

SPIRIT

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Is Your Class in the Top 20?

Several years ago, I visited with an old friend and former commandant at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Gen. Pat Gamble '67. Pat lamented the absence of a class system at the Air Force Academy, which he said led to a “me first at all costs” environment. He said the heavy competition and elevation through the cadet ranks was based purely on individual achievement relative to others.

Our chat made me realize what a profound influence the class system has on Texas A&M. The experience of being differentiated by class has been powerful throughout most of our history. In addition to achievement and elevation through cadet ranks, the class system provided the opportunity for emergent leaders—your classmates bestowed the mantle of leadership based on your innate qualities and ability to have them follow you with no prescribed authority.

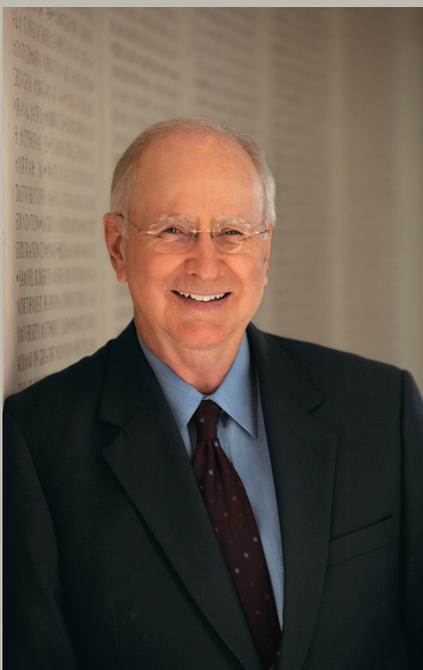
Our class system has also created rivalry between classes, building a “we” above “me” attitude among Aggies. With time the rivalry fades to some degree, but we never lose it. It certainly has not faded within the Class of '67, and I take pride in doing my part to egg on the rivalry—both with other classes and among my classmates—in regards to giving back to Texas A&M.

The Class of '67 is nowhere close to the most philanthropic class. Many of us arrived on campus as the sons of sharecroppers and refinery workers. We were here because it was cheap and you could get an ag or engineering degree and perhaps a job to improve your lot. Until the fall 1965 semester (our junior year), participation in the Corps of Cadets was mandatory. Maj. Gen. Earl Rudder '32 was in the midst of making massive changes; A&M became a university instead of a college; women and African-Americans were allowed admission; and khaki became one of many shades of clothing as the ranks of non-regs increased. And we all faced an unpopular war in Vietnam.

So it is remarkable to me that, so far, seven of my classmates—and some of their wives—have given back in the form of estate gifts, including: Paul Bilger; Zou and Boyd Cherry; Vicki and Carl Luckenbach; Janan and Dale Reding; Hal Schade; and two couples that prefer to remain anonymous. My wife Jo Ann and I have also committed a major gift for Texas A&M through our will.

These gifts place the Class of '67 among the top 20 most generous A&M classes for planned gifts. Visit give.am/ClassChallenge to see how your class compares with others regarding planned gifts for Texas A&M.

I write this not to elevate the Class of '67, but rather to issue a modest challenge to my classmates and to other classes (especially the Class of '66): Reflect on your A&M experience and how it has made your hard-earned success possible. Then plan a future investment in Texas A&M that will change young lives and ultimately improve our society . . . even after you're gone.



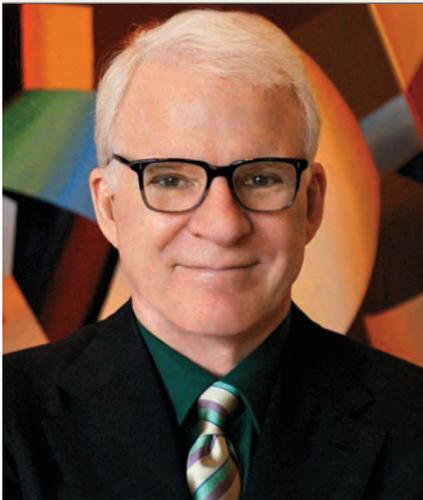
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie J. Davis".

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



Texas A&M's Huffines Institute supports research through grants, fellowships and grant mentorship to educate the next generation of researchers and practitioners in sports medicine and health. » **p.20**

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Comedian Steve Martin is just one of many entertainers who have delighted students and area residents thanks to MSC OPAS, a division of Texas A&M University's Memorial Student Center.

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COVER PHOTO

As doctoral student Ghassan Akrouh looks on, Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud, holder of the Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering and a professor of geotechnical engineering, checks the erosion rate of a soil sample from the New Orleans levees.

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This Aggie ring belongs to Lt. Col. Charles L. Jackson '61, who resigned from the Corps of Cadets his freshman year. "Obviously my non-reg status did not affect my lifelong loyalty to Texas A&M," he said. » p. 12



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Three generations of Phillipses bleed maroon. From left are Allison Cartwright '03, Steve and Linda Phillips with their granddaughter Paige Cartwright (Class of 2024), and Julie Stanford '05.

The Legacy

Steve Phillips' passion for Texas A&M University is matched only by his abhorrence of ignorance and wasted dreams. Both emotions are the inspiration for a bequest to the Texas A&M Foundation that will fund three endowed scholarships for future Aggies he and his wife Linda will never meet.

"I read an article in [Texas Aggie](#) magazine about an older couple, neither of whom were former students, who donated money to Texas A&M," Steve Phillips said. "Weeks later I read about an outstanding scholarship student on [TexAgs.com](#) who was ready to make a difference in our society after she graduated. That very moment, Linda and I made the decision to do our part. You see, it's not just a cliché when we tell a new graduate to go out and change the world. It's very real, but it takes time, sacrifice and investment to come to fruition."

The Phillipses named two of their scholarships for their daughters, Allison Cartwright '03 and Julie Stanford '05. They chose to direct scholarship funds to industrial distribution and early childhood education students in honor of their daughters' A&M degrees. The third scholarship will bear their own names but they have not yet decided how to direct their gift.

The process was simple. "We just went back to our attorney, rewrote our will and sent a copy to the Founda-



Fighting Ignorance With Scholarships

tion," he said. "We hope our gift sends a message to people like us—people of modest means who are not A&M graduates—that you can make a difference by investing in the education of Texas A&M students. They are brilliant, honest and respectful, and there is no comparable college atmosphere."

A San Antonio native, Steve Phillips attended Assumption Seminary for two years and completed his education at St. Mary's University. He served as an artillery officer in the Army, flew C-130s for the Air Force and worked as a custom homebuilder, ending his career with Beldon Roofing Co. in San Antonio. Now retired, he mentors elementary school children, and serves as president of his homeowners' association and on the Hollywood Park City Council.

Linda Phillips was raised in Illinois, graduated from the University of Iowa and worked for 30 years as a registered nurse for the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio.

The Phillips' older daughter works for Lockheed Martin in Littleton, Colo., and the younger teaches kindergarten in Tallahassee, Fla.

They beam with pride when they talk about the accomplishments of

their children and their own achievement in getting them through Texas A&M. "We're not rich, but we are retired, in our early 60s and financially independent," Steve Phillips said. "We've been frugal: While all of our friends were buying mansions and fancy cars, we lived in the same house and drove the same car for years. We only go out to eat about six times a year, and we are sitting on the first piece of furniture we bought in 1977.

"There is nothing more important to us than a solid education. The most expensive thing known to mankind is ignorance, and with our bequest to Texas A&M, we aim to fight it." ❧

Endowment Power

Endowed scholarships keep giving permanently. When the Phillips' bequest is realized after their lifetimes, the Foundation will invest the funds and provide annual payments to Texas A&M, which will award the scholarships in perpetuity. These endowed scholarships create a lasting legacy for the Phillips family and provide opportunities for future Aggies.

To discuss how a charitable planned gift can benefit A&M, you and your family, contact Glenn Pittsford '72 at g-pittsford@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310.

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 email us at amfoundation@tamu.edu or send a note on the postage-paid form on the back cover.

SONDRA WHITE '87
Editor

MEGAN KASPERBAUER
Managing Editor

[Fall 2011 Spirit magazine](#)



We'd like to share this recent correspondence between Dr. Ed Davis '67, our president, and Walt Weathersbee '67.

THE INFLUENCE OF O.D. PRITCHETT

Dr. Ed Davis:

[A summer 2011 Spirit article about the Katherine and O. D. Pritchett '40 scholarship endowment](#) prompted me to tell why I chose industrial engineering as a major.

When I was 14, my dad, L.O. (Oland) Weathersbee '41, took me to tour the machine shop of his friend O. D. Pritchett in Houston. I wanted to build things just as Pritchett did. He told me he was an industrial engineer, which inspired me to earn a degree in industrial engineering. (I have since earned master's degrees in industrial engineering and petroleum engineering.) He touched my life by encouraging me to take up the challenge of engineering.

I've been meaning to thank the Pritchetts for 45 years; please share this note with the Pritchett family. Thank you.

— WALT WEATHERSBEE '67
Houston

Dear Walt:

Thanks for your recent letter about Mr. O.D. Pritchett. As you know, the Pritchett family has been very generous to Texas A&M and has left quite a legacy both in financial support and his impact on young people. I have passed along your greetings to Mrs. Pritchett, along with your contact information. I know she will appreciate the gratitude you expressed.

On a personal note, I still have a mental picture of you in my mind from our days at Texas A&M. If, like me, you have changed modestly, that is to be expected. But I still have the mental image of a 21-year-old Walt Weathersbee.

Thanks so much for the note. It gives us energy here when people read pieces from *Spirit* and are moved to write us.

When you get up this way, please drop by for a visit. I am in the Hagler Center, just across from The Association of Former Students. I would very much like to see you again.

Sincerely,
Eddie J. Davis '67

ALL IN THE (AGGIE) FAMILY

Spirit is a wonderful magazine with so many interesting stories. I always enjoy reading anything about our beloved university. For your information, my family is working on its fourth generation of Aggies, beginning with my daddy, Class of '34, and hopefully to include in my lifetime, my great-nephew, Class of 2021!

I am an Aggie daughter, niece, sister, mother, godmother, aunt and great-aunt. The ONLY reason I am not a graduating former student is because A&M was not co-educational when I was in college. It broke my heart too, but I still bleed maroon!

Thanks again, and GIG 'EM!!

— BARBARA CHRISTENSON
San Antonio

A&M LEGACY SOCIETY NOTES

[The A&M Legacy Society](#) would like to recognize these generous donors, whose names were listed inaccurately in the Foundation's 2011 annual report:

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Craig & Galen Brown Foundation Inc.
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Kathleen K. & William F. Urban Jr. '66

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Jayne Mobley '85

He's ready for Texas A&M. Will A&M be ready for him?



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The Association raises the university's Annual Fund, which supports both alumni and student activities, academics and traditions.

AggieNetwork.com



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TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

One University. Three Ways to Give.

Drs. Lijun Liu '09 and Linh Dinh '08 '11 prepare a calorimeter for testing the reactivity of materials at A&M's Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center.



Aggie Yell Leaders pump up the crowd gathered around the relocated Fish Pond after the win against Baylor, Oct. 15, 2011. The 73-year-old Fish Pond, relocated to the front of Sbisa Dining Center thanks to a gift from the Class of 2007, was refilled just before the Sept. 4 football game against Southern Methodist University.



Bush School Joins Prestigious APSIA

[The Bush School of Government and Public Service](#) was recently voted into full membership of the [Association of Professional Schools on International Affairs \(APSIA\)](#).

APSIA consists of 34 member schools in North America, Asia and Europe dedicated to the improvement of professional education in international affairs and thereby the advancement of international understanding, prosperity and peace. Graduates of APSIA member schools serve at all levels of government around the world, as well as in major research institutes and international organizations.

“Membership in APSIA is yet another important recognition of the Bush School’s academic and research excellence,” said Executive Associate Dean Sam Kirkpatrick. “It shows how

well the International Affairs program, directed by Dr. Chuck Hermann, is regarded by peer institutions and the impact our faculty and graduates have in the policy arena.”

Safety Degree Goes Multinational

Texas A&M’s [Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center](#) now offers distance learning for students pursuing a master’s degree in safety engineering.

“The degree is now available online for students across the globe,” said Dr. Sam Mannan, center director and the T. Michael O’Connor Chair I in Chemical Engineering. “It’s a unique, interdisciplinary program that offers a full degree plan, as well as individual classes.”

A gift from T. Michael O’Connor established the center 17 years ago in memory of his wife, Mary Kay O’Connor, an operations superintendent killed in a 1989 petroleum plant explosion in Texas. Undergraduate and graduate students learn chemical engineering process safety principles at the center, which is associated with A&M’s Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering.

Loftin Sees ‘Vision 2020’ Progress

During his fall convocation address, Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin ’71 reported “significant and focused progress” toward the goals of [Vision 2020](#). Adopted in 1999, the plan set forth steps that Texas A&M

would take to become a consensus top-10 public university by 2020, while also determining how to document progress.

One key measurement is *U.S. News & World Report's* annual "Best Colleges" ranking, in which A&M moved up three places to 19th overall among public universities in 2011. (These rankings compare relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence such as freshman retention, graduation rates and strength of faculty.)

Loftin also pointed out that since 1997, Texas A&M has passed \$3 billion in research expenditures, which ranks it among the top 20 institutions in research spending by the National Science Foundation. Other achievements he noted from the past decade included construction of more than \$800 million in new campus facilities, raising \$1.5 billion during the *One Spirit One Vision* capital campaign, doubling expenditures for library materials to more than \$17.8 million, and establishing the Qatar campus.

Texas A&M Greens Up

Texas A&M's new combined heat and power (CHP) generation system saves thousands of dollars per day and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The system began operating Aug. 1, and in its first week supplied power to campus worth \$250,000, said James G. Riley, A&M's director for utilities and energy management.

Riley said the CHP system produces 50 to 75 percent of campus energy requirements, translating to a significant cut in purchases of power from off-campus providers. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent, he said.

The \$73.25 million system should supply power for 30 years to the campus, which today has 22 million gross square feet of facilities. A \$10 million U.S. Department of Energy grant helped defray CHP construction costs.

Cypress Firm Tops Aggie 100

The Mays Business School's Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship recognized the 7th annual [Aggie 100](#), a list that focuses on growth as an indicator of job creation, product and service acceptance, and entrepreneurial vision. The top 100 Aggie-owned or -operated businesses were selected based on their highest compound annual growth rate from 2008 to 2010.

Cypress-based Tranzon Auction Resolutions, a specialist in sales of real estate and business assets, topped last year's list. "It has been an honor to be recognized as the No. 1 company and to have the opportunity to interact with other Aggie business owners, students and faculty," said Dwight Toney '70, who co-founded the company with his son Kelly Toney '92.

"During the last seven years, Aggie 100 companies have continuously proven that even in tough economic times, solid business ideas and hard work pay off," said Dr. Richard H. Lester, executive director of the entrepreneurship center at Texas A&M.



Kelly Toney '92 and his father, Dwight Toney '70, receive the award for the No. 1 company in the 7th annual Aggie 100.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tranzon Auction Resolutions
<i>Kelly Toney '92 & Dwight Toney '70
Cypress</i> | 6. Jenkins Custom Homes
<i>Shan '88 & Bethany '88 Jenkins
Austin</i> |
| 2. BMI Defense Systems
<i>Beverly '98 & Kyle '92 Greenwood
College Station</i> | 7. Accent Wire Ltd.
<i>William Sims '89
Bradford, United Kingdom</i> |
| 3. Republic Landscapes
<i>Brandon Spears '94
College Station</i> | 8. Power Funding Ltd.
<i>Mark Miller '84
Tyler</i> |
| 4. Miner Central Texas Ltd.
<i>Phil Miner '80
San Antonio</i> | 9. Leftfield Pictures
<i>Brent Montgomery '97
New York City</i> |
| 5. Opportune LLP
<i>David C. Baggett Jr. '81
& John C. Vanderhider '81
Houston</i> | 10. OriGen Biomedical Inc.
<i>Richard Martin Jr. '71
Austin</i> |

To reduce water bottles in landfills, an environmental committee of the Student Government Association distributed free refillable water bottles last fall. Retrofitted water fountains and five refilling stations purchased by the [Aggie Green Fund](#) provide free refrigerated, filtered water on campus. The student-initiated and controlled Aggie Green Fund generates about \$300,000 per academic year for sustainability initiatives from student fees.

Notes From All Over

♦ Klout.com, which measures online influence, ranked Texas A&M as the top university in 2011. The only Texas school in the top 10, A&M was unranked in 2010. Whoop!

♦ The Corps of Cadets enrolled a bumper crop of 874 Class of '15 fish this year; the largest freshman class of cadets since 1987.

♦ Using differential tuition funds, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering opened a new computer lab with 90 state-of-the-art workstations in November 2011.

♦ The fourth annual [Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities](#), part of Mays Business School, supplied 23 participants with skills for business success in August 2011. Gifts made through the Texas A&M Foundation covered tuition, travel and accommodations—about \$5,000—for each attendee. Camp details and applications are available at [ebv.tamu.edu](#).

Lab Work



Texas A&M veterinarians prepare a horse to be scanned using a new Computerized Tomography unit.

New Tools in Vet School Kit

[The Diagnostic Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center](#) is up and humming seven days a week. At this new \$12 million College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences facility, animals undergo state-of-the-art care.

Machines at the center include a new Computerized Tomography (CT) unit, a 3 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit, and the center's crown jewel, a TomoTherapy cancer treatment unit.

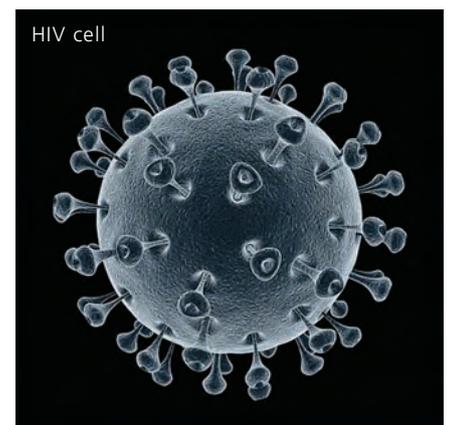
Construction on the center began in April 2010, culminating with a September 2011 grand opening. To support the center, contact Guy Sheppard at g-sheppard@tamu.edu or (979) 845-9043. For details about the center and a video, visit give.am/VetCancerCenter. To give online visit give.am/SupportVetCancerCenter.

A&M Makes AIDS Breakthrough

Researchers in Texas A&M University's Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, working with researchers at the Scripps Research Institute, have discovered a chemical compound that dissolves HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) on contact.

Applied topically, the synthetic compound PD 404,182—discovered by Dr. Zhilei Chen, assistant professor of chemical engineering, and her research team—breaks apart the AIDS-causing virus before it infects cells. “Its RNA becomes exposed, and because RNA is pretty unstable, once exposed it's gone very quickly and the virus is rendered non-infectious,” Chen explained.

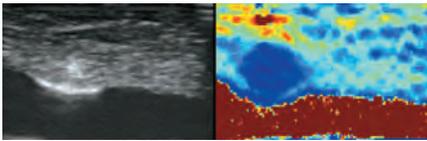
The compound acts on a structural component of the virus that is not part of its genetic code, making it difficult for the virus to “outsmart” the compound through adaptive evolution, a key challenge in developing HIV treatments. Because it does not affect



viruses that have already entered cells, the compound is not a cure, Chen said, but it does offer major potential as a preventive, specifically as a topical gel applied in the vaginal canal.

A Better Way to Diagnose Cancer

Ultrasound elastography may soon become the diagnostic tool of choice on suspicious tissue such as breast cancer. The technique delivers detailed images without the invasiveness of a biopsy or the delay in receiving results.



A traditional ultrasound (left) does not clearly reveal the hard lesion as the elastogram does, with blue indicating hard tissue and red being soft tissue.

Dr. Raffaella Righetti, assistant professor in the [Genomic Signal Processing Laboratory](#) of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Texas A&M, has studied the technology since its inception a decade ago.

Because a tumor can be five to 100 times stiffer than normal soft tissue, mechanical compression or vibration causes it to deform less than surrounding tissue. Elastography—which combines the regular ultrasound image and a compression image—uses this characteristic to quickly diagnose breast cancer without a needle or scalpel.

“The technique is easy, safe, real-time and noninvasive. It doesn’t require a lot of training, and has all the advantages of ultrasound-based imaging methods—including the fact that it could potentially be implemented in small portable devices,” Righetti said. “It’s also relatively inexpensive compared to other imaging methods.”

Getting Bystanders to Stop Bullies

Why don’t bystanders step in and stop bullies? A Texas A&M interdisciplinary research team is working to learn the answer.

Existing studies indicate passive witnesses must become active defenders to stop bullying. “Little is known about what actually influences children’s willingness to intervene in bullying situations,” said Dr. Jamilia Blake, assistant professor of school psychology for the [College of Education and Human Development](#). “That is what we want to find out.”

The team includes another A&M professor of school psychology and a College of Liberal Arts communication professor. They are collaborating with child actors in the Bryan-College Station area to create videos showcasing different bullying scenarios—with both positive and negative bystander reactions. They plan to show the videos to local fourth graders to solicit feedback on whether the situations depicted in the videos realistically capture what happens in schools related to bullying, and whether they believe the intervention strategies are effective.

Once the team determines ways to motivate bystanders, it will develop a media-based bullying prevention program for schools. The research is funded by a grant from the Society for the Study of School Psychology.

Piotr Bojakowski '07 records newly excavated timbers on the Warwick, a British ship that sank during a 1619 storm near Bermuda.



1619 Shipwreck Reveals History

The Aggie-led excavation of the Warwick, a British ship wrecked near Bermuda in a 1619 storm, may reveal a treasure trove about shipbuilding and seafaring. Nautical archaeologists Dr. Katie Custer Bojakowski '04 and her husband, Piotr '07, direct the excavation, which began in 2010 and is expected to conclude in 2012.

“The wreck could illuminate the early years of England’s great century of overseas expansion,” said anthropology professor Dr. Kevin Crisman '84, who assisted with the excavation in 2011 and holds the Nautical Archaeology Faculty Fellowship at Texas A&M.

Crisman said the Warwick wreckage is roughly 90 feet long and 20 feet wide. The ship would have had a crew of 30 to 60 men and could have carried 50 to 100 passengers during a six- to 10-week voyage between England and its New World colonies. Warwick artifacts recovered from waters 20 to 25 feet deep include weapons, parts of barrels, rudder hardware and navigational tools.

Funds from Crisman’s fellowship and from the George T. and Gladys H. Abell Chair in Nautical Archaeology covered some equipment and expenses for participation by Crisman and five anthropology students. Most funding came from the Perot Foundation, Texas A&M’s Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, and the A&M-affiliated [Institute of Nautical Archaeology](#).

New Gifts

Challenge Gift for Equine Initiative



The Burnett Foundation recently established a faculty chair through a \$2.5 million gift to honor equine authority Dr. Glenn

Dr. Glenn Blodgett '74

Blodgett '74. Blodgett has been the resident veterinarian and horse division manager for the renowned [Burnett Ranches](#) since 1982. Burnett Ranches include The Four Sixes, a historic Texas ranch known for its quarter horses and Black Angus cattle.

Blodgett is also the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. He is on the advisory committee for the Equine Initiative, a collaboration between A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The initiative's goal is to establish the nation's premier equine veterinary program.

The Burnett Foundation has challenged the Equine Initiative to raise another \$2.5 million to endow its director's position. To make a gift or to learn more, contact Dr. O. J. "Bubba" Woytek at (979) 845-9043 or bwoytek@tamu.edu

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

STUDENT IMPACT

Howdy Club Honors Aggie Spirit

In October, the [Howdy Club of Houston](#) contributed more than \$27,000 to the Foundation, doubling its existing endowed scholarship established in 2001.

Supporting scholarships for Texas A&M University students has been a cornerstone of the club's mission since its formation in the 1980s. In addition to endowed scholarships, the club disburses \$20,000 in pass-through scholarships each year based primarily on an applicant's demonstration of Aggie

spirit. In the past two decades, the club has raised more than \$300,000 for Aggie scholarships by fundraising through monthly happy hours, golf tournaments, game-watching parties, sponsorships and advertising.

"The Howdy Club awards scholarships not only because we recognize the increasing cost of education faced by Aggie students and their families, but also because we want to reward students who make the most of their Texas A&M experience," said Matt Maddox, Howdy Club director of scholarships and a 2004 graduate of A&M's Mays Business School.

Houston Howdy Club members Ashley Griffith '05 (publicity chair), Kasia Gregorek '06 and Ashley Cassel '05 (president) enjoy a game-watching party on Sept. 17 in Houston. Social events like these make it possible for the club to fund endowed scholarships for students who exhibit exceptional Aggie spirit.

Aggie Couple Pledges Scholarship

Katherine '90 and Timothy '89 Terzis of Celina will fund their \$50,000 endowed Terzis Family Future Success





Kathy '90 and Timothy '89 Terzis share Aggie traditions and pride with their four children.

Scholarship over five years. Established in August 2011, the scholarship will assist first-generation college students who major in liberal arts and participate in study abroad, an internship or faculty-directed research. The couple also requested that the need-based scholarship benefit students from Collin, Grayson, Kaufman or Ellis counties in Texas.

Timothy Terzis holds a liberal arts degree in philosophy; Katherine Terzis' degree is in elementary education. They are members of the Liberal Arts Development Council, and their daughters Auriel '15 and Ashley '16 are also proud Aggies.

Gift Honors Math Teacher



Michael Beard '90 (right) has named a Texas A&M scholarship in honor of his high school math teacher, Margaret Moore (left).

To honor his Deer Park High School math teacher and mentor, Michael Beard '90 and his wife Beth '89, have created the Margaret Mount Moore Endowed Scholarship in Mathematics.

"She loved seeing the potential in her students and helping them make use of that potential," Michael Beard said. "She always gave me that extra push. When someone builds that confidence inside you, it's really helpful."

The encouragement was all in a day's work for Moore, who retired in 2001. "The most fulfilling aspect of

being a teacher was having a student find success in math for the first time," she said. "It was always fun to see a student have an 'aha' moment when a concept finally made sense."

COLLEGE IMPACT

New Van for Chemistry Road Show

One of Texas A&M's most popular educational outreach programs, the [Chemistry Road Show](#), is taking to the streets in style, thanks to a new Chevy Express Cargo van purchased from funds donated to the Texas A&M Foundation by The Dow Chemical Company.

The \$30,000 van was customized to meet the program's specific transportation and safety needs, enabling A&M to spread the joy of chemistry to previously unvisited regions of Texas and thereby benefitting more K-12 and community audiences.

Since its inception in the mid-1980s, the show has expanded from a handful of annual area shows to more than 50 demonstrations each year seen by roughly 10,000 students in the Brazos Valley and surrounding areas. A free public service, the program continues to be funded by the Department of Chemistry and the College of Science Outreach Program, as well as Dow and Shell Oil Co.

To see a video about the new van, visit give.am/ChemistryRoadShow.

Gift Spotlights Choral Director

Through a contribution for the [Memorial Student Center \(MSC\) renovation](#), Drs. Beverly and Thomas Rogers will name the choral activities director's office in honor of David Kipp, the group's musical director, and his wife Jeannie.

"When our older son, Robert (Class of 2012), came to A&M, he found his perfect fit in the Singing Cadets," Thomas Rogers said. "Then our younger son, John (Class of 2015), joined his brother in the organization. We wanted our gift to honor the person who made the Singing Cadets the organization it is today."

As an undergraduate at Texas Tech University, Thomas Rogers attended a Phi Eta Sigma national convention at Texas A&M held at the MSC. "I remember it so distinctly. The MSC was such a contrast to our student union; this building was something living. It was a place for students to relax and enjoy, a living memorial to past students, a place for meetings, and



Drs. Thomas and Beverly Rogers gave to the MSC because their sons—Robert '12 (left) and John '15—are members of the Singing Cadets.

a place for outsiders like myself to begin to appreciate the kind of higher educational institution Texas A&M is."

Beverly Rogers said assisting the MSC repays a debt of gratitude. "We were given scholarships as undergraduates, and now we're at a point in our lives where we can finally give back."

The campaign has raised \$16 million of its \$20 million goal. To support the MSC project, contact David Wilkinson at d-wilkinson@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310.

Non-reg and Proud of It

CLASS OF '61 VETERAN
IS A LOYAL AGGIE.

Many Aggies seem to have forgotten the early days of the civilian student body. From fall 1954 through spring 1958, non-veteran students could opt out of Corps of Cadets enrollment. It became fully voluntary in fall 1965, when co-eds arrived in Aggieland.

Fall 1957 was a whirlwind. Our football team was No. 1 in the nation until coach [Paul "Bear" Bryant](#) announced he was bound for the University of Alabama at the end of the season. Despite running out of time in the last two games of the regular season, [John David Crow '58](#) became our first—and still only—Heisman Trophy winner.

We survived a flu epidemic that shut down Aggieland and most of the nation for weeks. A highlight for fish that school year was mandatory Saturday classes, while a student referendum posed the question: "Do you favor the enrollment of female students?" Responses from most of the students were negative, but I did my part for campus beautification by voting "yes."

My most momentous, yet bitter-sweet, experience that fall was leaving the Corps. When I reluctantly showed my preliminary first semester grades to my uncle, who was lending me the money to attend A&M, he announced that my college days would soon be over. He and my aunt were school-teachers, so scholastic probation would mean no return to A&M.



Fish Charles Jackson, in 1957

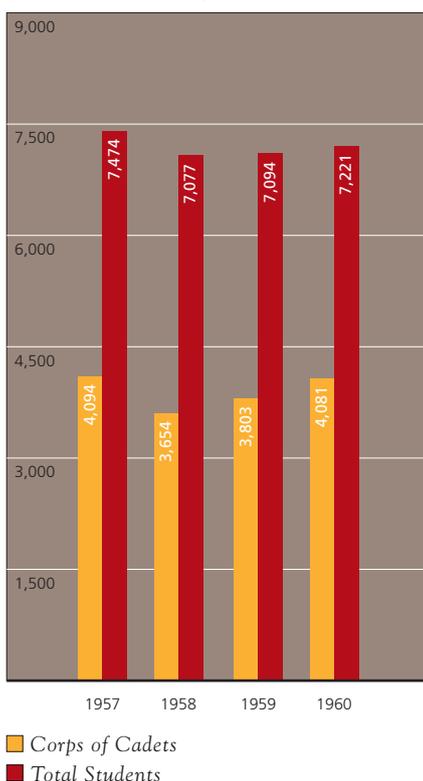
To devote time to my studies, I decided to resign from the Corps. After getting my father's permission and justifying my request to the Corps Commandant Col. Joe Adams, I was no longer a member of Squadron 15; I was now a civilian resident in Dorm 16 (recently demolished Crocker Hall).

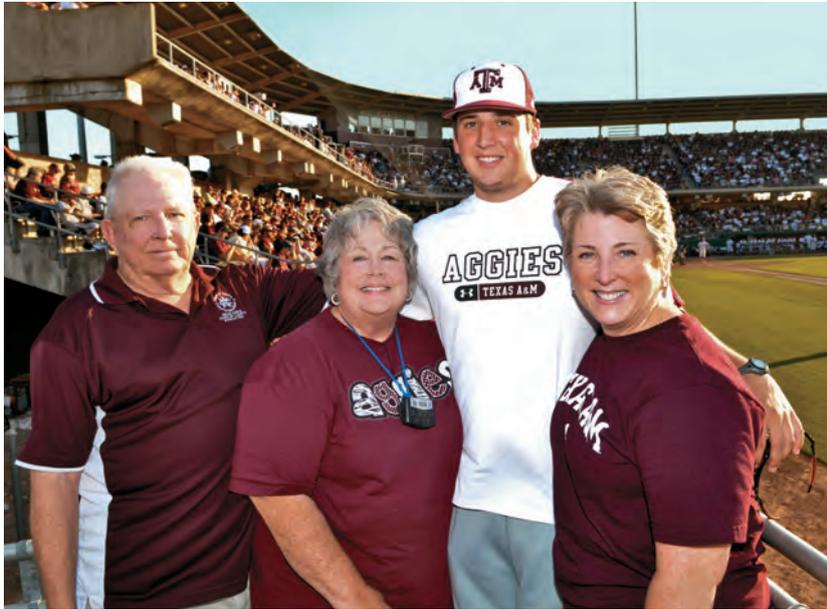
For varied reasons, only about half the fish in the Corps returned for the spring semester of 1958. In my squadron, only 11 of 37 fish returned that fall as Corps sophomores.

Aggies One and All

I was a student during tumultuous times. The football program had just come off a one-year probation. The civilian student editor of *The Battalion* was fired for advocating the enrollment of women, and several women brought

A&M Enrollment 1957-60
(FALL SEMESTERS)





Lt. Col. Charles L. Jackson '61 (left), now retired from the U.S. Air Force; his wife Janice; grandson Kelly K. Keller '15; and daughter Carrie J. Keller '99, cheer on the A&M baseball team.

lawsuits against A&M for refusing them admission. The civilian students wanted co-ed enrollment while the majority of the cadets did not. The relationship between cadets and non-regs (students not enrolled in ROTC) was uneasy, but we all had a mutual love and respect for our school. During the summer of 1959, [Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder '32](#) became president of Texas A&M.

During my four years at A&M, nine dorms and “Fertility Acres” (College View married student housing) housed the majority of civilian students, who comprised 43 to 50 percent of the total enrollment each fall semester. That’s about 3,500 non-regs. We enjoyed civilian weekend and the Civilian Ball, during which our dorm sweethearts competed for the title of Civilian Sweetheart.

We voted for yell leaders, including the civilian yell leader, and had our pictures in the *Aggieland* even though ours usually followed those of cadets. I ran for civilian yell leader my senior year but lost by 24 votes. We attended Silver Taps, Midnight Yell, and Bonfire, and we were part of the 12th Man. Because we weren’t scoring on the gridiron, my classmates wanted to start kissing our dates on first downs.

We were outscored on Turkey Day for all four years (followed by six more).

During my senior year, we won one football game—against Trinity University. But we stood tall through every game, sang “The Twelfth Man,” and defiantly proclaimed, “Wait ’til next year!”

Enduring Allegiance

Two personal milestones occurred in May and June 1961: I crossed the stage at G. Rollie White Coliseum to shake hands with Rudder and reported to Air Force Officer Training School. At the start of the second half of the course I was selected student squadron commander. In fact, two of the four squadrons were led by Aggie grads.

During my initial four years in the Air Force, I faced myriad challenges that tested me and gave me almost unlimited opportunities to excel. When I was offered an officer commission, which was uncommon for a non-flying officer, I was sold. My subsequent career spanned almost 26 years.

During 10 assignments, my modern languages degree from A&M served me well; particularly in the intelligence field while stationed at various posts around the U.S. and the world, including Vietnam, Germany and

Turkey. I also served as a nuclear weapons officer in Greece and commanded two units in Omaha, Neb.

Obviously my non-reg status didn’t affect my lifelong loyalty to A&M. My wife Janice and I have participated in Aggie events for more than 50 years. I marched in the “Rally to the Guidons” event in October 2010, which brought back a lot of memories of marching into Kyle Field in 1957.

For 42 years, I have been a Century Club member, and since 1978, I’ve been a football season ticket holder and a colonel in the [Corps of Cadets Association](#). I also have supported the Corps of Cadets with three gifts to the [Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center](#). You can spot me on the road by either of my license plates: TAMC61 or 61TAMC.

In April 2011, I went to my 50th anniversary Muster with my daughter, Carrie Keller ’99, who works at the Texas A&M Foundation, and her Eagle Scout son, Kelly Keller ’15, who’s enjoying his fish year.

Not too long ago I also discovered that my Aggie legacy has deep roots: My great-great-grandfather, William T. Schumacher, was an Aggie cadet in 1877. I feel extremely fortunate to be part of the Aggie family and to have benefitted so much not only from the things I was taught in the classroom, but the enduring shared love of A&M’s values and traditions. I take great pride in my continued support and promotion of Texas A&M—it is simply the best. 🍷

—BY LT. COL. CHARLES L. JACKSON '61



HOME OF

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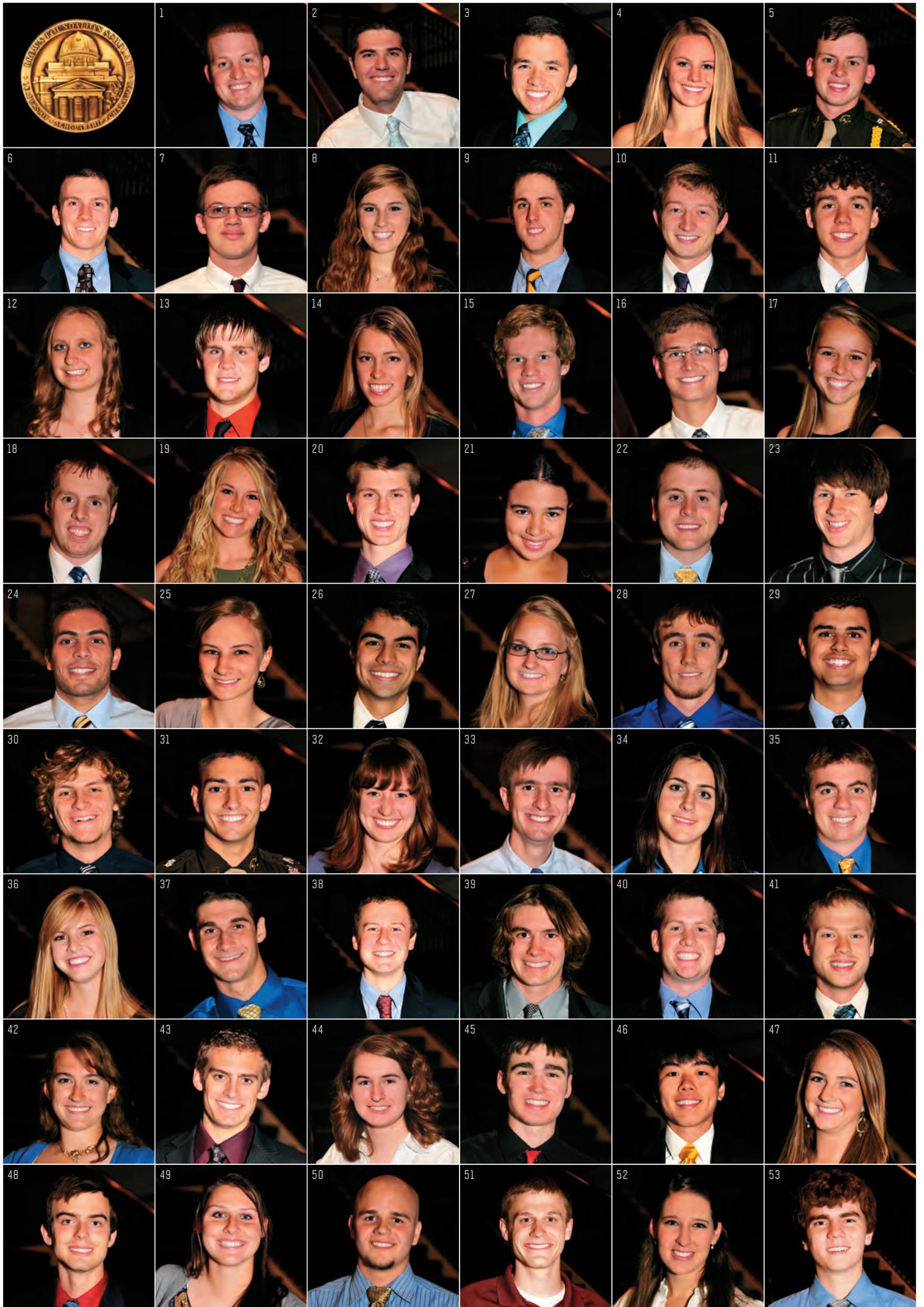


Viewpoint

Tradition with a Capital T

Texas A&M University's 2,100-member Corps of Cadets form the famed "Block T" for more than 86,000 fans during halftime at the A&M vs. Kansas game Nov. 19, 2011. It was the first formation including all cadets on Kyle Field since 1956, and was especially fitting for this military appreciation-themed game. Cadets configured the original Block "T" on Kyle Field at the infamous "13-0" game between the Aggies and the University of Texas in 1915. Although some things have changed since the first formation, the driving force behind the Block "T" remains: Keeping the Aggie spirit alive.

To watch a historical video of the Block "T" formation, visit give.am/BlockT.



COMPETITIVE

STUDENT IMPACT—\$17.5 MILLION PLEDGE FROM CRAIG C. BROWN '75 GIVES TEXAS A&M THE EDGE IN RECRUITING NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS.

EDGE

In 1992, the Craig and Galen Brown Foundation program began with four scholars. This year the number grew to 53, all of whom are National Merit Scholars.

- 1 Tyler Terrill
- 2 Joseph Reed
- 3 John Choate
- 4 Kirsten Fowler
- 5 Hunter Skoog
- 6 Steven (Ross) Fly
- 7 Brian Lemke
- 8 Michelle Wise
- 9 David Migl
- 10 Ryan Trantham
- 11 Bradford Stricklin
- 12 Christina Schmidt
- 13 Sean Sculley
- 14 Valerie Halsey
- 15 Andrew MacDonald
- 16 Timothy Kroeger
- 17 Katherine Elmer
- 18 Timothy Slininger
- 19 Caroline Janssen
- 20 Richard Hofstra
- 21 Janice Rosado
- 22 Collin Hunt
- 23 Christopher Kirkland
- 24 Ryan Rihani
- 25 Victoria Ehlinger
- 26 Andrew Sanchez
- 27 Rachel Robeson
- 28 Nicholas Harrison
- 29 Ali El-Halwagi
- 30 Ryan Whitmire
- 31 Eric Gil
- 32 Allison Iler
- 33 Andrew Evans
- 34 Amanda Couch
- 35 Ethan Windsor
- 36 Megan Mumford
- 37 Zachary Stone
- 38 Nathan Hogg
- 39 Sean Sannwaldt
- 40 Brian Lanier
- 41 Timothy Woolsey
- 42 Beverly Finneburgh
- 43 Justin Montgomery
- 44 Rachel Flores-Meath
- 45 Jack Reid
- 46 Alexander Jang
- 47 Rebecca Grace
- 48 Bennett Kirchofer
- 49 Katie Walker
- 50 Sean Brocklehurst
- 51 Weston Fountain
- 52 Kathryn Kudlaty
- 53 John Barth

Surrounded by some of Texas A&M's—and the nation's—top students, Craig C. Brown '75 resembled a beloved patriarch at a family reunion. Dimples framed his broad smile as he surveyed guests from his 6-foot-4-inch vantage point at the 20th Annual [Craig and Galen Brown Foundation](#) Dinner in October 2011 at the Jon L. Hagler Center on campus. Displaying his renowned charisma, he clasped shoulders, nodded encouragingly, shared laughs and visited with Brown Scholars he has virtually adopted.

Since 1992, Brown has built on the philanthropic tradition begun by his late father, Galen, and provided four-year scholarships to 143 high-achieving A&M freshmen—all of whom are National Merit Scholars. In 2011, he upped the ante substantially by pledging \$17.5 million—\$350,000 annually over 50 years—to expand the Brown Scholars' program, bolstering Texas A&M's recruitment of National Merit Scholars and top engineering students.

"The goal is to have 18 freshman recipients a year, making a total of 72 scholars in all four classes," Brown said. "We're hoping to attract the best high school graduates in Texas and other states."

Seventy-seven percent of the Brown scholarship funds are allocated for engineering; the balance supports science, veterinary medicine/biomedical science, business and liberal arts students.

"The generosity of Craig Brown and the Brown Foundation extends throughout Texas

A&M University and is a great example of the selfless service for which Aggies are known worldwide," said Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin '71. "Our purpose is to prepare the next generation of leaders, and this impressive gift will play a key role in this endeavor."

CLIMBING COLLEGE RANKINGS

According to A&M officials, Brown's scholarship program is catapulting the university into the ranks of the country's top universities enrolling National Merit Scholars. The program began with four scholars and grew to 53 this year. It assists nearly 10 percent of A&M's 590 National Merit Scholars, giving A&M a competitive edge.

In 2010, Texas A&M enrolled 177 National Merit Scholars and ranked first in Texas, second among public colleges and tenth among all U.S. universities enrolling these sought-after freshmen. In 2011, the university moved to 13th in the nation, enrolling 157 new scholars. But A&M has achieved top-10 distinction four other times since 2000.

"You might expect us to get 33 percent of the National Merit students who apply to Texas A&M," said Joseph P. Pettibon II, associate vice president for academic services, "but due to Brown's scholarships, we get about 50 percent."

According to the *U.S. News & World Report* and National Merit Scholarship Corp., A&M has in some years enrolled more National Merit Scholars than top engineering schools such as the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

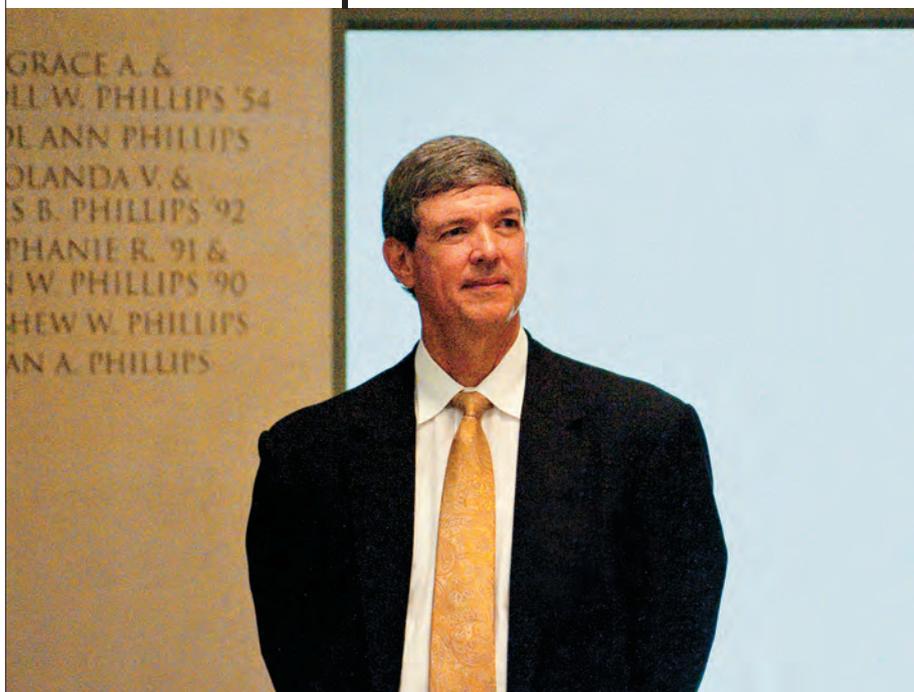
nology; Stanford University; University of California, Berkeley; California Institute of Technology and the Georgia Institute of Technology. National Merit Scholars choosing engineering at A&M increased more than 40 percent between 2004 and 2011, rising from 53 students to 78, with a high of 109 in 2010.

Dr. Ken Meissner, associate professor of biomedical engineering who heads the recently renamed Craig and Galen Brown Engineering Honors Program, credits Brown with elevating the Dwight Look College of Engineering as well. “Craig provides the separating factor that helps these students, who have many choices, decide where to enroll. The Brown Scholars push themselves and their fellow students. They are establishing a culture of achievement within the college and making it more of a learning community.”

A COMPETITIVE EDGE FOR A&M

“When you have the best students, the brightest young professors and researchers working with seasoned faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities, it all flowers into a dynamic learning

Each year, Craig C. Brown '75 sifts through 70 applications forwarded by the university's Scholarships and Financial Aid office, and then he personally interviews about 30 prospective scholars.



environment,” said Brown, whose family and foundation have already given \$1.5 million to A&M for various needs.

Brown scholarships provide up to \$24,000 over four years, approximately 30 percent of the in-state cost of an undergraduate degree. “With expenses increasing,” said Brown, “we stepped in to help give students full or near-

full rides, which make A&M financially competitive. We didn’t know how large the program would become, but I’m overjoyed with its development.”

To qualify for a Brown Foundation scholarship, incoming A&M freshmen must be both a [President’s Endowed Scholar](#) (PES) and a National Merit Semifinalist. They also must have achieved academic excellence, participated in extracurricular activities and demonstrated leadership in their high schools and communities.

The PES award qualifies students for Texas-resident tuition rates and provides \$12,000 to \$20,000 over four years. Combined with A&M’s typical National Merit award of \$20,000 and other college and department scholarships, Brown Scholars can receive funding for all or almost all of an \$80,000, four-year degree. (In 2011, A&M estimated the annual cost of attendance—tuition and fees for 30 hours, room and board, books and incidentals—at \$20,782 for Texas residents. The non-resident estimate was \$36,672.)

Brown strongly encourages his scholars to apply to the [University Honors Program](#). Run by Honors and Undergraduate Research at Texas A&M, it provides honors housing for freshmen and enhanced learning, research and foreign study opportunities for the freshman year and beyond.

WELL-ROUNDED SCHOLARS

Each year, Brown sifts through 70 applications forwarded by the university’s Scholarships and Financial Aid office, and then he personally interviews between 30 and 35 prospective scholars. Brown flies in candidates who would have to drive more than three hours to his Houston office. Applicants spend at least two hours in an interview with Brown and [Pam Matthews](#), the Aggie mom and Brown Foundation administrator who schedules visits to A&M.

During the interviews, students discuss their goals, and Brown shares his A&M experiences and philosophy of success, which focuses on people, not profits. After hearing Brown’s pitch, most choose A&M.

“I’m not looking for an individual who is studying at the library every Friday and Saturday night, but for those exceptional



students with leadership qualities who have a desire to help others and make the world better,” said Brown. “The selection process is a challenge because the candidates are some of the most academically talented, well-rounded, 18-year-olds in the nation. In the end, I choose those who understand and practice the Brown Foundation’s philosophy: ‘In life, it is not what you take with you, but what you leave behind that counts.’ ”

With a civil engineering bachelor’s degree and a master’s in business from A&M, Brown believes education is not just about academics. A&M is one of the nation’s top academic institutions, he said, but it also offers free learning opportunities to build character and people skills through its valuable traditions, relationships and campus activities. Brown chose A&M over Ivy League schools because he liked the positive spirit on campus and the helpful and respectful students and faculty. He was in the Corps of Cadets, lettered in track and served on the Ross Volunteers and Engineering Student Council. He received a President’s Endowed Scholarship and Engineering Faculty Outstanding Senior Award, and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.

“I absolutely would not be who I am today if I had not gone to A&M,” said Brown, an entrepreneur who co-founded and now serves as president and CEO of Bray International Inc., a Houston-based global control valve and actuator manufacturer. An Outstanding Alumnus of Mays Business School and the College of Engineering, Brown serves on the Engineering Advisory Council and Energy Engineering Institute’s board.

With seven grown children of his own, he makes time to continually mentor the Brown Scholars, keeping in touch long after they graduate. “Investing in these young peo-

Dr. Timothy Scott, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Science, calls Brown’s generosity an inspiration.

Offshoots

Brown Scholars have built a record of achievement at A&M—student government president and officers, Corps deputy commanders and officers, All-American Academic Athletes, 10 University Scholars and one Fulbright Scholar. They have gone on to distinguish themselves as engineers, doctors, veterinarians, educators, lawyers, military officers, entrepreneurs and missionaries.

After earning a nuclear engineering degree, [Kristina Yancey '10](#) received a Fulbright Scholarship last year to research reactor designs at the Paul Scherrer Institute near Zurich, Switzerland. Now pursuing a master’s degree in nuclear engineering at A&M, Yancey said Brown inspires “confidence to do things we might think beyond us.”

[Dr. Janet Pate '96](#), a Houston pediatrician and one of the first Brown Scholars, is grateful Brown persuaded her to attend A&M, where the collegial environment and financial support prepared her for a future in medicine. “Going to a university where teamwork was important and entering medical school without debt were really helpful,” said Pate, a Baylor College of Medicine graduate who practices at Texas Children’s Pediatric Associates–Westchase and volunteers at Casa El Buen Samaritano.

Junior [Andy Sanchez '13](#), a University Scholar and chemical engineering major, was one of two students nationwide chosen by the American Chemical Society to attend Princeton’s Business Today 2011 International Conference in New York last November. Sanchez didn’t know anything about A&M before he flew in from Indianapolis as a freshman to meet Brown, but now this senior loves Aggieland and considers it home.

Former U.S. Marine Capt. [Regan Turner '02](#) served as deputy Corps commander and Muster Committee chairman. He received the Brown Outstanding Senior Engineer Award (named for and supported by the Brown Foundation), and graduated in 2003 with a mechanical engineering degree. He served seven years in the Marines, and was an infantry platoon commander in Afghanistan and Iraq before training other officers at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. The experience “taught me how to lead teams and run organizations,” he said. Now pursuing dual master’s degrees in business administration and public policy at Harvard, Turner said he is honored to have been a Brown Scholar.

ple is one of the most rewarding activities and experiences in my life. I am proud of these students and what they’ve achieved. It makes me optimistic about our future.”

Dr. Timothy Scott, associate dean for undergraduate programs in A&M’s College of Science, said it best when describing the Brown Foundation. “Craig Brown inspires me for his devotion, generosity and the investment he makes in the lives of the Brown Scholars. It goes far beyond the money invested. Pam Matthews is a tremendous asset and it is apparent that the kids love her as much as Craig. Texas A&M is blessed beyond measure by both of them.”

—BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

To learn how you can support A&M students through scholarships, contact:

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

To learn more about the Craig and Galen Brown Foundation, visit brownfound.org.

To see photos of the 20th Annual Craig and Galen Brown Foundation Dinner, visit give.am/BrownScholars.

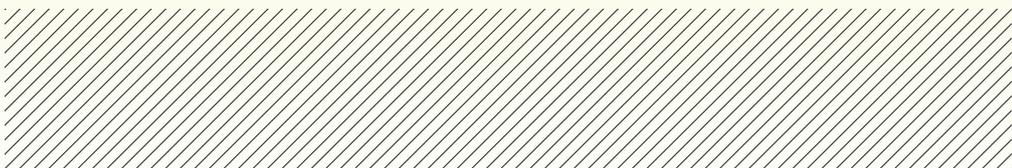
red Thompson was only 19 years old when he collapsed and died from a cardiac arrhythmia. The 6-foot 4-inch, 317-pound freshman defensive tackle for Oregon State University had no known heart problems, but officials said such an irregular heartbeat can cause a heart attack or sudden death.

The tragic news of promising college athletes like Thompson dying as a result of hidden heart conditions prompted a Texas A&M professor to study heart abnormalities in American collegiate freshmen football athletes. Dr. Stephen F. Crouse, professor of health and kinesiology, found that 79 percent of football players in the study showed at least one electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormality. By accentuating the importance of ECG screening for incoming football players, his research could save countless young lives.

science in motion

COLLEGE IMPACT

Texas A&M's Huffines Institute raises the bar on human health, movement and performance.





Texas A&M's Huffines Institute helps to improve the performance of athletes like Daphne Fitzpatrick '11, who earned Big 12 records in the heptathlon, which includes the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200-meter run, long jump, javelin and 800-meter run.

move or die

Crouse's study is supported by Texas A&M's [Sydney and J. L. Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance](#), which promotes research, application and communication between sports scientists and health practitioners to improve health and human performance.

[Dr. J. Timothy Lightfoot](#), who holds the Omar Smith Endowed Chair in Kinesiology, directs the institute's research, which has an impact on human health that transcends age and fitness level. Goals range from saving the lives of football players to maintaining octogenarians' mobility.

Since it opened in 2003, the Huffines Institute has supported research through seed grants, fellowships and grant mentorships. A primary focus is to educate the next generation of researchers and practitioners in sports medicine and health. For the past six years, 63 percent of the institute's budget supported more than 100 student researchers; the other 37 percent benefits faculty research. [The science and practice of human movement is at the center of this research.](#)

Mobility is key to survival, health and general well-being. "Inactivity is the second leading actual cause of death in the United States," Lightfoot said. "In 2000, more than 400,000 U.S. deaths were linked to physical inactivity." Inactivity costs the U.S. health-care system billions of dollars each year.



"The magnitude of the health problems caused by inactivity should be getting much more attention," Lightfoot said. "Inactivity is a byproduct of our technological society. We spend a lot of time on computers at work, and in front of our televisions or computers for entertainment at home."

The consequences of inactivity seem to be more than weight gain and diminished strength. Research indicates inac-

tivity contributes to various cancers, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, and musculoskeletal disorders.

"Our bodies are programmed to function best with a certain level of activity. With today's sedentary lifestyle, exercising must become an intentional priority to facilitate good health," Lightfoot said. Awareness of the importance of exercise in overall health and a desire to stay active may not be enough to motivate some people, however. Lightfoot is researching genetic factors that may control inclination toward movement. "Whether you are a couch potato, or what we call a 'frantic banana,' biological factors influence activity levels and performance. Our goal is to help children and adults identify and address these factors so they can engage in a healthy, active lifestyle. The least-invasive and most cost-effective health-care plan on the planet combines activity and proper nutrition."

An A&M graduate student analyzes real-time results as Dr. John Greene (background), clinical professor of health and kinesiology, runs a stress test on Dr. Steve Riechman, associate professor of health and kinesiology, at the Huffines Institute.



In 1999, [Dr. Jack Wilmore](#) and several Texas A&M faculty members began to meet with the intention of more closely connecting the science and practice of sports medicine and human performance. Wilmore and others had watched a gradual separation and disconnection among sports medicine researchers, coaches and athletes.



J. L. Huffines Jr. '44

The group made such an impression that in 2003, Sydney and J. L. Huffines Jr. '44, life-long supporters of exercise and health, became the institute's original benefactors.

J. L. Huffines was chairman of Huffines Auto Group, one of the nation's oldest family-owned and operated dealerships. He served on A&M's board of regents and was president of the 12th Man Foundation. Huffines died in 2009 at age 85. Learn more at give.am/HuffinesLife.

health benefactor

a boost to athletes

An international source for information regarding sports medicine and human performance, the Huffines Institute also assists Texas A&M Athletics coaches and trainers.

Through advanced diagnostics that test cardio stress and body composition, the Huffines Institute delivers baseline health and condition information. Coaches and trainers use the data to determine freshmen athletes' weight, cardio and nutrition regimen for maximum performance.

Texas A&M Athletic Director Bill Byrne said those recommendations and other institute breakthroughs "help Aggie athletes excel nationally."

sharing sports science

The Huffines Institute shares its findings on best practices in health and sports medicine through scientific and health journals, public presentations

and podcasts. While publications and presentations are often geared to sport scientists and practitioners, the Huffines Discussion—an annual one-day symposium held at Texas A&M—serves professional and lay audiences.

The institute also offers weekly podcasts that report sports science news on topics ranging from motor control, to managing protein intake, to support of your activity level (huffinesinstitute.org). "It's easy access to cutting-edge research from scientists who are passionate about their specific areas of sports science," Lightfoot said. "The information can be applied to everyday exercise or competitive sports.

"We think it's important to make new knowledge and best practices available to sport professionals and to individuals who exercise. Our podcasts make this information available to a wide audience in a cost-effective manner." Each month 1,400 listeners from around the

world tune in, increasing the Huffines Institute's international impact.

growing needs

The endowment created by the Huffineses supports the institute's core research and outreach activities, but more private support is needed as the field of sports medicine grows, and as increasing numbers of student and faculty researchers engage in institute activities.

"The Huffines' interest in health and exercise laid the foundation for our success," Lightfoot said. "Now we are looking for additional support to expand our lab for testing and training Aggie athletes, to support researchers, and to fulfill our responsibility to communicate new knowledge and best practices in sport medicine and health to the public."

What more can be done to ensure the safety and success of athletes at every level? "We want people to understand what impacts an athlete's performance: Is it training, genetics or both? Tune in to our podcasts to find out," Lightfoot said. ☺

—BY DIANE OSWALD
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To learn how you can support the College of Education and Human Development, contact:

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FACULTY IMPACT

Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud, holder of the Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering, is one of the world's foremost experts in geotechnical engineering.

It looks like a scene from an action movie. Full-sized remote-controlled trucks smashing through road barriers with deafening force as sparks, debris and crumpled metal fly through the air. But this isn't a movie set. It's the grounds of the Texas Transportation Institute—where Texas A&M's Jean-Louis Briaud, the Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering—and his colleagues test the effectiveness of terrorist-proof barriers.

Some might think the field of geotechnical engineering sounds a bit dull. But a few minutes of barrier-testing will readily change their minds.

When a truck carrying explosives rams through a barrier meant to keep it out, one of two things is tragically clear: Either the barrier material wasn't strong enough to stop the truck, or the subsurface foundations supporting the barrier weren't up to the challenge.

Dr. Briaud is concerned with the latter. As one of the world's foremost experts in geotechnical engineering (formerly known as "soil mechanics"), Briaud works in part to develop resilient underground foundation supports.

Such supports are vital to the effectiveness of above-ground structures. By testing soil strength, Briaud can determine the type of material needed to construct the underground supports. He

Geotechnical Genius



A gift created in memory of renowned civil engineering Professor **Spencer J. Buchanan Sr. '26** is sustaining innovative geotechnical research at Texas A&M.

can also establish the necessary size of the supports based on the soil depth they require to remain secure.

So when a fast-moving vehicle strikes a structure intended to stay in place—whether through an act of terrorism or merely by accident—Briaud and his colleagues want to ensure that their structure remains fixed.

“If an 18-wheeler hits a barrier blocking a federal building, how much

force will it exert on the barrier? Four hundred tons? If we know that, we can develop a barrier that will not collapse when hit by a large moving vehicle,” Briaud explained.

His work on terrorist-proof barriers is but one of Briaud’s notable research focuses. In 2000, he was called upon to investigate and provide recommendations regarding foundation-stability issues of the [Woodrow Wilson Bridge](#)

near Washington, D.C. Four years later, he became a member of the team charged with reinforcing the eroding cliffs at [Pointe du Hoc](#) in Normandy, France.

Without the financial support provided by the Buchanan chair, Briaud says, his ability to take on these massive research endeavors would be severely limited.

“Faculty chairs and professorships are essential to recruiting the best faculty.”

— DR. M. KATHERINE BANKS

Vice Chancellor and Dean of Texas A&M Engineering

Buchanan:

A Giant in his Field

The Buchanan Chair began as the brainchild of C. Darrow Hooper '53 as a way to honor the memory of his favorite professor, Dr. Spencer J. Buchanan Sr. '26, distinguished professor of soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Buchanan went on to earn a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when the soil mechanics field was in its infancy.

“Buchanan was in the hotbed of the geotechnical family at MIT,” Hooper said. “He was studying at the feet of the guys who wrote the book. It was such a young field, so he was at the very beginning of it in the '30s.”

Buchanan had real-world experience, too, from building airfields all over the world during World War II, to operating companies that analyzed soil and investigated foundations of airfield, highway and similar structures and systems. He eventually returned to Texas A&M, and in 1946 created the soil mechanics division within Texas A&M's civil engineering department.

With stories of international adventure and engineering feats, Buchanan inspired an entire post-war generation of wide-eyed Texas A&M civil engineering students.

“We were exposed to an internationally recognized geotechnical engineer in college, and he commanded a lot of respect,” Hooper said. “He was someone to look up to and aspire to.”

Buchanan's sons, Spencer J. Buchanan Jr. '53 and Philip Buchanan '59, also attended Texas A&M during their father's tenure.

“He had such tremendous pride in civil engineering and Texas A&M, so when he walked into class, his students felt that pride being radiated,” said Buchanan Jr. “He considered civil engineering a very honorable, quality profession, and conducted himself in that same manner throughout his entire life.”

The Buchanan Chair

At their 30th reunion in 1983, Hooper and his classmates discussed the impact Buchanan had on their lives and decided to do something to memorialize their professor, who had died the previous year. Hooper contacted the Texas A&M Foundation about endowing a faculty chair in geotechnical engineering in A&M's Zachry Department of Civil Engineering.

“I've always been a believer in the time value of money, and I know that

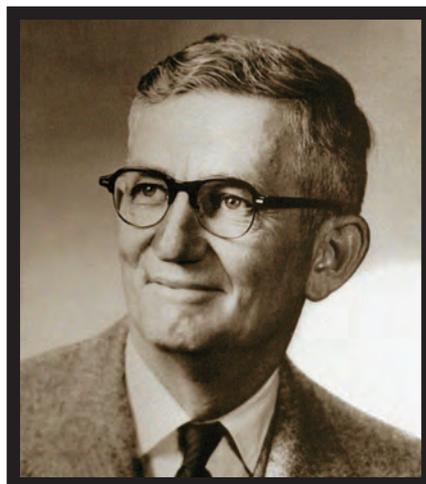
when you set aside funds for an endowment, it can grow into something very respectable,” Hooper said.

Hooper gave a lead gift for the chair, and in 1992—with the help of a matching gift program and interest from initial gifts—the endowment finally acquired enough funds to create a \$500,000 professorship. That professorship was awarded to Briaud.

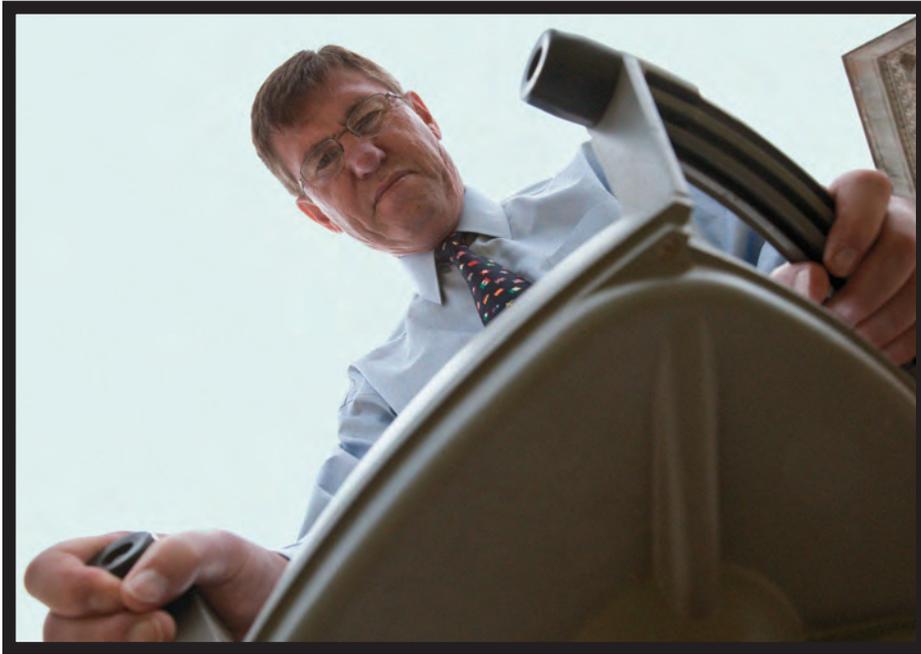
Endowments for professorships and chairs generate earnings that can be used by the selected faculty member for any professional expense. However, rather than spend the earnings the first few years, Briaud opted to invest them back into the endowment. Ten years later, the endowment principal reached \$1 million—enough to upgrade the professorship to a faculty chair. The market value of that endowed faculty chair is now \$1.6 million.

For Briaud, who came to Texas A&M in 1978, the chair bolsters what was already an impressive academic career. But as Dr. M. Katherine Banks, vice chancellor and dean of Texas A&M Engineering, points out, such awards are needed for other reasons, as well.

“Faculty chairs and professorships are essential to recruiting the best faculty,” she explained. “In turn, the holders of these endowed positions attract other talented faculty and students, further enhancing the Zachry



Dr. Spencer J. Buchanan Sr. '26 created the soil mechanics division within A&M's civil engineering department in 1946.



Funds from the Spencer J. Buchanan Sr. '26 faculty chair give Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud and his graduate students a boost in geotechnical research.

Iran and Kazakhstan. The faculty chair supplements these travel expenses.

“Many developing countries can tremendously benefit from these interactions,” Briaud said. “The impact of the chair money, then, is felt not just at A&M; it goes much further.”

Full Circle

Hooper is thrilled that by endowing Briaud’s faculty chair, he and his classmates are supporting a teacher of international prominence who can impact today’s students in the same way that Buchanan impacted them.

“It has worked out just as I hoped it would, thanks in large part to Jean-Louis’ efforts and dedication to his job,” said Hooper.

Buchanan Jr. said his father would have been very touched by this gesture from his students. “Just being his son and knowing that the chair was funded by his students gives me a very humbling, prideful and further respect for my father,” he said. 🌹

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

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department’s undergraduate and graduate programs.”

While Briaud can’t say enough about the specific benefits of the chair funding, it’s the “big-picture” benefit that he particularly appreciates. “The funds encourage you to think big and go after your dreams; because in our business, dreams take money.”

Briaud’s International Impact

Briaud said he targets Buchanan chair funds to big-impact projects that help as many people as possible.

In 1993, one of Briaud’s first “big-impact” projects became the [Spencer J. Buchanan Lecture Series](#). The annual event draws more than 100 geotechnical engineers to College Station, and reaches countless others through the free DVDs Briaud mails

all over the world. This enables institutions that aren’t able to spend thousands of dollars on these speakers to get a similar benefit at no cost.

Chair funds also have helped Briaud and his graduate students develop a number of geotechnical tools for easy field use. Among these is the Briaud Composition Device—a kind of portable “pogo stick” that measures soil stiffness. Another mechanism, the Erosion Function Apparatus, determines erosion rates through soil testing.

In 2009, Briaud was elected president of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering—the most prestigious organization in his field. That position has involved travel to more than 20 countries during the past two years—countries like Mozambique,





WHEN RENOWNED COMEDIAN, ACTOR, AUTHOR AND MUSICIAN STEVE MARTIN STROLLED ACROSS THE STAGE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S SOLD-OUT RUDDER THEATER AUG. 30, 2011, THE AUDIENCE WENT WILD. MARTIN RELISHED THE APPRECIATION FOR HIS BANJO-PLAYING TALENT AND THE EQUALLY DEXTEROUS MEMBERS OF THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS. "I DON'T THINK OF THEM AS MY BAND," HE QUIPPED WITH HIS TRADEMARK DRY WIT. "I LOOK AT IT MORE LIKE I AM THEIR CELEBRITY."

Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers are just one of the many professional entertainment groups that have delighted students and area residents thanks to [MSC OPAS](#), a division of Texas A&M University's Memorial Student Center (MSC). Now in its 39th season, OPAS is a self-supported organization that brings acclaimed theater, music and dance programs such as French-American cellist Yo-Yo Ma, radio personality Garrison Keillor, and the Tony Award-winning musical "[In the Heights](#)" to Texas A&M.

While MSC OPAS is well-known in the Bryan-College Station community, there is some confusion about its funding. "The great misconception about OPAS is that we're entirely funded by the university and that we use the facilities for free," said [Anne Black](#), who has served as OPAS executive director for 24 years. In reality, OPAS' \$3 million budget is dependent on annual contributions,

MSC OPAS is a self-supported organization that brings acclaimed theater, music and dance programs such as French-American cellist Yo-Yo Ma (opposite) to Texas A&M.

advertising revenue, sponsorships, ticket sales and student fees. OPAS also pays the university for equipment rental and operations staff for each performance.

Over the years, OPAS has expanded its programming to offer entertainment through three series: Main Stage, Intimate Gatherings and OPAS Jr. The organization also provides educational outreach programs that take artists into public schools. "Camp OPAS will mark its 10th anniversary in May," Black said. "For the past decade, 250 fourth graders from the Bryan and College Station school districts have spent a day immersed in the arts. They rotate through sessions in which they learn about music, dance, theater and storytelling. The day culminates in a brief performance that pulls together all of these elements."

In addition, thousands of students have attended OPAS' School Performances over the years. "Everything from

children's classics to Shakespeare has come alive on Rudder Stage for students of all ages, many of whom might never have had the opportunity to experience live theater," Black said.

An MSC OPAS permanent endowment was established in the late 1980s through the Texas A&M Foundation by Donna and Don A. Adam '57, Dr. Michal Barszap, Parten Wakefield '78, Margaret A. and Charles W. '77 Zipp, and Robert Waltman '80. The endowment grew by \$1 million thanks to a successful fundraising campaign that focused on the Bryan-College Station community in 2002. These funds enabled OPAS to schedule internationally recognized artists who have to be booked several years in advance. Additionally, the endowment is used to keep student ticket prices affordable. As a result, Aggies have the opportunity to not only experience world-class entertainment, but also to participate in event planning and promotion through the [OPAS Student Committee](#).

A second fundraising campaign scheduled to kick off in fall 2012 will coincide with OPAS' 40th anniversary. This

Radio personality Garrison Keillor



campaign, which has a goal of \$1 million, will also be used for program enhancement and student access.

In addition, OPAS has an excellence fund through the Foundation, comprised of annual contributions, that provides a critical financial safety net. "In a bad year, OPAS can lose a lot of money," Black said. For instance, OPAS' 2005 season-opening productions were not well-attended because the Bryan-College Station community was focused on dealing with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That same year, the semi-trailer truck crashed and destroyed the sets for the Broadway musical "The Will Rogers Follies," forcing OPAS to reschedule the production.

—A&M-Community Collaboration—

MSC Director J. Wayne Stark initially approached the [Bryan Rotary Club](#) to sponsor and underwrite a trial run of bringing commercial acts to the Bryan-College Station area, according to Holly Rees, a senior Rotarian in Brazos County. The original offering was a performance of the musical "Porgy & Bess" in 1966. With an initial budget of \$5,500, the Rotary ended up earning a \$1,600 profit, which was donated to community organizations. Stark and the Bryan Rotary expanded the offerings in 1967-68 by creating the Rotary Series, which offered performances by seven arts groups throughout the academic year. The Rotary Series continued for five years until the 1971-72 academic year.

The history of OPAS—originally named The Opera and Performing Arts Society—dovetails with the construction of the Rudder Theater Complex in the late 1960s. "General Earl Rudder called Wayne Stark and encouraged him to create a wonderful program in these facilities for Aggies to enjoy," Black said. "Mr. Stark involved the community as well as student volunteers in OPAS. The community originally

THE BIG FOUR O

The 2012-13 season of MSC OPAS coincides with a major milestone — the organization's 40th birthday. And like any major anniversary, plans are being set to celebrate OPAS's rich history.

"A special committee has been appointed by the OPAS Board to plan the festivities for the 40th Anniversary," said Stephanie Sale, who is chairing the committee's efforts. The group includes OPAS board members, former OPAS student leaders, community members, and past and present representatives of OPAS Encore! (formerly the OPAS Guild).

The celebration includes many special events, including Season 40's OPAS Gala 2012 and a spring visual arts tribute to the performing arts in a first-time-ever exhibition of 40 years of OPAS. This exhibit will be held in the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries.

"In addition to the festivities planned, the MSC OPAS 40th Anniversary committee is compiling a history of this wonderful organization, whose enduring purpose has been to inspire, enlighten and entertain," Sale said. "We think the book, which is edited by Dr. Paul Parrish, will serve as an 'anthology' of memories of stellar artists and performances, student involvement in the arts,

as well as university and community members dedicated to enriching the artistic and cultural experience for all."

The festivities honor OPAS's deep commitment to and influence on the Brazos Valley region. "OPAS is perhaps the most visible and important cultural link in the celebration and enjoyment of performing arts in the Brazos Valley," Sale said. "Through its excellent roster of programs, OPAS draws together Texas A&M University's extended family of students, faculty, administrators and support staff and an ever-increasing environs beyond Bryan and College Station."



Jeremy Byrd '00 volunteered with OPAS as a student. This experience eventually led to a career as the director of production and scheduling at Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall.



Mary Katherine Stout '00 met her husband, Stephen '97, while working for OPAS as a student. The Stouts have pledged \$25,000 to name the OPAS Director's Office in the renovated Memorial Student Center.

provided the funds for programming while the students provided the arms, legs, heart and soul. This is still the case almost 40 years later.”

“In the early 1970s, most university performing arts organizations operated out of the student unions,” Black said. “By the late 1980s, when arts funding decreased dramatically due to the oil bust, few remained. The performing arts became a bottom line business and student volunteers were not part of that equation. Now, I believe we are the only one left in the country.”

The success and popularity of OPAS relies on a unique collaboration between A&M students and community members, who work to bring the best performing artists to the Brazos Valley. A community member presides over the OPAS board of directors while the chair of the student committee serves as the board’s vice president.

—Leadership Through the Arts—

Student participation in OPAS often is rooted in childhood experiences. For example, Jeremy Byrd ’00 sang and toured with the Fort Bend Boys Choir as a child. “That’s where I found my love for the arts,” he said. “I knew that music was going to be an instrumental part of my life.” During his first semester at Texas A&M, Byrd planned to audition for the Singing Cadets, but his course load would not allow it. “I went to the MSC Open House, where I stumbled upon this opportunity to volunteer with OPAS,” he said. “It seemed exciting to see the business side of the performing arts world.”

Byrd eventually became operations director, a post that gave him responsibility for managing the front of the house (such as the ushers). He also served as chairman of the program committee for two years and as vice president of the board of directors. In these roles, he worked alongside OPAS full-time staff and attended a large booking conference in New York City for three years. “That four-year, in-depth internship put me many years ahead of students from other universities when I applied for jobs in the arts,” said Byrd, who now serves as director of production and scheduling at Fort Worth’s Bass Performance Hall.

As a youngster, Mary Katherine Stout ’00 was entranced by an OPAS performance of the Bolshoi Ballet at Texas A&M. She never forgot the experience and joined the OPAS student committee during her freshman year. While learning project management and operations, she experienced an unexpected benefit—meeting her future husband, Stephen ’97. Both

served in OPAS student leadership positions and made life-long friends through their involvement. Both work in Austin—Mary Katherine for the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Laffer Center for Supply Side Economics and Stephen with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP.

All three former students believe in supporting MSC OPAS financially because of what the organization gave them.

The Stouts chose to support the group’s campus home through a \$25,000 pledge to support the MSC renovation and expansion project. [A plaque on the OPAS executive director’s office will bear their names, forever preserving their A&M and OPAS legacies.](#) “We decided the best way we could show our support for OPAS is through a major gift to support the MSC project,” said Stephen Stout. “Students deserve a top-rate facility and offices in which to conduct OPAS business. It’s one way we can ensure that future students will have the same opportunities we did.”

Byrd encourages his classmates in the OPAS Class of 2000 to pledge \$10,000 to the OPAS Endowment, with each giving \$2,000 over a five-year period. Now firmly established professionally, Byrd plans to continue to support the arts organization. “By giving to OPAS, you’re providing critical support to an outstanding organization,” he said. “A gift to the endowment will make OPAS programs even better and will help Texas A&M students become well-rounded.”

—BY DORIAN MARTIN

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Learn more at opas.tamu.edu

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Classical pianist Emanuel Ax

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Learn more at opas.tamu.edu

Fellowships Reward Deserving Educators

Through reading, we learned that Sam-I-am likes green eggs and ham, that we board the Hogwarts Express from Platform 9¾ and that you should never, never shut yourself up in a wardrobe. But beyond entertainment, reading educates and enhances opportunities for a better life.

According to the 2003 [National Assessment of Adult Literacy](#), low literacy is strongly related to unemployment and crime. More than 85 percent of all youngsters involved in the juvenile court system, and more than 60 percent of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate.

So when students struggle with reading, their futures are literally at stake.

An avid reader, Lynda Brown understands the critical role that reading plays in lifelong learning, and she values the impact that teachers can make on their students' reading success. A member of the Dean's Advisory Council for A&M's [College of Education and Human Development](#), Brown previously endowed a scholarship for A&M students studying to become teachers. After establishing the Lynda Brown Faculty Fellowship in the college, she saw these priorities merge with the appointment of her first faculty fellow: [Dr. Erin McTigue](#), assistant professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture, and director of [A&M's Reading Clinic](#).

"We need to support our students as they become teachers, and once they're working in our schools, we need to help them improve their teach-

ing skills," Brown said. "We also need to reward educators like Dr. Erin McTigue who are making a difference."

McTigue uses funds from her Lynda Brown Faculty Fellowship to update and purchase reading assessment materials for graduate students who work with young readers enrolled in the clinic.

The fellowship also supports McTigue's research to help educators better identify and address reading deficiencies. Her interests include understanding the challenges of reading informational texts and in students' motivation for reading.

Many of McTigue's graduate students are teachers pursuing a reading specialty or certification as master reading teachers. They work with young readers enrolled in the clinic to assess reading deficiencies, develop an instructional plan based on a student's specific needs and provide individualized tutoring.

McTigue and the Reading Clinic deploy this academic triangle of teaching, research and service to assist struggling readers. "Graduate students have an opportunity to apply their course knowledge to real student challenges," she said. "Students who are enrolled in the clinic benefit from support that

Lynda Brown created her fellowship to help and encourage outstanding educators.





Dr. Erin McTigue helps sixth-grader G. J. Roberts at Texas A&M's Reading Clinic.

is focused on their individual needs and interests.”

For example, the Reading Clinic has worked with local sixth-grader G. J. Roberts for the past three years. “When we enrolled G. J. in the Reading Clinic, he was struggling in school because of his reading comprehension,” said his mother, Teresa Roberts. “Since G. J. has been coming to the clinic, his grades have improved, he passed the TAKS reading and math tests on his first try, and he is more self-confident.” Encouraged by his progress, G. J.’s parents plan to keep him enrolled through high school at the Reading Clinic, which facilitates coordination between his clinic tutor, teachers and parents.

“This team approach helps students, their families, and teachers set and achieve individual learning goals,” said Alicia Packer ’08, G. J.’s first clinic tutor.

“Working with G. J. in the Reading Clinic allowed me to put my newly acquired knowledge into action right away,” Packer said. “By working one-on-one with him, I saw all of the information in my education classes come together through testing, individualized tutoring and progress. Now, two years later, I’m applying the same skills to meet the needs of students in my own classroom.”

Broader Impact

“Fellowships support our faculty’s efforts to develop their research and teaching programs,” said [Doug Palmer](#), dean of the College of Education and Human Development. “Fellowships are crucial to high-quality teaching, research and service, and they provide a bridge between state funding and unexpected needs or opportunities.”

Whether used to support graduate students, purchase program supplies or fund a faculty member’s professional development, fellowships directly affect student learning, faculty achievement and program excellence. And faculty fellowships elevate the prestige of the fellow, his or her department, and the university.

Faculty Benefits

A rising star in reading education, McTigue is classified as an early to mid-career A&M faculty member—one of those who often are recruited by other universities. Brown and like-minded donors establish faculty fellowships to increase resources and recognition for faculty as they build their teaching, research and service programs.

“There are so many demands and challenges facing faculty, and I wanted to find a way to both help and encourage these outstanding educators,” Brown said. “It is wonderful to hear

that the fellowship funds are making a difference in Erin’s work in the Reading Clinic, and sometimes a little pat on the back goes a long way.”

Faculty fellowships have an even greater big-picture effect. “They are important tools in recruiting, retaining and developing outstanding faculty within the college,” Palmer said. “Fellowships also recognize the impact of faculty members’ work on students, families and communities.”

Commit to A&M Education Faculty

McTigue is just one of the many outstanding faculty members in the college who has been recognized and supported through a faculty fellowship.

To maintain our high faculty standards—and to multiply the impact of research and service by our college—we ask for your help in funding additional faculty fellowships.

“We would like to award three or more faculty fellowships annually in each of our four departments,” Palmer said. “Colleagues across campus and in peer institutions are noticing the commitment that our college has made to faculty. With additional support, we can transform more lives.”

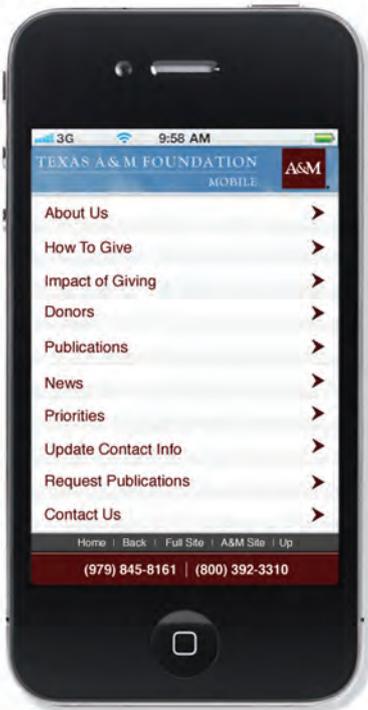
—BY DIANE OSWALD
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To support faculty in the College of Education and Human Development, visit give.am/SupportEducationFaculty.

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Giving.tamu.edu Gets Mobile-friendly

Size really does matter, and bigger isn't always better. That's certainly true when you visit websites on your smartphone.

You're in for a pleasant change if you access the Texas A&M Foundation website, giving.tamu.edu, from your phone these days. The site automatically presents smartphone users with the information—Foundation news, how private gifts help Texas A&M University, methods of giving and much more—in a format that offers easy reading and navigation on small screens.

We invite you to check it out and let us know what you think at amfoundation@tamu.edu.

A System To Serve You Better

The Texas A&M Foundation, in partnership with The Association of Former Students, has switched to a new system aimed at improving your email delivery, online giving and online event registration.

Among the enhancements are:

Email

◇ Email from the Foundation will include targeted content so that you only receive information that is most relevant to you.

◇ We've simplified the process for you to manage your email preferences.

Online Giving

◇ We've updated the layout to make it easier to find a specific giving account.

◇ For those who give online regularly, you'll now have the ability to create an account and login to save time filling out the form.

Events

◇ Future donor event invitations will include information on how to RSVP online.

◇ Afterward, you'll also be able to access event photos and videos.

We hope these changes will make your interaction with the Foundation both easier and more enjoyable. Please share any feedback you have with us on your experience using the new system at amfoundation@tamu.edu.

The Foundation has improved its email delivery, online giving and event registration system. Take a look at givenow.tamu.edu.

Savvy Estate Planning for Women

Women today are an active financial force—earning, managing and distributing more wealth than ever before. According to the National Center for Women and Retirement Research, as many as nine out of 10 women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives. Which is why it's important that every woman take control of her long-range financial and estate plans, to ensure long-term security for herself and her loved ones. Creating an estate and gift plan can achieve a lasting impact, and ultimately define your legacy. We want to help.

Make plans to attend our free workshop in College Station on May 18, 2012, to learn more about smart planning for the future. Information regarding the location, time and program will be coming soon. Please contact Angela Throne in the Office of Gift Planning at a:throne@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310 for more information.

Foundation Staff Changes

Mark Klemm '81, senior director of development for the College of Liberal Arts since 2010, moved into a new role Jan. 1 as director of the next capital campaign for Texas A&M. Larry Walker '97, director of development, assumed responsibility for the College of Liberal Arts development program.



Mark Klemm '81

Jennifer Hester '98, who joined the Foundation in 2006, became regional director of major gifts for North Texas. She previously was director of development for the Departments of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, and also for Mays Business School.



Jennifer Hester '98



Jody Ford '99, who began work at the Foundation in 2005, is now regional director of major gifts for the central United States. He directed the *Operation Spirit and Mind*SM scholarship initiative that ended Aug. 31. Before that he was a director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



Jody Ford '99

Erin Gage '02 joined the Foundation in January as assistant director of development for the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Computer Science and Engineering. Previously, she served as marketing director for C.C. Creations in College Station.



Erin Gage '02

Megan Kasperbauer joined the Foundation in January as marketing communications specialist and managing editor of *Spirit* magazine. Previously she worked in marketing for the Brazos County Expo and the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Megan Kasperbauer

Fifteen Foundation employees braved a cold November morning to volunteer for the annual Food For Families drive in Bryan. The group included (from top left, down) Marcy Ullmann '86, Heather Crawford '98, Jesse Natal, Victoria Janousek, Mary Beeson, Debora Voorhies, John Zollinger, Sharon Allen '04, Alice Bassett, Toni Waters '92, Kathy McCoy '80, Shannon Zuernemann '03, Matt Jennings '95, Toni Ryburn and Sondra White '87.

Employees Give Back

Each year, the Texas A&M Foundation participates in a United Way campaign to give back to the Brazos Valley community. For the second year in a row, 100 percent of Foundation employees donated, raising a record \$12,008.

Foundation President Ed Davis '67 recognized the achievement by allowing employees to wear blue jeans every Friday through the end of 2011.

Foundation teams also competed to raise food donations for the Brazos Valley Food Bank's Backpack program, bringing in more than 5,000 nonperishable food items for children. Other employees, including the Maroon Coats, sorted, packed and delivered food as part of the annual Food For Families drive.

Dennis Davenport, who managed Corps housing from 1988 until retiring in 2005, writes about his A&M experiences in “[me and fish JONES](#).” This essay is adapted from that book.

Postscript

An enjoyable event to witness on the Quad was the Battfish tradition. It was a fish privilege to deliver copies of A&M’s student newspaper, *The Battalion*, to outfit members.

The two cadets from each outfit who were entrusted with this daily mission were known as Battfish and Robin. Each morning the duos dashed to the front of the Quad to pick up a stack of newspapers and then ran back to the dorm to distribute.

On the run to and fro, the Battfish teams sang the Batman theme song and at the end of each verse, Robin chimed in with a hearty, “And Robin, too!”

During my career, I witnessed some cleverly attired Battfish and Robins. In addition to many authentic-looking Batman and Robin garb, the Batt-delivering duos also fulfilled their missions in Santa Claus outfits, sexy drag, bikinis, Halloween costumes, clown suits and more.

My favorite Battfish and Robin duo were authentically attired as the [Green Hornet and Kato](#); secret-identity crime-fighters dating back to a 1936-52 radio show, 1940s movie serials, comic books, a 1966-67 TV series and a 2011 movie.

Slightly before 8 a.m., these superheroes made their daily run in a grocery cart cleverly tricked out with green paper and an old commode as a seat.

The Last Ride of the Green Hornet

What a classic ride! The costumed cadets blasted out of the Dorm 6 and 8 areas. Kato propelled the vehicle at full speed, its streamers fluttering wildly. Stoic as a statue, the venerable Green Hornet sat on his throne, crouching with his cap pulled low.



Upon arrival to pick up *Battalions* at the Guard Room, the Green Hornet executed a beautiful dismount. The duo quickly placed the newspapers in the cart, and the Green Hornet performed a remount deserving a perfect 10. In a flash they returned to the dorm.

Then, true to character, they concealed their identities while donning fish cadet uniforms and integrating into the student body for classes.

One fateful day I witnessed the bitter end of this Green Hornet and Kato.

With great weather and minimal Quad traffic, the classy crime fighters were well into the mad dash when the front wheels hit uneven concrete, instantly stopping the Hornetmobile and catapulting the Green Hornet and the commode from the cart at mach speed.

Initially, the Green Hornet maintained his position on the commode, but human and porcelain separated in the middle of the unintended vault. The Green Hornet executed a parachute-landing roll and came to his feet. The commode broke into several pieces with a loud thud.

Immediately, Kato was at the Green Hornet’s side in deference and support. They tossed the commode pieces into the Hornetmobile. The Green Hornet reseated himself in the cart and the mission continued at a subdued speed.

I never saw the Green Hornet and Kato again. 🐟

—BY DENNIS DAVENPORT

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MSC Donors Get a Special Sneak Peek

During a “first reveal” celebration Feb. 10, the Texas A&M Foundation recognized those who have committed major gifts to Texas A&M University’s [Memorial Student Center \(MSC\) renovation and expansion project](#).

Former students, corporations, Aggie families, classes and friends can include their names or the names of their loved ones by funding entrances, rooms, pillars and other spaces throughout the facility.

More than 200 guests gathered in the Flag Room for a reception that featured a lottery emceed by A&M President Bowen Loftin ’71 and MSC President Elizabeth Andrasi ’11 to randomly match donors with pillars on the first floor of the MSC.

Students are funding \$82 million of the renovation through a fee increase adopted in 2007. The Foun-



The Garcia family “saws varsity’s horns off” near their named 12th Man Hall pillar in the renovated Memorial Student Center on Feb. 10. From left are Kathleen, John ’80, Samantha ’13, Kimberly ’10 and Cassandra ’08 Garcia.

ation has raised nearly \$16 million of a \$20 million private fundraising goal to supplement the students’ contributions.

The new MSC will promote the rich tradition and history of Texas A&M and create a more welcoming space for students, while paying tribute to Aggies who made the ultimate

sacrifice in service to our country.

To see event photos and a video, visit our blog at give.am/MSCReveal.

For details about naming opportunities, contact David Wilkinson or Cindy Munson at d-wilkinson@tamu.edu, c-munson@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310. Give online at giving.tamu.edu/SupportMSC.



Aggie Centenarian

100-year-old Mike Dillingham ’35 and his wife Georgia celebrated his birthday with family and friends at Texas A&M’s Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center on Feb. 17. Corps of Cadets Commandant Joe Ramirez Jr. ’79 presented the former A&M baseball player with a commemorative saber as the couple sat aboard the “Dilly Whack,” a golf cart that they donated to the Corps. The Dillinghams fund numerous Corps scholarships and also support A&M through several gift annuities. Take a look at Mike’s 100th birthday party photos at give.am/Mike100!

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Take a look at Mike’s 100th birthday party photos at give.am/Mike100!

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