

SPIRIT



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'Bum' Bright '43 inspired surge in gifts for faculty and Corps

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle

Ruby Callaway Davis was a simple country farm wife who raised three boys and fed the combine crew and hoe hands on our cotton farm 25 miles from Henrietta, Texas. I was the youngest and the only one in my family to go to college; post-Depression economics did not allow my older brothers to attend. Mom was proud and supportive when an Opportunity Award scholarship gave me a chance to continue my education at Texas A&M University.

When I left the farm with a footlocker and a prayer, we had no idea that this male-dominated military school 300 miles from home would become such an integral part of our lives.

While here, I met “hometown buddies” Donnie '66 and Joe '68 Fowler from Wichita Falls, one county away from the Davis family farm. Joe completed three mechanical engineering degrees at A&M and is president of Stress Engineering Services in Houston. He’s an outstanding alumnus of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, chairman of the Engineering Advisory Council and an A&M Legacy Society member. Don, also a mechanical engineer, is president of Fowler Energy in Austin.

Because Don was a sophomore when I started, his mom, Leola, discovered that my mom lived in nearby Clay County. She was eager to recruit Ruby into the Aggie fold.

Mom enthusiastically joined the Wichita County Area A&M University Mothers’ Club. Until my graduation, she remained an active member who rarely missed a meeting, fundraiser or other event. Her involvement reinforced her connection to A&M, and knowing she was one of hundreds of mothers making life a little easier for me and my buddies meant the world to us.

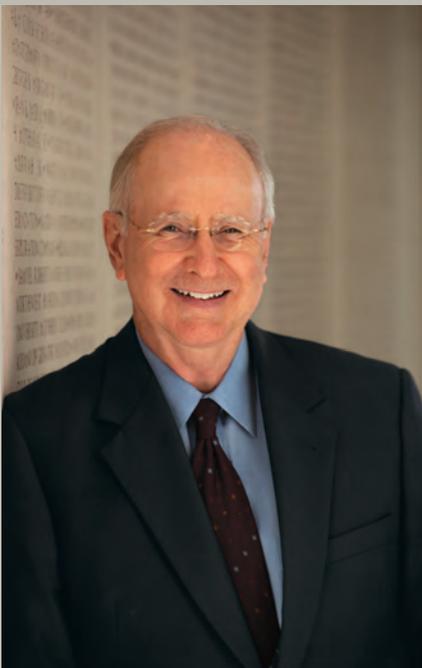
Leola Fowler, Ruby Davis and countless other Aggie moms are an indispensable part of the Texas A&M family. Since 1922 these clubs have donated nearly \$8 million for Aggie scholarships. About \$3.6 million is endowed through the Texas A&M Foundation, so it will help students forever.

Take time to read more about this fine Aggie tradition on Page 32. In it you’ll find inspiring stories of dreams come true made possible by Aggie moms.

It was the poet W. R. Wallace who said “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” Perhaps that’s true in Aggieland, as well. Thanks, Mom(s).



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



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AT YOUR SERVICE

Maroon Coats, student ambassadors for the Texas A&M Foundation, represent the best in Aggie values.



The Texas A&M Foundation's Sterling C. Evans Medal was named for one of Texas A&M's most influential advocates. » p.22

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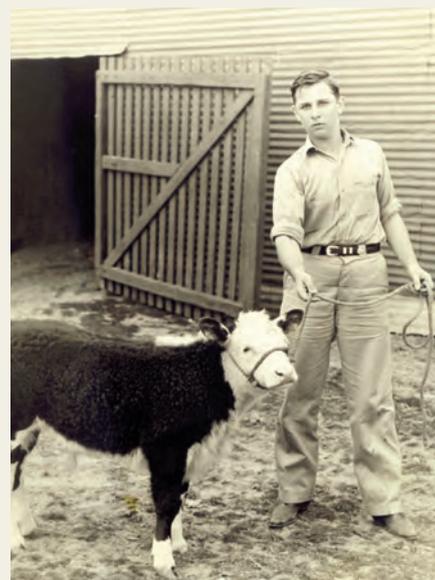
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The newest Sterling C. Evans Medal recipients, James K. B. Nelson '49 (left) and Jack E. Brown '46, follow the path blazed by a great Texas A&M University benefactor.

The Legacy

To discuss how a charitable planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation can 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 will describe how such plans work and consult with you and your advisers as you consider and implement your gift.

The Avilèses have given A&M a President's Endowed Scholarship, General Rudder and Sul Ross Corps Scholarships, a geotechnical scholarship in civil engineering, the Avilès Military History Library Endowment, and an athletic scholarship. Dr. Avilès has served many A&M organizations, including the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. In 2004 he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award and was inducted into the Corps Hall of Honor.

When Texas A&M Is Your Fifth Child

When Dionel Avilès '53 and his wife, Barbara, updated their estate plan they created a revocable living trust that benefits their children and Texas A&M programs. The trust, which may be revised as needed, ensures the couple's hand-picked trustee will distribute their assets as they wish.

"We divided the proceeds of our trust among our four children," said Avilès, who earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M. "Our fifth child must be Texas A&M!"

The Houston couple completed the trust's A&M provisions in about a week. "It was easy. I started by asking [Texas A&M Foundation President] Eddie Joe Davis to have someone call me," Dr. Avilès said. Then, with help from financial advisers and Foun-

dation staff, the couple structured a portion of their trust to create endowments for civil engineering and Corps of Cadets scholarships and a gift for the 12th Man Foundation.

Those choices are heartfelt. "I'm a product of the Corps of Cadets. I retired as a major general in the Army Reserve. Civil engineering was my major, and I have practiced it for 50 years," said Avilès, who founded Avilès Engineering Corp. in 1981 and is its president. "I want to see civil engineers develop, to build this country's infrastructure of roads, bridges and airfields. My father insisted I become an engineer, but I wanted to be a baseball player, so athletics has always been part of my life, too.

"A&M gave me the tools and the association with classmates who helped me succeed. Our hope is that young kids who receive our scholarships will keep the circle going and give back to the university."

His wife agrees. "We want to instill the value of giving back, which we learned throughout our lives. Our parents always made education a top priority. I went to Texas Tech, but A&M offers something special. It's not just the education that's valuable—that Aggie class ring means a lot. We see the importance of an Aggie education and want to give it to those who desire it but can't afford it." ❧

—BY MARY VINNEDGE '75



Letters

Share Your Comments

We always enjoy receiving our readers' reactions to Spirit. If any of the magazine's content moves you to write, please e-mail us at amfoundation@tamu.edu or send a note on the postage-paid form on the back cover.

SONDRA WHITE '87
Editor

MARY VINNEDGE '75
Managing Editor



SUPPORTING PROJECT MANAGEMENT

I just finished reading the article in *Spirit* about project managers. I'm glad to see this is on the minds of other Aggies.

I graduated from Mays Business School in 1985 with a degree in business administration/business analysis. Back then that meant I was pretty much a computer programmer in the business world. I started off working for Mobil Oil, where I cut my teeth and built a solid foundation around the idea of project management. Now I'm a consultant working for HP as an information technology programmer and project manager.

Although I see that Texas A&M is teaching project management to engineers, I do hope you understand there are also a lot of project managers in the business world. Both my father, William C. Cole '56, and brother, William Terry Cole '82, received civil engineering degrees. A few years back we compared our job responsibilities and it turns out they are the same, only my projects deliver a different product.

The Project Management Institute (PMI) Dallas Chapter supports project management in education through relationships and partnerships with universities in our area and by providing scholarships to project management students. As president, I'd like to do more to promote project management as a profession. If there is anything I can do to help with the program at A&M, I would love to be involved.

— JOHN T. COLE '85, PMP
President, PMI Dallas Chapter

Editor's note: Don Birkelbach '70, the Foundation's assistant vice president for development in the Dwight Look College of Engineering, contacted Cole to discuss his involvement in A&M's project management program.

MEMORIES OF JOHN H. ALLEN '42

Editor's note: The spring issue included a letter from Nancy Book, hoping to learn more about her uncle, John Harold Allen '42, who was killed in World War II. After reading her letter, Teunis "PATS" Shuurman, a volunteer World War II researcher, contacted Book with information on Allen's mission and crew. Shuurman lives near Mirns, The Netherlands, where the B-24 Liberator that Allen piloted crashed on Dec. 22, 1943.

Another reader shares the following remembrance.

On Sept. 1, 1939, I enrolled in Texas A&M and was assigned to 1st Headquarters Battery, Field Artillery. My unit was quartered as the first occupants of the new Dorm 10. My room on the third floor was just down the hall from one occupied by John Harold Allen and his roommate, Jack Golden, both sophomores. Golden was also a casualty of World War II, I believe.

As a fish, I was out of water in mechanical engineering. Upperclassmen were there to see you made your grades, and John Allen helped me.

When I became a sophomore and he a junior—and the dreaded white stripe around my left cuff was removed—I was free of oversight and intimidation inflicted upon fish by sophomores. Mr. Allen became John or Johnny. I remember him well with respect and appreciated the friendship.

My recollection is that as a fish, I served Mr. Allen and Mr. Golden as room orderly for a time. As I recall, he and Jack Golden had been friends before entering A&M. While we were never close friends, I remember John Allen well, and felt a personal loss when I learned of his death.

— CONRAD BERING JR. '43
Houston



Harold Byler '50, shown in this yearbook photograph, has published a book about Texas A&M campus life during the 1940s.

Editor's note: In response to a summer 2010 Spirit essay about life at A&M during the 1940s, readers sent the following two notes.

LIFE AT AGGIELAND IN THE '40s

I noticed in the Letters section of the Spring 2011 issue of *Spirit* magazine that Bob McDonald '50 was requesting information on the 1946 freshmen life. I would like to inform him that I have published a book titled *Life at Aggieland in the '40s* that is based primarily on my freshman year in 1946.

This book is available in bookstores and on the Internet at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. I think he might enjoy reminiscing while reading it.

— HAROLD C. BYLER JR. '50
Brady

WORLD WAR II NAVY VETERAN THANKFUL FOR WORK IN AGGIELAND

I started classes at Texas A&M in September 1946. I enrolled through the G.I. Bill but had received only a certificate of eligibility, so I didn't know when I might get my military subsistence check.

I was a Navy veteran of WWII who served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater on the USS APC-45 and the USS General William Mitchell. I married Helen in April 1946 and was discharged in June that year. I left home with \$50 and a car bought on credit.

We rented a two-room house in Bryan when I learned I would be commuting to the Texas A&M Annex at the airfield there. Helen got a job assisting with registration, and I was hired by Joe Havel to work part-time at his Conoco station in Bryan. Several months later Margaret Schulman hired us to work at the Palace, Queen and Dixie theaters in Bryan. Meanwhile, we

began receiving the subsistence check, which eased our cash-flow problem.

After my freshman year, I transferred to the main campus in summer 1947 and remained there until graduation in July 1949. My senior year we rented an apartment at College View (also known as Hungry Hill), which at that time were converted Army barracks.

Helen got a job with the College Museum and S. M. Tracey Herbarium, where H. B. Parks was curator, and I was hired by the Campus Theater, owned by Ben Ferguson. Part of my job consisted of driving a jeep and trailer with loudspeakers and billboards advertising coming attractions.



Lawrence M. Vaughan '49

If a country boy wanted to improve his chances of establishing a career at that time, there were people who were glad to help, just as there are now.

I sincerely enjoy *Spirit* and look forward to receiving each issue. Keep up the good work and gig 'em!

— LAWRENCE M. VAUGHAN '49
Overton

HELP ME SAY THANKS

In the summer of 1993 I was set to check in to Jester dormitory at the University of Texas in Austin. Then I was blessed with an Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) from Texas A&M. I believe it was the William Sherrill '26 Endowed Opportunity Award.

Since graduating, I have asked over the years how I can get in touch with this family that helped me make the best decision that summer: to cancel admission to t.u. and join Texas A&M in fall 1993.

I've been informed by the staff at the Texas A&M Foundation, which manages the EOA program, that its records go back only to 2004. Apparently my scholarship was awarded at the time of Sherrill's death, and there are no records of his family in the database except his wife, Vera, who is also deceased.

Can anyone help me find family members of William Sherrill '26 so I can thank them for this four-year award that changed my life? Thank you kindly.

— PARTHA MUKHERJI '97, DDS
Fort Worth

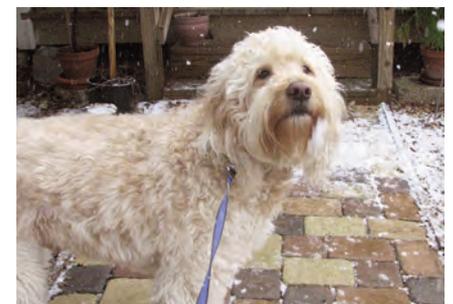
Editor's note: The Foundation is working to help Mukherji get in touch with relatives of William and Vera Sherrill.

LOVE LETTER TO REVEILLES

Dahlings, loved your "Day at the Spa" video in the spring issue of *Spirit* (tx.ag/Reveilles). I should be so lucky! Now I know why you look so divine all the time. I look forward to more from you in future issues of this magazine. That Cody Guffey '13 is certainly a looker, for a human. If you are out and about some time, come visit me at the College Station Conference Center, Room 107. I occasionally hang out there as mascot for Heritage Programs.

Woofs!

— CHAMP, THE DOODLE





Dan Kelly '13, an Architecture 206 student, models the word "expanding" while an animation created by Visualization 206 students plays behind him.

Abstract Art Hits the Runway

Aggies enrolled in two College of Architecture classes participated in a Feb. 25 "fashion show" to illustrate words such as flowing, tangling and ascending. The fashion show concept allowed students to integrate light and space through motion and time.

Architecture students built wearable structures, and visualization students created corre-

sponding conceptual animations. As each animation was projected, students modeled their wearable illustrations with movements that emphasized the meaning of their word.



To watch a video of the fashion show, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/ArchFashions.

Bush Reflects on First Gulf War

Twenty years after his administration's Persian Gulf War, President George H. W. Bush and members of his war cabinet gathered at Reed Arena to assess their actions and results. "In the case of Desert Storm, I honestly

believe history will say we got this one right," said Bush, referring to the United Nations-authorized war that repulsed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

James Baker, Bush's secretary of state, called Operation Desert Storm "a textbook way to conduct a war," one that worked on diplomatic, political, military and economic fronts. Other symposium VIPs included Brent Scowcroft, former national security adviser; former Vice President Dick Cheney; and retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the war.

More than 40 media outlets attended the event, which was organized by Ryan C. Crocker, who is expected to leave his post as dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service to become ambassador to Afghanistan.

Vets Reduce Feral Feline Numbers

In 1998 Texas A&M had about 3,000 feral cats roaming its 5,200-acre campus. Using humane techniques that may be adapted as a national model, an alliance of faculty, staff and students at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences has reduced that population to 115 cats.

Aggie Feral Cat Alliance of Texas members capture the undomesticated cats in humane traps and then spay or neuter, vaccinate, and release most of them back into the area where they

Middle East met Tex-Mex during the 4th annual chili cook-off hosted by the Department of Student Affairs at Texas A&M University at Qatar in January. More than 170 people sampled and voted on chili prepared by 12 teams. The Better Chili Through Chemistry team won the 2011 Chili Masters award. The Red Hot Chili Cookers received the Tastiest Chili award, and Best Theme went to the OMG Team.

were found. About 25 percent of the cats—usually 12 weeks old or younger when captured—can be socialized and adopted.

“We wanted a stable, manageable population of disease-free cats, and with continued vigilance we have achieved that goal,” said Dr. Mark Stickney, alliance director and a professor of veterinary medicine.



To see a video related to this article, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/FeralCats.

Watson Promoted to Provost

Karan L. Watson, who for several months served as Texas A&M University's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, was appointed March 8 to serve in that position on a permanent basis. Her promotion followed a nationwide search that yielded 100 applications.



Karan L. Watson

Watson, who also is a Regents' Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, joined the faculty in 1983. She was dean of faculties and associate provost from 2002-09, and served as vice provost for strategic initiatives from 2008-09. She earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Texas Tech.

Galveston Campus Has New CEO

RADM Robert Smith III '61, U.S. Navy (retired), on April 18 began work as vice president at Texas A&M University and president/CEO at Texas

A&M University at Galveston. He previously was senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas with responsibility for Houston-based operations.



RADM Robert Smith III '61

Smith says he will marshal resources to help set the course for education, public service and research. “With our proximity to the petrochemical industry, the expansion of the Panama Canal as well as coastal zone population growth, Texas A&M at Galveston is uniquely positioned to provide a workforce as an economic stimulus for our region and the state of Texas as a whole.”

Smith is a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences distinguished alumnus and member of the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor. He served in the Navy for nearly 35 years, retiring in 1996.

He and his wife, Mary Sue, are members of the A&M Legacy Society,

which recognizes Texas A&M's most generous donors.

In a Word: WHOOP!

◊ Texas A&M continues to rank among the country's top 10 institutions in enrollment of new National Merit Scholars.

A&M is first in Texas and second nationally among all public universities, according to a National Merit Scholarship Corp. report in January. It said 177 Aggie freshmen are National Merit Scholars, bringing the campus total to more than 500.

◊ Texas A&M's Army ROTC won the MacArthur Award as one of the nation's best programs. U.S. Army Cadet Command, the parent organization of Army ROTC, and the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation honored the program in late January.

The award recognizes Army ROTC programs that best represent the ideals of duty, honor and country as practiced by Gen. MacArthur.

Arts Building on Its Way

The new 107,000-square-foot Liberal Arts & Humanities Building, which will house the Departments of English and Performance Studies, is under construction. The building will contain a student theater, costume and scene shops, recording studios, rehearsal spaces, computer labs, classrooms, and faculty and graduate student offices.

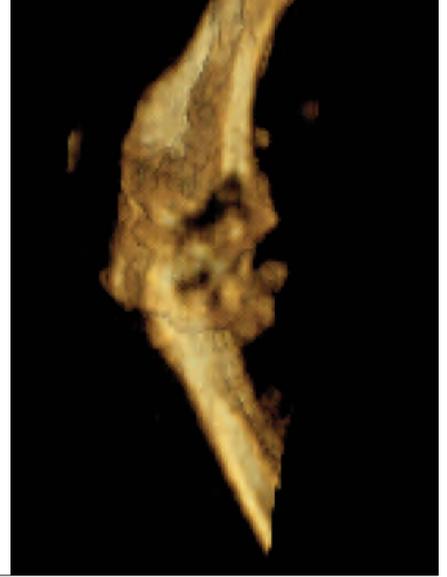
The \$46 million building will be located between the Melbern G. Glasscock History Building and the Jack K. Williams Administration Building. Groundbreaking occurred in December 2010, and completion is expected in July 2012.

To learn how you can support the new building through naming opportunities, contact Mark Klemm '81 of the Texas A&M Foundation at (800) 392-3310 or m-klemm@tamu.edu.



Lab Work

3-D images similar to this one—a rabbit joint—from Dr. Raffaella Righetti's experimental ultrasound device will reveal where to inject bone-mending materials.



Traffic Jams Grow With Economy

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University reported in January that traffic reached a decade low during the worst of the recession. Now that the economy is improving, road congestion is worse although it hasn't reached pre-recession levels.

In 2007 TTI figures showed the nation wasted 5.2 billion hours in traffic. A year later, when the recession peaked, the total was 4.6 billion hours. The number reached 4.8 billion hours for 2009.

The good news is that traffic is a sign of prosperity. When oil prices plummeted during the 1980s, Houston and Dallas traffic eased considerably. The recent recession allowed them to analyze the correlation on a national

scale. "What we've seen on the regional level is mirrored in these numbers on the national level," said Dr. Tim Lomax, a TTI research engineer.

High-tech Bone Mending

Dr. Raffaella Righetti, assistant professor in A&M's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is helping devise a new method for quickly mending broken bones—one that requires no X-ray machine for diagnostics. In emergency situations such as battlefields and disaster sites, the procedure could save limbs from amputation.

Righetti is part of a team developing an injected or implanted material that solidifies a fracture quickly and then allows the bone to regenerate fully without pins.

Porous silicon spheres are embedded in polypropylene fumarate to strengthen it and nurture healing. A patient with a broken leg could resume walking within a week of treatment, and as the spheres dissolve in the body, they release cells, proteins and drugs that nurture new bone tissue while thwarting infection.

Righetti developed a portable ultrasonic scanner that provides instant 3-D images of a fracture so medical specialists can determine where to inject the polypropylene fumarate. Because conventional ultrasonics show bone poorly, her scanner uses higher-than-normal ultrasonic

Good news-bad news: As the economy improves, traffic worsens. In 2009 the average American motorist wasted 34 hours stopped because of traffic congestion.



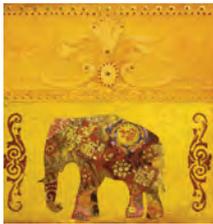
frequencies and software that amplifies the images of hard tissues.

India Study Could Save Children

Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly, A&M assistant professor of geography, has received a five-year grant to study the sanitation-related illnesses of rural India that kill about 1,000 children younger than 5 every day.

"In India, about 74 percent of rural households do not have toilet facilities," said O'Reilly, who has studied water-related issues there for more than a decade. "Even when they have access to bathroom facilities, many people living in rural areas seldom use them, preferring instead to use any available outdoor space. The negative health consequences are obvious."

Cultural issues also contribute to sanitation problems. O'Reilly's previous research found that even if a home has a toilet, it is often placed in an area used only by men. "If men are using the space, a woman has to wait, either until she can leave the house after dark or until the men have left." With her new \$436,000 National Science Foundation grant, O'Reilly hopes to find solutions to help 665 million Indians living in unhygienic conditions.



Get the Lowdown on the Texas Coast

Dr. Samuel D. Brody of Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) has created an Internet-based coastal atlas with a treasure trove of data about Texas' 18-county coastline.

Information ranges from transportation, census and climate to topography, ecology, hazards and development. "We believe this is the most complete work of its kind ever created about the Texas coast," said Brody, who holds TAMUG's George P. Mitchell '40 Chair in Sustainable

Coasts and heads the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores.

He and his research team—which included the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at the College Station campus—produced comprehensive information about every area of the Texas coast. It even includes information about individual houses and lots. Details about flood zones and beach erosion as well as development projections are available at CoastalAtlas.tamug.edu; click on "Atlas."

"We have taken just about every possible question and produced an answer that is easy to understand," Brody said. "It's a great research tool."

Aggie Studies Suicide Risk Factors

Edgar Villarreal '07 '08 '12, an A&M doctoral student in counseling psychology, is examining which symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) signal an increased risk of suicide among combat veterans. The symptoms include flashbacks, hypervigilance, insomnia, nightmares and emotional numbness.

The work was spurred by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs research in 2010 that determined 18 veterans commit suicide each day. Other studies indicate 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from PTSD and major depression.

"If we identify specific symptoms, we can undertake specific interventions early enough to minimize the risk for suicide," Villarreal said. He and Dr. Timothy Elliott, a professor of counseling psychology, use a Veterans Administration database on suicide factors in their research.

Villarreal's interest is personal as well as professional: As a past member of the Corps of Cadets, he is concerned about many friends deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and his brother is an Army captain.

Archaeologists Dig Professor's Carbon-dating Technique

How old is your mummy? You might ask Dr. Marvin W. Rowe, a Texas A&M chemistry professor emeritus. He can determine the ages of precious antiquities such as mummies without damaging them. Rowe's radiocarbon dating technique is so revolutionary that *Archaeology* magazine cited it as one of the "Top 10 Discoveries of 2010."

To accurately determine age, his two-step method removes as little as .05 milligram of carbon from an artifact, the weight of about 50 dust specks. First Rowe applies a supercritical fluid solvent—highly pressurized, slightly heated carbon dioxide and methane. Then he applies a low-temperature plasma that oxidizes a minuscule portion of the artifact's surface to carbon dioxide, and that carbon dioxide is collected for dating.

The artifact remains unscathed, which opens the door to determining the age of a treasured item that couldn't be assessed previously because it might be damaged. Rowe, a nuclear/analytical chemist with a background in petroleum engineering, teaches at the Qatar branch campus each fall.

To test his radiocarbon dating technique, Dr. Marvin W. Rowe and his team dated small parts of this infant mummy from Hinds Cave in southwest Texas.



New Gifts

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

COLLEGE IMPACT

A Boost for Cushing Collection

Alicia and Ed Muñiz '67 of Seabrook have funded an endowment that sup-



Alicia and Ed Muñiz '67

ports and enhances historic South Texas documents in the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives' Texas and the Border Lands Collection. The collection includes county and community histories, cultural studies, literature, historical manuscripts and maps related to South Texas, where the couple grew up.

Their endowment will build the collection and showcase it through exhibitions and promotional events. Ed Muñiz's company, MEI Technologies, matched the couple's gift to create the \$50,000 endowment. Alicia Muñiz serves on the board of the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

tion. The updated building—which will pay homage to Aggie Medal of Honor recipients and house student organizations—“will exemplify the core values that make A&M special,” Erle Nye said. To recognize the Nyes' gift, their names will be affixed to the MSC's southeast Loyalty entrance, a visual reminder of a core value.

The MSC was dedicated in 1951, when the student body numbered less than 6,600; today it approaches 50,000. (As this issue of *Spirit* was going to press, the university announced the enlarged, modernized MSC will reopen for Aggie Muster, April 21, 2012, four months ahead of schedule.)

The Texas A&M Foundation is raising \$20 million for the MSC project, largely through naming opportunities that start at \$25,000. To date, it has raised \$8.5 million..

To support the project, contact David Wilkinson at (800) 392-3310 or d-wilkinson@tamu.edu. To give online, visit giving.tamu.edu/SupportMSC.

Alice A. and Erle A. Nye '59 recently gave \$250,000 to support the Memorial Student Center (MSC) renovation. The Nyes' names will be affixed to the MSC's southeast Loyalty entrance in recognition of their gift.



MSC Gift Affirms Aggie Value

Alice A. and Erle A. Nye '59 of Dallas, who fondly recall their dates in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), recently gave \$250,000 to support its renova-

FACULTY IMPACT

Aggie Mom Thanks Mays

Hallie Vanderhider, mother of twins Michael '09 and the late Matthew '09 Vanderhider, has pledged \$500,000 to Mays Business School in appreciation for its impact in her sons' lives. Her gift will be matched by funds from school namesake Lowry Mays '57 to create an endowed faculty chair.

Michael Vanderhider works for Deloitte & Touche, the same firm where his mother began her career. He felt “as prepared as anybody could be” for a career in accounting because of his education at Mays, she said.

Hallie Vanderhider, a University of Texas graduate, said the caring fac-



ulty, mentors and friendships Michael experienced at A&M are unparalleled. “It changed his life in a way that I did not anticipate. It is wonderful to see your child succeed.”

Sadly, Matthew never actually attended. His 3.7 grade average at Blinn College earned his acceptance letter to A&M, but he died before enrolling. “He never was able to attend, but that acceptance was, I think, the happiest moment of his life,” she said.

STUDENT IMPACT



George P. Mitchell '40 and his daughter Sheridan Mitchell Lorenz

Scholarship To Aid Women in Physics

In her mother’s memory, Sheridan Mitchell Lorenz has established the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Undergraduate Scholarship for Women in Physics. Her gift to the Texas A&M Foundation will be matched equally by contributions from her parents’ George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation and from Department of Physics and Astronomy faculty. Eleven faculty members completed the matching challenge.

George P. Mitchell '40 and his late wife have been longtime benefactors

of Texas A&M. His passion for physics led to a gift of \$35 million for the George P. Mitchell Physics Building and the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy.

Statistics Prof Made an Impression

Since graduating from Texas A&M with doctorates in statistics, students Ersen Arseven '74 and Luisa Sia '74 remember a special A&M professor who—despite a hectic schedule—made time to mentor them and other Aggies. To honor him, they established the Anant M. Kshirsagar Endowed Fellowship in Statistics.

“It is wonderful to know that there are students who like my teaching and loved me for that and thought of donating money for a good cause,” Kshirsagar said. He left A&M in 1977 and is a professor emeritus of biostatistics at the University of Michigan.

“We want Dr. Kshirsagar’s life’s work and achievements in statistics to be recognized and honored,” Sia said. Arseven, who says Kshirsagar inspired him to pursue a career in statistics, established three previous endowments in memory of his late wife, Susan M. Arseven '75.

SPIRIT IMPACT

Greek Gift Promotes Leadership

The Texas Eta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi fraternity for women has created the Pi Beta Phi Educational and Leadership Endowment to support activities and scholarships that enhance the academic performance, professional development and leadership skills of the fraternity’s 190 members at Texas A&M.

“This endowment ensures that our sisters, both current and future, have the funds needed to support their leadership endeavors,” said chapter President Lauren Gray '11. The \$30,000 endowment was announced as A&M celebrated its first Aggie Greek Weekend last year.



Katherine and O. D. Pritchett '40

Gift Benefits Future Engineers

Katherine Pritchett has established a \$1 million scholarship endowment named for herself and her late husband, O. D. Pritchett '40. The Aggie engineering scholarships give preferences to students with financial need and to incoming freshmen (who may receive a scholarship for a second year). Recipients will be known as Pritchett Scholars.

O. D. Pritchett’s engineering degree led to a prosperous career. After returning from World War II, he worked at a Houston shipyard. He later established what became Pritchett Engineering and Machine Inc., known for precision machining and fabricating services for the petrochemical and oil drilling industries as well as maintenance and repair services for the steel industry.

“We are grateful for Mrs. Pritchett’s generosity and proud to remember her husband’s legacy with this scholars program,” said Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, vice chancellor and dean of engineering and director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

More Than Money

A SCHOLARSHIP PLANTS SEEDS FOR SUCCESS BEYOND A TEENAGER'S FONDEST HOPE.

My dream of a Texas A&M degree was a long shot. It came to pass because of a little luck and big help from Aggies with the spirit that I admire and continue to support.

My Aggie story starts in 1948. Money was tight while I was growing up on a farm in East Texas. My parents probably could have scraped together enough to put me through college, but at 15, I hoped to pay my own way.

Scholarship Scramble

The first step was to snag a calf in the Feb. 14 scramble at the Houston Fat Stock Show and Livestock Exposition. Boys raised the calves they caught and showed them a year later. The boy who won the competition would receive Texas A&M's \$2,000 Jim Tucker Scholarship.

I was an alternate for the calf scramble, but headed to Houston with a friend and his father in case a spot opened up. One contestant failed to show, so I was one of 22 boys trying to catch 10 frisky calves.

I wasn't known for speed, so when I caught up with the rest of the gang, only two calves were left. As I caught one, we crashed into the concrete arena wall. I was momentarily knocked out, and when I came to, I had a death grip on the calf. I quickly secured him and dragged him across the finish line.

To be eligible for the scholarship, I had to feed, groom and care for my calf; take him to the next Houston Fat Stock Show; and place in the top 5 percent of the scramble class. But only one would be selected.

My calf, Huffy's Pride—Huffy being my nickname—filled out on 10 to 12 pounds of grain per day, and I showed him in 4-H Club events. I kept detailed records and photographs, charting his care and progress for the scholarship competition.

Prize for Huffy's Pride

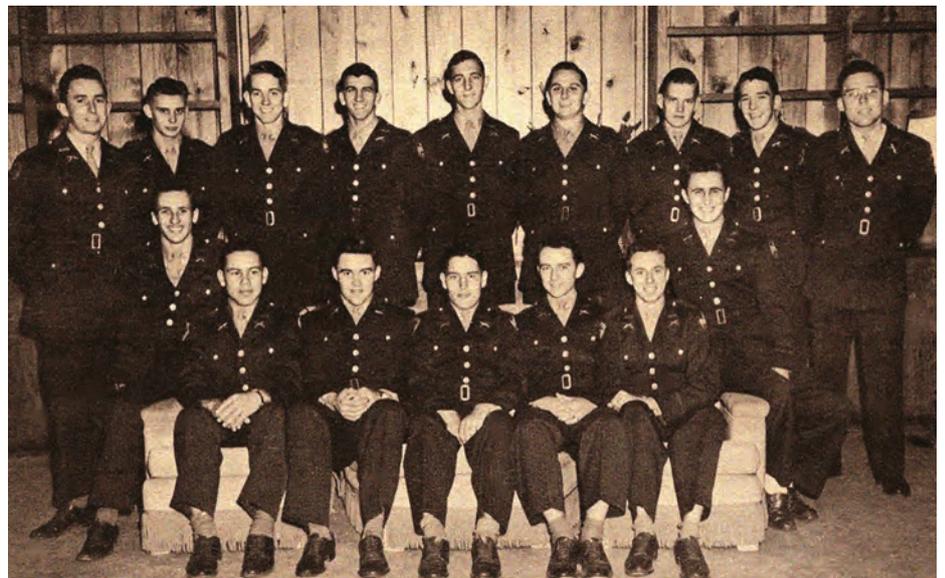
In February 1949 my father and I took Huffy's Pride to the Houston show during a terrible snowstorm.

Bill Huffman (this page, second from right) poses with the prize-winning Huffy's Pride in Houston. Huffman (facing page) fed the calf 10 to 12 pounds of grain per day.





An only child, Bill Huffman (back row, fourth from right) had to adjust to the lack of privacy at Barracks T-207 at the Texas A&M Annex. But the guys bonded, and chemistry tutoring by Charles Slone '53 (front row, third from right) proved crucial to Huffman's academic success.



The trip, normally four hours, took all day over snow and ice. We spent more than an hour making it up just one hill!

The next day, Huff's Pride won three ribbons and placed sixth in the Scramble Class of 150 calves, which was within the top 5 percent required for scholarship eligibility. And that night, at the Calf Scramble Banquet, I won the prize for best records. After all other awards had been presented at the banquet, I won the scholarship... and much attention.

mind: Could I live up to everyone's expectations? I would do my best, which I hoped would be good enough.

Chasing Aggie Dreams

Texas A&M was a different world for me. I was an only child, and my high school graduating class numbered 18 in a town of 200. Imagine my surprise when I learned I had 19 roommates at Barracks T-207 at the Texas A&M Annex (formerly an Army air base). I quickly adjusted to the lack of privacy and space, and we all became close friends.

A major disappointment occurred that first week at A&M, though. I hoped to study veterinary medicine, but after three days of tests, the counselor blocked my enrollment. "You should major in animal husbandry. You might make it in A.H., but I doubt it." I took his advice.

I struggled with academics at first, and without tutoring from barracks-mate Charles Slone '53, I would not

Regional newspapers covered Huffman's big scholarship.



Newspapers and agricultural journals such as *Country Gentlemen* and *Farm & Ranch Magazine* published articles about me and Huff's Pride. A dinner was held in my honor in Marshall. The publicity raised a question in my

“The thing I value most is that by helping me, the scholarship has enabled my wife, Barbara, and me to help others attend Texas A&M.”

have passed my first chemistry course. So the barracks turned out to be a blessing.

My second semester, I took a poultry science course taught by Cecil Ryan '47. By then I was making good grades, and Ryan (who later earned an Aggie doctorate) asked me what I wanted to do after graduation. I told him about the counselor's discouraging opinion as well as my uncertainty.

Ryan then gave me great advice. “Do not believe it when someone says you are not capable of doing something. You can, if you just work hard enough.” I took that to heart and received the Danforth Foundation Award as outstanding freshman in the School of Agriculture. He also persuaded me to major in poultry science because of its science emphasis, which would give me more options for an advanced degree and employment.

During the second semester of my junior year, fortune smiled again. Ryan coached our Aggie team to the National Junior Poultry Judging Championship, and I won another Danforth Foundation Award, which is awarded only to one freshman and one junior each year. The award allowed me to spend two weeks at a Ralston Purina Co. farm and at its St. Louis headquarters, and two weeks at a Michigan camp established by

William H. Danforth, founder of Ralston Purina Co. and the Danforth Foundation.

During my senior year, thanks to Ryan's training and mentoring, I received a gold watch as the highest-scoring individual in the Intercollegiate Senior Poultry Judging Contest in Chicago.

Poultry Saves Pennies

My poultry knowledge contributed to my financial security as well as my confidence. I landed a part-time job at the A&M Poultry Farm paying minimum wage, 60 cents an hour, during my sophomore and junior years.

Between semesters I worked in the Poultry Division at the Houston Fat Stock Show, earning as much as during an entire semester at A&M's Poultry Farm, which made it possible for me to buy used senior boots and a new typewriter.

In exchange for a small stipend from the Army, which covered my

meals, I committed to two years of active duty and five years in the reserve.

When I received a bachelor of science degree in poultry science on May 29, 1953, my checking account held more than when I started college and I had no debt. I could not have done that without my scholarship.

A Life of Learning

Initially I saw the scholarship only as a financial windfall, but the intangible benefits prove even greater: a motivation to succeed, to prove myself worthy of the scholarship at Texas A&M and beyond; lifelong friendships; academic knowledge; and real-world experiences. My Aggie education laid the foundation for a life of learning including a degree from t.u.'s law school and a career practicing law in Marshall.

But the thing I value most is that by helping me, the scholarship has enabled my wife, Barbara, and me to help others attend Texas A&M. ☞

— BY BILL HUFFMAN '53

For more information about how you can give to Aggie scholarships, contact:

Jody Ford '99

Director of Development—Scholarships

Texas A&M Foundation

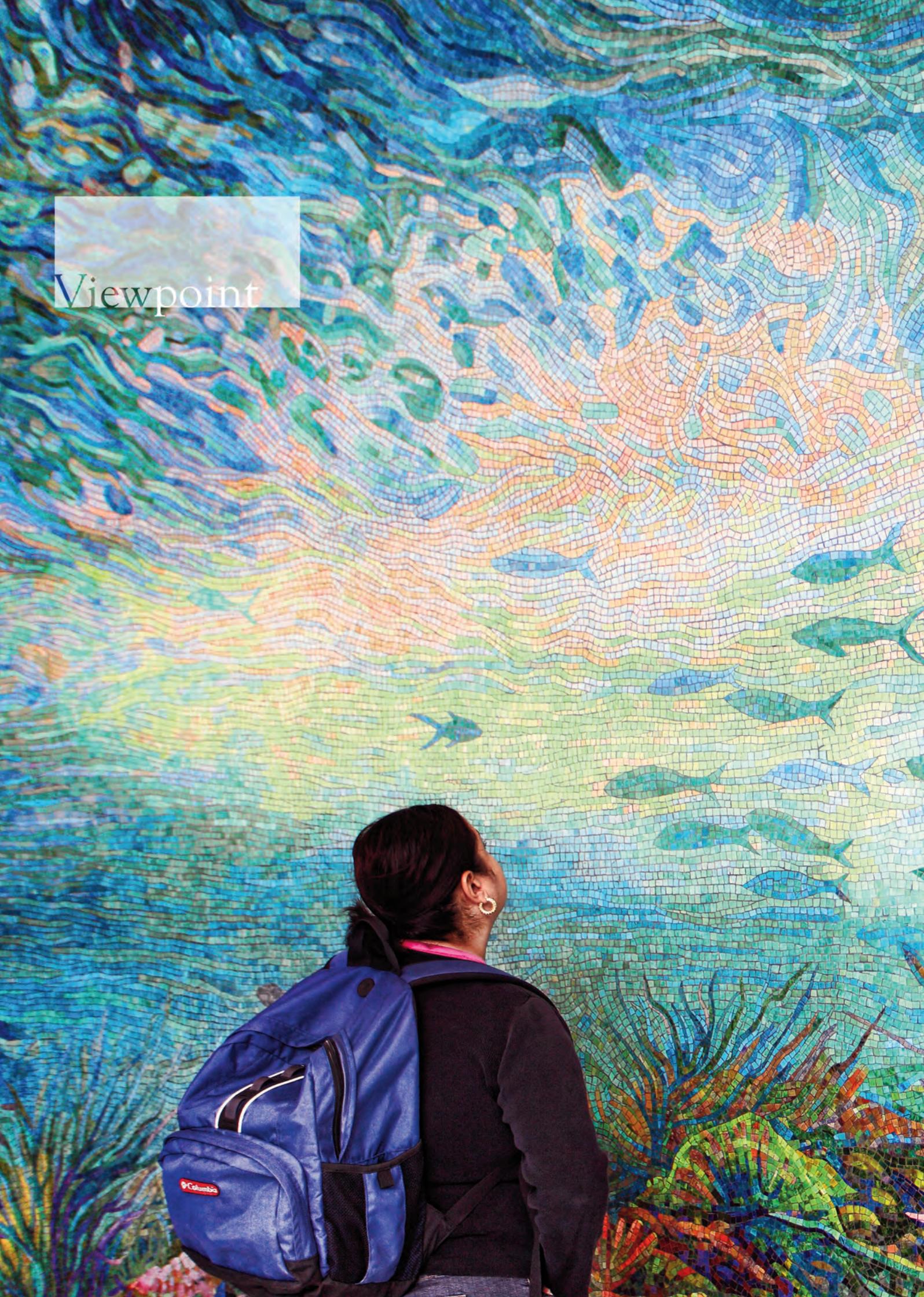
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161

fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu

giving.tamu.edu



The Huffmans established the Barbara J. and William M. “Bill” Huffman '53 Corps Endowment to support Corps 21 Scholarships, the Corps of Cadets Leadership Excellence Program and the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center. The couple also funded a President's Endowed Scholarship and contributed to the Cecil B. Ryan Endowed Scholarship and Class of 1953 Endowed Opportunity Award.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black jacket and a blue Columbia backpack, is seen from behind, looking up at a large, vibrant mosaic. The mosaic depicts an underwater scene with various fish swimming in a sea of blue and green waves. The bottom of the mosaic shows colorful coral reefs. The overall scene is bright and colorful, with a mix of blues, greens, oranges, and yellows.

Viewpoint



See-worthy Art

A larger-than-life tile mural captivates a student in the Ocean & Coastal Studies Building at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Two of the three traffic-stopping murals, collectively titled *Syncopation Sea*, are 12 by 23 feet (shown) and 10 by 10 feet. A third, *The Benthic Zone*, measures 15 inches by 45 feet, and its 3-D and flat tiles resemble an aquarium. Installation on the murals, designed by Houston artist Dixie Friend Gay, took about three weeks. The \$53 million building, which opened in July 2010, houses 24 research labs, 16 shared labs, a 124-seat lecture hall and an 85-seat classroom.

Arthur McFarland, Class of 1905, (far left, middle row) played varsity football for A&M. His granddaughters funded an engineering professorship in his name.



RIPPLE

Memorial gifts created to honor the passions and dreams of loved ones can influence future generations of Texas A&M students, faculty and staff. These gifts—which create a personalized legacy and remembrance of loved ones—may fund scholarships, fellowships, professorships, chairs, programs and facilities.

Sisters Margo London of Maryland and Sandra Wilson of Virginia barely knew their

of Engineers honored McFarland as one of the first 14 members in the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees of the Office of the Chief of Engineers as well as by naming a dredging ship in his honor.

The sisters said their mother had talked about creating a memorial gift at Texas A&M to honor her father but didn't do so in her estate. "Margo and I really wanted to follow through on her wishes," Wilson said. "We loved our mother so much, and she really loved her father." The sisters used part of their mother's estate to fund the professorship.

HONORING TEXAS EDUCATORS WITH A LIBRARY GIFT

As a teenager, Bill Flores '76 sometimes talked loudly in the library, which didn't sit

Leg-a-cy (n): Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

— MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY —

grandfather because they were so young when he died. Yet the stories they heard from their mother prompted them to endow the Arthur McFarland (1905) Professorship in Engineering in his name.

"There was a special bond between my mother, Alice, and her father. He was highly respected, and my mom was so proud of him," London said. After her death, they found mementos from McFarland's life, including his senior thesis and photos of him in his Corps of Cadets uniform and as a member of the Aggie football team.

McFarland, who earned a mechanical engineering degree at A&M, worked more than 40 years for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he became a dredging expert. After his death in 1946, the Corps

well with his future mother-in-law, Stratford High School librarian Johnette Bass. "Mom used to kick Bill out of the library regularly," recalled his wife, Gina. When the couple contributed to the renovation of Texas A&M University's Sterling C. Evans Library, they thought back to their high school days. "We decided to name the really loud part of the library in memory of my parents," she said.

EFFECT



Gina and Bill Flores '76 have honored her educator parents (above) with a gift creating the Johnette and Elwyn Bass Library Commons in the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The Floreses' memorial gift created the Johnette and Elwyn Bass Library Commons, a favorite meeting place and study area for A&M students. U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, whose District 17 includes Aggrieland and Waco, sees the library as "the building block of the educational process. This gift is a way to honor

them for all of their hard work in education."

Johnette Bass worked for 25 years as an English teacher and librarian. "My mother was tough at school and was fiercely protective of her children, but she had a soft spot for those who were less fortunate. Her library desk was a gathering place for the many students who needed her help."

Elwyn Bass' career in public schools spanned 35 years, 21 of which were spent as the superintendent of Stratford Independent School District in the Texas Panhandle. Before his retirement, he was recognized as Texas Superintendent of the Year, and the district named its football stadium after him. After his wife died in 1992, he moved to the Sugar Land area, where he worked for 15 years at a private Christian school, including four years team-teaching with his daughter.

The Basses, Baylor graduates, came to appreciate Aggie-land because of Bill and Gina Flores, who surprised her father by announcing the gift during a visit to Evans Library

in December. "He was so overwhelmed that he couldn't even speak," she said.

GILBERT'S ENDURING PASSION

David Gilbert '07 attended Texas A&M for less than two years, but that time made an indelible mark on him and on the university. While at Fish Camp, Gilbert and several new friends decided to take an active role on campus. He soon became involved in Fish Aides, a student organization that develops A&M's future leaders.

"He was a young man of faith," said Laura Gilbert, his mother. "He was passionate and intentional about life, and he was maturing into a leader."

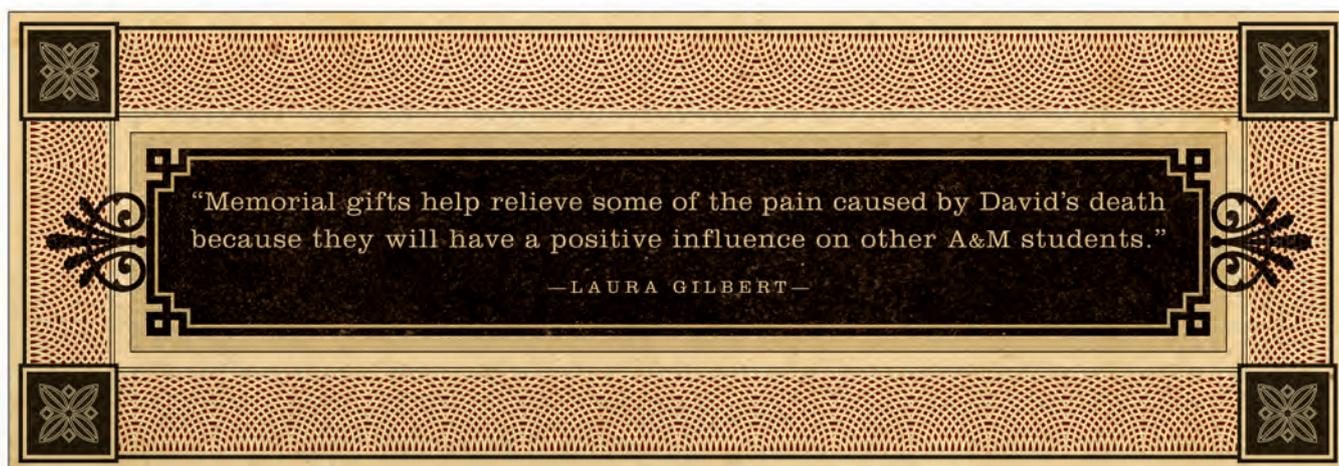
In June 2004, emergency room physicians examined Gilbert after the SUV he was driving sustained a blowout and flipped three times. Amazingly, he wasn't hurt, but doctors discovered a mass in his upper chest. A biopsy diagnosed a severe form of lymphoma, so Gilbert underwent aggressive chemotherapy that led to remission. He returned to A&M, but the cancer recurred three months later.

Aggies surrounded Gilbert during his final months. "There were so many A&M friends at the Arlington hospital that they had to move them to the cafeteria," said Tom Gilbert, his father. "Several close friends slept in the intensive care waiting room and would go to his window and pray for him." He died in June 2005.

Classmates later approached Gilbert's parents with the idea of creating the Gilbert Leadership Conference to emphasize character, involvement and service for outstanding Aggie freshmen.

The Gilbert family enthusiastically funded an endowment for the conference, which began in 2006, and have attended it every year. "We spend four days with 32 of the best freshman leaders at A&M," Tom Gilbert said. "They are so committed. They love A&M and their fellow students."

In addition, relatives, A&M friends and church friends created three endowed memorial scholarships in Gilbert's





The parents of David Gilbert '07 will always remember the Aggies who visited their son (center) while he was fighting cancer. The Gilberts created a freshman leadership conference — an opportunity their son would have enjoyed — and they attend the gathering each year.

name to benefit Fish Aides. Because they are endowed, they will benefit Aggies forever.

“Memorial gifts help relieve some of the pain caused by David’s death because they will have a positive influence on other A&M students,” his mother said. “These were David’s passions. I can’t think of anything David would want more.”

ANONYMOUS TRIBUTE

John Howard Key '89 was a bit of a rebel. As a senior in Texas A&M’s Corps of Cadets, Key wanted black boots. The Corps commander objected, but Key emphasized that regulations did not require him to wear the traditional oxblood-colored boots. “He just liked the way black boots looked,” said his wife, Missy '92. “He was of the mindset, ‘Show me where it is in the rule book, tell me why and then tell me how to change it.’” Key’s argument convinced the Corps commander to let the California native wear black boots.

Key left Texas A&M without graduating to enlist in the Navy, where he completed officer training school as well as aviation officer candidate school. After 17 years, Key left the Navy and moved to the San Antonio area to be near his ailing father.

In the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, the Boerne resident joined the U.S. Air Marshals. He commuted by flying his small plane to his job at Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Key died when his plane crashed during takeoff in May 2007, and Air Marshals named their headquarters at the Bush airport in his honor.

But Key’s memory lives on at Texas A&M, thanks to a classmate who anonymously created an endowed Corps of Cadets scholarship in his name. “I was awestruck when I got the phone call about the scholarship,” Missy Key

said. “I wondered what John Howard did to cause this. It’s one of the greatest gifts you can give a family who has gone through something like this. It’s good to know that others thought he was wonderful.”

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Gifts to Texas A&M University can honor and memorialize loved ones as well as offer opportunities to Aggies.

“For anyone who values education, carrying on the memory of a loved one through a memorial gift is a way of putting your money where your mouth is,” Sandra Wilson said.

Memorial gifts support Texas A&M University priorities and create a ripple effect. “You leave two personal legacies when you die. The first is your kids. The second is the impact you have on people,” Bill Flores said. “These types of gifts impact not just one generation, but many.”

— BY DORIAN MARTIN

For more information about memorial gifts, contact:

*Carl Jaedicke '73
Vice President for Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161
c-jaedicke@tamu.edu
giving.tamu.edu*



Killed in the 2007 crash of his private plane, John Howard Key '89 prized his black Aggie boots. An anonymous donor established a Corps of Cadets scholarship in his memory.



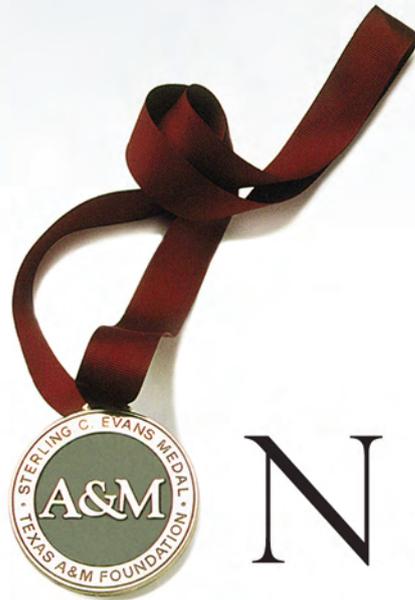
The late Sterling C. Evans '21 gave more than \$10 million to Texas A&M University, and its main library bears his name.

When the Texas A&M Foundation presented its highest honor to James “Jim” K. B. Nelson ’49 and Jack E. Brown ’46 on April 28, they joined a prestigious group of Texas A&M University supporters who have unselfishly given their time and financial resources to the school.

The first recipient of this honor was Sterling C. Evans ’21 himself, a man whose quiet yet formidable support and leadership of Texas A&M was instrumental in raising the university to international prominence. Many know Evans solely because Texas A&M’s main library bears his name. But that recognition only scratches the surface of his prime spot in Texas A&M history.

The Sterling C. Evans Medal recognizes A&M supporters who exhibit a long, distinguished record of philanthropy at the university through exemplary giving and volunteer leadership.

“If you talk about someone who has had an impact on A&M in almost indescribable ways, but has been under the radar, Sterling Evans is it,” said Foundation President Ed Davis ’67. “He would be considered a giant in Texas history as well if his story were completely known.”



THE V I S I O N A R Y

The Texas A&M Foundation's Sterling C. Evans Medal was named for one of Texas A&M's most influential advocates. Sterling C. Evans '21 serves as a role model for Aggie philanthropy.

Philanthropy Giant

At a time when Texas A&M's library was often overlooked—housing only 240,000 volumes in 1959, for instance—Evans gave generously to improve it. The success of an academic institution, he believed, could be measured by the size and relevance of its library.

Texas A&M today boasts five campus libraries and a digital library. At 4.6 million volumes, the library system ranks among the top 25 libraries recognized by the Association of Research Libraries.

Early on Evans realized the importance of major gifts to a university, donating more than \$10 million—including his entire estate—to the Foundation, primarily in support of the Texas A&M library. His wife, Catherine, likewise earmarked close to \$4 million for the library.

Despite fierce opposition, Sterling C. Evans '21 and university President Earl Rudder '32 (right) joined forces to change A&M by making Corps of Cadets participation voluntary and by admitting women and black students to degree programs. Behind them is Gus S. Wortham, Evans' business partner and an A&M backer.



“Sterling was one of the early advocates for giving back to A&M,” Davis said. “For us, he’s a symbol of the importance of philanthropy, a leader in that idea.”

In 1998 the Foundation Board of Trustees created the Sterling C. Evans Medal to honor this giant and the selfless giving he encouraged.

“We had wonderful recognitions at the university for faculty and students, but none saying that philanthropy was a component of that recognition,” Davis said. The Evans Medal specifically recognizes those who lead by giving.

High Marks in Life

Evans' classmates predicted success for the Pearsall native they affectionately called “Chick.”

“Wanted—A man. Must be a good mixer, studious, brilliant, handsome, honest, and sincere,” said Evans' description in the 1921 Texas A&M yearbook, *The Longhorn*. “If this advertisement should appear in one of our newspapers, the advertiser could find in ‘Chick’ Evans a man who measures up to these standards. When you graduate, Sterling, you are parting

from a great circle of friends who hold you in the highest esteem and who are assured that your marks in life will be as high as your mark at A&M.”

Evans did not disappoint. After graduating as class valedictorian, he became a district extension agent for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and later was the first president of the Houston Bank for Cooperatives. In 1940 he was named president of the Federal Land Bank of Houston and followed that up as general agent of the Farm Credit Bank of Houston. He left there in 1959 to breed Santa Gertrudis cattle at his Nine Bar Ranch in Cypress.

Evans was a founding trustee of the Foundation and a trustee for The Association of Former Students Loan Fund and the Texas A&M Research Foundation. From 1959 to 1971, he served on the Texas A&M Board of Directors (now Board of Regents) and was its president in 1963 and 1964.

“Ahead of his time” might be a cliché, but the phrase suits Evans perfectly. His conviction that Texas A&M could achieve greatness only if it were coeducational, racially integrated and free from mandatory military training came long before such views were popular, and they met considerable resistance.

Aspirations

Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties emeritus at A&M, became acquainted with Evans in the early 1960s when Monroe was secretary of the A&M Aspirations Committee while Evans was A&M board president. *The Aspirations Study* established goals that Texas A&M should reach by its 1976 centennial.

Then-Texas A&M University President James Earl Rudder '32 typically—

STERLING C. EVANS MEDAL RECIPIENT

James K. B. "Jim" Nelson '49



When he was 9 or 10 years old, James K. B. "Jim" Nelson '49 first met Sterling C. Evans '21. Seven decades later, Nelson proudly displays the medal named for his late friend.

"Sterling Evans was one of those guys who, through blind good luck, I got to know all my life," said Nelson, former owner of Grey Wolf Drilling Co. "I've loved him since I was a little boy. He always had an idea of something to do for A&M."

That enthusiasm for throwing monetary and volunteer support behind Texas A&M was a notion that rubbed off on Nelson. In 1997 he and his wife, Audrey Calais Nelson, made a \$10 million pledge to the Texas A&M Foundation in support of petroleum engineering education at Texas A&M. But rather than naming endowments after themselves, the Houston couple honored three petroleum engineering professors who made a tremendous impact on Jim Nelson's life.

The Petroleum Engineering Department was named the Harold J. Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering, and two petroleum engineering faculty chairs were established in the names of Albert B. Stevens and Robert Whiting. Their gift also created an endowed scholarship program.

The lobby exhibit hall in the Bright Football Complex is named in honor of the Nelsons, longtime supporters of the 12th Man Foundation. The couple has also endowed two Corps of Cadets scholarships.

Jim Nelson has held offices in local A&M clubs, The Association of Former Students, the 12th Man Foundation and several Corps leadership groups. He has served on Texas A&M's Petroleum Engineering Industry Board, the College of Education and Human Development Advisory Council, and the Visual Arts Development Council.

Nelson is a member of the Corps Hall of Honor, a distinguished graduate of the Texas A&M Petroleum Engineering Academy, a distinguished alumnus of Texas A&M and an outstanding alumnus of the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

Jack E. Brown '46

Texas A&M University has one of the nation's few buildings dedicated to chemical engineering education. And it's not just any building: It's seven stories and 205,000 square feet of classrooms, offices, computer and research labs, a massive supercomputer cluster room, and offices for the cutting-edge Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center.

The Jack E. Brown Chemical Engineering Building received its name after Brown '46 and his wife, Frances, donated the lead gift of \$5 million to the Texas A&M Foundation for construction.

"I do love A&M and I want to see it continue to progress like it has the last 60 years," Jack Brown said when the building was dedicated in 2005.

This A&M gift was one of many from the Browns. Over the years, they have endowed an engineering faculty chair, a technology fund, and provided significant gifts to the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, the Private Enterprise Research Center, The Association of Former Students, and the 12th Man Foundation.

On April 28 the Foundation recognized that generosity by awarding Jack Brown a Sterling C. Evans Medal.

"Texas A&M is a great university and has been the cornerstone of my life," Brown said. "I can think of no greater honor than to receive a medallion which has been presented to such distinguished individuals in the past."

Brown's early life took him from San Antonio to Texas A&M to wartime Japan and back to A&M. Graduating with degrees in petroleum and mechanical engineering, he began his career in the oil industry working as a roughneck in Abilene. He joined forces with Cy Wagner Jr. in 1962, and the two built their Midland-based company, Wagner & Brown Ltd., into a successful independent oil and gas operation.

In addition to his gifts, Brown has served as geographic chairman and board director for the Private Enterprise Research Center, as well as on advisory councils for the Dwight Look College of Engineering and its Department of Mechanical Engineering. He is a member of the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor and is an outstanding alumnus of the engineering college.



and deservedly—receives accolades for the sweeping changes at Texas A&M in the 1960s, but Monroe said few realize Evans deserves equal credit.

Efforts to enhance academic quality swiftly followed the institutional changes ushered in by Rudder and Evans. Under President Jack K. Williams, Texas A&M added doctoral programs, established a university press, added an academic program in Galveston and saw rapid growth of its library.

Although Evans majored in animal husbandry, Monroe said Evans' interests weren't limited to a particular department or college, but extended to the institution as a whole. "Other than the university presidents, I can't think of any other individual who had a more positive effect on Texas A&M than Sterling Evans," Monroe said.

Cattlemen's Advocate

While the controversial topics of female students and compulsory military training at Texas A&M continued to heat up, Evans' attention was also

Sterling C. Evans believed that a university's academic strength depended on its library system.



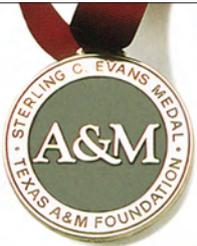
drawn to an issue affecting the state's agriculture industry.

As a cattleman, Evans was well aware of the devastating impact of disease infestation on the cattle industry. He also knew that transfer of cattle to other countries often required diagnostic tests before shipment, and Iowa had the only available test site.

Evans spearheaded creation of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory during his leadership of A&M's Board of Directors. Reporting directly to that board, the laboratory eliminated the need to ship Texas cattle overseas via Iowa and provided disease diagnoses to prevent epidemics. The laboratory boosted the Texas livestock industry tremendously. In 2002 it was selected to receive federal funding for its services in detecting infectious agents that could be introduced into livestock, thus becoming part of the "war on terrorism" network.

The Quiet Man

Evans had a quiet nature, Monroe recalled, and never said anything that was negative, selfish or ego-driven. Much of what he achieved resulted



MEDAL RECIPIENTS

1998
Sterling C. Evans '21
William C. McCord '49

2000
John H. Lindsey '44

2001
Leslie L. Appelt '41

2002
H. R. "Bum" Bright '43

2004
Minnie Belle and Herman F. Heep '20

2005
Jon L. Hagler '58

2006
George P. Mitchell '40

2008
Henry "Bartell" Zachry Jr. '54

2010
Lowry Mays '57

2011
Jack E. Brown '46
James K. B. "Jim" Nelson '49

from his seemingly limitless political connections, Monroe said.

Davis agreed: "He got it done by knowing the people he needed to know who had clout."

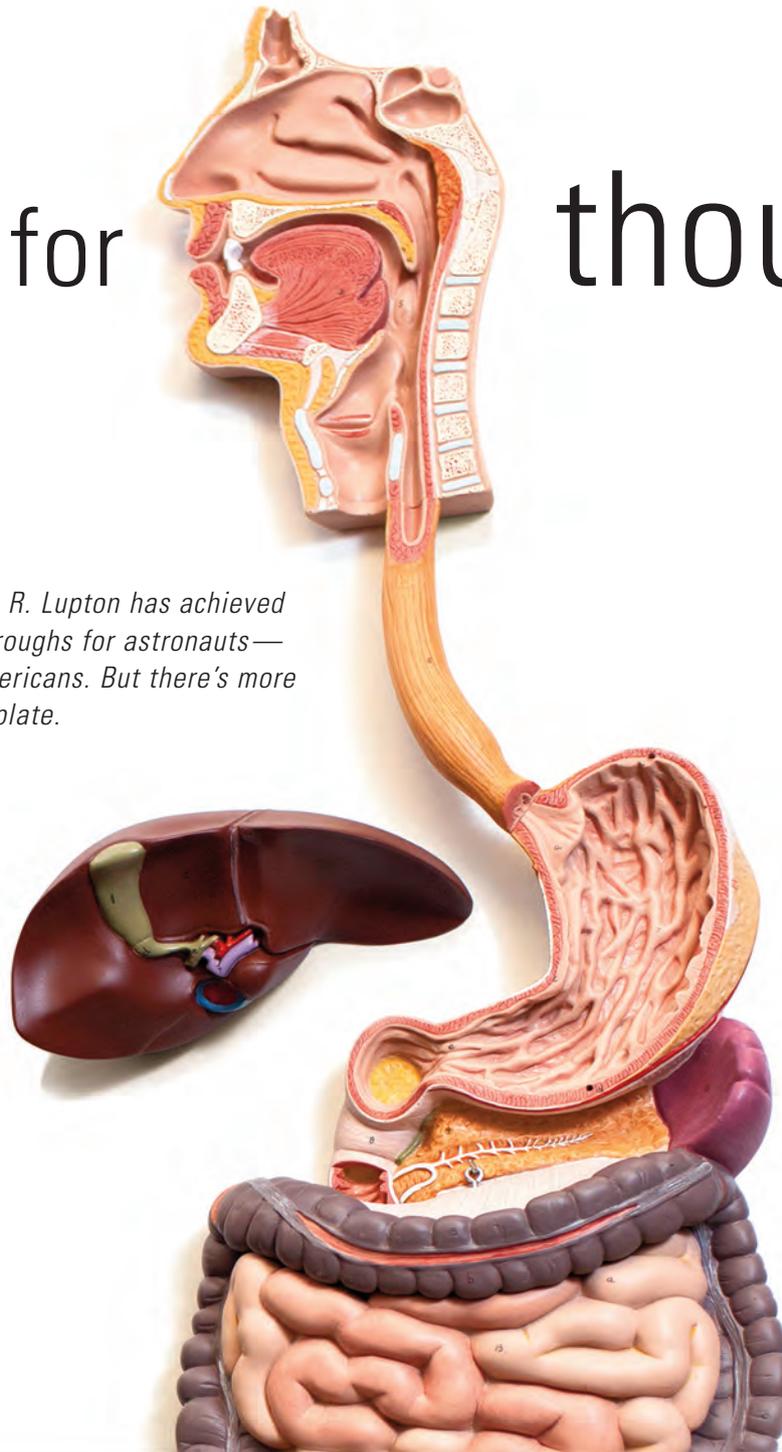
Three years before his death in 2002 at the age of 101, Evans provided this quote for a Foundation publication: "This school has meant more to me than any other place I know, and it needs to play that same role for generations to come. That is why I keep giving and keep encouraging other people to give." 🐾

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

food for

thought

Professor Joanne R. Lupton has achieved nutrition breakthroughs for astronauts—and everyday Americans. But there's more work left on her plate.



When Americans go to the grocery store, they think more and more about the nutritional value of the food they buy, thanks to scientists and health policymakers such as Dr. Joanne R. Lupton. During nearly 27 years of research and teaching, Lupton has brought national recognition to Texas A&M University. She has improved nutrition for astronauts in space and bolstered efforts to prevent colon cancer. Now she focuses on moving nutrition science and education into the arenas of public policy, improved food labeling and healthy diets.

"My real passion is taking basic science and translating it into understandable terms that can make a difference through public policy. If you do it right, it prevents disease and should reduce health-care costs," said Lupton, whose widely published research on fiber, healthy fats and colon cancer prevention has been funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health and NASA's National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI).



Dr. Joanne Lupton (right) studies food choices that prevent colon cancer. She used funds from the William W. Allen Endowed Chair in Nutrition for graduate fellowships—including one for Young Mi Cho '11—to assist in research and data collection.

A distinguished professor, regents' professor and university faculty fellow, Lupton credits some of her success to being named the William W. Allen Endowed Chair in Nutrition at A&M. That 1995 honor, created through the Texas A&M Foundation, allows her to expand nutrition research activities.

Recently Lupton allocated chair funds for six \$25,000 graduate fellowships that will assist six new faculty members in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science with research and data collection. "I did this because it's a difficult time for funding for new faculty right now, and it's also a difficult time for grad students to get financial support. As their research matures, it can better attract grant funding, which is getting harder to get. It's a win-win now and in the future."

Late Bloomer

In 1984, when Lupton came to A&M as an assistant professor at age 40, she worked in the Department of Animal Science, where she was one of three faculty members focusing on human nutrition. A self-described late bloomer, she had previously enjoyed a successful career in the arts, which included working for internationally famed architect I. M. Pei and with major New York museums and corporations. "But that wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," she said.

Lupton returned to school so she could write a book about the science behind cooking. "I wanted to take one course in food science to complete the book, but they insisted I pursue a degree. Along the way I found nutrition, and I've been in love with it ever since." She graduated in 1980 with a master's in food and nutrition from

California State University and in 1984 with a Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of California, Davis.

Lupton began her academic career at Texas A&M working on the relationship between diet and colon cancer. "I wanted to work in an area that could have a public health benefit and chose colon cancer research because it is directly related to diet and because colon cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. I decided that was where I could make the most impact."

Lupton, founding chair of the A&M nutrition faculty, devised a winning formula for success: "Read a lot in your field. Carve out an area of expertise. Identify the research problems. Seek funding for projects to answer those questions. Attend national meetings, and join associations and committees. Solve one problem and do good work, and they'll ask you back. That leads to the next step and the next."

In 2009 Lupton was one of four Texans named to the National Acade-

my of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. She has chaired academy panels that determined the recommended amount of fiber intake and the definition of dietary fiber. A visiting scholar at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, she helped develop its evidence-based system to evaluate health claims. Lupton also developed principles for selecting healthful foods during service on the 2005 federal Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and is now working on package-labeling criteria.

She has led the NSBRI's Nutrition, Physical Fitness and Rehabilitation Team in developing dietary interventions to counteract impediments to long-term space flight such as bone loss, muscle wasting and exposure to cosmic radiation. She also advised on nutrition standards for NASA space flights.

As part of a public policy initiative, Dr. Joanne Lupton and her team work on front-of-package nutrition labeling to help consumers make educated choices.



"Mentoring

Award-winning Mentor

Lupton has mentored more than 80 graduate students and many more undergraduates. “Mentoring is my favorite part of what I do. Young people are excited about life and have inquiring minds. It gives me real pleasure to find someone with promise and give them opportunities to be successful.”

Allen Foundation Scholar and graduate student Lindsey Field '04, who is both a registered and licensed dietitian, is Lupton's former staff assistant. With Lupton's encouragement, Field returned to school for a master's in nutrition and a certificate in nonprofit management from A&M's George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

“Dr. Lupton has received many awards for teaching excellence and mentoring. She has been my mentor for over seven years, and it's great having her as my major professor,” Field said. “She is dedicated not only to her work and the staff and faculty, but even more to her students. She's not satisfied leaving a classroom unless every student understands the material.”

Respected Team Player

Although Lupton has had many opportunities to work elsewhere, she stays at A&M because she loves it. “Texas A&M has been so good to me. I love the undergrads and graduates from all over the world. They are hardworking and personally responsible. Also, in science you can't do it alone, and I have established a team here that I have worked with for 20 years.”

Field points out that “many Americans have been touched by Dr. Lupton's research and knowledge. She's had a hand in scientifically determining

what we teach about good nutrition and the amounts of protein, carbohydrates, fats, fiber and energy recommended to maintain good health.”

Dr. Robert S. Chapkin, regents' professor and university faculty fellow, offers similar praise. “Dr. Lupton is a leading authority in dietary protection against the development of cancer and the assessment of dietary requirements. She exemplifies our top faculty and brings tremendous credit to our university.”

Obesity Behavior Modification

Lupton is gratified to see more supermarket products with whole grains and fiber and fewer with added sugars and saturated fats. But two-thirds of adult Americans are still overweight or obese, she said. “We don't know enough about modifying behavior that causes obesity,” Lupton said. “We need to combine behavior research with nutrition science.”

Lupton is developing programs in nutrition and public policy at the university, the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health and the Bush School. She also has received grants to teach others how to conduct research in space life sciences, nutrition and public policy. ♡

— BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

To learn more about how you can support the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, contact:

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a legacy in nutrition

William Webster Allen, namesake of the William W. Allen Endowed Chair in Nutrition, had fond memories of Texas A&M University, said his stepson, A&M history professor Dr. Dale Baum. Allen, a Dow Chemical Co. agricultural research chemist, visited Texas A&M's agricultural research site at Weslaco in the Rio Grande Valley.

After retiring from Dow, Allen observed world hunger while working for the U.S. Mission at the United Nations. He believed diet could be linked to heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers. To provide sound nutritional information and alleviate malnutrition, he established the Allen Foundation Inc. in 1975. Based in Midland, Mich., the Allen Foundation, of which Baum is secretary, has given \$11.2 million to benefit human nutrition programs.

In 1989, the Allen Foundation contributed \$500,000 to the Texas A&M Foundation, a gift matched by the university, to endow a \$1 million chair in nutrition. The contribution was made in memory of Allen, who died in 1987. Funds from the chair support the nationally recognized research of A&M nutrition professor Dr. Joanne R. Lupton, whose contributions to public policies have improved Americans' health and diet.

is my favorite part of what I do.” —DR. JOANNE R. LUPTON



Analisa Jimenez '13 of San Antonio and Reagan Rowland '13 of Dallas aren't from Aggie families and knew little about A&M until choosing a college. Jimenez has a scholarship from the San Antonio Aggie Moms' Club, and Rowland receives one from the Dallas County Aggie Mothers' Club.



Aggie Mothers' Clubs continue their tradition of financial aid for Texas A&M students.

As a high school senior in 1984, Chris Williams '88 '95 had never heard of an Aggie Mothers' Club. That changed when he was awarded a President's Endowed Scholarship funded by the Houston Aggie Moms' Club.

"At the time, I didn't know that these organizations existed," said Williams, now a financial manager for Houston's Methodist Hospital System. "I guess you're just so wrapped up in being a college-aged kid that you don't realize those support organizations are out there. I appreciated the scholarship then, but I appreciate it a lot more today."

From 1922 through 2010, Aggie Moms' Clubs quietly raised and donated \$7.9 million to help Williams and other Texas A&M students. This includes \$3.6 million for endowments funded through the Texas A&M Foundation.

In 2010 alone, the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs reported total gifts of more than \$293,000 from Aggie Mothers' Clubs in seven states; \$226,000 went to scholarships. Other funds supported Aggie causes such as the Memorial Student Center, sports clubs, performing and visual arts, the Career Center, and Greek Life.



Becoming an Aggie Mom

When her sons attended Texas A&M, Becky Grimes Demeter '75 of Port Neches followed in her mother's footsteps and joined the Mid-Jefferson County A&M Mothers' Club.

"I felt like while my sons were up there, I needed to be here helping," Demeter said.

Helping is at the heart of the organizations. Individual clubs might give annual scholarships, support some of the 800-plus student organizations, or do both. Others simply make goody bags for distribution during finals. All of these missions tell students that others care about them, Demeter said.

Aggie Moms help during emergencies, too. When Hurricane Ike devastated Texas A&M University at Galveston, club members stepped in to collect food and clothes. They also found students and faculty members temporary housing in College Station.

"President Loftin said he'll never forget what Aggie Moms did for his campus," said Demeter, referring to Texas A&M President R. Bowen

Loftin '71, who was then CEO at the Galveston campus.

Demeter's sons are no longer students, but she has remained an active Aggie Mom, last year serving as president of the Federation.

A Service Mentality

A \$25,000 President's Endowed Scholarship (PES) funded in 1983 by the Dallas County A&M University Mothers' Club—the federation's oldest club—is providing significant financial support to Reagan Rowland '13 of Dallas. This merit-based scholarship, Texas A&M's most prestigious, will assist her for four years. (A PES endowment now requires a minimum gift of \$100,000.)

"The scholarship has allowed me to get involved at A&M rather than having to get a job while I'm here," Rowland said. "It was a huge blessing to take that financial load off my family."

For Rowland, who knew little about A&M before enrolling, an early career goal was to plan events such as weddings. But because of the community service mentality that she says "runs rampant" at Texas A&M—combined with the emphasis on service Rowland learned from her mom—she now wants to plan events for non-profit groups. To prepare, she is majoring in communication with minors in Spanish and business, and is involved in many extracurricular activities.

By the end of her sophomore year, Rowland had served on the Parents' Weekend Committee, tutored elementary school students, managed a student body president campaign, participated in The Big Event, led Bible studies at her church and co-

Kimberly Doll '14 of Katy, who always wanted to attend A&M and is the daughter of an Aggie, hopes to become a veterinarian specializing in exotic animals. A Houston Aggie Moms' Club scholarship helps Doll in her quest.



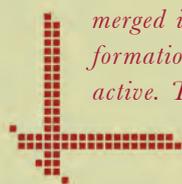


A Woman's Influence

Some 8,000 women—and even some men—proudly claim membership in a Texas A&M University Mothers' Club. Spread across seven states, the groups vary in name and funding objectives. But according to the mission statement of the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs, each group shares a singular purpose: "to contribute in every way to the comfort and welfare of the students and to cooperate with Texas A&M University in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment."

Aggie Mom Ada Brooks Allen Peoples and 10 other Dallas women established the first Aggie Mothers' Club in 1922. Peoples was concerned about the "poor quality of life" her son and his classmates experienced at the all-male college, where they "lacked entertainment, culture and a woman's influence."

Initial club activities involved annual picnics on campus. This was followed by the creation of a student loan fund. By 1928 the eight existent clubs merged into Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs. Since its formation, the federation has had 152 member clubs, 121 of which are still active. Today's clubs range in size from a handful to more than 400 members.



chaired a freshman leadership organization.

"Community service is something that I absolutely love to do and get a lot of fulfillment from," Rowland said.

This summer, she is spending nine weeks studying Spanish in Costa Rica, an opportunity available only because of the study-abroad stipend included with her PES.

Quick Click

Like Rowland, Analisa Jimenez '13 of San Antonio knew virtually nothing about Texas A&M as a high school student. She visited 10 Texas colleges, searching for the right fit. Jimenez's high school advisers told her she'd feel a connection when the college was right. She doubted that advice until she set foot on the Texas A&M campus.

"Within the first five minutes, I told my mom, 'This is where I want to be.'"

Jimenez said financial support made the decision to attend Texas A&M even easier. She receives an Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) funded by the San Antonio Aggie Moms' Club. The award, created in 1994 with a gift of nearly \$23,000 to the Foundation, provides need-based scholarships for four years. (An EOA now requires a minimum gift of \$25,000.)

"My scholarship has definitely helped me devote more time to school and doing well academically without having to stress about finances. That's a real blessing."

A knee injury in high school and the resulting rehabilitation fueled Jimenez's desire to become a physical therapist. She is studying kinesiology with an emphasis on applied exercise

physiology, and hopes to attend physical therapy school after graduation.

"I want to do something where I am part of the rehabilitation process rather than someone who tells a patient that he or she can't do something."

Vet School Dreams

Kimberly Doll '14 of Katy always wanted to attend Texas A&M, partly because she hoped to become a veterinarian and partly because her mother, Jeanette Bauer Doll '85, is an Aggie.

But longing to attend Texas A&M isn't the same as doing so. Thanks to an EOA funded by the Katy/West Houston Aggie Moms' Club, Doll realized her dream.

"Anything that lessens the burden on my family right now is a big help," said Doll, whose two brothers will enter college within a few years. "I know when I get to vet school that I will have lots of student loans. Not having any student debt from my undergraduate years will help a lot."

Doll has jumped headlong into veterinary-related studies and organi-

zations at Texas A&M. As a freshman, she was involved in the Pre-Vet Society, Aggies for Animal Rescue, the TAMU Herpetology Society and the Biomedical Science Association.

"It's better than I ever expected," Doll says of her Texas A&M experience. "I can't imagine being anywhere else." ❧

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

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AggieMoms.org



To watch a video related to this article, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/AggieMoms.



H. R. "Bum" Bright '43 chaired the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and was a distinguished alumnus and member of the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor. In 1990 Texas A&M named its Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science Building in his honor, and his \$5 million gift to the 12th Man Foundation resulted in the Bright Football Complex and Academic Center. The Texas A&M Foundation awarded him its Sterling C. Evans Medal in 2002.

Fourteen years ago, the late H. R. "Bum" Bright '43 announced a \$25 million unrestricted gift to Texas A&M. Judicious use of that gift continues to change lives for students and faculty.

And there's no end in sight.



Clay Bright '78 remembers well a story his late father, H. R. "Bum" Bright '43, used to tell. A woman wanted to make a significant financial contribution to a college many years back. She established an endowment to ensure that each engineering student had a tool vital to academic success: a slide rule. ¶ It's easy to see where this story goes. While slide rules gradually became obsolete, the endowment remained. And because the endowment narrowly specified one purpose, its earnings could be used only for slide rules. The donor's well-meaning intent could not be fulfilled in perpetuity. ¶ So when Bum Bright pledged \$25 million to the Texas A&M Foundation in 1997 — the largest gift in school history at the time — he did not restrict its use. Dr. Ray M. Bowen '58, then president of Texas A&M, could use the gift for any purpose that benefited the university.

Soft Heart, Savvy Businessman



um Bright made his fortune first in oil exploration and production, and then in business ventures ranging from real estate to trucking to banking. At one time, Bright was the major stockholder of 67 corporations. From 1984-89, he owned the Dallas Cowboys football team.

“He was a genius when it came to putting money together,” said Dr. Robert L. Walker ’58, Texas A&M’s senior executive for development.

In 1969 Walker approached Bright about giving \$25,000 for a President’s Endowed Scholarship. During the six years before Bright would write that check, he and Walker became friends.

While Bright had a reputation as a hard-nosed, tight-fisted businessman, he also had a soft side. Texas A&M could count on him for urgent needs—for instance, when the Aggie Band required funds to travel to the George H. W. Bush presidential inauguration or the College of Veterinary Medicine needed a piece of equipment.

In 1990 Texas A&M launched its first major capital campaign, *Capturing the Spirit*. William C. McCord ’49, chairman of the campaign’s Nucleus Fund, was part of the team that requested \$25 million from Bright. Several years passed, but patience earned its reward: Bright pledged the full amount.

Two-for-one Corps Scholarships



With a gift agreement in place, Bowen could decide how the money should be distributed.

“Suddenly we had \$25 million that was discretionary,” Bowen said. “We were like kids in a candy store.”

Before making his pledge, Bright had been named honorary chairman of a Texas A&M Corps of Cadets fund-

raising campaign. With this in mind, \$10 million of the gift was dedicated to the Corps.

Of that amount, \$2 million funded an unrestricted endowment, and the remaining \$8 million created the Bright Corps Matching Program. This popular program enabled donors to fund “two-for-one” Corps scholarships. With a \$25,000 gift—the normal cost of one Sul Ross Scholarship—donors could fund two of these scholarships or upgrade to a \$50,000 General Rudder Scholarship.

“The problem came not in raising funds, but in shutting it off,” Bowen said of the matching-gift program. “Everyone wanted to participate. We had more money for scholarships than we had money to match it.”

In addition, funds from the unrestricted endowment were used in part to establish the RADM and Mrs. Robert Smith III ’61 Commandant’s Chair in Leadership Development.

Unprecedented Faculty Support



Bowen used the remaining \$15 million to create the H. R. “Bum” Bright Matching Chair Program in 1998.

Like the Bright Corps Matching Program, this wildly popular program gave donors the benefit of a 1:1 match. They could endow a \$1 million faculty chair with a \$500,000 gift.

In early 1998, Texas A&M had 90 endowed chairs, academia’s most



Matched with other contributions, Bum Bright’s unrestricted gift created Corps scholarships and faculty chairs.

Because the matching-gift program established endowments, scholarships are awarded on an ongoing basis. To date, more than 250 cadets have benefited from the Sul Ross and General Rudder Scholarships created through Bright’s program.

coveted faculty awards. Gifts from numerous A&M former students and friends increased that number to 120 chairs in 18 months. Like the Corps program, the Foundation ended up with more contributions than matching funds. Other funds ultimately were used for matching.

“I think it’s been magnificent as a mechanism to attract and retain faculty,” Bowen said.

The Beauty of Discretionary Gifts

Discretionary, or unrestricted, gifts allow university presidents, deans and department heads to fund priorities. H. R. “Bum” Bright’s gift of \$25 million resulted in scholarship and faculty chair endowments. The earnings on those endowments will permanently provide financial assistance for students as well as chairs for superior faculty.

“Discretionary gifts are often the elixir of rapid institutional change,” said Ed Davis ’67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation. “Mr. Bright believed the Texas A&M president was much better qualified to assess how his gift could make the most difference. President Ray Bowen was then able to enhance A&M’s competitiveness for high-quality faculty.

“As it turned out, most of those chairs were fully funded and operational about the time Dr. Robert Gates began his faculty reinvestment program, allowing an immediate upgrade in the talent pool being recruited.”

A Powerful Impact



While the honor of holding a faculty chair is significant, the benefits are also considerable.

Faculty chairs receive income from the endowment each year. In the case of the \$1 million chairs created through the Bright program, each chair holder has received \$40,000 or more annually. These funds can be used for everything from supporting postdoctoral fellows to supplementing travel costs to purchasing equipment.

Dr. Joseph B. Natowitz holds the Cyclotron Institute Bright Chair in Nuclear Science, an award created through Bright matching funds and donors’ gifts. With this chair, Natowitz said he doesn’t have to rely as heavily on outside research grants.

This gives him freedom to try new scientific approaches and test ideas beyond the status quo. It also allows Natowitz, a distinguished professor of chemistry, to support a greater number of postdoctoral fellows and to invest in scientific equipment.

“Faculty chairs are a way of recognizing people who are really contribut-

ing to your program,” Natowitz said. “This program came when A&M was far behind other universities in chair positions. This was critical seed money to get that kind of program started.”

Dr. Douglas Palmer, dean of Texas A&M’s College of Education and Human Development, agrees that faculty chairs are tremendous assets. As holder of the Sydney and J. L. Huffines ’44 Endowed Chair, a position created through the Bright matching program, Palmer knows personally how funds associated with a chair can stimulate research and teaching ideas.

“It allows flexibility for a faculty member to engage in innovative activities that can lead to other significant initiatives,” he said. In other words, funds derived from the chair might not create a new program on their own, but they can stimulate development of programs.

A case in point stemmed from Palmer’s interest in training future teachers to educate special-needs students—perhaps autistic or dyslexic children—who do not speak English. He used chair funds for a study abroad program in Costa Rica, paying for faculty members’ travel expenses, Aggies’ passports and other trip costs

so the future teachers could improve their Spanish.

Another example of chair fund assistance occurred with a project involving school training and support in the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. While the State of Qatar funded the research of Palmer’s team with a \$10 million contract, chair funds helped with project initiation and support. Chair funds were used to pay travel expenses, for instance, when team members met with their partners in Qatar for initial planning activities.

“We are not a college with a significant graduate and corporate donor resource base,” Palmer said. “A matching chair program like this can have a powerful impact on our programs, students and faculty.”

A Pledge Fulfilled



Bum Bright died in 2004, but his children fulfilled their father’s pledge to the university. Through Bum Bright’s trust in

Texas A&M leaders’ judgment and the efforts of Foundation staff members, the legacy of the legendary Dallas oilman and businessman will be a permanent part of Texas A&M. ♣

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

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To see an interview with Bright, recorded in 2002 when he received the Sterling Evans Medal for philanthropy, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/BumBright.

AT YOUR SERVICE

AS THE FOUNDATION'S STUDENT AMBASSADORS, MAROON COATS INVEST THEIR TIME TODAY SO AGGIE VALUES WILL ENDURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Through my service as president of the Maroon Coats, the student ambassadors for the Texas A&M Foundation, I am reassured of the future excellence of Texas A&M University. The Maroon Coats are student leaders who personify the core values of Texas A&M: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service.

We love working with the Foundation not for the recognition—we already receive that as leaders of other student groups—but because we are passionate about serving the university and those who show Aggie spirit by giving back.

COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS ♣ Foundation President Ed Davis '67 and 12 dedicated Aggies established the Maroon Coats organization in 2008. We look for Aggies who have a good résumé, not those who need to build one, so our selection process can seem daunting to the many students who wish to become Maroon Coats. This year we received more than 150 applications but accepted only 17 members.

We look for those who enjoy serving and giving their time to benefit A&M. Since inception we have inducted four Maroon Coat classes. Each group has shown remarkable dedication to A&M and has reached out to its supporters.

MORE THAN SPARE CHANGE ♣ My time as a Maroon Coat has taught me much about gratitude. Watching former students and supporters of the Foundation give so freely of their time and fortunes is a life lesson that will forever affect my thoughts and actions.

Before I became a Maroon Coat, I always thought that generosity was giving away the spare change you could live without at the end of the year. I soon discovered that the Foundation's donors do not just give away a few extra coins lying around. Multimillion-dollar gifts aren't uncommon, and many give significant portions—or even all—of their estates to help me attend a world-class institution. I will carry these lessons with me always and will be forever grateful for my interactions with these wonderful individuals.

SETTING FINE EXAMPLES ♣ Few epitomize the Maroon Coat character better than Max Su '10 and Bailey Radley '11. I've watched them both force flexibility into their rigorous schedules to serve the Maroon Coat mission. Su, a past recipient of the coveted Buck Weirus Spirit Award, is president of the Aggie Men's Club and has a challenging course load in preparation for medical school. Radley, an elected student senator representing Mays Business School, serves as director of Maggies, a women's leadership and service organization.

Despite time constraints, Su and Radley find time to contact Foundation donors and thank them for their generous support of Texas A&M. Both have joyously delayed other obligations to attend events such as the President's Endowed Scholarship reception because they know that their sacrifice is worthwhile.

This kind of action—making service to other Aggies a priority over personal needs—is one of the ways Maroon Coats represent Aggie excellence.

A WELCOME OBLIGATION ♣ For Maroon Coats, time given is not a burden. Our duties are an obligation, not because we joined the organization, but because we feel a need to ensure that future generations of Aggies connect to our long history of Aggie spirit. It may be spirit that “can ne'er be told,” but I can tell you this: It's one that makes men and women out of boys and girls. ♣

—BY BEN FEDORKO '10

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President Bush is an honorary Maroon Coat; members thank donors and tell the Foundation's story; new members are (front row, from left) Ryne Heath '11, Maggie Beecher '13, Pristine Remolona '12, Mary Romeo '12, Lauren Brooks '12, Amy Aldrich '11, Kayla Valis '12 and Brett Bergamo '11; (back row, from left) Scott Petrowski '11, Trent Segers '13, Marshall Bowen '12, John Claybrook '13, David Benac '12, Clay Huber '12, Ekank Jatwani '12, Miles McGowen '11 and Sam Cox '11; special buttons adorn the blazers.



THERE'S A SPIRIT CAN NE'ER BE TOLD.

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF THIS UNIVERSITY IS REAL, AND IT IS IMPORTANT, AND IT IS UNIQUE. IT IS OUR VERY SPECIAL DESTINY TO NOURISH AND EMPOWER THIS SPIRIT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

JON L. HAGLER '58

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Opportunity

Extend the Borders of an Aggie Education

A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE PART OF A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

I boldly challenge former students of Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts and others who understand the global nature of our society to help us give a credit-bearing international experience to at least 25 percent of our liberal arts students before they graduate.

I am passionate about our responsibility to teach the enduring leadership skills that enable Texas A&M students to excel in today's global marketplace. Vibrant study abroad experiences play a key role in developing our students' ability to understand the global dimension of our society.

Last year, approximately 10 percent of the more than 6,200 undergraduates majoring in liberal arts studied abroad in 41 countries. Although this percentage exceeds the national average, we can do better. Our greatest challenge is convincing more students to consider the opportunity.

Why Students Don't Go

Texas A&M's International Programs Office (IPO) surveyed graduating seniors to track the number who participate in an international education experience. Almost 70 percent of those who did not study abroad said they believed it was too expensive. The second reason cited was the misconception that study abroad didn't relate to their degree plan and would delay graduation.

But IPO data showed that students engaging in credit-bearing study abroad

were not taking longer to graduate than campus-bound Aggies. Across three classes at A&M, data showed that study abroad slowed graduation for fewer than 1 percent of students.

If a student works during the fall and spring semesters or is heavily involved in an organization, he or she could opt for a summer-only experience. While summer school runs about \$4,500 a session, many of the College of Liberal Arts' summer study abroad programs cost double that amount. Yet the average cost to participate in Texas A&M's Reciprocal Educational Exchange Program—in which students spend a summer semester at a university in another country—is roughly equal to the cost of attending A&M during the summer.

Traveling Freshmen

Timing is key in motivating students to study abroad.

The sooner students are introduced to an international experience, the sooner they will investigate going abroad for a semester or a year in subsequent college years. In the College of Liberal Arts, that means sending freshmen abroad.



Studying at Texas A&M's Santa Chiara Center in Italy broadened the worldview of Osmara Garcia '12.



Students absorb the culture in Prague — and spread Aggie spirit at the same time.

One successful tactic has been weeklong field trips embedded in freshman seminar courses. Faculty who teach the classes also supervise the trips and include an educational component related to the courses. This greatly reduces costs, which means that support from the college or university goes further.

Just ask communication major Osmara Garcia '12. A first-generation college student from Brownsville, Garcia depends on financial aid and an on-campus job to pay for college.

In 2009 she participated in a Regents' Scholars freshman learning community that offered a trip to A&M's Santa Chiara Center in Italy during spring break. She and her classmates could afford the trip with support from their Regents' Scholarships and the Adriana and Henderson "Sam" L. Buford III '68 Excellence Fund.

"When we arrived in Florence, I could not believe I was in Italy. I always wanted to travel the world, but this seemed like something rich people could afford, not me," Garcia said. "But there I was, in Florence on my way to the Santa Chiara Center."

One week was not enough. Garcia had to find a way to return.

"We barely scratched the surface of Italy," she said. At first Garcia

thought she could afford only a summer semester, but a one-time \$3,000 incentive scholarship from Texas A&M's Study Abroad Office provided the support Garcia needed to spend the 2011 fall semester at Santa Chiara. "I want to fully immerse myself in the country's culture, and one tangible goal is to be fluent in Italian by the time I get back. Most of my communication classes at A&M focus on intercultural communication, and I want to apply that."

Garcia can't imagine her undergraduate experience without her travels. "I am much more confident because I have seen another part of the world. Every city was filled with history. I did a research paper focusing on the architecture of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, and researching at the precise location of my topic changed my views. I also became more sympathetic to people who struggle with languages. I am fluent in English and Spanish, but this was the first time I encountered people who do not speak English or Spanish."

Help Us Write Success Stories

I challenge you to create more success stories like Garcia's by providing funds for undergraduates—especially freshmen—who hope to study, research,

intern or volunteer abroad. Whether a week, semester or year, international study has a definite impact. Surveys consistently indicate students return with greater confidence and possess a broader understanding of diversity and their place in the world.

Excellence fund donor Sam Buford, who holds an accounting degree and is owner and president of an Austin law firm, believes study abroad is vital to future success. "The world has changed so much. All our economies are tied together, and we do business with people from all over the world," Buford said. "Through travel and exposure to other cultures, students learn people are different and yet the same. It is transformative. I would like to see A&M become a leader in international study."

Our goal is to make a study abroad scholarship available to every liberal arts freshman by 2015.

But we won't stop there. If Aggie liberal arts majors desire longer trips abroad, we will strongly encourage them. To do so, we must provide each student with a study abroad scholarship between \$1,000 and \$3,000, in addition to support from the university.

Help us give more liberal arts students the type of life-changing opportunity that Garcia experienced. 🍷

— JOSÉ LUIS BERMÚDEZ
DEAN OF LIBERAL ARTS
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

To learn more about global study scholarships for the College of Liberal Arts, contact:

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In a surprise performance, about 120 Aggie singers, dancers and musicians delighted donors attending the A&M Legacy Society Gala on April 28 at McFerrin Athletic Center. Texas A&M student groups — the Singing Cadets, Percussion Studio, Voices of Praise, Aggie Dance Team and the Foundation's Maroon Coats — entertained about 500 of the university's most loyal supporters by performing four songs. Our video of the show is going viral, with nearly 40,000 views by mid-May. To watch it, scan the code above with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/LegacyPerformance.



Operation Spirit and Mind,SM an initiative raising funds for Texas A&M scholarships and fellowships, surpassed \$275 million as of March 31, 2011. The initiative, which began Jan. 1, 2007, has a goal of \$300 million.

Oil Investor George Hickox '80 Selected as Foundation Trustee

George K. Hickox Jr. '80, a principal of Philadelphia-based Heller Hickox & Co. since 1991, has been appointed to the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees. Heller Hickox & Co. invests in and sponsors oil- and gas-related transactions.



*George K.
Hickox Jr. '80*

Hickox served as chairman of the board and CEO of The Wiser Oil Co. from 2000 to 2004, when it was sold. Previously he worked in investment banking for Butcher & Co. in Philadelphia and Copeland, Wickersham, Wiley & Co. in Houston.

After earning Aggie bachelor's degrees in geology and petroleum engineering, Hickox in 1985 completed a master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston.

In replacing Bob Surovik '58, Hickox said he is honored to be a trustee. He added that through his experience in investing and in the financial markets, he hopes to help the Foundation manage its endowment despite the difficult investment environment.

His philanthropic interest in A&M grew from his involvement with the development activities of the Industry Board of the Department of Petroleum Engineering; Hickox now serves on that board.

"I enjoy talking to other alumni about endowing the needs of the department. It is a great way for me to connect with old friends and get back to campus a few times a year. Now when I talk to Aggies, I mention the needs of the university and the special pleasure I get from giving back, both in time and treasure."

He endowed the George K. Hickox Jr. Professorship in Petroleum Engineering in 2005, and since the 1980s supported that department as well as The Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation.

He and his wife, Diane, have three daughters and live in Villanova, Pa.

Foundation Staff Endows Scholarship

The Texas A&M Foundation staff pooled contributions and pledges for 15 months to create a \$25,000 endowed global study scholarship for undergraduates. Foundation employees established the scholarship in April as part of the ongoing *Operation Spirit and Mind*SM initiative.

Foundation President Ed Davis '67 explained that the staff chose to support study abroad because it “gives students a real-world perspective.” Debra Bundren '06, who works in the Foundation's accounting department, expects the scholarship to provide career advantages to Aggies. “It will help students gain the knowledge and ability to work in today's worldwide marketplace,” she said.

The Foundation matches employee contributions 1:1 up to \$500 per employee annually. Foundation staff previously funded an Endowed Opportunity Award to help incoming freshmen who need financial aid as well as a Foundation Excellence Award, which assists academically promising students who face economic, social or educational disadvantages.

Trustees Honor Harris and Waters

Lynn Harris, manager of donor relations, and Toni Waters '94, executive administrative assistant, received the 2011 Foundation Trustees' Awards.

The awards honor Foundation employees who exemplify the organization's spirit and work to promote and execute its priorities. Trustees Chairman Bob Surovik '58 presented

Lynn Harris (left) and Toni Waters '94 received the annual Foundation Trustees' Awards.



'Good Bull' at Its Best Unearths Cavalry's Spirit of '02 Cannon

On his way to becoming first a veterinarian and later a director of development for the Foundation, Dr. Guy Sheppard '76 played Aggie archaeologist.

The escapade started with a phone call in November 1974. Bill Edgerton '76 urged Sheppard, a fellow junior in Corps of Cadets Company C-1, to come to the Bonfire cutting site near Easterwood Airport where he had discovered a partially buried cannon. “We had no earthly idea what we would do with this cannon, but we were as excited as two kids on Christmas morning,” Sheppard said. “This was Aggie ‘good bull’ at its best.”

After about five hours of digging, they realized the cannon was complete except for wheels. They used baling wire—which Sheppard calls “standard equipment for West Texas boys”—to attach spare tires, but when they tried to roll the cannon from its grave, the wheels detached. As dawn broke, the pair hadn't moved it an inch, so they went back to campus to recruit extra muscle from Companies C-1 and B-1.

The larger group was able to put small logs under the cannon, lift it and load it onto a trailer for a trip back to campus. After a few passes around the Quad, the cadets deposited the cannon at the southwest corner of Dorm 4.

When Sheppard returned to A&M for spring classes, he noticed someone had leaned wagon wheels against the cannon. They didn't fit, but it appeared more functional.

Later that semester Sheppard said workers with A&M's Physical Plant warned him—as first sergeant of his unit—to remove the cannon because it interfered with mowing. “When I returned in August 1975, the cannon was still there.” Notices continued to arrive, but the cannon stayed, even after he graduated in May 1976.

Lt. Col. Arnold Laidig '76, who was assigned to the Department of Military Science, discovered that the cannon is a 1902 field gun used by Aggies for artillery practice between World Wars I and II. It was restored and first fired at an A&M football game in 1984. Sheppard is thrilled that the cannon is “a centerpiece for Parsons Mounted Cavalry and has become an Aggie tradition on its own.”



To see a video related to this article, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/Spirit02.



Dr. Guy Sheppard '76 excavated the Spirit of '02 cannon with a classmate.

the honorees with a plaque and \$500 on Feb. 11.

Harris, an employee for 17 years, coordinates donor recognition and events, including the A&M Legacy Society gala and football tailgates. “I'm so very appreciative of this incredible honor,” she said. “Anytime you are recognized by an organization of this caliber it is a true compliment.”

Waters, who joined the Foundation in 2000, manages quarterly Foundation trustees meetings and works closely with university staff and donors along with assisting President Ed Davis '67. “To be selected means a great deal to me,” Waters said. “I am thankful for this recognition

and the privilege to work with wonderful people.”

Corporate Giving Ranks High

For the third consecutive year, Texas A&M ranks in the top 10 for corporate giving among U.S. public research universities, according to a study by the Council for Aid to Education. The council is the nation's sole source of empirical data on private giving to education.

In 2010 A&M was No. 8, with more than \$51.3 million in corporate gifts—up from No. 10 in 2009. For the first time in recent years, A&M also ranks in the top 10 for gifts from foundations, with \$66.9 million.

Granger Smith '02 entertains at Shrinefest in Wichita Falls in 2010.



Postscript

Why Singer Granger Smith Bleeds Maroon

The air was warm and thick. We cut through it like butter knives in the August heat with our freshly shaven heads and sweat-soaked khaki garb. With smudged brass on our collars and scuffs on our black shoes, we marched. We were 32 wide-eyed, sleep-deprived freshmen in semi-unified rows marching to chow on our second day in a chaotic world that we now questioned ever signing up for.



Amid clicking heels and senior spurs, my outfit turned the corner in the quad and was met head-on with an explosion of noise:

booming drums and cutting brass. The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band was locked in formation and blasting *Noble Men of Kyle* toward our oncoming march.

Goose bumps tore down my skin as we locked our steps with the cadence and hit stride. That was the first time I felt it. That was the first time I knew I was finally a Texas Aggie.

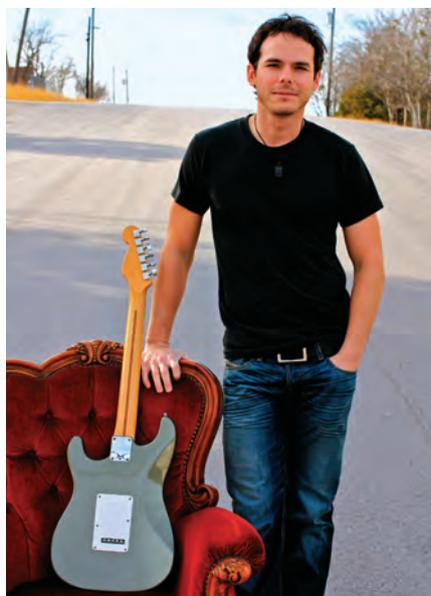
When I sat in my cap and gown in Reed Arena waiting to get my diploma, I thought about that day. I thought about the countless treks across campus in the sun, in the rain, late at night and early in the morning.

I thought about throwing a Frisbee with Reveille, and I remembered the 1998 A&M-Nebraska football game, when Ja'Mar Toombs '02 made his breakaway run in the fourth quarter. I thought about all the unforgettable Aggie Bonfire days

and the one day we all wished we could forget.

I thought about that antiqued gold ring on my finger and how much it reminded me of a similar ring on my father's hand.

These were my original reflections for *We Bleed Maroon*, a song I wrote about Aggie life and traditions in 2007. Nothing too deep or world-turning, just simple sentiments about the school I love and my family that introduced it to me so many years ago. It's close to what most Aggies



revere from their experience. A&M is much more like a family than a school, and that's what makes it a unique journey to walk away from.

Since the birth of *We Bleed Maroon*, the song has followed me relentlessly. There was a time onstage in Lubbock when I wished I could sneak out without singing it, and there were times on remote bases in Iraq when singing that song cemented my bond with Aggie soldiers.

My experience with *We Bleed Maroon* has solidified what Aggies have always known, what Marvin H. Mimms '26 knew in 1925 when he coined the phrase "There's a spirit can ne'er be told."

Growing up, my dad, Chris Smith '74, always told me that there are Ex-Red Raiders and Texas-Exes, but once an Aggie always an Aggie. Could we ever ask anything more from our alma mater?

We are all connected with our experiences, our traditions and our memories of that school in College Station. That's why we cherish the spirit of Aggieland. That's why "we bleed maroon." 🍷

— BY GRANGER SMITH '02

Editor's note: *Granger Smith directs proceeds from his song We Bleed Maroon toward scholarships for incoming students that show exceptional Aggie spirit.*



To watch Granger's *We Bleed Maroon* video, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/BleedMaroon.

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Swap Your 'Spirit'

Many *Spirit* readers have received the magazine for more than a decade. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy creating it for you.

In this era of heightened fiscal and environmental awareness, we encourage you to convert your *Spirit* subscription to our web-based magazine, which has additional features such as videos, bonus still photos, and interactive links. You can download, print or email selected pages or the entire magazine; you can also search content and leave comments.

In March we sent an email to nearly 47,000 readers asking them to consider reading *Spirit* online. We say thanks to more than 800 of you who made the switch!

For those who love their printed *Spirit*, we want to continue sending it to you. But if you find you can feel

the same love online, it's easy to change your subscription. Just visit giving.tamu.edu/ESpirit and select "Spirit Magazine (electronic)," send an email to amfoundation@tamu.edu, or return the postage-paid reply card on the back cover.



First Lady's Bath Is an Internet Hit

A video accompanying Reveille VIII's article on Page 38 of our spring issue has set tails wagging across the web. So far more than 3,000 people have viewed the YouTube video of Reveilles VII and VIII getting makeovers at Wiggles & Wags Dog Boutique and Spa in College Station.

And an April 5 web article by ESPN's Dave Wilson about Reveille VIII, the first lady of Aggieland, includes a link to the video, so we're sure many March Madness fans also enjoyed our mascots.

Kudos to our videographer intern Jensen Yancey '11 for creating a five-diamond sensation.

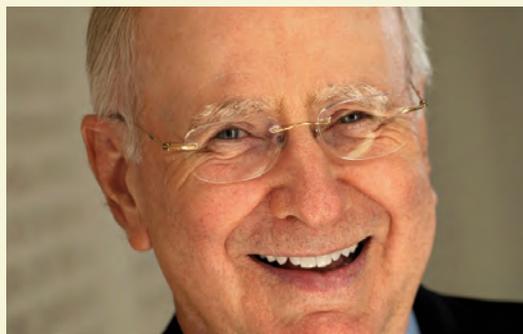


To watch Reveilles' spa-day video, scan this code with your mobile phone or visit tx.ag/RevilleSpa.

Give to A&M or repay student loans?

Many Texas A&M former students are forced to decide between giving back to their alma mater or paying down student loans. The choice is a no-brainer, and the consequences for A&M are harsh.

Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67 proposes a solution to protect the university's future, philanthropic and otherwise, but it requires making an unpopular decision.



Get his perspective and join the conversation on the Foundation's new blog. Scan this code with your mobile phone or visit giving.tamu.edu/EJDBlog.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush School of Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships/Fellowships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwight Look/Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty Chairs & |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Human Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Professorships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geosciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Maroon Coats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mays Business School | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Gifts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <input type="checkbox"/> MSC Renovation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition & Food Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAMU Galveston | <input type="checkbox"/> University Libraries |

Other: _____

You can contact the Texas A&M Foundation at:

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amfoundation@tamu.edu
giving.tamu.edu



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