In this issue of Spirit, Rebecca Rodriguez '03 says, "It's just the beginning of higher education for my family." Ray Nesbitt '55 says, "Dad was willing to sell all the farmland he had to put us kids through school." And Harris Pappas '66 says, "It's amazing how, at moments in time, people can walk through our lives and have a huge impact."
Generation to Generation

The desire for significance is common to each of us. Our drive to have an impact is evident in all aspects of life, from building a career and starting a family to serving our community and teaching others. However we leave our mark, we want it to exist not just in this life but also for generations to come. Giving to Texas A&M offers that opportunity. The university’s life spans the centuries, allowing those who support it to share in its long-term impact.

In this issue of Spirit, we profile donors, faculty and students who have influenced and been influenced by Texas A&M across many generations:

- Scholarship recipient Rebecca Rodriguez ’03 sets an educational trend for her family. – page 2
- Harris Pappas ’66 passes on what he learned from his A&M English professor. – page 4
- Donors fund endowments that will carry their fathers’ names far into the future. – page 8
- Chair holder H. W. Brands searches our nation’s history and finds valuable lessons for today’s Americans. – page 12
- An endowed fellowship supports 30 years of research by bright Agriculture students. – page 16

Also in this issue of Spirit, we introduce an increased publication size and larger type size. We hope it makes reading more enjoyable for all generations.

On the cover: Rebecca Rodriguez ’03 with parents Maria C. and Ricardo Rodriguez. Photo by Brian Kanof.
2 INTRODUCING A FAMILY TO HIGHER EDUCATION:
The Domino Effect

4 A SECOND HELPING: Harris Pappas '66 of Pappas Restaurants

8 THANKS, DAD! A&M DONORS HONOR THEIR FATHERS

12 THE EXPANDING CLASSROOM OF PROFESSOR BRANDS

16 EXTENDED SHELF LIFE:
Endowment Supports Research Over 30 Years

18 INVESTING IN THE SPIRIT: A Gift in Your Will

20 BIG BANG BENEFITS:
Mitchell Institute To Feature Physicist
Stephen Hawking

22 FOUNDATION NEWS
One Spirit One Vision Campaign Tops $400 Million
Campaign Leaders Assemble
James A. Mayo '70 Joins Foundation Board
A&M Professor Receives Medal of Science
Famous Computer Scientist Accepts Endowed Chair
University Associates Giving Tops $1 Billion
Leading Aggie Funds Major Humanities Initiative
"Once my brother and sister and my younger cousins see that somebody can do it, they feel like they can do it, too."

—REBECCA RODRIGUEZ '03
Introducing a Family to Higher Education

Rebecca Rodriguez '03 is decades removed from the era when the vast majority of Aggies were first-generation college students, but she knows the challenges firsthand.

A senior honors student majoring in industrial engineering, Rodriguez was born and raised in El Paso. Her father drives a school bus, and her mother is a high school secretary. Rebecca is the eldest of three children, and the first person in her family—cousins included—to attend college away from home.

The Domino Effect

"It's just the beginning of higher education for my family," she says.

Her biggest hurdle, early on, was simply leaving home.

"My parents have always been there for me, but it was really hard for them to let me go to college away from El Paso," she says.

Rodriguez' trips to Texas A&M began when she was 16 years old. After her sophomore year of high school, she did research in College Station for eight weeks through NASA's Sharp Plus Program.

Today, as she explores whether to direct her career toward government work, private industry or research, she's traveling more than ever. Last summer, she conducted simulation research at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. This summer, she studied abroad in Italy and France. This fall, she is experiencing the corporate world through a cooperative program at Pratt & Whitney, a Connecticut-based maker of jet engines. (Cooperative education gives a student an extended internship that combines classroom study with practical work experience.)

Clearly an achiever, Rodriguez has been supported by nine different scholarships. Her privately-funded scholarships include a NASA Minority Engineering Scholarship, a National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering Scholarship, a McCarty Endowed Scholarship, a Foundation Excellence Award, a Coca Cola Scholarship and a United Parcel Service Minority Scholarship. She also receives a University Scholars Honors Award, a University Academic Achievement Award and a Pell Grant.

"I'm really thankful to all of the donors who have supported me from high school into college," she says. "Without their help, I'd probably have to work part-time jobs. Having scholarships, I can concentrate on my studies, join extracurricular activities and get the whole college experience."

In true Aggie spirit, Rodriguez has contributed much to campus life. Since her freshman year, she has been an officer in the Society for Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES). "I really enjoy it because we get all aspects. We go to conferences for professional development. We also get to know our college peers, who are like a family away from home. And we have outreach programs that help upcoming high school and middle school students get involved," she explains. She's also a member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers. Through a program called ASPIRE, Rodriguez mentors Texas A&M freshman scholarship recipients.

Her siblings, too, now aspire to a college education. Her brother, Ricardo Rodriguez II '06, entered Texas A&M this summer as a freshman, and her 10-year-old sister, Kathleen, is already talking about becoming an Aggie.

"It's really a domino effect," Rodriguez says. "Once my brother and sister and my younger cousins see that somebody can do it, they feel like they can do it, too. It was a hurdle, but I'm really glad I was able to start the trend in my family."—by Molly Glenzter
A Leading Entrepreneur Passes On Life Lessons

by Molly Glentzer

"It's amazing how, at moments in time, people can walk through our lives and have a huge impact," says Harris J. Pappas '66.

Pappas has lost count of the times he took Professor Sidney S. Cox's freshman English course at Texas A&M before he finally passed, but it only took one exchange of words for the professor to change his life. That moment inspired the management style that has helped Pappas and his brother Chris build one of the nation's leading restaurant empires.

"I tried hard, but I was limited academically because of a learning disability," says Harris Pappas, the president of Pappas Restaurants Inc. and chief operating officer of Luby's. While his accounting and finance classes came easily, and his GPA was respectable, Pappas found passing English nearly impossible. Unknown to him or his professors, he had dyslexia, a language-based learning disability that causes difficulty in reading words, sentences or paragraphs.

A Second Helping

Brothers in business:
Chris and Harris '66 Pappas
The honor roll lists donors who have made gifts or commitments of $25,000 or more through the Texas A&M Foundation. This issue recognizes gifts made from January 1–December 30, 2001. Donors are grouped into two, alphabetical lists: “Individuals” and “Corporations & Organizations.”

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Billy G. ’49 & Camille Bockmon
Sul Ross Scholarship
Today dyslexia is well known, but in the 1960s it wasn’t yet recognized or defined. “Back in my era, you were just called dumb,” Pappas recalls. “There was another professor at Texas A&M doing some work in that area. He put me through some tests to measure how much I could retain.” Cox then put Pappas in a special class.

Cox also tutored Pappas privately. The epiphany came one day when Pappas told the professor he didn’t know how he was going to succeed in business since he couldn’t pass English. Cox replied, “You’re okay. You’ll do fine. Keep signing up for my classes. I’ll just flunk you the first semester and pass you the second semester. And don’t worry about your English. Just find a good assistant to take care of those things.”

“He only said it once, but all of the sudden a load was off my back,” Pappas recalls.

Pappas joined his family’s restaurant supply business after receiving his Texas A&M degree in business administration. He and Chris Pappas opened their first restaurant in 1975. Today, their privately-held company owns and operates more than 60 restaurants across five states. Among them are such popular establishments as Pappasito’s Cantina, Pappas Seafood House, Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen and Pappas Bros. Steakhouse. Last
year, the Pappas brothers also became major shareholders and managers of Luby's, the publicly-owned cafeteria chain with more than 200 locations in 10 states. The combined organizations have about 20,000 employees.

Pappas became a Distinguished Alumnus of the Mays College of Business in 1999, and in 2001 he was named a Texas A&M University Distinguished Alumnus.

He has not forgotten how important an encouraging word, one-on-one, can be. Pappas' companies rely heavily on young staff, and their work culture has been built on Cox's example. "What greater legacy could a teacher leave?" says Pappas, who loves telling students, "You can be average but still be anything you want.

"They don't hear that very often. But you never know who's tuned in to you. That's how my button got turned on. Ol' Sid Cox showed me that, yes, I was going to work hard and make a poor grade, but maybe the most important thing was my desire. That's the variable," he says.

He remembers Cox as "one of those unique personalities they had at Texas A&M then and probably still do now—great people you don't want to forget." In addition to teaching English, Cox was a folklorist and creative writer. The short, balding professor had a larger-than-life reputation. His former teaching colleagues remember Cox walking into their classrooms and ordering them to step aside so he could "teach the kids some Texas history."

When each semester began, Cox typically asked the students in his own classes to say their names, where they were from and their majors. Then he'd have them stand up randomly, and he could repeat all the information. "He was showing you that you were important and that, in life, knowing peoples' names was important," Pappas says.

Pappas still regrets losing contact with Cox after he graduated. The professor died in 1980, but Pappas has parlayed his appreciation into meaningful gestures. As an early member of the College of Education Development Council, Pappas helped initiate the Dean's Roundtable in 1991. In addition, he has endowed a Mays College scholarship and made major gifts for the Hagler Center, Wehner Building expansion and Bush Library.

Pappas also has provided leadership on committees of the Texas A&M Foundation, Vision 2020, The Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation. He recently joined the executive committee leading Texas A&M's One Spirit One Vision Campaign and also chairs the campaign's Houston committee.
Aggies often talk about how well Texas A&M prepared them for success in life. But for many, that preparation began long before they entered college. It began with individuals who encouraged and guided them from infancy: their fathers. Determined to pay tribute to their dads, donors like those in this story are funding endowments that will carry the paternal name far into Texas A&M’s future.

H is friends and neighbors around Marshall, Texas, knew Joe Nesbitt as “Dallas,” a reference to his reputed ability to memorize each day’s 

Dallas Morning News, recalls his son, Ray Nesbitt ’55.

“He remembered everything he read and could quote it back to you,” says Ray Nesbitt, a retired Exxon executive. “He had the best mind of anybody I ever met. He could multiply 1,742 by 5,346 in his head and give you the answer right there on the spot. He remembered the birthdays of everybody he knew, kept all of his books in his head, and never went past the eighth grade.”

Forty years after his death, the dairy farmer with an eighth-grade education is namesake to the Joe M. Nesbitt Professorship in Chemical Engineering, endowed by his son in the early 1990s.

The hard life of Depression-era farmers made Gladys and Joe Nesbitt determined that their five children would have the kind of lives that only formal schooling could offer. “Dad was willing to sell all the farmland he had to put us kids through school,” says Ray Nesbitt.

Although it never came to that, Nesbitt says he and his sisters shared their father’s determination that they succeed in a life far beyond the farmland of East Texas. “He knew that once we entered college we were going to graduate,” he says. “My last sister graduated in 1960, and he passed away in January of 1961. He saw the job finished. We all graduated.”
Gladys and Joe "Dallas" Nesbitt
After graduating with a degree in chemical engineering, Ray Nesbitt spent nearly 44 years at Exxon, rising to the presidency of Exxon Chemical Company. “It all goes back to the fact that my father was so intent on his five kids getting a college education,” he says. “If you get up at dawn to milk cows from the time you were 5 years old until you were 18, you know that’s not the life you want to live. When I left for A&M, I told him I would never milk a cow again. True to my word, I never went back into the barn.”

Nesbitt, who also has endowed two scholarships at Texas A&M, never forgot how his father sacrificed to give his children greater opportunities than he had.

“He thought education was so important, and I thought this would be a good way to remember him,” he says. “He would have been proud to have his name on this professorship. If he had gone to college, he’d have done well. He just never had the opportunity.”

It was special to me because I was going to Muster with my future father-in-law,” says Nola Ann. “The bond as Aggies was always there, but it meant something more because now I was about to marry into his family.”

Jeff witnessed the depth of the bond between his Aggie wife and father at another Muster a decade later, when Jerry Waggoner’s name was called among the absent. “Nola Ann answered ‘Here,’” Jeff recalls. “I was glad that she was able to do that.”

After his father’s death, Jeff and Nola Ann decided to follow a Waggoner family tradition by funding the Jerry C. Waggoner ’52 Memorial Endowed Opportunity Award. Years before, Jeff’s parents had endowed a similar scholarship at Baylor, in memory of Jeff’s maternal grandparents.

“Education was very important to Jerry, and he always wanted people to be able to

Jerry Waggoner ’52

Jeff Waggoner didn’t graduate from Texas A&M, as his father had. Instead, he and his sister followed in their mother’s footsteps and went to Baylor University. But if Jerry Waggoner ’52 had ever wished to be an Aggie dad, that dream began to take shape when he met Nola Ann Boyd ’79.

“The very first time Jerry and I ever met, we saw the Aggie rings on each other’s fingers and we just started talking,” remembers Nola Ann. “There was an instant bond just because of who we were: Aggies.”

The bond strengthened when Nola Ann began dating Jerry’s son, Jeff Waggoner, a few months later and was cemented when Jeff proposed marriage. About that time, she and Jerry attended their first Muster together.

better themselves and be productive members of society because of their education,” says Nola Ann. “That, in essence, is the way we can honor his memory: by continuing to carry out his desires. It’s paying tribute to him and his encouragement of us.”
Oscar Trevino's children knew almost immediately upon his November 2001 death what kind of tribute their father would have wanted, and they wasted no time in carrying out what they believed would have been his wishes.

“The day he passed away, we were in the hospital discussing funeral arrangements, and we realized that flowers and things like that weren't enough of a memorial for him,” says his son, Oscar Trevino Jr. '78. So the family included in their father's obituary a request that friends make gifts to a scholarship fund in lieu of flowers. Although not an Aggie himself, the senior Trevino's memorial scholarship would benefit students at Texas A&M.

“As long as I can remember, dad wore an Aggie cap and supported the Aggies,” says Oscar Jr. "He actually attended the University of Houston, but he was always behind A&M.”

The younger Trevino knows “without a doubt” that his father influenced his choice of school and career. After watching his father's successful 42-year career with industry leader Zachry Construction Corporation, he decided to study civil engineering at Texas A&M. He now is president of J.L. Steel in Roanoke, Texas.

“He always talked the Corps up, how good it was and what it did to prepare you for work and life,” Trevino says, adding that his father also admired the bond among Aggies. “That was one of the things that he saw in the business world—how Aggies would stick together, work together. That's the way it is in the construction business. Teamwork is what it's all about.”

And it was teamwork that made possible the Oscar T. Trevino Endowed Scholarship in A&M's construction science department. Gifts from family and friends, along with matching funds provided by the department's Construction Industry Advisory Council, enabled the department to award the scholarship for the coming school year.

“He was a man of few words,” says Trevino of his father. “He led more by example than by words, and this scholarship is an extension of his legacy. With this scholarship, his name will go on, and he will continue pushing people to strive for something better, as he did with my sisters, brothers and myself.”

As with Nesbitt and the Waggoners, Trevino and his siblings never considered putting any name but their father's on the scholarship. "Your parents are the ones who push you through the education system," he says. "They deserve the recognition for the sacrifices that they made to get us to that point.

Oscar Trevino Jr. ’78 and dad
THE EXPANDING CLASSROOM OF PROFESSOR BRANDS

H.W. BRANDS, THE FIRST HOLDER OF THE Melbern G. Glasscock Chair in American History at Texas A&M, thinks the study of history is too important to leave hidden in textbooks and academic journals. One of the nation’s top American history scholars, he has achieved an unusual balance between research, teaching and a “classroom” that extends far beyond the Texas A&M campus boundaries.

Brands writes historical narratives—not mere compilations of fact, but the kind of compelling books that entice readers to curl up on the couch and lose themselves in another place and time. It’s a bonus that his books are educational.

“I think it’s an aspect of good citizenship to pay attention to history and understand how we got to where we are and where we might be going,” Brands says.

One of his most recent books—The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin—was a finalist last year for the Pulitzer Prize in biography. His newest tome, The Age of Gold, brings the California Gold Rush back to life. It appeared in bookstores in August. Brands’ popular books also include 1997’s T.R.: The Last Romantic, a critically acclaimed biography of Theodore Roosevelt.

Brands has written 17 books, edited four others and authored numerous articles and reviews. “Every work of history is both story and argument. But the ratio depends on your prospective audience and what you’re trying to accomplish,” says Brands. He sometimes

BY MOLLY GLENTZER
writes for an academic audience. “That’s a perfectly legitimate pursuit. But the farther along I get, the more I feel that academicians can expand the audience for what they do. As an employee at a public university, I feel it’s my responsibility to reach out to the public. I’m simply expanding my classroom.”

After 15 years as a Texas A&M professor, Brands still chooses to teach an introductory survey of American history. “I get the biggest kick each fall out of seeing that new class of freshmen come in,” he says.

The class also fuels his book projects. “It’s relatively easy to teach graduate students because they know a whole lot and can fill in the blanks. But you really only master a subject when you can explain it to someone of reasonable intelligence and interest who doesn’t know anything about it,” Brands explains. “Basically, what I present to my students is my current research. This is one of the main arguments for research universities like Texas A&M. Nothing generates excitement in students like seeing excitement in their instructors. They understand that history isn’t a bunch of explanations that historians figured out a hundred years ago and have simply been repeating ever since.”

Brands’ freshmen also cross a more immediate bridge to the past: One of his assignments requires them to interview their grandparents. “It may lead to a dialogue, but even if it’s just a one-time thing, there’s great value in it,” he says. “When I first gave this assignment, most of the grandparents had lived during the Great Depression. But time passes, and now we’re into World War II. I find the stories fascinating.” His students appreciate it, too, often telling Brands this was the most valuable assignment he gave them.

Individual lives also provide windows into the eras in Brands’ book. “I don’t want to reduce history to the actions of individuals, but I’m attracted to that way of telling history. I think most people are. Individuals give the reader a hook, a way to identify with the story,” he says.

All history, Brands says, provides lessons. “You can pick any period in history and find connections between that part of the past and the present. The current generation, depending on how you’re counting, is the tenth or fifteenth in American history; the previous generations have a lot to tell this generation.”

Brands does prodigious research at libraries and historical societies across the nation. For *The First American*, he spent more than five years ferreting out everything Franklin wrote or spoke. “I’m not done with him yet. Obviously, the book is finished. But I continue to lecture on Franklin, and my thoughts on him continue to evolve,” he says. “His life spanned about three critical generations in the development of an American identity.”
While writing his most recent book of political analysis, The Strange Death of American Liberalism, Brands also researched The Age of Gold—a another five-year endeavor. “It’s a snapshot of a single generation, and how this big event that was its signature development changed America.”

His next book, slated for 2004, will convey the story of the Texas Revolution. “It’s just a grand story with great figures. There are great elements of tragedy, triumph, drama and comedy,” he says.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Brands received his bachelor’s degree in history from Stanford University in 1975. He earned graduate degrees in liberal studies and mathematics from Reed College and Portland State University, respectively, before receiving his doctorate in history in 1985 from the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the Texas A&M history faculty in 1987.

In addition to teaching, researching and writing, Brands coordinates the History of the Americas Research Program at Texas A&M, edits the Series in Foreign Relations at the Texas A&M Press, and serves as associate editor of Presidential Studies Quarterly.

Brands says it’s hard to overstate the importance of the Glasscock Chair to his work. “First of all, it’s a great load off my mind. Anybody who’s engaged in research at a university knows that, in most cases, you spend a great deal of time applying for money to do the research. It’s time that you could spend on the research itself.

“Now, I don’t have to think 15 months in advance. I don’t have to apply for travel grants. I know that the money is there. If I have a few free days to go to Washington to do research at the Library of Congress, I know I can do it. I don’t have to schedule everything around raising the money to do it.”

The chair’s namesake, Melbern G. Glasscock ’59, is CEO of Texas Aromatics in Houston. His family’s support of Texas A&M humanities includes the Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize in honor of his wife, a liberal arts award for Corps members endowed by their daughter, Anne Elizabeth (Glasscock) Wynn ’86, and Mel and Susie’s recent endowment of the Glasscock Center for Humanities Research.
Francisco Javier Bueso is one of scores of Texas A&M researchers whose work has implications for the space program. But Bueso isn't formulating a new rocket fuel or designing satellite guidance systems; he's engineering a better corn tortilla.

Bueso, who holds a Tom B. Slick Research Fellowship in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, is conducting his doctoral research on extending the shelf life of corn tortillas—while reducing or even eliminating the use of artificial ingredients. Success could mean longer-lasting tortillas on grocery shelves, kitchen pantries and even aboard the International Space Station, where months could pass between grocery deliveries.

“NASA is very interested in tortillas for the space station,” says Bueso. “Their flexibility makes them a good eating tool, and there are less crumbs than bread, which is better for the air filtering system.”

But the same additives that help corn tortillas maintain their flexibility also give them a rubbery texture which many people find unappealing. That’s because the preservative gums used in tortillas are very similar—in structure if not chemistry—to polymers found in plastics.

“The texture that works well in plastics is not what you want in tortillas,” Bueso says. So, he experiments with different means of preventing tortillas from hardening as they age, including substituting a natural enzyme for the chemical gum.

Bueso is one of eight graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to receive a Slick Fellowship for the year 2002. Established in 1972 by the Tom B. Slick Memorial Trust Endowment to support the research of agriculture graduate students, the endowment has provided nearly $900,000 in support over just the past 10 years. In just the past five years, 40 agriculture graduate students have received Slick Fellowships.

Bueso says funds from the fellowship allow him to dedicate himself to his own research without having to work 20- or-more hours per week as a faculty research assistant. “That’s the main advantage; it bought me time to do my research,” he says. “I should have my thesis finished by December. That means completing my doctorate in four years instead of five. That is a big difference.”

After earning a bachelor’s in agronomy in his native Honduras, Bueso came to Texas A&M and earned a master’s degree in food science. His cur-
recent doctoral research is a natural extension of his academic career. He studied grain-storage technology as an undergraduate, and his master’s project addressed mold resistance in grain.

Bueso is still considering what he’ll do after completing his doctorate. Research in industry or academia is one possibility.

Recalling that it was his love of the outdoors that helped lead him to agricultural research, he says, “I miss doing research in the field, and I would like to go back to my country. Corn is a staple in Honduras, and I think I would like working directly with the growers, to help them improve their crops.” —by Gerard Farrell

Francisco Javier Bueso (M.S. ’95, Ph.D. ’99)

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Investing in the Spirit #6:
Your Will Can Create a Legacy For
Your Family and Your University

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 objectives. This series examines a variety of popular ways for making major gifts to support education, research and service programs at Texas A&M.

Legacies can take many forms. Some come as birthrights. Others originate from a desire to maintain a powerful tradition, or to institute a new one for the benefit of future generations.

Every year, Aggies create legacies for themselves and their families through bequests to the Texas A&M Foundation. With proper planning, gifts from former students help the university fulfill its mission by funding scholarships, professorships and educational programs, while protecting and maximizing the value of family estates.

A popular method of giving to Texas A&M is an outright bequest in a will. A bequest gift is an excellent estate planning tool and can result in substantial tax savings. Moreover, bequests enable donors to retain control of their assets during their lifetimes.

**HOW TO MAKE A BEQUEST GIFT**

You can make your bequest through the Texas A&M Foundation either by drawing up a new will or by adding a codicil to your existing will. To guarantee your exact intentions are documented, wills and codicils should be prepared by your attorney.

Bequests to the foundation can take various forms:

- **General** — one of the most popular and simple bequests, requiring you to designate a specific dollar amount;
- **Percentage** — whereby you bequeath a portion of the value of your estate or residuary estate;
- **Specific** — wherein you designate that a specific property be given;
- **Residuary** — where you give all or a portion of your estate's property after debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been satisfied;
- **Contingent** — you name the foundation as your contingent beneficiary, in case your primary beneficiary dies before you or disclaims the property.

**HAVE YOU ALREADY INCLUDED TEXAS A&M IN YOUR WILL?**

Many Aggies have already included a gift benefiting Texas A&M in their wills but have not notified the foundation. Are you one of these donors? If so, we encourage you to contact the foundation to ensure that your intentions are carried out and to allow us to recognize you as a member of the Forsyth Heritage Society.

For additional details, a personalized illustration or a free brochure on ways you can support Texas A&M — call Glenn Pittsford '72 at the Texas A&M Foundation at 800-392-3310 or 979-845-8161; e-mail g-pittsford@tamu.edu.

Or visit our Web site at giving.tamu.edu.
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Matching Gifts
Big Bang Benefits: Mitchell Institute To Feature Physicist Stephen Hawking

A gift from Cynthia W. & George P. Mitchell '40 has cemented a new affiliation between Texas A&M's Physics Department and Stephen Hawking, the Cambridge University physicist and author renowned for his theories about black holes and other aspects of the universe.

Hawking plans to participate next spring in the inaugural meeting of Texas A&M's George P. & Cynthia W. Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics, a month-long exploration of topics ranging from superstrings to supergravity.

"Our physics faculty in the area of strings and M-theory is already in the top 10 in the world for citations of their work," explains Edward Fry, professor and head of Texas A&M's Department of Physics. "This institute will provide a major boost to their international recognition and promote the collaboration of some of the major scientists in the world."

The Mitchells are underwriting the annual institute with an endowed gift of $1 million. Additionally, they have given $200,000 toward first-year expenses. The couple is also providing a second $1 million gift, matched by the university, to establish the Stephen Hawking Chair in Fundamental Physics. The Mitchells also committed $500,000 toward a second chair in physics, provided that other sources give the remain-

Internationally renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking (seated, right), Texas A&M Physics Professor Chris Pope (seated left), and (standing, from left) Ed Fry and Peter McIntyre, along with George Mitchell '40, whose gift made the institute possible.
ing $500,000 necessary to endow the chair. The Mitchells’ gifts to physics will be counted in the One Spirit One Vision Campaign, a university-wide fund-raising effort to help Texas A&M attain national top 10 status among public universities.

"One of the main goals of Vision 2020 is to elevate the arts and sciences core," says H. Joseph Newton, dean of the College of Science. "As a result of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell's generosity, our physics department will have two new endowed chairs and the nation's first institute featuring Stephen Hawking. Their gifts will go a long way toward turning the dreams of Vision 2020 into reality."


Perhaps best known for developing The Woodlands, a master-planned community north of Houston, Mitchell also helped found the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), where he has worked with several Texas A&M researchers, including Fry and current physics faculty members Peter McIntyre, Marlan Scully and Dimitri Nanopoulos.

McIntyre, whose 15-year friendship with Mitchell dates back to their collaborative work on Texas' Superconducting Super Collider, says the Mitchell Institute is a way to reflect Mitchell's admiration for Hawking. "Professor Hawking is a remarkable case of personal triumph as well as colossal achievement in one of the most profound and difficult frontiers of modern science," McIntyre says. "His story has long captured Mr. Mitchell's imagination."

Fry says that pairing the insights of Hawking with Texas A&M faculty expertise in these same areas is one key element in positioning the department as an influential force in physics.

Christopher Pope, a Texas A&M high-energy theorist who earned his doctorate working with Hawking, says he looks forward to another chance to collaborate with his one-time mentor.

"Stephen has been a great inspiration to me and to many other physicists," Pope says. "It is very exciting for all of us at Texas A&M that he has accepted our invitation to participate so prominently in the opening meeting of the George P. and Cynthia W. Mitchell Institute. We are looking forward to a lively and productive time and to the developments that follow from the meeting."

"Professor Hawking is a remarkable case of personal triumph as well as colossal achievement in one of the most profound and difficult frontiers of modern science."

—Peter McIntyre
One Spirit One Vision Campaign Tops $400 Million

As of July 31, Texas A&M former students and friends had pledged more than $410 million during the One Spirit One Vision Campaign. The new multi-year, fund-raising campaign aims to help Texas A&M attain national top 10 public university status by the year 2020.

The total includes all private gifts and pledges made since campaign counting began on January 1, 2000. The total encompasses gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations made through the Texas A&M Foundation, The Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation.

Campaign Leaders Assemble

New Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates hosted a One Spirit One Vision Campaign Leadership Summit on September 20, 2002. The event involved approximately 200 campaign volunteer leaders: members of the campaign executive committee, which leads central fund raising; college and unit committees, which lead fund raising for colleges and key divisions; and administrators from Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M Foundation.

Campaign executive committee members first met last spring to familiarize themselves with campaign goals and objectives, discuss critical fund-raising issues and acknowledge the appointment of committee member Jon L. Hagler ’58 as the campaign’s convening chair.

James A. Mayo Jr. ’70 Joins Foundation Board

James A. “Jim” Mayo Jr. ’70 joined the Texas A&M Foundation board of trustees on July 1, 2002. The foundation is governed by seven trustees, each appointed for seven years by The Association of Former Students. Mayo replaces outgoing trustee Weldon D. Kruger ’53.

Mayo is former chairman, CEO and director of Alice Bancshares Inc., the parent company of Alice Bank of Texas and First State Bank of Premont, both of which he served as president and CEO. He served as president of Texas A&M’s Association of Former Students in 2000. He also served the Association as vice president for fund raising, vice president for South Texas, vice president at-large and president of the Laredo and Brush County A&M Clubs. His university leadership includes serving on the Coastal Bend Advisory Committee for Texas A&M’s Capturing the Spirit Campaign and, more recently, the Vision 2020 Task Force.
A&M's George Bass receives a National Medal of Science from U.S. President George W. Bush.

A&M Professor Receives Medal of Science

President George W. Bush presented a 2001 National Medal of Science to George W. Bass, Texas A&M Distinguished Professor Emeritus, on June 12 at the White House. Bass, who is credited as the “father of nautical archaeology” and is founder of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) at Texas A&M, is one of 11 medal recipients this year. The National Medal of Science is the nation’s highest award for lifetime achievement in the fields of scientific research.

Bass’s underwater excavations have provided insight into more than 30 centuries of human civilization and technology. He is the first archaeologist to excavate a shipwreck in its entirety on the seabed, and he pioneered much of the technology used to locate and map shipwrecks.

Bass holds the George & Gladys Abell Chair in Nautical Archaeology and the George Yamini Family Chair in Liberal Arts. The chairs, he says, “have given me the ability to do lots of good things I would not have been able to do otherwise.”

Famous Computer Scientist Accepts Endowed Chair

Bjarne Stroustrup, the world-renowned creator of the C++ programming language, is moving his research to Texas A&M after accepting the College of Engineering Endowed Chair in Computer Science. The chair was funded by an anonymous gift to Texas A&M.

Fortune magazine named Stroustrup one of “America’s 12 top young scientists” in 1990, and he was listed as one of the “20 most influential people in the computer industry in the last 20 years” by BYTE magazine in 1995.
Texas Interscholastic League Foundation
Austin, Texas
Texas Interscholastic League Foundation Scholarships
Turfgrass America, Inc.
Granbury, Texas
Texas Turfgrass Research Education & Extension Endowment
TXU
Dallas, Texas
TXU Endowment in honor of Erle A. Nye '59
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Dow Gift Fund
USX Foundation, Inc.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
J.L. Frank/Marathon Ashland Chair in Engineering Project Management
Matching Gifts
Wal-Mart Foundation
Bentonville, Arkansas
Wal-Mart Competitive Edge Scholarship
Walton Family Foundation, Inc.
Bentonville, Arkansas
Plant Sciences Discretionary Fund
The West Endowment
Huntsville, Texas
Private Enterprise Research Center
G. Rollie White Trust
Fort Worth, Texas
G. Rollie White Memorial Student Loan Fund
Wichita Falls A&M Club
Wichita Falls, Texas
Wichita Falls A&M Club Endowed Scholarship
Wyeth
Madison, New Jersey
Matching Gifts

Leading Aggie Funds Major Initiative in Humanities

A recent major gift is bringing new acclaim to Texas A&M's work in the field of humanities.

A new endowment for the Center for Humanities Research has placed Texas A&M among a small number of public research universities that boast endowed humanities centers. The endowment is made possible by Susanne M. & Melbern G. Glasscock '59 and the Glasscock Foundation. In recognition of the Glasscocks, the A&M System Board of Regents in July approved naming the center the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research and also bestowed the Glasscock name on A&M's History Building, which eventually will house the center.

University Associates Giving Tops $1 Billion

Recent calculations revealed that members of Texas A&M's University Associates (UA) program have given more than $1 billion since 1876. This total includes all support from the 1,576 individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations that belong to UA.

"The passage of this remarkable milestone in cumulative giving shows that our supporters believe Texas A&M is one of the nation's most important institutions and worth investing in for the long run," says Eddie J. Davis, Texas A&M Foundation president.

The $1 billion milestone reflects UA member gifts made through the Texas A&M Foundation, Texas A&M University, Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation. The Texas A&M Foundation extends UA membership to donors whose cumulative giving to Texas A&M equals $75,000 or more.

Melbern G. '59 and Susanne M. Glasscock
**Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the schedule of the One Spirit One Vision Campaign?

The campaign lasts approximately seven years and is divided into several phases. The "leadership" phase, in which Texas A&M recruits volunteer leaders and seeks lead gifts, began on January 1, 2000. Gifts made to Texas A&M after that date count toward the campaign goal. The "public" phase of the campaign begins in 2003. During this phase, the university seeks gifts from the broader A&M community — former students, friends, corporations and organizations — and expands the campaign through regional events across the state and nation.

**Find it on the Internet**

Learn more about stories in this issue of Spirit by visiting these Web sites:

- **Pappas Restaurants**
  www.pappas.com

- **The International Dyslexia Association**
  www.interdys.org

- **History Professor H. W. Brands**
  www.bwbrands.com

- **Brands' New Book**
  www.theageofgold.com

- **Natl. Action Council for Minorities in Engineering**
  www.nacnic.org

- **Dept. of Biological & Agricultural Engineering**
  http://baen.tamu.edu

- **Tortilla Industry Association**
  www.tortilla-infos.com

- **Stephen Hawking/Mitchell Physics Institute**
  www.science.tamu.edu

- **Natl. Medal of Science**
  www.nsf.gov/nsb/awards/nms

- **One Spirit One Vision Campaign**
  http://giving.tamu.edu

- **Glasscock Center for Humanities Research**
  www.tamu.edu/chr
Requests & Comments: Fall 2002

*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 postcard-free. Thank you.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

Check here if:  □ New home address  □ New business address

I have a comment/question:

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□ Please contact me about making a gift to Texas A&M.

□ I’d like to know more about making an estate gift (trusts, life insurance, bequests, gift annuities).

I’d like to know more about supporting the following:

**COLLEGES**          **PROGRAMS**

- □ Agriculture Programs      - □ Assoc. of Former Students
- □ Architecture               - □ Athletics
- □ Business Administration   - □ Bush School of Gov’t.
- □ Education                  - □ Corps of Cadets
- □ Engineering                - □ Faculty Support
- □ Geosciences                - □ International Programs
- □ Liberal Arts               - □ Libraries
- □ Medicine                   - □ Scholarships
- □ Science                    - □ Student Life
- □ Veterinary Medicine        - □ University Press

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

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         College Station, Texas 77840-2811

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

e-mail:  r-mcfadden@tamu.edu

Internet: giving.tamu.edu