and buy season tickets for football.”

During that first semester, Kracht taught four classes and supervised student teachers. He also taught summer school. “We had a little house off Dominik Drive and had classes over there. There were students around all of the time. It was wonderful!”

Kracht still loves working with students, and thanks to Dorothy and Artie McFerrin ’65, he has many resources for helping them. In 2007 the McFerrins established the Marilyn Kent Byrne Chair for Student Success and a similarly named center to support mentoring and tutoring for students in the College of Education and Human Development. The center

also increases access to services that help students succeed.

As a student and later as a faculty member, Kracht learned firsthand how mentors shape lives.

“One of my professors in particular, Dr. Herbert H. Gross, a professor and chair of the Geography/Geology Department at Concordia University Chicago, made an incredible difference in my life. Our connection began when I was an undergraduate student and it ended decades later, when he passed away,” Kracht said. “He modeled the idea that students need more of their teachers than they can get in three hours of class. He not only helped me with the subject, but he also provided me with guidance and feedback—and helped me realize that I could succeed on my own.”

Kracht believes mentoring may be even more crucial today.

“Life is more complex,” Kracht said. “The answer often lies with financial aid, but sometimes the problem involves a lack of study or time management skills, relationship challenges, or alcohol and drug abuse. Seldom are there easy answers. But through the Byrne chair and center, we address a number of obstacles facing students today.”

Kracht has found a kindred spirit in Dorothy McFerrin. “I’m a sociologist,” she said, “so I wanted to do more for a group of students than what would be possible through a single scholarship. I wanted to focus on at-risk students, those whose struggles threaten their academic success.”

McFerrin researched the idea of a student success center for about a month, looking at what other schools offered. Then she visited with Dean Doug Palmer. Within a short time,

Jose Zelaya '10 admires Kracht's integrity and passion for helping students. Kracht received the chair in the background when he was named to the Marilyn Kent Byrne Chair for Student Success.



“It’s our responsibility

the college made a formal proposal for a student success center and a faculty chair, both of which McFerrin named for her friend and fellow educator, Marilyn Kent Byrne.

“I remember giving Dr. Kracht my big fold-out binder of research and the surprised look on his face. He laughed and said ‘I wish I had you for a graduate student,’” McFerrin said. “He is the perfect link to students away from home. He and Shailen Singh, the director of the center, provide support for students through a variety of classroom and evening presentations. I couldn’t be prouder of what has been accomplished in a relatively short period.”

Programs through the Byrne Center help students meet the demands of life inside and outside of the classroom.

“We offer a variety of seminars and teach study skills, time management, budgeting, organizational and life skills when they need it most,” Kracht explained. “But we can’t do it alone. We refer students to other resources on campus including the library, writing center, career center and programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of student athletes.”

Personalized assistance is the key to the center’s success.

“Dr. Kracht is a man of great integrity and he really cares about students,” said education major Jose Luis Zelaya ’10. “He’s helped me when I needed help the most—whether through listening, advising or helping me to apply for scholarships. I look up to him because of his passion to help students.”



Dorothy McFerrin and her husband, Artie McFerrin '65, established the chair held by Kracht.

Kracht’s approach is a guiding force for the center. “We interact with individual students as much as we can,” he says. “Shailen plans specific elements of programs and marketing, meets with students one-on-one and then sends them to me if they are particularly troubled.”

The chair and center have a measurable impact on student success. “We have seen a substantial improvement in student retention, which helps students, families, the university and taxpayers,” Kracht said. “With the Byrne Student Success Center, we’ve demonstrated success, and now other colleges are asking how they can develop similar programs.”

Students walk into Kracht’s office with touching and often heartbreaking stories.

The single parent of one student died, leaving behind considerable fam-

ily debt. “He was by himself and almost hopeless, and we were able to find the resources he needed in order to stay in school. It was most satisfying to do something that allowed this student to continue his education,” Kracht said. “He graduated and is now working on his master’s degree. I told him that down the road, we expected him to do at least twice as much for another student in need.”

Kracht has dozens of similar stories, but with the resources provided through the Byrne Student Success Center and chair, it has never been easier to address the challenges.

“There is need out there. It’s our responsibility as human beings to give a hand up to the next generation. At least, I know that it’s my responsibility to help—just like my parents, teachers and the McFerrins have.”

Through their estate gift for Texas A&M University, Kracht and his wife, Erin, are [Heritage Members of the Texas A&M Legacy Society](#).

—BY DIANE L. OSWALD

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as human beings to give a hand up to the next generation. At least, I know it’s my responsibility to help.” —Dr. Jim Kracht

Confucius Institute

SLEEPING DRAGON
AWAKENS IN AGGIELAND

Walk across the Texas A&M University campus these days and you are likely to hear not just “Howdy” but also the Chinese version, “Ni howdy!” Chinese students have long studied at A&M, but non-Chinese Aggies increasingly are learning Mandarin and preparing to enter professions in which they will interact with China.

“There is no more important relationship in the world than that between the United States and China,” said 41st President George H. W. Bush, who in 1974 served as chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Beijing when the United States was renewing ties with China. Taking this adopted Aggie’s advice to heart, Texas A&M has cultivated an abiding commitment to strong educational, research and personal relationships in China.

[Texas A&M’s Confucius Institute](#) works at the hub of the university’s effort. Established in 2008, the institute is a partnership between the Institute for Pacific Asia, the Office of International Outreach, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Education and Human Development.

Its goal is to prepare students for a global future, in particular to equip Aggies to understand China’s role in the world and in the global economy. The Confucius Institute teaches Aggies about China’s business, political, education and science sectors. Then it helps them develop relationships within that nation for success in Texas and beyond.

Texas-China Trade Explosion

Trade ties alone make a compelling case for the Confucius Institute’s mission. According to recent figures, trade between Texas and China is growing sharply. Between 2001 and 2009, Texas exports to China increased more than 465 percent to almost \$9 billion, while shipments to Canada and Mexico during the same period grew only about 30 and 35 percent, respectively.

Texas A&M—with assistance from the Confucius Institute—sponsors a biannual conference to strengthen Texas-China trade and diplomatic relationships. In 2009 it created an opportunity for 20 Aggies to travel to China; live with Chinese roommates; learn language, culture, politics and economics; and interact in all conference events, including private sessions with U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

Earth’s Most Widely Spoken Language

The institute’s primary activities include improving Texas A&M’s Chinese language program, developing other Chinese language programs

Visiting professor Han Mei teaches Mandarin Chinese to Aggies.





and infrastructure in Texas, and bringing Chinese educators here while sending Aggie students and faculty to China to broaden their knowledge.

A&M's Chinese language classes have progressed significantly through the contributions of visiting professors from Ocean University of China in Qingdao. Two to three professors arrive each year to teach Chinese classes and develop curriculum at A&M. During their one- to two-year visits, they expand and strengthen course offerings.

In Texas, lack of expertise is one of the most significant barriers to growth of Chinese language programs. So the Confucius Institute developed a unique distance education model for teachers in rural Texas school districts who wanted to begin Chinese language programs but lacked the expertise. Teachers at Texas A&M used videoconferencing to teach Mandarin to students in Navasota, Splendora and New Caney school districts. The institute also developed a teacher certification program with the College of Education and Human Development to address this deficit.

Culture in the Community

The Confucius Institute regularly engages the Bryan/College Station community—along with the A&M campus—by sponsoring events about Chinese history, culture, philosophy and politics. For instance, the institute

participates in a Chinese New Year festival on campus that draws about 1,500 people to cultural performances and a traditional holiday feast.

Texas A&M's relationship with Ocean University is key to helping A&M students and faculty get to know Chinese citizens and broaden understanding of that nation's needs, potential and people. Visiting professors plan seminars and events that foster understanding of China, such as the annual China booth at the Brazos Valley Worldfest, the Language and Culture Tour through Texas schools, and community tai chi classes. These professors often bond with their Aggie students and maintain these relationships when A&M students travel to China for intensive language programs.

Changing Aggie Perceptions

Since 2008, Dr. Antonio La Pastina, associate professor in the Department of Communication, has accompanied students to the vibrant city of Qingdao to study Chinese and international communication. Confucius Institute staff helped La Pastina organize his 2009 itinerary so Aggies could spend time at an orphanage in a remote village devastated by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

"The trip provides Texas A&M students with a greater understanding of the cultural, historical and geographical diversity of China by working

side by side with residents," La Pastina said. [That experience forever changed the worldviews of many Aggies.](#)

The limited funding available for study abroad remains a great barrier to Aggies. Although tuition costs and living expenses are far lower in China than in the United States, travel costs often deter students from going. Private support for the Confucius Institute could create enduring scholarships for Aggies to study in China and in turn would enhance Texas A&M's role in building strong future collaborations with China.

During his 2009 service learning trip to China, Thomas Kearney '08 '10, who earned a master's degree in international affairs from the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, learned about Chinese culture and taught orphans about American culture. "Though having the opportunity to serve for several days is amazing, there is always the desire to do more," Kearney said. "Hopefully this experience will motivate all of the students to look for more opportunities to serve, both abroad and in the U.S." 🌸

—DR. RANDY KLUVER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
[INSTITUTE FOR PACIFIC ASIA](#),
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

To learn more about how you can support global study scholarships, contact:

Jody Ford '99

Director of Development —

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Texas A&M Foundation

(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161

fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu

giving.tamu.edu



[Operation Spirit and Mind](#),SM an initiative raising \$300 million for Texas A&M University scholarships and graduate fellowships, received more than \$52 million in contributions during 2010. That amount brings the total for the initiative to \$241 million as of Dec. 31, 2010. To learn more about Operation Spirit and Mind, contact Jody Ford at (800) 392-3310 or fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu.

Corps Commander Eddie Joe Davis poses for the 1967 Aggieland.



Davis Named to Corps Hall of Honor

Foundation President Ed Davis '67 and eight other former cadets have been named to the [Corps Hall of Honor](#), which pays tribute to former cadets who exemplify Aggie spirit and Corps values: honor, loyalty, service, patriotism and leadership.

During 2007 Davis served as interim president of Texas A&M University. Before joining the Foundation as president in 1993, he was executive deputy chancellor for the Texas A&M University System and vice president for fiscal affairs of the university. He was vice president for fiscal affairs and treasurer at North Texas State University and is a retired tenured full professor at Texas A&M.

He retired as a colonel after serving 26 years in the Army Reserve with four years on active duty including a tour in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Davis served as A&M Corps Commander his senior year.

Also being inducted March 26 were Michel T. Halbouty '30, Charles A. Mattei Jr. '49, Col. Thomas Reed Parsons '49, Col. James R. Woodall '50, Joseph B. Mattei '53, Ronald L. Skaggs '65, James R. Thompson '68 and John A. Adams Jr. '73.

The Making of a Maroon Coat

As *Spirit* went to press, 17 new Maroon Coats began working as ambassadors for the Texas A&M Foundation. Now in its third year, the group has high

expectations for its new members, who were selected from more than 150 applicants.

Maroon Coats kicked off recruitment last fall with a push on social media and in *The Battalion*. Word-of-mouth and a booth at the spring open house expanded the group's reach.

Maroon Coats, who call and visit donors and assist with Foundation events, embody the Aggie core values of selfless service and integrity. Leaders from all walks of campus life, they link student days of past and present for Foundation donors. An executive council and staff adviser manage the organization.

"The Maroon Coats will elevate the awareness and understanding of the Texas A&M Foundation as well as the importance of philanthropy as the



fuel of future excellence at A&M,” said Foundation President Ed Davis ’67.

Foundation Welcomes Logan West



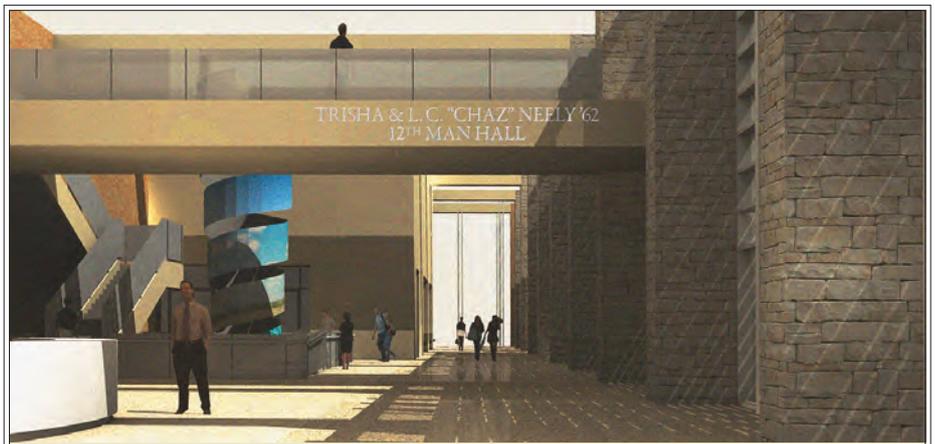
Logan West ’09 joined the Foundation Nov. 15 as assistant director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences. West joins the Foundation after working for Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples. He also participated in Texas A&M University’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy congressional internship program, working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Department of Congressional Relations. While attending A&M, West held several agriculture and petroleum industry-related jobs.

Foundation Marketing Wins Big

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) has honored Texas A&M Foundation staff members for their publications and writing expertise.

[The fall 2009 issue of Spirit magazine and the Foundation’s annual report](#) won the highest award, a Brazos Bravo, for publications in the local



MSC Renovation Inspires Generosity

The Foundation has raised more than \$7.5 million toward a goal of \$20 million for the Memorial Student Center (MSC) renovation. This total includes a \$1 million gift from Trisha and L. C. “Chaz” Neely ’62. In appreciation for that gift, the 12th Man Hall in the MSC (shown in above rendering) will be named in their honor.

The \$125 million renovation will expand the facility as well as bring it up to current building codes and Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Students increased their fees to cover \$82 million of the cost.

“I was impressed that students voted to pay for most of the renovation,” Chaz Neely said. “Many student organizations operate out of the MSC, and it will be a source of pride and a nice place for Aggies to enjoy. Trisha and I want to be part of this.”

Other major contributors to the campaign include:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Carol & Jack L. Benson ’63
Class of 1962
Class of 1980
Class of 1987
Class of 1988
Class of 1997
Class of 1999
Kay & Jerry Cox ’72
Mary W. & James B. Crawley ’47
Jean Deere Estate
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Kenneth K. Foster ’85
Susanne M. & Melbern G. Glasscock ’59
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Michael D. Wong ’92 |
|--|--|---|

To give to the MSC campaign, contact David Wilkinson ’87 at d-wilkinson@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310. Give online at giving.tamu.edu/SupportMSC.

chapter’s contest last spring. Out-of-state IABC chapters judged the entries.

Rachel Dohmann ’07 won a Brazos Bravo writing award for [“Stop the Bad Guys.”](#) a website article about CIA operative Andrea Pool ’94 ’98 ’05, who died of breast cancer.

Maroon Coats Jeff Gregory ’12 and Perpetua Mbachu ’12 hand out Foundation rally towels to A&M football fans before the Aggies’ 48-16 victory over Louisiana Tech on Sept. 11.

Angela Throne ’03 and Alice Bassett won an Award of Excellence for a [Heritage Membership brochure](#) for the Office of Planned Giving.

At IABC’s regional competition held last fall in Atlanta, *Spirit*, the article and the brochure won Awards of Merit.

Watch Texas A&M's only cadet general enjoy a day at the spa, sans diamonds, with her pal Reveille VII. Click the white arrow to start the video.

Postscript

Ready for My Close-up

On a hot mid-April day in 2010, I moved on to another chapter in my life as the Aggie mascot when I got my current handler, [Mascot Cpl. Cody Guffey '13](#). Cody is my protector, caretaker and event assistant. It's his job to make sure I am fed, groomed, and arrive at my events safely and punctually.

Before the 2010 football season, Cody and I took a little time to get to know each other ... you know, to see if he was right for the job. We went to his home in San Angelo, where I had a grand time with his dogs, Hank and Toby, in their big open yard. We often played catch with a tennis ball or just relaxed in the warm summer sun.

Eventually it was time to go back to work. Toward the end of summer, Cody took me to my first major assignments under his watch, the Aggie Coach's Nights. These were formal appearances in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and, of course, College Station. During these events I'd hear coach Mike Sherman fill us in on how the team was doing, giving insight on the football season to come. While I was there, people seemed excited to see me and took pictures of me with their families. (It's funny how that always seems to happen.) I've never met a camera or fan I didn't like.

The real work began with the fall semester. Each day I attend class with Cody and the guys from Company E-2 to be sure they are all making good grades. Between sleep and study, Cody

takes me to events where I meet Aggies from all over, each with a friendly smile and a good story to tell. From elaborate galas to quick photo ops, I go all over College Station to support Texas A&M University.

During the occasional downtime, I play catch with Cody, go for a nice walk and once a week I visit the spa with [my good friend Reveille VII](#) for a day of rest and relaxation. After all, being the Fightin' Texas Aggie mascot and the highest-ranking member of the Corps of Cadets is a lot of work

Last fall I boned up on mascot etiquette at the Sterling C. Evans Library.



for one dog, and I have to get plenty of beauty rest.

When football season started, I became one busy mascot. The first game was against Stephen F. Austin. I was a little nervous walking back into Kyle Field with a new mascot corporal, but everything went smoothly. We ran onto the field together with the team before the game, we visited people in the stands and in the suites, and most important, the Aggies won!

Being the Fightin' Texas Aggie mascot and the highest-ranking member of the Corps of Cadets is a lot of work for one dog.

By the time we played conference games, Cody and I were quite comfortable together—I trained him well on the routine. We even attended the Arkansas game in Dallas and the game against t.u. in Austin. It was great that I helped inspire the team to enough victories that we went to the Cotton Bowl together (even though I didn't wag my tail over the outcome).

Oops, Cody is telling me to sign off so we can head to class. If you see me on campus or around town, be sure to say howdy and scratch behind my ears. I love that. Gig 'em! 🐾

— BY REVELLE VIII
(AS TOLD TO CODY GUFFEY '13)

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www.texags.com/main/SpiritAndMind.asp



www.youtube.com/AggieSpiritAndMind



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