In this issue of Spirit, Jon Hagler '58 says, "Texas high school graduates should be able to find as much excellence in Austin as in Boston, in San Antonio as in San Francisco, and at a school where the initials are A&M as surely as MIT."
Creating a Culture of Excellence

In October 1997, Texas A&M University President Ray M. Bowen placed a stake in the ground. He proposed that Texas A&M strive to be recognized as one of the 10 best public universities in the nation by the year 2020, while at the same time maintaining and enhancing its distinctiveness. After almost two years of work by more than 250 people, Texas A&M had a plan. Titled Vision 2020: Creating a Culture of Excellence, the report details 12 ambitious imperatives the university must achieve if it is to reach its goal of top 10 by 2020.

This issue of Spirit looks at donors who already are doing their part to foster excellence at Texas A&M. Jon L. Hagler '58 has taken on a key role as co-chair of the Vision 2020 project and lead donor for the Texas A&M Foundation's new headquarters (p. 2). Former A&M professor Walter E. Koss is supporting the work of faculty and students in his favorite field—math (p. 6).

For Aggie widow Renee Zelman, quality is a way of life that she plans to pass on through architecture scholarships (p. 8). And Reliant Energy is funding a hands-on trading center that will give Texas A&M business students a unique opportunity to sharpen their investment management skills (p. 12).

A PURPOSEFUL LIFE: JON L. HAGLER ’58

PROFESSOR WALTER KOSS: HE PUT IN HIS 2 CENTS WORTH

A LOVE STORY: RENEE & NORMAN ZELMAN ’39

TRADING UP: RELIANT ENERGY FUNDS CENTER

INVESTING IN THE SPIRIT #2: REAL ESTATE

FOUNDATION NEWS

SEPTEMBER

8 College of Education Development Council Awards Breakfast & Meeting
8 Texas A&M "First Yell"
9 Dedication, Richardson Zone at Kyle Field
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OCTOBER

5-7 Agriculture Development Council Meeting
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5 Texas A&M Academic Convocation
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12 Ribbon Cutting, Evans Library Renovation
13 Science External Advisory & Development Council Meeting
27-28 Liberal Arts Development Council Meeting
28 Corps Hall of Honor Induction

NOVEMBER

3 Engineering Endowed Fellowship and Scholarship Banquet
In the center’s spacious Legacy Hall, Hagler addressed his wife, two daughters and several hundred friends and former students with characteristic humor, modesty and eloquence. His script ensured that neither he nor the newest campus landmark got top billing.

Instead, Hagler devoted his time to grander ends. After expressing gratitude to family and briefly celebrating Texas A&M history, he drew attention to the crucial mission of public education in the United States and to the 12 bold imperatives in Texas A&M’s ambitious Vision 2020 endeavor. For Hagler, the recently published Vision 2020 report represents a “rendezvous with destiny” for his generation of former students.

A multifaceted initiative co-chaired by Bowen and Hagler, Vision 2020 is the sine qua non of more than 250 men and women from all corners of the Texas A&M community. Forthright and forward-looking, its 84 pages chart a course that could over the next 20 years elevate Texas A&M to a place among the United States’ top 10 public universities.

Hagler was drawn to Vision 2020—as to the foundation headquarters project—because it provides uncommon leverage in shaping the future of Texas A&M. Beyond its function as an office complex, the Hagler Center is in Jon Hagler’s mind a symbol of the role philanthropy must play if the lofty aspirations of Vision 2020 are to be realized.

“The great public universities of the next century will be dynamically led and very well financed,” he says. “If we’re to have a shot at being in the top five or ten, then we must have incremental increases in financing.”

Hagler discovered his own talent for managing money while advising fellow students at Harvard. Four years after earning his MBA, he was professionally managing an investment portfolio of $1.2 billion. By age 40, he had become chief investment officer at the Ford Foundation, the nation’s largest private philanthropy. Hagler is now a director of the Boston-based investment firm of Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC. His firm manages more than $24 billion for clients in the public, corporate, endowment and foundation marketplaces.

For years, Hagler has knitted together his professional talents with an abiding appreciation for public education, his heritage as the child of two public school teachers. This has led Hagler to fill leadership roles in the Africa-America Institute, a non-profit organization fostering educational opportunities for Africans in the United States, and at WGBH Boston, the esteemed pioneer in public radio and educational television.

And, of course, his affection for excellence in education brought him back to College Station, first as a member of the Texas A&M Foundation Investment Advisory Committee and later as a foundation trustee and co-chair of Vision 2020.

According to Hagler, education may not be a cure-all for the ills that pervade our state, nation and world, but it’s close enough. “You can look in any direction in our society and see the need,” he says. “It’s no overstatement to say that Texas’ destiny is inextricably tied to the excel-
lence of its higher education system.”

What troubles Hagler is the state’s failure to support Texas A&M and other major universities at a level commensurate with their importance. “In Texas, our spending per student is about half that of the best nationally,” he says. “It stretches credibility to think we can attain national prominence with that kind of investment deficiency.”

The answer, he contends, is a new strategy that begins with stronger public funding. “A new paradigm of higher education is called for,” he explains. “State leaders must understand that our best and brightest high school graduates should be able to find as much excellence in Austin as in Boston, in San Antonio as in San Francisco, and at a school where the initials are A&M as surely as MIT.”

“The university has a fundamental mission as a participant in the life of a civil society. It has a responsibility to build minds, to build a responsible citizenry and to build community.”

But legislative commitment alone won’t be sufficient, according to Hagler. Aggies themselves must step forward and undergird the university’s future with unprecedented generosity. “I don’t have to tell you of the high correlation between the size of endowment and academic reputation and the ability to attract the best students. It’s a reality,” he says. “Large endowments mean larger reputations and better students.”

Hagler views the Texas A&M Foundation as a catalyst essential for an explosion of generosity and endowment growth. “This new building is a symbol of that generosity,” he explains. “I want the Hagler Center to enable and advance the very powerful idea of investment in the future of Texas A&M University.”

THE MESSAGE HAGLER CONVEYS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY: LIVE A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

When asked the reasons for his personal involvement at Texas A&M and elsewhere, Hagler returns to a simple motto: “Live a purposeful life.” It’s also a standard he hopes universities will teach students.

Hagler views the purpose of modern universities as classically broad, encompassing more than research and the dissemination of knowledge or skills.

“The university has a fundamental mission as a participant in the life of a civil society. It has a responsibility to build minds, to build a responsible citizenry and to build community,” he says.

Hagler’s support of Texas A&M underscores his endorsement of its historic success at fulfilling this responsibility, and of the “special character of our place and our community”—which he describes as its spirituality.

“Texas A&M is a place that believes that democracy is a great good but that an enlightened citizenry is essential,” he says. “It is a place that has understood the importance of education, but has also believed that working for justice and performing our civic duty is a fundamental obligation. It is a place that has believed academic excellence must be sought but that success in life encompasses more than IQ or SAT scores. It is a place that embraces kids from all backgrounds in a friendly and open environment filled with good will, and gives them a tool kit for life.

“This is the ‘Aggie Spirit’ I know and respect. It is not a parochial concept. It represents the best instincts of the people of this state and this nation. I believe it is our very special destiny to nourish and empower it in the years ahead.”

—Story by Steve Barnhill •
PROFESSOR WALTER KOSS:

AS A TEXAS A&M MATH PROFESSOR FROM 1937 TO 1957, WALTER E. KOSS SHARED AN OFTEN IRREVERENT CAMARADERIE WITH TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES. TODAY HE’S HONORING THEM BY CREATING ENDOWMENTS IN TEXAS A&M’S MATH DEPARTMENT.

“I called them the Three Amigos,” says Ed Koss, referring to his father and former Texas A&M math professors John Hillman and Roger McGee. “They were just the finest, most congenial gentlemen you’d ever meet, honorable gentlemen from the old school. Today, you can just hardly find guys like that.”

Walter remembers, “We’d walk together, the three of us, to the student center for coffee every morning between our 8 and 10 a.m. classes. Then we’d flip a coin for who had to buy the coffee, the person with the odd toss. They were selling coffee then for four cents, but if you wanted cream, you’d have to pay two extra cents. Being economy-minded, I’d skip the cream and save my pennies.”

And save it he did: two cents here—from skipping the cream in his coffee—and two cents there, from working hard and living a modest lifestyle on his assistant professor’s annual salary, which grew from just $1,500 in 1937 to $5,400 twenty years later.

The daily coffee ritual gave the three junior professors ample opportunity for friendly ribbing. “Once, Hillman and I got into a match over who was the poorest,” Koss says. “I told him that day for my lunch I had brought a bread sandwich, one piece of bread between two other pieces, an exaggeration, of course. So he asked me what I had eaten for breakfast that morning, and I told him a little fried egg. His reply was, ‘Aha, and just where’d you get the money to buy the grease?’”

The “three amigos” had a friendship that would span the 20 years they taught math together at A&M. Koss, who taught abstract numbers courses from algebra through calculus, became interested in math many years earlier. Math came easily for him because he found it to be so logical. “In language, N-O is one thing, but O-N is another,” Koss explains. “But math made so much more sense to me: 2x3 always comes out the same as 3x2.”

“I had a math teacher in high school who inspired me,” Koss says. “One great thing she did was hand out our entire lesson plan at the beginning of the year, so you could read ahead and work the problems if you wanted to. That technique prepared me for every course I ever took—learning to read ahead in the textbook to prepare for class—and to make better grades. It was a technique I later used with my own students.”
HE PUT IN HIS 2 CENTS WORTH.

After graduating from high school in Connecticut, Koss hoped to use the $856 he had saved up to enroll at Notre Dame. But economic factors led him to the University of Alabama, where out-of-state tuition was only $45 for two full semesters. "If you kept an A average, they’d let you take up to 20 hours a semester," says Koss, "so that’s what I did."

Koss remembers the moment he first saw his future wife, Edna. "Another fellow and I were sitting on the steps of the house we lived in when Edna and her cousin, who were both nurses, walked by. My buddy called out to them, ‘What did you say your telephone number was?’ Edna looked right at him and said, ‘We didn't say.’ I thought, ‘Now there’s a girl I could go for.’ A few days later I stopped by to visit my landlady, who was ill, and to and behold, there were the two nurses. My landlady introduced me to them, and Edna and I were together from then on."

Koss completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in math at the University of Alabama. Then, he and Edna moved to Texas, where Walter had a teaching job at Allen Academy in Bryan. Eight months later, in 1937, he was hired at Texas A&M. Little did he know that he was beginning not only his career and family in Aggieland but also some deep friendships.

Koss eventually took a leave of absence to earn a doctorate from the University of Illinois. This did not escape the attention of his buddies Hillman and McGee. "Hillman began calling me Mister-Doctor-Professor Koss," he laughs.

Offered a salary increase he couldn’t refuse, Koss accepted a professorship at Louisiana Tech in 1957. He taught there for 20 years and retired as a professor emeritus. "I had a great bunch of buddies in Louisiana too," he says, "but they were never the same as the bunch at A&M."

Beginning with Walter Koss's teaching career at Texas A&M, the Koss family's involvement with the university spans three generations and some 54 years. His daughter married an Aggie. Three of his four granddaughters graduated from Texas A&M. Koss's son, Ed, began his education at Texas A&M and finished his degree at Louisiana Tech.

Two years ago, the elder Koss established a nursing scholarship and funded a clinical lab at the University of Alabama in memory of Edna, who was a registered nurse for 51 years. Koss then established math scholarships and a professorship at Louisiana Tech.

"Once we established endowments at Tech, we just had to do it at A&M," said Ed. "We have such special memories of the place."

Koss's recent gift of more than $270,000 in appreciated stocks will fund the math department's first endowed professorship. It also will endow a graduate student fellowship in math and two Koss/Hillman/McGee Endowed Scholarships in Mathematics. It's a fitting legacy from a man who remembers with such fondness the fun, work and friendships of his days at Texas A&M.

—Story by Tina L. Evans +
Renee Zelman has run Norman Furniture for decades—three of them without Norman.

Quality is the trademark of Norman Furniture in Pasadena, Texas. That’s no surprise, given the high standards of its owner, Renee Zelman. The widow of Norman Zelman ’39, Renee Zelman has created scholarships in architecture, a fitting tribute to her husband of 22 years and the business they built together. The following story of their life appeared in the Houston Chronicle in September 1999.

The store’s quiet, mighty chimes. A customer. “When that bell rings, I’m like Pavlov’s dog,” says Renee Zelman. Will you excuse me?” Popping up from the solid oak chair, part of a dining room set on display, Zelman speeds toward the front of her store. “Hello!”

The bell might chime less often these days, but after 54 years in business, Zelman says Norman Furniture is still alive and kicking—and so is she, at age 78 a testimonial to the benefits of hard work and good genes.

All these years, Zelman has bought, arranged and sold furniture for the Pasadena store she opened with her husband just after World War II. She did it with him for the first 19 years and without him after his death in 1965, a hard death from cancer of the liver. He was her best friend, she says, and in some ways, still is. Norman Zelman’s name remains on the store and on its business cards; it comes up in conversation. He is gone but not forgotten.

Which is not to say this is Norman’s furniture store. It may bear his name, but this is Renee’s place. She knows every corner, has touched every display, moved every piece. As a war bride, she scrimped and saved to pay for the store she envisioned would sell furniture to soldiers returning from World War II and their young families.

“I taught school during the day, coached English and math in the afternoon and worked for the telephone company at night to save money,” she says. “I saved $3,174.11, and that was what put us in the furniture business.”

Back then, Zelman says, Pasadena had 10,000 people and two paved streets but a lot of potential.
“Houston at that time was a fairly closed town as far as furniture was concerned. Pasadena was booming. Chemicals, chemicals. “You could sell anything you could get your hands on in 1946,” she says. “Some of those customers are still my customers, and their children and their grandchildren.”

Norman Furniture debuted in what is now called old Pasadena, but was then a vibrant downtown for a budding city. The first store was one block over from the present site—and too small from the beginning.

“We were out of space the day we moved in,” Zelman says, explaining the move, four years later, to the present location at the corner of Shaver and Shaw, just south of the Washburn Tunnel and north of Texas 225. Norman Furniture’s new home was once the Pasadena Theater, built in 1926, and the first in the area. The Zelmans revamped the building to suit their business. When Palais Royal closed next door, the Zelmans took over that space, too, incorporating it into one big showroom.

Like many others in the aging district, the Norman Furniture building is showing its years. Tunnel traffic, a few healthy businesses, and proximity to the Harris County Courthouse Annex No. 4 and post office draw what visitors still come to the area, but thriving it isn’t.

“After Norman died, I didn’t even think about closing the store. People ask me why I stay in this location when everything has moved out,” Zelman says.

“But I’ve shipped furniture all over the world, to Argentina and to Newcastle, England, and my customers are very loyal, and they bring in their friends and families, and you can’t ask for better than that.”

Barbara Forbus, who has known Renee Zelman since the ’60s, says she started out as a customer and became a friend.

“I went in to look for furniture. Some friends had recommended her store. I have a lot of antiques and needed furniture that would match. Of course, back then they called it Early American,” she laughs. “Now it’s called traditional.”

She’s still buying furniture
from Zelman; two curio cabinets were delivered in August. And occasionally, she watches the store.

"I think she is a wonderful person. She is a very giving, generous person in many, many ways and a good businesswoman. And funny. Just really funny."

Not much over 5 feet tall, Renee Zelman has a firm handshake and a steady gaze. Today she is wearing a cream blouse, black skirt, gold earrings and a No. 2 pencil stuck behind her ear.

She works the store alone, with only her 5-year-old cocker spaniel, Beau, to keep her company.

"I used to have high school boys help me in here, moving the furniture around," she says, "but now nobody wants the job."

"I used to have a delivery truck with two men who slept in the back until they needed to make a delivery.

"Then somebody stole my truck. I don't know who to send the thank-you note to. I don't have to pay for the truck, don't have to pay the insurance, don't have to pay the two men. I just call a delivery service."

She closes the store between Christmas and New Year's. If she has an appointment or other business to attend to, friends like Forbus fill in for her.

At Norman Furniture, Zelman does it all. She's the buyer, the mover, the sales manager. When the store's quiet, she does bookkeeping, rearranges, cleans.

"I work," she says. "I was out there pulling weeds and sweating this morning, and this turkey comes out of the Pasadena Citizen (across the street) and says, 'You need some help?' I ask him how much he'd charge and he says $45. I said, 'More like $5.' He said, 'You need to come up some,' and I said, 'Do you hear me groaning?' He went on then."

She laughs. She says she stays strong and fit because she does her own housework, her own yardwork, and moves furniture. She says she believes men and women have the same muscles if they use them.

"I never thought I could do something because I was a woman, or that I couldn't do it because I was a woman. You know what I mean?"

Longevity runs in her family—her mother retired at age 85 after 55 years as a sales clerk at the Smart Shop. She died at 95. Zelman says she intends to keep busy.

Research on Mondays (when the furniture store is closed). She's learning Spanish. When her customers have their first baby, she knits them a little sweater. The second baby gets a tam. The third, matching shoes. ("After that," she says, "they're on their own.")

Sometimes, customers ask her when she is going to retire.

"I tell them, when my customers make me... I don't want to be idle. I don't have time to be idle. When they plant me, I am going to have plenty of time to be idle."

She loves furniture, and she loves selling.

Cruising the showroom floor, she shows off dovetailed construction, fabric stripes that line up on cushions and sofas that don't sag when you sit on them.

She points to chairs and tables as

"I like to bake; I have a reputation for my Italian cream cake. I garden. I make my own clothes for the most part. I socialize some."

She volunteers at the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and she walks, labeling them solid oak, solid pine, solid cherry. That recliner? "The mechanism is guaranteed for the life of the furniture."

She points to empty spots in the showroom and says, "Prosperity."
She says customers come back because she sells quality.

"You don't see any junk. My furniture never shows up in garage sales. It's passed down from one generation to another."

She buys to please women shoppers, she says, looking for things like seat pads that reverse, dressers with pullout jewelry drawers, coffee tables with ingenious lift-up tops that become serving tables for eating in the living room ("sold!").

"See this?" she asks, standing by a smallish table. Turns out, it features a top that lifts to reveal game boards and pieces; the top itself flips over for "an instant craps or card table. And then when the preacher comes to see you (she flips the gaming top out of sight), you serve him a cup of tea."

Bill McCoy, president of in his office from when the local chamber became a member of the U.S. Chamber in 1946, the same year the Zelmans opened Norman Furniture. He reckons the couple had something to do with that.

Though he never got to meet Norman, he values Renee Zelman and her opinion, he says.

"She's ready to tell you what she has on her mind, and that is why I like her so much. She may disagree with you, but she will still be there when you need her."

"She's just a Pasadena treasure. She sits among fine furniture."

Renee and Norman met as students. He was studying architecture at Texas A&M; she was a University of Texas pre-med student with a triple major of English, math and history.

"But then," she says, "Norman ($25 at Sakowitz") dominates a small office at Norman Furniture. There are also photos of Norman, in his uniform, later in a suit—a nice-looking gentleman with intelligent eyes and a man's shoulders.

"He was a big man," she says.

"He was 6 feet 3 inches, 225 pounds. I bet he didn't weigh as much as I did when he died."

Zelman says she nursed Norman the whole time he was in the hospital, moving a bed into his room. Customers ran the store.

"And when Norman died eight months later, I came back to work."

Climbing the stairs to show off the furniture in the store's balcony area, Zelman pauses on the landing halfway up. She remembers it all as if it were yesterday, and her husband is never far from her thoughts.

She and Norman were best friends, she says, and she misses him and his sense of humor. They had no children. They were married 22-1/2 years. "Not long enough."

From there on the landing, she can see most of the showroom, the furnishings, the displays, the business. She looks it over before continuing up the stairs. On the wall behind her is a pie-sized electric clock with the words "Buy It Now/Norman Furniture" circling its face. She says the clock dates to the beginning—1946. She says it just keeps on going.

Like her.

—Story by Renee Kieitz

Pasadena's Chamber of Commerce, calls Zelman "a lady of character."

"I've known her for about 10 years and go down every now and then, and she tells me all about Pasadena." He says there's a plaque came along my sophomore year in his Aggie boots and talked me out of medical school. I married him when I graduated from college."

A large portrait of a young and lovely Zelman in her wedding dress

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Trading Up: New Center Gives Students Hands-On Investment Experience

Houston-based Reliant Energy recently made an important business connection with Texas A&M University’s Mays College & Graduate School of Business. It came in the form of a $3 million commitment to establish a hands-on "trading center" that will replicate the environment of investment firms and other trading entities.

The Reliant Energy Securities & Commodities Trading Center will accommodate up to 50 students. Providing access to real-time financial information, it will enable students to manage real and simulated investment portfolios.

"This center represents the best kind of connection, one in which everyone wins," says Dr. Tim Dye ’85, who will direct the project. "Texas A&M has connected with a company that can provide much-needed financial support to advance our programs. The Mays College benefits because it will gain exciting new research tools for faculty, and students will acquire valuable skills and experience as they use the center. Reliant Energy—and other sponsors—win because the center will cultivate student interest in securities and commodities trading."

Even more importantly, according to Reliant Energy President R. Steve Letbetter ’70, Houston also may win because having the center at Texas A&M can advance that city's reputation as the leading energy commodities trading center in the world.

The connection between Texas A&M and Reliant started with Letbetter, a 1970 accounting graduate who was recently named a Mays College outstanding alumnus. After getting reacquainted with the business school, its faculty and programs in connection with that honor, Letbetter realized that the university’s Mays College and his company shared common interests.

"With Reliant’s rapid growth as the energy industry transitions, we were looking for a new way to establish a visible presence on the Texas A&M campus,” he says. “The creation of the trading center not only establishes that presence, it gives us an opportunity to get more students at all levels interested in trading—especially energy commodities trading.”

Reliant is one of the largest combination electric and gas companies in the nation, a major provider of electricity, natural gas and related energy services to residential and business customers across the United States, Latin America and Western Europe. With nearly $14 billion in annual revenue and assets of $22 billion, the company is vitally concerned with both energy commodities trading and the associated issues of risk management.
Reliant’s commitment, Letbetter said, will not only help Texas A&M move to the next level in providing an exceptional business education, it also will make students aware of the excitement and challenges inherent in trading.

Dye says that aspect of the program is one of the things that will make the new center so special. “Students also will be able to participate in real-time trading simulations, gaining a real sense of how the market actually works.”

While the center will not be the first of its kind, it will be the first to incorporate energy commodities training. Dye says that means it was a perfect fit for Reliant and for Texas.

The planned 3,500-square-foot center will be set up to resemble an actual trading room. It will feature access to financial information services including Bloomberg Financial Services, Bridge Information Systems, Datastream International and others. Plans call for students to either directly manage their own portfolios or closely observe such management by others.

While the exact makeup of the students who will use the center has not yet been finalized, Dye anticipates that undergraduates in various programs, MBA students and participants in the Executive Development Program will eventually utilize its resources.

David Hicks ’75, development director for the Mays College, says Reliant’s lead gift has sparked interest from other major corporations. The trading center will open in January 2001, pending Board of Regents approval and the completion of funding. —Story by Mary Jo Powell
Investing in the Spirit #2: Real Estate Makes An Excellent Choice For Funding A Charitable Gift

The Texas A&M Foundation offers you many options for supporting the university. Every Aggie can find one well suited to his or her financial and charitable goals. This article examines one popular way for making a major gift to support education, research or service programs at Texas A&M.

In Texas, we have a special feeling for our land and the homes we build there. This fact goes far toward explaining why real estate is a popular method of giving to Texas A&M. Of course, reasons for giving real estate to the Texas A&M Foundation can also be more practical, like reducing our taxes and providing income for our families.

Gifts of property—forest land, farms, ranches, undeveloped real estate, homes, and even commercial or industrial real estate—take many forms, reflecting our donors' varying goals.

Reduce Your Taxes, Increase Income and Help A&M

If you no longer wish to use or manage your real estate, the foundation will welcome your outright gift. If the property has appreciated in value since your purchase, an outright gift can qualify you for a two-fold tax savings.

Perhaps you would like to make an outright gift of your home and receive a tax deduction but also retain possession and live in it for the rest of your life. You can accomplish this by your transferring your property’s title to Texas A&M, subject to your right to continue living there. Or you may leave your home to the foundation in your will as another way of carrying out your plan.

If your property is generating important income for you or your family, you can sustain this cash flow by using the property to fund a charitable trust. This type of gift may qualify you for charitable income tax deductions. Funding a trust with real estate also can transform property that produces no income into a source of annual payments, without your selling the investment and triggering taxable capital gains.

Donating real estate assets makes you a powerful force in the future of Texas A&M. And, just as importantly, it enables you to create a unique legacy for your family. For details on the benefits of real estate gifts, contact Foundation Real Estate Director Ken Urbanovsky, phone 800-392-3310, e-mail k-urbanovsky@tamu.edu.
Bonfire Memorial Plans Progress

Gifts to the Bonfire Memorial Fund totaled more than $865,000 as of May 10, 2000. The Texas A&M Foundation created the fund as a service to donors wishing to honor victims of the November 1999 Bonfire collapse. Texas A&M University has designated part of the fund to endow 12 scholarships in memory of those who died and one scholarship in honor of those who were injured. The university will award the scholarships in fall 2000. Gifts that were not designated in memory of specific individuals will help fund scholarships and an on-campus memorial. A university committee is currently determining what form the memorial will take.

Lindsey Receives Evans Medal

In April, John H. Lindsey ’44 of Houston became the third recipient of the Sterling C. Evans Medal. The Texas A&M Foundation board of trustees established the Evans Medal to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Texas A&M philanthropic efforts.

Lindsey’s leadership at Texas A&M includes serving as national chairman for the “Capturing the Spirit” Campaign, which raised $637 million in gifts and pledges during the 1990s. Lindsey and his wife, Sara, were founding members of the President’s Endowed Scholarship program, which they have supported with three scholarships. They also have established six other scholarships, as well as three faculty chair endowments. In 1992, the Lindseys committed $3 million to Texas A&M.

Foundation Assets Top $500 Million

Texas A&M Foundation assets passed the half-billion mark at the end of 1999. As of Dec. 31, 1999, assets totaled $537.9 million, increasing from $463.7 million a year before.

John ’44 and Sara Lindsey
Foundation officials credit the increase to a strong fund-raising year and good investment returns. Gifts to the foundation and university totaled $77.3 million in 1999, and the foundation's long-term investment fund achieved a total rate of return of 19.8 percent for the same year.

Foundation disbursements also recently reached a watershed, passing the quarter-billion mark in February. From its founding in September 1953 through February 2000, the foundation disbursed $255.3 million in support of educational excellence at Texas A&M.

L–R: Ed Davis ’67, Carlos Cantu ’55, Ray Bowen ’58

Cantu Addresses
Inaugural FEA Class

Fortune 500 business leader Carlos H. Cantu ’55 told a group of Texas A&M students in November that their "future role in society carries with it awesome responsibilities."

"The degree of your success will determine our ability to meet the demands of an evolving and competitive world," said Cantu, a 1997 Horatio Alger Award winner and director of Service Master Company. Cantu spoke to the inaugural class of Foundation Excellence Award (FEA) scholars and donors at a campus luncheon. The FEA is a Texas A&M Foundation scholarship aimed at increasing student diversity at the university. The inaugural FEA class contains 145 students, and the foundation currently is raising funds for more awards in fall 2000.

Nemick Named Campaign Director

The Texas A&M Foundation board of trustees in December appointed Henry F. Nemick to assistant vice president for development/campaign director. For the previous 10 years, Nemick headed major gift fund raising for Texas A&M's Agriculture Program as a foundation senior director of development and then as assistant vice president for development. In his new position, Nemick is directing foundation activities related to fund-raising campaigns.
**Frequently Asked Question**

Can I make a gift to benefit a specific college or program?

Giving through the Texas A&M Foundation allows you to designate your gift for a specific purpose. Indeed, the majority of our donors choose to do just that. You can document the purpose of your gift in one of two ways. For a gift of $25,000 or more, the foundation drafts a gift agreement outlining the purpose, form, schedule and administration of your gift. For gifts under $25,000, you may document your preference with a letter, pledge card or note on your check.

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Learn more about stories in this issue of *Spirit* by visiting these web sites.

*Vision 2020 Final Report*
www.tamu.edu/new/vision

*Jon L. Hagler Center*
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*Reliant Energy*
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*A&M Math Department*
www.math.tamu.edu

*Aggie Hotline*
You can receive a free, daily e-mail with the latest news from Texas A&M. To subscribe to *Aggie Hotline*, send an e-mail message to LISTSERV@tamu.edu. Leave the subject line blank and type this command in the first line of your message: SUB Aggie-Hotline yourfirstname yourlastname (example: SUB Aggie-Hotline John Doe). Do not include a signature in your message. That's it. As an alternative, you can e-mail a subscription request to hotline@univrel.tamu.edu.
Requests & Comments

_Spirit_ is published to keep you informed about Texas A&M fund-raising efforts. If you have a comment or question, take a moment to fill out this form and mail it postage-free. Thank you.

FIRST NAME                               LAST NAME

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CITY          STATE          ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE NUMBER     DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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- □ Architecture
- □ Business Administration
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- □ Engineering
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- □ Medicine
- □ Science
- □ Veterinary Medicine

**PROGRAMS**
- □ Association of Former Students
- □ Athletics
- □ Bush School of Gov’t.
- □ Corps of Cadets
- □ Faculty Support
- □ International Programs
- □ Libraries
- □ Scholarships
- □ Student Life

**OTHER:**

________________________________________________________________________

You can contact the Texas A&M Foundation at the following:

postal:  401 George Bush Drive  
College Station, Texas 77840-2811

voice:  979-845-8161 or 1-800-392-3310

e-mail:  r-mcfadden@tamu.edu

Internet:  www.tamu.edu/foundation